

## Synthesis of Binuclear and Trinuclear Cluster Halides of Molybdenum and Rhenium, and of Carbonyl Halides of Rhenium, Iridium, Ruthenium, and Platinum using Metal Atoms

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Reactive halocarbons such as 1,2-dibromo- (or dichloro-) ethane or allyl chloride will halogenate atoms of molybdenum and rhenium under co-condensation conditions giving solvated transition metal halides in lower valency states, *e.g.*  $[\text{Re}_3\text{Cl}_9(\text{THF})_3]$  (THF = tetrahydrofuran), which are useful synthetic precursors; co-condensation of rhenium with oxalyl chloride gives  $[\text{Re}(\text{CO})_4\text{Cl}]_2$ , ruthenium atoms when co-condensed with oxalyl chloride give a carbonyl halide compound which adds trimethylphosphine forming  $[\text{Ru}(\text{Me}_3\text{P})_3(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2]$ , and similarly, iridium atoms with oxalyl chloride and then triphenylphosphine give  $[\text{Ir}(\text{CO})_2(\text{PPh}_3)\text{Cl}_3]$ .

Oxidative addition of carbon-halogen bonds to transition metal atoms is well established.<sup>1</sup> We set out to exploit this reactivity for the synthesis of lower halides and carbonyl halides of the more refractory transition metals.

Co-condensation of rhenium atoms generated from a positive hearth electron-gun furnace, using the large scale apparatus described elsewhere,<sup>2</sup> with 1,2-dibromoethane followed by extraction of the reaction matrix at room temperature with tetrahydrofuran (THF) gave the compound  $[\text{Re}_3\text{Br}_9(\text{OC}_4\text{H}_9)_3]$  (1). The yield, based on metal leaving the furnace, was *ca.* 90% and in a typical reaction 7 g of rhenium atoms evaporated from the furnace gave 12 g of (1) after 4 h. Treatment of (1) with trimethylphosphine in THF for 15 min at 40 °C gave the binuclear compound  $[(\text{Me}_3\text{P})_2\text{Br}_2\text{Re}=\text{ReBr}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2]$ , (2), in *ca.* 65% yield. Compounds of the class  $[\text{Re}_3\text{X}_9\text{L}_3]$  and  $[\text{Re}_2\text{X}_4\text{L}_4]$ , where X=Cl or Br and L= $\text{R}_3\text{P}$ , are well established<sup>3-5</sup> although (1) itself has not been previously

described. The reported synthetic routes have involved three to four separate stages, starting from the element.

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| (1) $[\text{Re}_3\text{Br}_9(\text{OC}_4\text{H}_9)_3]$                           | (6) $[\text{Re}(\text{CO})_4\text{Cl}]_2$                |
| (2) $[(\text{Me}_3\text{P})_2\text{Br}_2\text{Re}=\text{ReBr}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2]$ | (7) $[\text{Ru}(\text{PMe}_3)_3(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2]$  |
| (3) $[(\text{Me}_3\text{P})_2\text{Br}_2\text{Mo}=\text{MoBr}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2]$ | (8) $[\text{Ir}(\text{CO})_2(\text{PPh}_3)\text{Cl}_3]$  |
| (4) $[\text{Mo}(\text{PMe}_3)_3\text{Br}_3]$                                      | (9) <i>trans</i> - $[\text{Pt}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2]$ |
| (5) $[\text{Mo}_2\text{Cl}_4(\text{PEt}_3)_4]$                                    |  |

When molybdenum atoms were co-condensed with an excess of 1,2-dibromoethane and the resulting mixture was extracted with THF a deep red solution was obtained. Addition of trimethylphosphine to this solution gave the compounds  $[(\text{Me}_3\text{P})_2\text{Br}_2\text{Mo}=\text{MoBr}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2]$ , (3), and  $[\text{Mo}(\text{Me}_3\text{P})_3\text{Br}_3]$ , (4), which were separated by chromatography on a short alumina column. The yields of (3) and (4) were 40% and 25% respectively, and in a typical experiment 5 g of (3) could be isolated. Co-condensation of molybdenum atoms in an excess of 1,2-

dichloroethane followed by extraction with tetrahydrofuran gave a red solution. Addition of triethylphosphine gave  $[\text{Mo}_2\text{Cl}_4(\text{PEt}_3)_4]$ , (**5**), in 35% yield. When allyl chloride was used in place of 1,2-dichloroethane then essentially similar results were obtained. The compounds (**3**) and (**4**) are new although closely related analogues, including (**5**), are well known.<sup>3,6</sup> Previous syntheses have required three to four separate reactions starting from molybdenum hexacarbonyl.

Co-condensation of rhenium atoms with an excess of oxalyl chloride gives the well known  $[\text{Re}(\text{CO})_4\text{Cl}]_2$ , (**6**) in ca. 40% yield. Ruthenium atoms when co-condensed into an excess of oxalyl chloride followed by extraction with THF give a red solution which on removal of the solvent gives a red solid. Extraction with THF and addition of toluene yields a green solid. The i.r. spectra of the red and green materials show the bands assignable to terminal carbon monoxide ligands at 2150w, 2985s, 2025s, and 1960s; and at 2079s, 2088s, and 1970s  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. Characterisation of these materials is in progress. Addition of trimethylphosphine to the green solid caused a steady reaction and yellow crystals of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{Me}_3\text{P})_3(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2]$ , (**7**), were formed in ca. 70% yield [ $m/e = 428$ ;  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  1955s  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (mull)]. In a typical small scale experiment ca. 1.0 g of (**7**) was obtained.

Co-condensation of iridium atoms with oxalyl chloride yields an orange solid which shows bands in the i.r. mull spectrum assignable to terminal carbonyl stretching frequencies at 2155s, 2102s, and 2080s  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Treatment of this carbonyl compound with triphenylphosphine gives white crystals of one isomer of  $[\text{Ir}(\text{CO})_2(\text{PPh}_3)\text{Cl}_3]$ , (**8**), in essentially quantitative yield based on the iridium atoms leaving the furnace [ $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  (THF) 2060s and 2036s  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ].

When platinum is co-condensed with oxalyl chloride then white *trans*- $[\text{Pt}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2]$ , (**9**), may be sublimed from the dried

reaction mixture in essentially quantitative yield: typically 2.0 g of (**9**) were obtained in a small scale experiment.

The compounds (**1**)—(**9**) have been characterised by microanalysis and relevant spectroscopic methods. The above observations show that metal atoms can provide new synthetic routes to mono- and poly-nuclear lower oxidation state transition metal halides and also to carbonyl halide derivatives. We find that these laboratory scale syntheses are considerably less laborious and time-consuming than using conventional methods. Furthermore, the metallic state is the least expensive source of the pure noble metals.

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