

The Novel Cyclodimerization of Phenylacetylene at a Ruthenium(II) Centre. The Synthesis and X-Ray Structural Characterization of the First Metallacyclopentatriene, $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\text{C}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2)\text{Br}]$, and its Facile Conversion into Metallacyclopentadienes

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Cyclodimerization of two molecules of phenylacetylene at the ruthenium(II) centre in $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\eta\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{12})\text{Br}]$ (C_8H_{12} = cyclo-octa-1,5-diene) gives the novel ruthenacyclopentatriene $[(\eta\text{-C}_4\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\text{C}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2)\text{Br}]$ characterized by ^1H and ^{13}C n.m.r. spectroscopy and by X-ray analysis; the triene undergoes facile 'oxidative addition' with donor ligands L (e.g. morpholine, trimethyl phosphite, dimethylphenylphosphine) in a bimolecular reaction involving an associative mode of activation to give the ruthenacyclopentadienes $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\text{L})(\text{C}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2)\text{Br}]$.

Mechanistic steps involving the formation of metallacycles, and their interconversions and subsequent decay, are implicated in a number of important catalytic transformations.¹ In particular, it has been shown that the cyclodimerization of two molecules of an alkyne at a transition metal centre leads to metallacyclopentadiene complexes¹⁻³ (**1**), currently favoured as key intermediates in the catalytic cyclo-oligomerization of

alkynes to aromatic compounds.^{2,3} Herein we report on the novel cyclodimerization of phenylacetylene at the ruthenium(II) centre in $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\eta\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{12})\text{Br}]$ (C_8H_{12} = cyclo-octa-1,5-diene), a reaction which does not lead to a metallacyclopentadiene but rather to the first example of a metallacyclopentatriene (**2**).

The complex $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\eta\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{12})\text{Br}]$ ⁴ (**3**) reacts with

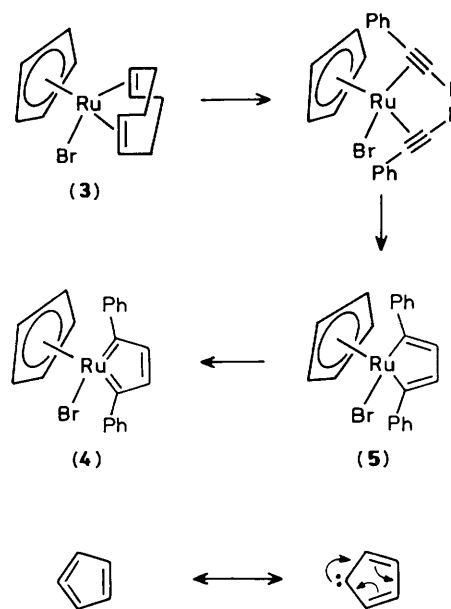


phenylacetylene (mole ratio 1 : 4) in dichloromethane at 0 °C to give a dark green solution. Slow addition of hexane affords green crystals of composition $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\text{C}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2)\text{Br}]$ (**4**)[†] (yield 60–70%). In the high-field ^1H n.m.r. spectrum of (**4**) (500.13 MHz, CDCl_3 , 303 K) a sharp singlet is observed for the cyclopentadienyl ligand at δ 5.21. A signal for two magnetically equivalent hydrogen atoms appears at δ 7.82, *downfield* of the phenyl protons which resonate at δ 7.74 (tt, 2H, H_{para}), 7.27 (dd, 4H, H_{ortho}), and 7.19 (m, 4H, H_{meta}). In the $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ n.m.r. spectrum (125.76 MHz, CDCl_3 , 303 K) a resonance appears at δ 94.5 assignable to the cyclopentadienyl ligand with the expected four resonances for two equivalent phenyl rings appearing at δ 161.7, 128.9, 127.6, and 123.8. Only two further resonances, each accounting for two carbon atoms, are observed, one at δ 156.0 and the other at δ 271.1. The unusual position observed for the two proton resonance downfield of the phenyl proton resonances (suggestive of strong paramagnetic shielding arising from ring current effects in a metallacycle), and the two ^{13}C resonances appearing at δ 156.0 and δ 271.1 (suggestive of metallacycle sp^2 ring carbon atoms⁵ and metal-carbene α -carbon atoms,⁶ respectively) lend support for the formulation of the $\text{C}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2$ moiety in (**4**) as an unsaturated bis-carbene ligand, and the unit $\{\text{RuC}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2\}$ as the first example of a metallacyclopentatriene.

