Optically Active Naphthalene–Cr(CO)$_3$ Complexes *via* Diastereoselective Carbene Annulation and Haptotropic Metal Migration†

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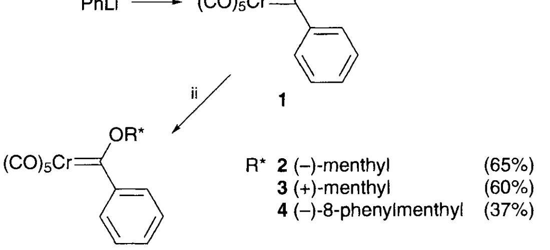
Pentacarbonyl[(+)- and (−)-menthyloxycarbene] complexes of chromium react with 3,3-dimethylbut-1-yne diastereoselectively to give optically active naphthalene–Cr(CO)$_3$ complexes which upon warming undergo an intramolecular haptotropic migration of the metal fragment.

Due to their plane of chirality, metal complexes of unsymmetrically *ortho*- or *meta*-disubstituted arenes have become valuable reagents in stereoselective synthesis.[1] A straightforward access to hydroquinone derivatives of this class of compounds is provided by the chromium-mediated benzannulation of an unsaturated alkoxycarbene ligand by an alkyne and a carbonyl ligand.[2] A diastereoselective modification of this reaction in which the Cr(CO)$_3$ moiety is coordinated selectively to one of both enantiotopic faces of the arene may be based on a chiral carbene complex or a chiral alkyne. Recently, sterically demanding α-chiral prop-2-ynylic ethers have been successfully applied in the benzannulation of vinylcarbene complexes.[3] We have focussed our attention on a more general approach which involves carbene complexes containing readily available chiral alkoxy groups.

Tetramethylammonium pentacarbonylbenzoylchromate **1** is modified into the optically active menthyloxy(phenyl)carbene complexes **2–4** by an acetylation/alcoholysis sequence.[4] In comparison with the methoxy(phenyl)carbene homologue the NMR signals of the menthyloxy group are broadened already at ambient temperature indicating a slower rotation around the $C_{carbene}$–O bond as a consequence of the bulky alkoxy substituent. Below −40 °C complexes **2–4** are detected as an approximate 1 : 2 mixture of *E*/*Z*-isomers (Scheme 1).

To study the stereodifferentiating ability of the menthyl auxiliary in the benzannulation the complexes **2–4** were reacted with the terminal alkyne **5** which is known to undergo a regiospecific incorporation into the naphthohydroquinone skeleton.[5] Protection of the benzannulation products with SiMe$_2$Bu^{t}Cl and chromatographic workup afforded the silyl ethers **6** and **7** in moderate chemical yields and in diastereomeric ratios of **6a** : **6b** = 10 : 1 (81% d.e.) and **7a** : **7b** = 9.2 : 1 (80% d.e.), respectively.‡ Surprisingly, (−)-8-phenylmenthol, generally a more selective auxiliary in cycloaddition reactions,[6] is less efficient in the carbene annulation reaction affording the major diastereomer **8a** in only 50% d.e. (Scheme 2).

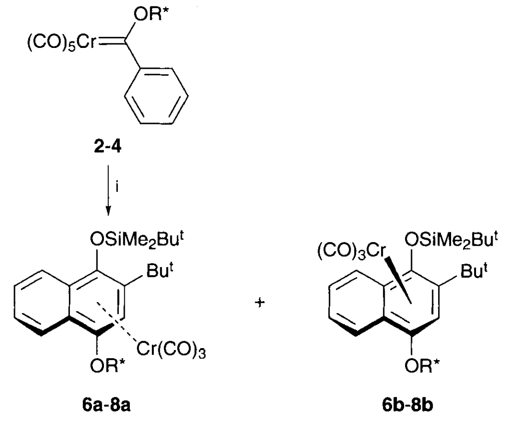
The major diastereomers **6a** and **7b** were isolated as red crystals by low-temperature crystallization from light petroleum and characterized according to the upfield shift of the 3-H atom (δ 5.60 and 5.71, respectively) in the metal-coordinated arene ring formed in the annulation reaction. Their absolute configurations were determined by X-ray analyses.§ Both major diastereomers are enantiomers; in the (−)-menthyloxynaphthalene complex **6a** the arene–metal moiety has the R_p configuration[7] (p = in planar chiral systems) while the (+)-menthyloxy complex **7b** is characterized by the S_p configuration (Fig. 1). The classification of **6a** and **7b** as enantiomers is further evident from their optical rotation data (**6a**: $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +693; **7b**: $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ −690).



