

## $\eta$ -Cyclopentadienyl Molybdenum Imido Compounds; Halo, Alkene, Alkyne, Allyl and Tertiary Phosphine Derivatives

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The new imido compounds  $[M(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{R})\text{Cl}_2(\text{NR}')]^*$  ( $M = \text{Mo}$ ,  $R = \text{H}$ ,  $R' = \text{Bu}^t$ ,  $\text{Pr}^n$  or  $\text{Ph}$ ;  $M = \text{Mo}$ ,  $R = \text{Me}$ ,  $R' = \text{Bu}^t$  or  $\text{Ph}$ ;  $M = \text{W}$ ,  $R = \text{H}$ ,  $R' = \text{Bu}^t$ ),  $[\text{Mo}(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{R})\text{Cl}(\text{L})(\text{NR}')]$  ( $R = \text{H}$ ,  $R' = \text{Bu}^t$ ,  $\text{L} = \eta\text{-C}_2\text{H}_4$ , or  $\eta\text{-C}_2\text{Me}_2$ ;  $R = \text{Me}$ ,  $R' = \text{Bu}^t$ ,  $\text{L} = \text{C}_2\text{H}_4^*$ ;  $R = \text{H}$ ,  $R' = \text{Ph}$ ,  $\text{L} = \eta\text{-C}_2\text{Me}_2$ ),  $[\{\text{Mo}(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{R})(\eta\text{-C}_2\text{H}_4)(\text{NBu}^t)\}_2\text{Hg}]^*$  ( $R = \text{H}$ ,  $\text{Me}$ ),  $[\text{Mo}(\text{NBu}^t)\text{Cl}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_3]$ ,  $[\text{Mo}(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Cl}_3(\text{NBu}^t)]$  and the  $\pi$ -allyl complex  $[\text{Mo}(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{Me})(\eta\text{-C}_3\text{H}_5)(\text{NBu}^t)]$  are synthesised; \*indicates that the crystal structure has been determined.

Much interest has been shown recently in organometallic imido complexes,<sup>1</sup> due in part to their suspected involvement in alkene metathesis and ammoxidation catalysis, in which imido allyl species have been implicated.<sup>2</sup> Here we report the straightforward syntheses of mononuclear  $\eta$ -cyclopenta-

dienylimidodichloro-molybdenum compounds and some tungsten analogues. Preliminary reactivity studies indicate they have a rich and diverse chemistry (see Scheme 1).

Treatment of the tetrachlorides  $[\text{Mo}(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{R})\text{Cl}_4]$  **1** [ $M = \text{Mo}$ ,  $R = \text{H}$  (**1a**) or  $\text{Me}$  (**1b**);  $M = \text{W}$ ,  $R = \text{H}$  (**1c**) or  $\text{Me}$  (**1d**)]

with 3 equiv. of  $R'NH_2$  ( $R' = Bu^t$ ,  $Pr^n$  or  $Ph$ ) in toluene affords the corresponding  $\eta$ -cyclopentadienylimidodichloro compounds  $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4R)Cl_2(NR')]$  [ $M = Mo$ ,  $R = H$ ,  $R' = Bu^t$  (**2a**),  $Pr^n$  (**2c**) or  $Ph$  (**2d**);  $M = Mo$ ,  $R = Me$ ,  $R' = Bu^t$  (**2b**) or  $Ph$  (**2e**);  $M = W$ ,  $R = H$ ,  $R' = Bu^t$  (**2f**)] in ca. 50% yield.<sup>†</sup> The crystal structure<sup>‡</sup> of the compound **2a** has been determined and the molecular structure is shown in Fig. 1.

<sup>†</sup> Satisfactory analyses have been obtained for all the new compounds described, except for **4b**, **5b**, **8** and **9** which have been spectroscopically characterised.

*Selected spectroscopic data:* NMR data recorded at 300 MHz ( $^1H$ ) or 75.5 MHz ( $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ }) and given as  $\delta$  relative to  $SiMe_4$ , relative intensity, multiplicity, coupling constant (in Hz) and assignment;  $J$  refers to  $^1H$ - $^1H$  coupling constant unless stated otherwise. <sup>a</sup> In [ $^2H_6$ ]benzene, <sup>b</sup> in [ $^2H_2$ ]dichloromethane, <sup>c</sup> in [ $^2H_8$ ]toluene. DEPT = distortionless enhancement by polarisation transfer. IR data given as  $cm^{-1}$  with spectra recorded as CsI disks.

