## Novel Metal-catalysed Reactions of Dipyrazol-1-yl Ketone with Ketonic Solvents

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Summary Dipyrazol-1-yl ketone reacts with ketonic solvents in the presence of certain metal ions, producing carbon dioxide and new dipyrazolyl-hydrocarbon compounds.

REACTION of sodium pyrazolide with phosgene (2:1 molar ratio  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ) gave dipyrazol-1-yl ketone (cdp) (85–90%), m.p. 61.5–62.5°, according to equation (1).

The ligand cdp was purified by zone fractionation; correct analyses were obtained, and the structure was confirmed by n.m.r., mass spectral, and i.r. data.

Reaction of  $CoCl_2$  with cdp in acetone gave  $CO_2$  and a blue complex A, which, surprisingly, showed no CO stretching vibration, while new i.r. bands (2900—3000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) indicated the presence of methyl groups. The same complex was obtained with acetone which had been dried over  $CaSO_4$ , showing that the drying agent, 2,2-dimethoxypropane, was not the source of methyl groups; with  $(CD_3)_2$ -CO as solvent,  $CoCl_2$  and cdp yielded  $CO_2$  and complex B, containing  $CD_3$  i.r. bands and again with v(C=O) absent. Complexes A and B were hydrolysed, and the ligand fragments were extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The ligands were purified by vacuum fractionation, and were identified as 2,2-dipyrazolylpropane (dpp), m.p. 83.5-84.0°, derived from complex A, and as 2,2-dipyrazolyhexadeuteriopropane (dpdp), m.p. 85.0-85.5°, from complex B, on the basis of analytical, mass spectral, and n.m.r. data. For both dpp and dpdp, major mass spectral fragments were observed at m/e 109 and at 115 respectively, representing cleavage of one of the exocyclic C-N bonds to give  $pyR(CX_3)^+_2$  (R = H or D; py = pyrazolyl). Compound dpp and CO<sub>2</sub> were also formed quantitatively from cdp and acetone, in the presence of catalytic amounts of CoCl<sub>2</sub> or Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. CoCl<sub>2</sub> and dpp gave a product with the same i.r. spectrum and analytical data as complex A. Complexes A and B gave analytical data consistent with the formulations Co(dpp)Cl<sub>2</sub> and Co(dpdp)Cl<sub>2</sub>, respectively.

Further preliminary studies indicate that metal-catalysed reactions of dipyrazol-1-yl ketone occur with various ketonic solvents, including ethyl methyl ketone, cyclopentanone, and cyclohexanone, and that nickel(II), but not mercury(II), is effective as a catalytic ion. A test run showed that no reaction occurred between acetone and cdp in the absence of cobalt(II) or nickel(II).

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