R* **2** (–)-menthyl (65%)
3 (+)-menthyl (60%)
4 (–)-8-phenylmenthyl (37%)

Scheme 1 Synthesis of the carbene complexes **2–4**. *Reagents*: i, Cr(CO)$_6$ then NMe$_4$Br, yield 80%; ii, AcBr then R*OH.

The conformational flexibility of the terpenoxy auxiliaries makes a reliable prediction of the stereochemical outcome difficult. On the basis of the mechanism generally accepted for the benzannulation[8] we suggest that the coupling of the alkyne and the carbene ligand to generate a $\eta^1:\eta^3$-vinylcarbene



R*	yield[a] (%)		d.e.[b] (%)	
(–)-menthyl	55	**6a**:**6b**	10:1	81
(+)-menthyl	50	**7a**:**7b**	1:9.2	80
(–)-8-phenylmenthyl	65	**8a**:**8b**	3:1	50

Scheme 2 Diastereoselective carbene annulation. *Reagents*: i, HC≡CBu^t **5** then SiMe$_2$Bu^{t}Cl, NEt$_3$. [a] Based on carbene complexes **2–4**; [b] determined by ^{1}H NMR on the basis of the signals of the 3-H-atom.

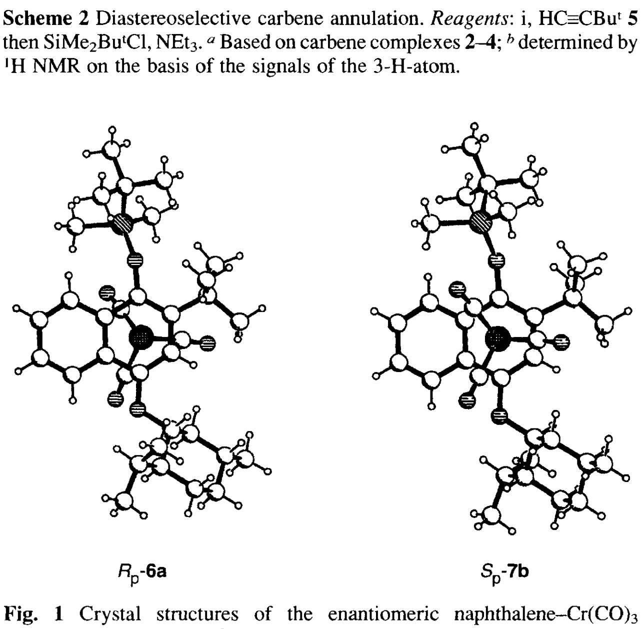
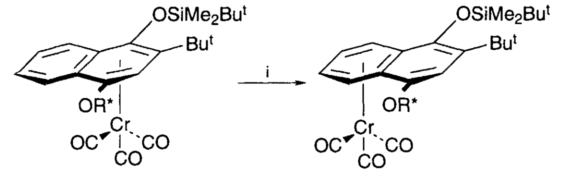

R_p-**6a** S_p-**7b**

Fig. 1 Crystal structures of the enantiomeric naphthalene–Cr(CO)$_3$ complexes R_p-**6a** and S_p-**7b**



6a [R* = (–)-menthyl] **9**

Scheme 3 *Reagents and conditions*: $Bu^n{}_2O$, 90 °C, 20 min; analogously **7b** [R* = (+)-menthyl] → **10**

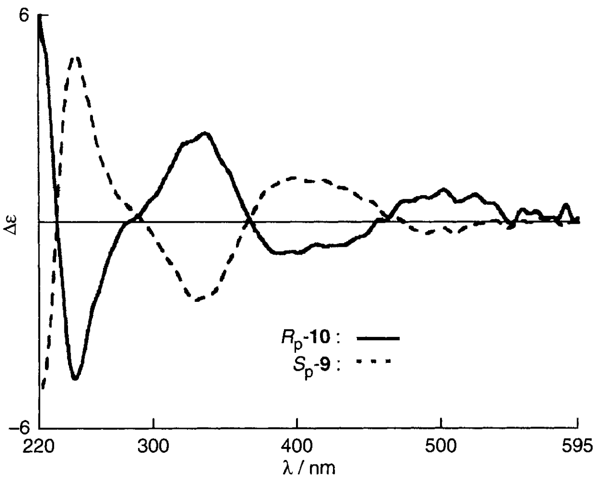


Fig. 2 CD spectra of the enantiomeric naphthalene–$Cr(CO)_3$ complexes S_p-**9** and R_p-**10** (c = 10^{-3} mol dm^{-3}, CH_2Cl_2)