The X-ray crystal structure of (**4**) has been determined.[‡] The structure (Figure 1) confirms the cyclodimerization of two molecules of phenylacetylene and the formation of a five-membered ruthenacycle with both phenyl substituents in the α -position. The complex has crystallographic mirror symmetry with the ruthenium, bromine, C(23), and H(23) atoms lying in the mirror plane. The $\{\text{RuC}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2\}$ metallacycle is close to planar, with the ruthenium atom lying only 0.215 Å out of the C_4 plane. The bond lengths within the metallacycle support a largely delocalized metallacyclopentatriene structure; the Ru–C(1) distance of 1.942(6) Å is close to the Ru=C double bond length range of 1.83–1.91 Å observed in previously reported ruthenium-alkylidene complexes,⁷ and is significantly shorter than the Ru–C single bond length range of 2.030(16)–2.117(9) Å reported for ruthenacyclopentadienes.⁸ The C(1)–C(2) and C(2)–C(2') bond lengths of 1.403(8) and 1.377(12) Å also reflect the proposed metallacyclopentatriene structure but meaningful comparisons with ruthenacyclopentadiene complexes⁸ are difficult to make.

[†] A satisfactory elemental analysis was obtained.

[‡] *Crystal data* for (**4**): $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrRu}$, $M = 450.35$, orthorhombic, space group $\text{Cmc}2_1$, $a = 18.264(3)$, $b = 11.806(2)$, $c = 8.028(2)$ Å, $U = 1731.1(10)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_c = 1.728$ Mg m⁻³, $F(000) = 888$, $\mu(\text{Mo-K}\alpha) = 3.070$ mm⁻¹, $\lambda = 0.71069$ Å. The structure was solved by heavy atom (Patterson and difference Fourier) methods and was refined by full matrix weighted least squares [$\sum w|\Delta F|^2$ minimized, $w = \sigma^{-2}(F_o)$] with all non-hydrogen atoms anisotropic. All hydrogen atoms were located in a difference map but only H(2) was freely refined. All other hydrogen atoms were fixed in idealized positions ($d_{\text{C-H}} = 0.95$ Å) and separate common isotropic temperature factors were refined for the phenyl and cyclopentadienyl hydrogen atoms. $R = 0.0391$ and $R_w = 0.0306$ for 1061 unique reflections with $F_o \leq 4\sigma(F_o)$ collected at 295 K on an Enraf-Nonius CAD4F diffractometer. Atomic co-ordinates, bond lengths and angles, and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. See Notice to Authors, Issue No. 1, 1986.



Scheme 1

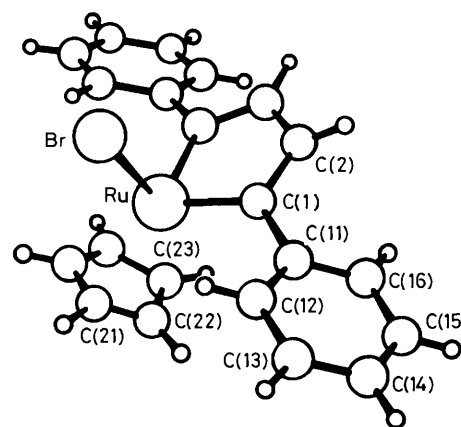
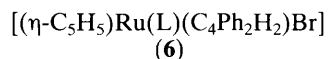


Figure 1. A perspective view of (**4**) showing the atom numbering scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Ru–Br 2.493(1), Ru–C(1) 1.942(6), Ru–C(21) 2.346(7), Ru–C(22) 2.294(8), Ru–C(23) 2.143(12), C(1)–C(2) 1.403(8), C(2)–C(2') 1.377(12); C(1)–Ru–C(1') 78.7(4), Ru–C(1)–C(2) 117.6(5), C(1)–C(2)–C(2') 112.8(6).

