

A Novel Facile Synthesis of Dihalogenoruthenium(IV) Porphyrins

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Dihalogenoruthenium(IV) porphyrins, versatile precursors to the unique organometallic chemistry of ruthenium porphyrins, are prepared directly from carbonylruthenium(II) porphyrins by reaction with CCl_4 and CBr_4 under extremely simple and mild reaction conditions.

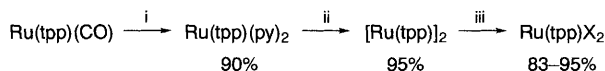
Ongoing interest in the chemistry of ruthenium porphyrins derives from their catalytic properties for oxygenation of hydrocarbons,¹ and the rich coordination chemistry and reactivities of its various oxidation states.²⁻⁵ Novel organoruthenium porphyrins can be prepared *via* two pathways, both sharing the early preparation of binuclear ruthenium(II) porphyrins $[\text{Ru}(\text{por})]_2$.[†] One alternative is the reduction of $[\text{Ru}(\text{por})]_2$ to $[\text{Ru}(\text{por})]^{2-}$, followed by reaction with alkyl halides.^{3b} In the second approach, the $[\text{Ru}(\text{por})]_2$ complexes are first reacted with mineral acids (HX , $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$) to provide the air-stable dihalogenoruthenium(IV) porphyrins, $\text{Ru}(\text{por})\text{X}_2$.⁶ Subsequent treatment with alkyl- or aryl-lithium reagents provides novel organoruthenium porphyrins. The overall reaction sequence from $\text{Ru}(\text{por})(\text{CO})$, the first precursor in ruthenium porphyrin chemistry, to $\text{Ru}(\text{por})\text{X}_2$ is summarized in Scheme 1. Since the first two steps require photochemical, high temperature, and ultra-high vacuum procedures,^{7,8} simpler and shorter methods for the preparation of dihalogenoruthenium(IV) porphyrins are highly desirable. In this paper we describe an extremely simple and efficient method for the preparation of $\text{Ru}(\text{por})\text{X}_2$ complexes directly from $\text{Ru}(\text{por})(\text{CO})$ (Scheme 2).

We have decided to investigate the possibility of using CCl_4 , long known to be activated by metal carbonyls,⁹ for the oxidation of $\text{Ru}(\text{por})(\text{CO})$ complexes. Simply heating a solution of $\text{Ru}(\text{tpp})(\text{CO})$ in CCl_4 resulted in a pronounced colour change from orange to green. Spectroscopic examination of the solution by UV-VIS and ^1H NMR spectroscopy revealed that the colour change was due to the conversion of $\text{Ru}(\text{tpp})(\text{CO})$ to $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpp})\text{X}]_2\text{O}$,¹⁰ which was complete after 2 h. This prompted us to check the same reaction with a porphyrin derivative that cannot form μ -oxo dimers. Since the commonly used $\text{Ru}(\text{tmp})(\text{CO})$ complex was practically insoluble in CCl_4 , we prepared the highly soluble $\text{Ru}(\text{tdmpp})(\text{CO})$ derivative **1**. Heating of complex **1** in CCl_4 for 2 h resulted in a colour change from orange to red, and the ^1H NMR spectrum showed that an almost quantitative reaction to a new complex **2a** with paramagnetically shifted signals had taken place. In a similar reaction of **1** with 10 equiv. of CBr_4 in hot benzene, **2b** was formed.

