Reaction of Tris(triethylphosphine)trimethylsilyldiazomethylrhodium(i) with lsocyanides. Synthesis and X-Ray Structure of the First 1*H*-1,2,3-Triazolato Complex with a Metal–Carbon Bond

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Two new C-bonded 1*H*-1,2,3-triazolato rhodium(I) compounds have been synthesized from the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of the diazo complex [Rh(PEt₃)₃{ $C(N_2)SiMe_3$ }] with isocyanides RNC (R = Bu^t and Buⁿ).

Organic diazoalkanes have been proven to be exceedingly useful in organic synthesis as precursors to carbenoid species or as reagents in heterocyclic synthesis *via* 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition.^{1a} By comparison, the chemical reactivity of diazoalkanes C-bonded to a transition metal is still underdeveloped. This is related to the fact that α -metallated diazoalkanes are few in number and still limited to osmium,² palladium,³ rhodium⁴ and nickel.⁵ Their carbenoid character has been illustrated in the case of the osmium, rhodium and nickel complexes where the transient α -metallated carbenes generated by photolysis have been successfully trapped by phosphine.^{2,5}

Isocyanides are well known for their ability to insert into metal–carbon bonds and to produce a variety of new compounds.⁶ Moreover, with organic diazoalkanes, they usually induce formation of ketylimines,^{1b} after N₂ extrusion. To our knowledge, only one example of a low yield synthesis of an organic triazole has been reported⁷ before. In this paper, we describe the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of isocyanides on the α -metallated diazomethyl complex: [Rh(PEt₃)₃{C(N₂)-SiMe₃}] which gave rise to the first 1*H*-1,2,3-triazolato ligand C-bonded to rhodium.

The reaction of $[Rh(PEt_3)_3\{C(N_2)SiMe_3\}]$ (300 mg; 0.53 mmol) with an excess of RNC (in the ratio 1:4) at room temperature in C_6H_6 afforded **1** (R = Bu^t) in a high yield reaction under mild conditions (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1

Air-sensitive yellow crystals of **1**, *trans*-(1-*tert*-butyl-4-trimethylsilyl-1*H*-1,2,3-triazolato)triethylphosphinebis(*tert*butyl isocyanide)rhodium(1) were obtained by slow crystallization from cyclopentane. When BuⁿNC was used, only one PEt₃ ligand was substituted by isocyanide and (PEt₃)₂-(BuⁿNC)Rh[$\overline{CC(SiMe_3)N_2N(Bu^n)}$] was precipitated as yellow crystals. In the infrared, they display one $\bar{v}(C=NBu^t)$ at 2100 cm⁻¹ for **1** (Nujol mull) and at 2113 cm⁻¹ for **2** (in C₆H₆), typical of terminal isocyanide. As evidenced by ³¹P, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy, only one phosphine and two magnetically equivalent isocyanide ligands were present in 1[†] while in 2[†] two *trans*-PEt₃ and one BuⁿNC ligands were observed. In order to characterize unambiguously 1 and because there is no precedent of C-bonded 1*H*-1,2,3 triazole, a single crystal X-ray analysis was undertaken.[‡] The ORTEP view is illustrated in Fig. 1, along with the atom numbering and the pertinent parameters. 1 consists of monomeric molecules. The geometry around Rh is square planar, with two *trans-tert*-butyl isocyanides, one triethylphosphine and the C-bonded 1*H*-1,2,3 triazolato ligand.

The P(1)C(20)C(30)RhC(1) core is only slightly distorted from a square planar geometry, the angles around rhodium being 171.9(8) and 176.7(6)°.8 The heterocycle is planar, this perpendicular plane being nearly the to P(1)C(20)C(30)RhC(1) plane [dihedral angle, 87.4(6)°]. Disorder was observed in the isocyanide ligands and in the ethyl substituents of the phosphine. The distances and angle values in the triazole are as expected for C=C, C-N, N-N and N=N bond lengths and CCN, CNN and NNN angles in an heteropentacycle.9 The Rh-C and Rh-P distances are consistent with the usual values reported for Rh1-CNR and Rh1-PR3 bonds.¹⁰ The two terminal *tert*-butyl isocyanides are slightly