intermediate is the stereodifferentiating step along which the chiral auxiliary controls the migration of the chromium carbonyl fragment to one of both enantiotopic faces of the vinylcarbene ligand.

The chromium-mediated benzannulation of alkoxy(aryl)-carbene complexes allows control over the coordination of the $Cr(CO)_3$ fragment of the fused arene system.[9] Annulation carried out at 55 °C provides kinetic control to produce **6a/b–8a/b**. When enantiomers **6a** and **7b** are warmed in di-*n*-butyl ether to 90 °C a haptotropic migration occurs under thermodynamic control to afford enantiomers **9** and **10** (Scheme 3) as single diastereomers with complementary optical rotation data (**9**: $[\alpha]_D{}^{25}$ +2.5; **10**: $[\alpha]_D{}^{25}$ −2.0; *c* 0.9, $CHCl_3$) and CD spectra (Fig. 2). This result indicates that isomerization occurs intramolecularly along one face of the naphthalene system which is in line with earlier EHMO calculations.[10]

The annulation of optically active carbene complexes derived from readily available auxiliaries provides a direct route to densely functionalized chiral arene–$Cr(CO)_3$ complexes which are promising reagents for elaborate stereoselective synthesis.

Support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (SFB 334), the Graduiertenkolleg 'Spektroskopie isolierter und kondensierter Moleküle', and the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie is gratefully acknowledged.

Received, 2nd October 1995; Com. 5/06497J

Footnotes

† Reactions of Complex Ligands Part 67. For Part 66 see: O. Kretschik, M. Nieger and K. H. Dötz, *Chem. Ber.*, 1995, **128**, 987.

‡ *General procedure* for the synthesis of **6a/b–8a/b**: All reactions and work up procedures were performed under argon atmosphere. A solution of 2 mmol **2–4** and 8 mmol **5** in 5 ml Bu^tOMe was degassed in three cycles and warmed at 55 °C for 45 min. After cooling to room temperature and filtration over silica gel, 8 mmol $SiMe_2Bu^tCl$ and 8 mmol NEt_3 were added, and the solution stirred at room temp. for 3 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by column chromatography [light petroleum (bp 40–60 °C)–CH_2Cl_2 (5 : 1 *v/v*) at −10 °C] to afford **6a/b**, 0.66 g (55%); **7a/b**, 0.60 g (50%); **8a/b**, 0.90 g (65%). The major diastereomers **6a** and **7b** were isolated by fractional crystallization at −35 °C from light petroleum (bp 40–60 °C).

§ *Crystallographic details* of **6a** [**7b**]: $C_{33}H_{48}CrO_5Si$, red crystals, M = 604.8, space group $P2_12_12_1$ (no. 19), a = 9.349(2) [9.347(3)], b = 11.707(2) [11.721(1)], c = 30.268(4) [30.292(3)] Å, U = 3313(1) [3319(1)] Å^3, Z = 4[4], μ(Cu-Kα) = 3.48 mm^{-1}, T = 200 [208] K, F(000) = 1296. 5959[5626] Reflections were measured on an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer with Cu-Kα radiation ($2\theta_{max}$ = 140 [120°]), 5325 [4915] independent reflections were used for all calculations. The structure was solved by direct methods (SHELXTL-PLUS[11a]) and refined anisotropically on F^2 (SHELXL-93[11b]). All hydrogen atoms were refined by using a riding model; $wR2(F^2)$ = 0.077 [0.132] with $R(F)$ = 0.029 [0.049] for 372 [372] parameters. An absorption correction was applied (DIFABS[12] **6a**, ψ-scans **7b**). The absolute configuration was determined {Flack's *x*-parameter[13] 0.000(4) [0.005(7)]}. Atomic coordinates, bond lengths and angles, and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. See Information for Authors, Issue No. 1.

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