**2a:**  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1362,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  300, 330, 380. **2b:**  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1362,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  300, 330, 380. **2c:**  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1358,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  300, 330, 350. **2d:**  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1312,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  310, 340, 360. **2e:**  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1313,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  310, 340, 360.

**3a:**  $^1H$ :<sup>a</sup> 5.30 (5H, s,  $C_5H_5$ ), 2.78–2.89 (1H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 2.52–2.62 (1H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 2.17–2.26 (1H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 1.95–2.04 (1H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 0.97 (9H, s,  $Bu^t$ ).  $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ } DEPT NMR:<sup>a</sup> 102.5 ( $C_5H_5$ ), 49.1, 38.5 (2  $\times$   $C_2H_4$ ), 28.9 ( $CM_e_3$ ). IR:  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1355,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  340, 370.

**3b:**  $^1H$ :<sup>c</sup> 5.43, 5.36, 5.25, 4.49 [4  $\times$  1H, 4  $\times$  virtual q ( $J = 3$ ),  $C_5H_4Me$ ], 2.55–2.75 (2H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 2.13–2.21 (1H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 1.75 (3H, s,  $C_5H_4Me$ ), 1.65–1.73 (1H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 0.92 (9H, s,  $Bu^t$ ).  $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ }:<sup>c</sup> 105, 101, 97.6, 97.1 (4  $\times$  CH of  $C_5H_4Me$ ), 71 ( $CM_e_3$ ), 49, 39 (2  $\times$   $C_2H_4$ ), 29 ( $CM_e_3$ ), 14 ( $C_5H_4Me$ ). IR:  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1360,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  310, 340, 380.

**4a:**  $^1H$ :<sup>a</sup> 5.20, 5.19 (2  $\times$  5H, 2  $\times$  s,  $C_5H_5$ ), 1.99 (4H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 1.64, 1.45 (2  $\times$  2H, 2  $\times$  m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 1.07 (18H, s,  $Bu^t$ ).  $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ } DEPT NMR:<sup>a</sup> 92.2 ( $C_5H_5$ ), 31.5 ( $CM_e_3$ ), 19.8, 13.9 (2  $\times$   $C_2H_4$ ). IR:  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1355.

**4b:**  $^1H$ :<sup>a</sup> 5.36, 5.24 (2  $\times$  2H, 2  $\times$  m,  $C_5H_4Me$ ), 5.17 (4H, m,  $C_5H_4Me$ ), 2.10 (4H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 1.64 (6H, s,  $C_5H_4Me$ ), 1.49 (2H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 1.13 (2H, partially obscured m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 1.09 (18H, s,  $Bu^t$ ).

**5a:**  $^1H$ :<sup>a</sup> 6.9–6.7 (5H, m,  $C_6H_5$ ), 5.51 (5H, s,  $C_5H_5$ ), 2.74, 2.36 (2  $\times$  3H, 2  $\times$  s,  $C_2Me_2$ ).

**5b:**  $^1H$ :<sup>a</sup> 5.60 (5H, s,  $C_5H_5$ ), 2.61, 2.38 (2  $\times$  3H, 2  $\times$  s,  $C_2Me_2$ ), 0.92 (9H, s,  $Bu^t$ ).  $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ } NMR:<sup>a</sup> 104.8 ( $C_5H_5$ ), 29.4 ( $CM_e_3$ ), 18.3, 10.7 (2  $\times$   $C_2Me_2$ ). IR:  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1357,  $\nu(C\equiv C)$  1855,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  280.

**6:**  $^1H$ :<sup>a</sup> 1.43 [18H, virtual t ( $J = 3.6$ ), *trans*- $PM_e_3$ ], 1.25 [9H, d ( $J = 7.6$ ),  $PM_e_3$ ], 1.01 (9H, s,  $Bu^t$ ).  $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ } DEPT NMR:<sup>a</sup> 30.9 [ $CM_e_3$ ], 23.6 [d, ( $J = 23.4$ ),  $PM_e_3$ ], 18.1 [virtual t ( $J = 11.0$ ), *trans*- $PM_e_3$ ].  $^{31}P$ -{ $^1H$ }:<sup>a</sup> 3.2 [t ( $J = 17$ ), *cis*- $PM_e_3$ ], -9.9 [d ( $J = 17$ ), *trans*- $PM_e_3$ ]. IR:  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1360,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  300.

**7:**  $^1H$ :<sup>b</sup> 6.80 (5H, s,  $C_5H_5$ ), 1.56 (9H, s,  $Bu^t$ ).  $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ } DEPT NMR:<sup>b</sup> 118.3 ( $C_5H_5$ ), 27.4 ( $CM_e_3$ ). IR:  $\nu(Mo=N)$  1363,  $\nu(Mo-Cl)$  280, 330, 380.