A mechanism to account for the formation of (**4**) is outlined in Scheme 1. Cyclo-octadiene substitution in (**3**) by donor ligands has been established to be a facile process.⁴ Cyclodimerization of two molecules of phenylacetylene together with concomitant oxidative addition to the metal atom would be expected, on the basis of numerous precedents,¹ to form initially a co-ordinatively unsaturated 16-electron ruthenium(IV)–metallacyclopentadiene complex (**5**). In interpreting the conversion of (**5**) into the formally 18-electron ruthenium(II)–metallacyclopentatriene (**4**), (**5**) is best likened to cyclopentadienylidene [shown below (**5**); Scheme 1] which could undergo a redistribution of electrons to give cyclopentatriene [below (**4**)]. In a similar manner, participation of a pair of ruthenium-based electrons would give the 'metalla-allene' or metallacyclopentatriene (**4**).

The most important implication of such a relationship between (**4**) and (**5**) is that the provision of a pair of electrons

by a donor ligand to the metal atom in (4) should obviate the need for the triene structure, with a reversion to a metallacyclopentadiene, this time, however, forming the saturated 18-electron complex $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\text{L})(\text{C}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2)\text{Br}]$.



Indeed, treatment of (4) with a single molar equivalent of the donor ligands morpholine, trimethyl phosphite, or dimethylphenylphosphine in CDCl_3 (25 °C) rapidly generates species which on the basis of their ^1H and $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ n.m.r. characteristics are formulated as the metallacyclopentadiene complexes $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\text{L})(\text{C}_4\text{Ph}_2\text{H}_2)\text{Br}]$ (6) [L = $\text{HN}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}$, $\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3$, or PMe_2Ph]. In a typical example (6) [L = $\text{HN}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}$],[§] it is the marked upfield shift of the metallacycle protons to δ 7.01, and the appearance of ^{13}C resonances at δ 201.3 and δ 142.3 assignable to C_α and C_β respectively which are the most indicative of the triene into diene conversion.⁵ The conversion (4) \rightarrow (6) represents a novel organometallic transformation and for this reason we have briefly investigated the kinetics of the reaction of (4) with $\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3$ and PMe_2Ph in acetone by u.v.-visible spectrophotometry. The rate law, established under pseudo-first-order conditions, takes the form $-\text{d}[(4)]/\text{d}t = k_{\text{obs}}[(4)]$ where $k_{\text{obs}} = k_1[\text{L}]$. The specific rate constants at 25 °C are $k_1 = 3.8$ and $757 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for L = $\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3$ and PMe_2Ph respectively. The activation parameters associated with k_1 (temperature range 15–35 °C) are $\Delta H^\ddagger = 4.67 [8.24] \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$; $\Delta S^\ddagger = -44.7 [-20.08] \text{ cal K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ (1 cal = 4.184 J), for PMe_2Ph and, in square brackets, $\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3$. The observed second-order kinetics, the large negative values of ΔS^\ddagger , and the marked effect of the nature of the entering nucleophile on the reaction rate constant, strongly favour a bimolecular reaction involving an associative mode of activation. Particularly

§ ^1H N.m.r. (CDCl_3 , 303 K, 500.13 MHz): δ 7.20 (m, 6H, Ph), 7.17 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.10 (m, 6H, Ph), 7.01 (s, 2H, CH), 5.01 (s, 5H, C_5H_5), 4.02 (t, 2H, CH_2), 3.63 (t, 2H, CH_2), 3.43 (t, 2H, CH_2), and 2.43 (t, 2H, CH_2); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ n.m.r. (CDCl_3 , 303 K, 125.76 MHz): δ 201.3 (C_α), 151.7 (C,Ph), 142.3 (C_β), 127.4, 126.2, 125.6 (C,Ph), 92.4 (C_5H_5), 82.2, 71.0, 68.3, and 49.5 (CH_2).

noteworthy too are the very low activation enthalpies for the conversion of (4) into (6), consistent with the expectation that this should be a low-energy process.

In conclusion, the results presented here describe a hitherto unanticipated product of the cyclodimerization of two molecules of alkyne at a transition metal centre. The factor which probably most influences the formation of the metallacyclopentatriene rather than the expected metallacyclopentadiene is the unsaturation ensuing at the ruthenium centre following cyclo-octadiene displacement and alkyne cyclodimerization. This suggests that metallacyclopentatrienes should be stabilized at a range of transition metal centres which satisfy criteria similar to $[(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ru}(\eta\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{12})\text{Br}]$.

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