Unusual formation of a hex-3-ene-1,5-diyne-3-yl ligand from a buta-1,3-diyne in the $Cp^*_2TiCl_2$ -Mg system

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The reaction of $[Cp_{2}TiCl_{2}]$ with equimolar amounts of magnesium in the presence of Me_3SiC=C-C=CSiMe_3 yields the first early transition metal η^{3} -enyne complex $[Cp_{2}Ti\{\eta^{3}-Me_{3}SiC_{3}=C(C=CSiMe_{3})SiMe_{3}\}]$ 1 which is suggested to be an intermediate in early transition metal catalysed oligomerization reactions of alk-1-ynes.

Some years ago we found that Me₃SiC=C-C=CSiMe₃ is cleaved^{1*a*} by the [Cp₂TiCl₂]-Mg system in THF to give the dimeric titanium(III) complex [{Cp₂Ti(C=CSiMe₃)}₂],¹ and, that in the presence of the [Cp^{*}₂TiCl₂]-Mg system with an excess of Mg, the paramagnetic [{Cp^{*}₂Ti(C=CSi-Me₃)₂}{MgCl(THF)}] tweezer-type compound was obtained.^{2*a*} We have also described that when the diacetylide [Cp^{*}₂Ti(C=C-SiMe₃)₂] is irradiated by UV light it undergoes the reverse reaction, with a coupling of the acetylides to give the titanacyclopropene complex [Cp^{*}₂Ti(η²-Me₃SiC₂-C=CSi-Me₃)].^{3*a*} This complex also forms from the above mentioned reduction of [Cp^{*}₂TiCl₂] in the presence of Me₃SiC=C-C=CSiMe₃ with an equimolar amount of Mg.^{3*b*}

Here, we report the synthesis and the structure of the paramagnetic d^1 complex $[Cp_2Ti{\eta^3-Me_3SiC_3=C(C\equiv CSi-Me_3)SiMe_3}]$ **1** which arises from the $[Cp_2TiCl_2]-Mg-Me_3SiC\equiv C-C\equiv CSiMe_3$ system using the molar ratios indicated in eqn. (1).



Compound 1 is thus the third product, in addition to the above-mentioned titanacyclopropene and the tweezer complex, which has been obtained from this system under different stoichiometric conditions. The structure of the paramagnetic complex 1 was verified by elemental analysis, EPR, IR \ddagger and crystallography.

An X-ray crystal structure analysis of 1§ (Fig. 1) revealed that a bent permethyltitanocene binds an unusual carbyl, 1,4,6-tris-(trimethylsilyl)hex-3-ene-1,5-diyne-3-yl, in an η^3 -mode. The Ti–C2, Ti–C3 and C2–C3 distances are consistent with a η^2 bonded triple bond and the Ti–C1 distance with a Ti–C σ bond. The alkenyl double bond is slightly elongated and the remote triple bond does not differ from the analogous bond in [Cp*₂Ti(η^2 -Me₃SiC₂–C=CSiMe₃)].^{3a} The entire ligand moiety is nearly planar with the sums of the valence angles around the atoms C1 and C18 both being 360° and the silylalkynyl group is almost linear. The bite angle Cp1–Ti–Cp2 of nearly 140° (Cp = centroid of cyclopentadienyl ring) and the dihedral angle between the least-squares planes of the cyclopentadienyl rings of ca. 41° do not indicate a significant steric hindrance imposed by the hex-3-ene-1,5-diyne-3-yl ligand.

The solution EPR spectrum of **1** consists of a single line at g = 1.991 ($\Delta H = 1.7$ G). The absence of low-intensity satellites due to the interaction of d¹ electron with ⁴⁹Ti and ⁴⁷Ti isotopes ($I_N = 7/2$ and 5/2, respectively) indicates that the unpaired electron is largely delocalized over the hex-3-ene-1,5-diyne-3-yl ligand. EPR measurements of the reacting mixtures showed the following succession of formed paramagnetic species: [Cp*₂TiCl], [{Cp*₂TiC=CSiMe₃)₂}{MgCl(THF)}] and **1**.

Similar 1,4-substituted η^3 -butenyne ligands coordinated to transition metals are known for *e.g.* Ru,^{4*a*-*d*} Os,^{4*e*} W^{4*f*} and Fe,^{4*g*,*h*} and their molecular parameters are essentially similar to those of the hex-3-ene-1,5-diyne-3-yl ligand in **1**. However, none of the known η^3 -butenyne complexes is paramagnetic. Thus, compound **1** is the first early transition metal η^3 -enyne complex and also the first paramagnetic complex of this type. While the above η^3 -butenyne complexes are in many cases suggested to be intermediates in the catalysed dimerisations of alk-1-ynes, in early transition metal-based systems such intermediates like **1** have not yet been observed.^{2*b*,5} Additionally, no such complex has been formed previously by cleavage of the central C–C single bond in a 1,3-butadiyne unit and coupling of the formed acetylide fragment with another buta-1,3-diyne.