2: ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR(C₆D₆); δ 18 (d, J_{P-Rh} 137 Hz); ${}^{1}H$ NMR(C₆D₆): δ 1.16 [(CH₃CH₂)₃P], 1.48 [(MeCH₂)₃P], 0.88 [Me₃Si]. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ } NMR (C₆D₆): δ 13.61 [CH₃(CH₂)₃NC₁], 14.55 [CH₃(CH₂)₃NC_c], 20.25 [MeCH₂(CH₂)₂NC₁], 21.78 [MeCH₂(CH₂)₂NC_c], 31.97 [MeCH₂CH₂CH₂NC₁], 33.86 [MeCH₂CH₂CH₂NC_c], 43.33 [Me(CH₂)₂CH₂NC₁], 53.47 [Me(CH₂)₂CH₂NC_c], 9.1 [(CH₃CH₂)₃P], t, 19.3 [(MeCH₂)₃P, J_{PC} 12 Hz], 2.35 [Me₃Si].

‡ Crystal data for 1: monoclinic, $P_{2_1/c}$, a = 11.914(4), b = 10.092(4), c = 28.34(2) Å, $\beta = 96.16(5)^\circ$, Z = 4, V = 3398 Å³, $D_c = 1.155$ g cm⁻³, μ (Mo-K α) = 5.36 cm⁻¹, $T = 20 \pm 2$ °C, R = 0.0943 ($R_w = 0.1030$) for 2630 reflections $I > 3\sigma(I)$ measured on an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer. Atomic coordinates, bond lengths and angles, and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. See Notice to Authors, Issue No. 1.

[†] Selected spectroscopic data for 1: ³¹P{¹H} NMR(C₆D₆): δ 27 (d, J_{Rh-P} 113 Hz); ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): δ 0.96 [(CH₃)₃CNC_t], 1.00 (CH₃)₃Si], 1.22 [(CH₃CH₂)₃P], 1.57 [(MeCH₂)₃P], 2.28 [(CH₃)₃CNC]. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆): δ 2.09 [(CH₃)₃Si], 9.0 [(CH₃CH₂)₃P], 21.1 [d, (MeCH₂)₃P, J_{C-P} 21.9 Hz], 30.08 [(CH₃)₃CNC_t], 32.89 [(CH₃)₃CNC], 55.57 [Me₃CNC_t], 57.25 [Me₃CNC]. Mass spectrometry (EI, 70 eV): 583 (M⁺); 555 (M⁺ – N₂); 472 [M⁺ – N₂-(Bu^tNC)].



Fig. 1 ORTEP view of the $[Rh(PEt_3)(Bu^tNC)_2\{CC(SiMe_3)N_2N-(Bu^t)\}]$ 1 molecule and atoms labelling scheme. Hydrogen atoms and disorder are omitted for clarity. Ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability. Main bond distances (Å): Rh–C(20) 1.84(2):Rh–C(30) 1.82(2); Rh–C(1) 2.10(2); Rh–P(1) 2.270(6); C(1)–C(2) 1.39(3); C(2)–N(3) 1.42(3); N(3)–N(2) 1.26(2); N(2)–N(1) 1.38(2); N(1)–C(1) 1.41(2); bond angles (°): C(2)–Rh–C(30) 171.9(8); P(1)–Rh–C(1) 176.7(6); P(1)–Rh–C(20) 93.1(6); P(1)–Rh–C(30) 95.0(6); C(1)–Rh–C(20) 84.4(8); C(1)–Rh–C(30) 87.5(8); Rh–C(1)–C(2) 128(1); Rh–C(1)–N(1) 127(1); C(1)–C(2)–N(3) 106(2); C(2)–N(3)–N(2) 110(2); N(3)–N(2)–N(1) 111(2); N(2)–N(1)–C(1) 108(2); N(1)–C(1)–C(2) 106(2).

bent towards the heterocycle probably because of the steric requirements of the other ligands.

In conclusion, this reaction develops a new synthesis of functional triazoles. These molecules, till now, were obtained by reaction of unsaturated organic compounds with organic azides¹¹ and in addition their reactions with metallic complexes were limited to N-bonded derivatives.¹² Work is now in progress to establish the mechanism of this reaction.

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