**8:**  $^1H$ :<sup>a</sup> 5.67, 4.64 [2  $\times$  2H, 2  $\times$  virtual t ( $J = 2.2$  Hz),  $C_5H_4Me$ ], 4.07 [2H, m, ( $CH_2$ ) $_2$ CH], 2.96 [1H, m, ( $CH_2$ ) $_2$ CH], 1.68 [3H, s,  $C_5H_4Me$ ], 0.92 [9H, s,  $Bu^t$ ], 0.36 [2H, m, ( $CH_2$ ) $_2$ CH].  $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ } NMR (assignments confirmed by a  $^{13}C$ - $^1H$  correlation spectrum):<sup>a</sup> 94, 89 [2  $\times$  CH of  $C_5H_4Me$ ], 78 [( $CH_2$ ) $_2$ CH], 45 [( $CH_2$ ) $_2$ CH], 31 [ $CM_e_3$ ], 15 [ $C_5H_4Me$ ]. Mass spectrum (EI):  $m/z$  289 ( $M^+$ ).

**9:**  $^1H$ :<sup>a</sup> 6.72 (1H, m,  $CH_2CH=CH_2$ ), 5.29, 5.17, 5.05, 4.61 [4  $\times$  1H, 4  $\times$  virtual q ( $J = 2.2$  Hz),  $C_5H_4Me$ ], 5.07 (1H, m,  $CH_2CH=CH_2$ ), 5.01 (1H, m,  $CH_2CH=CH_2$ ), 3.19 (1H, m,  $CH_2CH=CH_2$ ), 2.65 (1H, m,  $CH_2CH=CH_2$ ), 2.30, 1.95, 1.84 (3  $\times$  1H, 3  $\times$  m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 1.39 (3H, s,  $C_5H_4Me$ ), 0.98 (1H, m,  $C_2H_4$ ), 0.88 (9H, s,  $Bu^t$ ).  $^{13}C$ -{ $^1H$ } NMR (assignments confirmed by a  $^{13}C$ - $^1H$  correlation spectrum):<sup>a</sup> 152 ( $CH_2CH=CH_2$ ), 105 ( $CH_2CH=CH_2$ ), 24 ( $CH_2CH=CH_2$ ), 107, 98, 97, 96 (4  $\times$  CH of  $C_5H_4Me$ ), 41 ( $C_2H_4$ ), 29.8 ( $Bu^t$ ), 28.6 ( $C_2H_4$ ), 13 ( $C_5H_4Me$ ).

<sup>‡</sup> *Crystal data* for **2a**:  $C_9H_{14}Cl_2MoN$ ,  $M = 303.1$ , crystal size = ca.  $0.55 \times 0.35 \times 0.30$  mm, monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/c$ ,  $a = 12.528(5)$ ,  $b = 16.317(5)$ ,  $c = 12.697(5)$  Å,  $\beta = 112.32(3)^\circ$ ,  $V = 2401.0$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 8$  (2 independent molecules in the asymmetric unit),  $D_c = 1.68$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu(Mo-K\alpha) = 14.76$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $F(000) = 1208$ , scan type  $\omega$ ,  $T = 231$  K,  $3 < 2\theta < 60^\circ$ , total unique data 6991, number of observations [ $I > 3\sigma(I)$ ] 5766, number of variables 253, observations/variables 24.5,  $R_{merge} = 0.063$ ,  $R = 0.041$ ,  $R_w = 0.056$  [ $w = [\sigma^2(F) + 0.0009F^2]^{-1}$ ], maximum peak in final Fourier difference synthesis  $1.80$  eÅ<sup>-3</sup>.

**4a:**  $C_{22}H_{36}HgMo_2N_2$ ,  $M = 721.01$ , crystal size = ca.  $0.20 \times 0.40 \times$

Reduction of the compounds **2a**, **b** with sodium amalgam under ethene yields a mixture of the imido- $\eta$ -ethene compounds  $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4R)(\eta-C_2H_4)Cl(NBu^t)]$  [ $R = H$  (**3a**) or  $Me$  (**3b**)] and the binuclear mercury-bridged compounds  $\{[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4R)(\eta-C_2H_4)(NBu^t)]_2Hg\}$ , [ $R = H$  (**4a**) or  $Me$  (**4b**)]. The relative yields of the compounds **3a**, **b** and **4a**, **b** are variable; however, selective formation of pure compounds **3a**, **b** is achieved by using  $C_6K$  as the reductant.