The mechanism for the formation of complex 1 is yet not clear. On the basis of the starting materials { $[Cp*_2TiCl_2]$, Mg, Me₃SiC=C-C=CSiMe₃}, the intermediacy of [Cp*_2TiCl] and



Fig. 1 Crystal structure of 1 with 30% probability level thermal ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms and disordered groups are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Ti–C2 2.302(4), Ti–C3 2.471(4), C2–C3 1.250(5), Ti–C1 2.234(4), C1–C2 1.386(5), C1–C18 1.362(5), C16–C17 1.211(5), C17–C18 1.429(5); Si1–C16–C17 177.3(4), C16–C17–C18 173.2(4).

isolated products of this system {[{ $Cp^*_2Ti(C\equiv CSi-Me_3)_2$ }{MgCl(THF)}], [$Cp^*_2Ti(\eta^2-Me_3SiC_2-C\equiv CSiMe_3$]] as well as other compounds which can reasonably be expected in the reaction mixture {*e.g.* [$Cp^*_2Ti(C\equiv CSiMe_3)_2$], [$Cp^*_2Ti(C\equiv CSiMe_3)$] and [Mg($C\equiv CSiMe_3$)Cl(THF)_n] a variety of reaction pathways are possible.

In analogous zirconocene chemistry, Negishi and coworkers showed that $[Cp_2ZrCl_2]$ reacts with 3 equiv. of the acetylides LiC=CR to yield, after hydrolysis, the enynes RCH=CH-C=CR.⁶ The mechanism of their formation suggested the presence of the 'ate' intermediates $[\{Cp_2Zr(C=CR)_3\}Li]$ and $[\{Cp_2Zr(C=CR)(\eta^2-RC_2-C=CR)\}Li]$ which, however, were not isolated. Very recently this mechanism has been supported by Choukroun and Cassoux who succeeded in isolating and determining the crystal structure of the 'ate' complex $[\{Cp_2Zr(C=CPh)(\eta^2-PhC_2-C=CPh)\}Li]$, generated from the reaction of $[Cp_2ZrCl_2]$ with 3 equiv. of LiC=CR.⁷

By taking into account these results one could assume that the isolated products, the titanacyclopropene $[Cp^*_2Ti(\eta^2-Me_3SiC_2-C\equiv CSiMe_3)]^3$ or, alternatively, the tweezer compound $[\{Cp^*_2Ti(C\equiv CSiMe_3)_2\}\{MgCl(THF)\}],^2$ react with $[Cp^*_2Ti-C\equiv CSiMe_3]$ or $[ClMg-C\equiv CSiMe_3]$, resulting in the 'ate' complex $[Cp^*_2Ti(C\equiv CSiMe_3)(\eta^2-Me_3SiC_2-C\equiv CSiMe_3)]^-[Y]^+$ $\{[Y]^+ = [Cp^*_2Ti]^+$ or $[MgCl]^+\}$, both being similar to what has been discussed by Negishi and coworkers as non-isolable intermediates and to species which have recently been characterized by Choukroun and Cassoux. Since titanium is much less electropositive than zirconium and provides a considerably smaller coordination sphere, the diyne is inserted into the Ti-C acetylide bond (inter- or intra-molecularly) and complex 1 is formed.

Notes and references

[†] *General procedure* for the preparation of **1**: a suspension of $[Cp*_2TiCl_2]$ (792 mg, 2.04 mmol), Mg (48 mg, 1.97 mmol) and bis(trimethylsilyl)buta-1,3-diyne (593 mg, 3.05 mmol) in thf (10 mL) was stirred under argon for 5 days at 60 °C. The solution changed to dark-brown and all magnesium was dissolved. After filtration and standing at -78 °C for one day brown crystals formed which were separated and dried in vacuum to give 560 mg (46%) of **1**: mp 202–203 °C (decomp.). *m/z* 610 (M⁺).

‡ Spectral data for 1: EPR (THF, 220 °C): g = 1.991, $\Delta H = 1.7$ G; IR(Nujol)/cm⁻¹: 2109 ν(C=C) (uncoordinated triple bond), 1868 cm⁻¹ ν(C=C) (coordinated triple bond). Anal. C₃₅H₅₇Si₃Ti (M = 610.0): calc.: C, 68.92; H, 9.42. Found: C, 68.71; H, 9.32%.

 $\$ X-Ray structure analysis of 1: STOE-IPDS diffractometer, graphite monochromated Mo-K α radiation, solution of structures by direct methods

(SHELXS-86: G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta. Crystallogr., Sect. A*, 1990, **46**, 467), refinement with full-matrix least-square techniques against F^2 (SHELXL-93: G. M. Sheldrick, University of Göttingen, Germany, 1993), triclinic, space group $P\overline{1}$; a = 10.034(2), b = 11.487(2), c = 16.326(3) Å, $\alpha = 98.92(3)$, $\beta = 92.62(3)$, $\gamma = 90.55(3)^\circ$, V = 1856.8(6) Å³, Z = 2, $D_c = 1.091$ g cm⁻³; 5556 reflections measured, 5556 were independent of symmetry and 4084 were observed $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$, R = 0.060, wR^2 (all data) = 0.161, 326 parameters. All atoms of the Cp* groups and the methyl groups at Si2 and Si3 are disordered. The atoms of the disordered fragments were refined isotropically. All other non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were inserted in calculated positions and refined riding with the corresponding atom. CCDC 182/1480. See http://www.rsc.org.suppdata/cc/1999/2505/ for crystallographic data in .cif format.

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