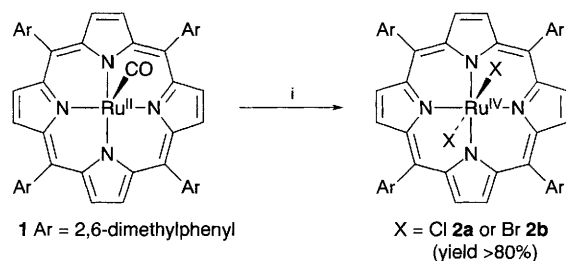
Complexes **2a**, **b** were identified as $\text{Ru}(\text{tdmpp})\text{Cl}_2$ and $\text{Ru}(\text{tdmpp})\text{Br}_2$, respectively[‡] by MS and comparison of their ^1H NMR data to those of the related complexes $\text{Ru}(\text{tpp})\text{X}_2$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}$ **a**, Br **b**, I **c**)⁶ and $\text{Ru}(\text{tmp})(\text{OCHMe}_2)_2$ **4**.^{3a} In particular, the chemical shifts of the pyrrole-H of **2a** ($\delta -55.4$) and **2b** ($\delta -46.0$) are comparable to the values of $\delta -57.7, -48.0, -23.1$ for **3a, b, c**, respectively (CDCl_3) and $\delta -11.95$ (C_6D_6) for **4**. The high symmetry of the complexes is apparent by the observation of only one signal for both the *ortho*- CH_3 and the *meta*-H of the phenyl groups. One noteworthy difference between complexes **2** and **3** does, however, exist. *Ke et al.* have noted the alternating nature of the chemical shifts of the phenyl hydrogens in their complexes (for **3b** the chemical shifts of the *ortho*-, *meta*-, and *para*-hydrogens were at δ 5.21, 12.75 and 5.82, respectively), which shows that π -delocalization (the contact shift) dominates the paramagnetic isotropic shifts.⁶ In complexes **2a** and **2b**, however, all resonances of the hydrogens on the phenyl rings (*ortho*- CH_3 , *meta*-H, and *para*-H) are shifted in the same direction (downfield), consistent with a pure dipolar shift.¹¹ This difference between complexes **2** and **3** is readily explained as follows. The large upfield shift of the pyrrole resonance in all $\text{Ru}(\text{por})\text{X}_2$ complexes is due to π -spin density transfer from porphyrin (3e, filled) to the metal d_{π} orbitals. Some of this π -spin density can 'leak' into the unsubstituted phenyl rings of $\text{Ru}(\text{tpp})\text{X}_2$, but not to the strictly perpendicular 2,6-dimethylphenyl rings in **2**. Similar phenomena were observed in the comparison of porphyrin-oxidized $\text{Zn}(\text{tpp})$ and $\text{Zn}(\text{tmp})$ derivatives.¹²

In conclusion, we report here a one-pot preparation of dihalogenoruthenium(IV) porphyrins by an extremely easy procedure, bypassing the multi-step and experimentally demanding pathways. We trust that this will open up the opportunity for more extensive studies of the chemistry of ruthenium porphyrins. The mechanistic aspects of the reactions,[§] their potential for catalytic activation of hydrocarbons, and utilizations of the primary products as precursors for new organoruthenium complexes are currently under investigation.

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Scheme 1 Reagents and conditions: i, *hν*, vacuum, pyridine; ii, $T > 200^\circ\text{C}$, 10^{-5} Torr; iii, HX



Scheme 2 Reagents and conditions: i, reflux, no special precautions, CCl_4 or CBr_4 -benzene

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Footnotes

[†] Abbreviations used: por = unspecified porphyrin dianion; tpp = 5,10,15,20-tetraphenylporphyrin dianion; ttp = 5,10,15,20-tetra-*p*-tolylporphyrin dianion; tmp = 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)porphyrin dianion; tdmpp = 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2,6-dimethylphenyl)porphyrin dianion.

[‡] $[\text{Ru}(\text{tdmpp})\text{Cl}_2]$ **2a**: MS (DCI, isobutane, negative ion), cluster around m/z 896.2 (M^- , 40%, correct isotopic pattern for $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{44}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_4\text{Ru}$); ^1H NMR (δ , CDCl_3 , room temperature): 12.13 (8H, d, 7.6 Hz, H_m), 8.09 (4H, t, 7.6 Hz, H_p), 4.06 (24 H, s, *o*- CH_3), -55.36 (8H, br s, pyrrole-H). $[\text{Ru}(\text{tdmpp})\text{Br}_2]$ **2b**: MS (DCI, isobutane, negative ion), cluster around m/z 986.1 (M^- , 100%, correct isotopic pattern for $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{44}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_4\text{Ru}$); ^1H NMR (δ , CDCl_3 , room temperature): 14.37 (8H, d, 7.5 Hz, H_m), 7.81 (4H, t, 7.5 Hz, H_p), 4.61 (12 H, s, *o*- CH_3), -45.97 (8H, br s, pyrrole-H).

[§] Tetrachloroethylene was found in a GC-MS analysis of the reaction mixture, while $\text{PhCH}(\text{Cl})\text{CH}_2\text{CCl}_3$ was identified in a reaction run in the

presence of styrene (no attempts to quantify these reactions have yet been made).

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