The crystal structures of the compounds **3b** and **4a** have been determined<sup>‡</sup> and the molecular structures are shown in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively. The C–C vectors of the  $\eta$ -ethene ligands in **3b** and **4a** do not lie parallel to the plane of the cyclopentadienyl ring, but are skewed at angles of ca. 30 and ca. 12°, respectively.

Analogous reduction of the compounds **2a** and **2d** in the presence of but-2-yne affords the imido-alkyne-halo compounds  $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_5)(\eta-C_2Me_2)Cl(NR)]$  [ $R = Ph$  (**5a**) or  $Bu^t$  (**5b**)]. The IR spectrum of **5b** shows a band assignable to  $\nu(C\equiv C)$  at  $1855$  cm<sup>-1</sup>.

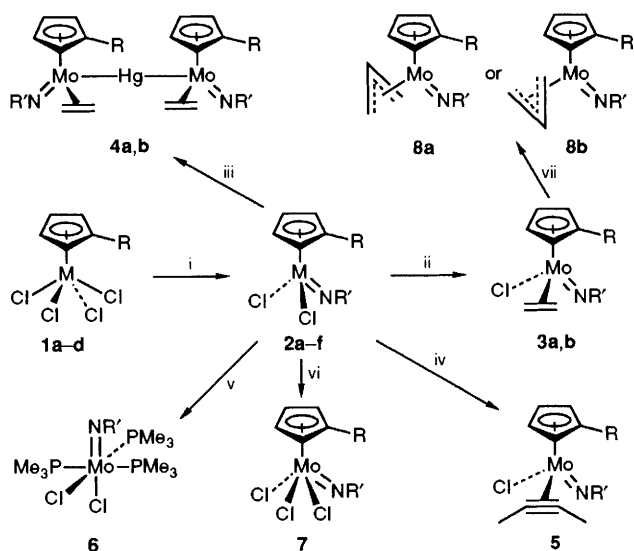
0.35 mm, monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/c$ ,  $a = 11.234(3)$ ,  $b = 13.388(6)$ ,  $c = 16.982(3)$  Å,  $\beta = 91.59(2)^\circ$ ,  $V = 2553.1$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $D_c = 1.88$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu(Mo-K\alpha) = 69.53$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $F(000) = 1384$ , scan type  $\omega-2\theta$ ,  $T = 293$  K,  $3 < 2\theta < 46^\circ$ , total unique data 3551, number of observations [ $I > 3\sigma(I)$ ] 1776, number of variables 204, observations/variables 8.8,  $R_{merge} = 0.028$  (after applying a DIFABS<sup>4</sup> correction based on an isotropic model of **4a**),  $R = 0.065$ ,  $R_w = 0.069$  (Chebyshev; parameters 6.21, -2.69, 3.67), maximum peak in final Fourier difference synthesis  $3.3$  eÅ<sup>-3</sup> {located 0.49 Å from the lower occupancy Hg atom [Hg(101), not shown in Fig. 4]}.

**3b:**  $C_{12}H_{20}ClMoN$ ,  $M = 309.69$ , crystal size = ca.  $0.20 \times 0.35 \times 0.45$  mm, monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$ ,  $a = 6.608(3)$ ,  $b = 14.120(7)$ ,  $c = 15.132(6)$  Å,  $\beta = 92.22(3)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1410.9$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $D_c = 1.46$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu(Mo-K\alpha) = 10.72$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $F(000) = 632$ , scan type  $\omega-2\theta$ ,  $T = 293$  K,  $3 < 2\theta < 48^\circ$ , total unique data 2213, number of observations [ $I > 3\sigma(I)$ ] 1215, number of variables 149, observations/variables 8.2,  $R_{merge} = 0.032$ ,  $R = 0.036$ ,  $R_w = 0.035$  (Chebyshev; parameters 4.94, -7.60, 3.58, -2.45), maximum peak in final Fourier difference synthesis  $0.6$  eÅ<sup>-3</sup>.

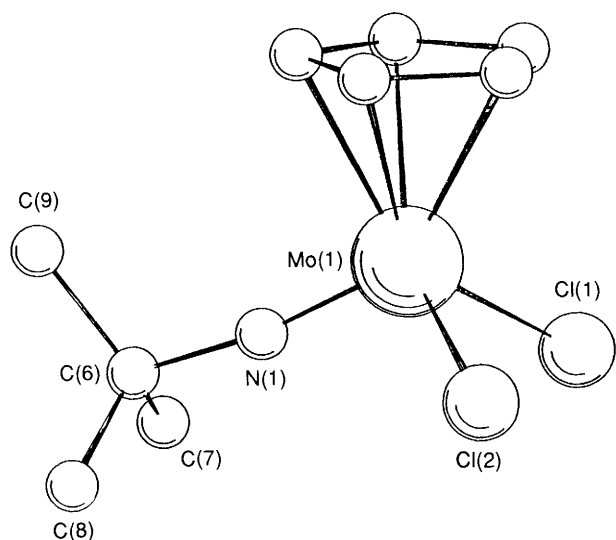
Data were collected on a Nicolet R3m/V diffractometer (for **2a**) or on an Enraf-Nonius CAD4-F diffractometer. For **2a** and **3b** an empirical absorption correction based on azimuthal scans was applied. For **4a** a DIFABS<sup>4</sup> correction was applied during data reduction before merging equivalent reflections. The heavy atom positions were determined using a Patterson synthesis (**2a** and **3b**) or the SIR88<sup>5</sup> package (**4a**); subsequent Fourier difference syntheses revealed the remaining non-hydrogen atoms. The structures were refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures with anisotropic thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms with the exception of the cyclopentadienyl carbon atoms of **4a** which were unstable to anisotropic refinement. Hydrogen atoms attached to C were placed in calculated positions and refined with fixed isotropic thermal parameters riding on their supporting carbon atoms with the exception of the ethene ligand of **3b** for which the hydrogen atoms could be located from a difference synthesis and their fractional atomic coordinates were refined. A SIR88<sup>5</sup> analysis of the reflection data for **4a** showed pseudotranslational symmetry in the  $h = 4n$  class of reflections. After the initial model had refined to convergence ( $R = 0.096$ ) a large peak remained in the difference map located roughly halfway between Mo(1) of one molecule and Mo(2) of the neighbouring molecule at  $(x + 1)$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ . This was interpreted as a fractional pseudotranslational disorder and the residual density treated as a second (minor) Hg site [Hg(101)]. After setting the isotropic thermal parameters of Hg(1) and Hg(101) to be equal, their occupancies were refined to be 0.1 and 0.9 for Hg(101) and Hg(1) respectively; both Hg(101) and Hg(1) were then refined with fixed occupancies and anisotropic thermal parameters. The Mo positions in both the major and the minor molecules are apparently coincident; no other atoms could be reliably located for the 10% occupancy molecule.

Crystallographic calculations were carried out using SHELXL PLUS<sup>6</sup> on a MicroVAX II (for **2a**) or using the CRYSTALS<sup>7</sup> suite of programs on a MicroVAX 3800 computer.

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.



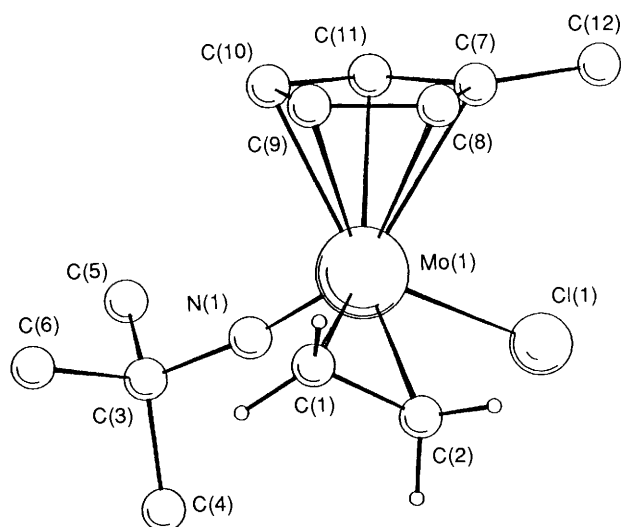
**Scheme 1** Reagents and conditions: i, 3  $R'NH_2$ , toluene, (50%); ii,  $C_8K$  or  $Na-Hg$ ,  $C_2H_4$ , tetrahydrofuran (thf), (up to 50%); iii,  $Na-Hg$ ,  $C_2H_4$ , thf, (up to 30%); iv,  $Na-Hg$ ,  $C_2Me_2$ , thf, (60%); v,  $Na-Hg$ ,  $PMe_3$ , thf, (50%); vi,  $Cl_2$ ,  $CH_2Cl_2$ , (60%); vii,  $CH_2=CHCH_2MgCl$ , thf, hv, (ca. 70%)



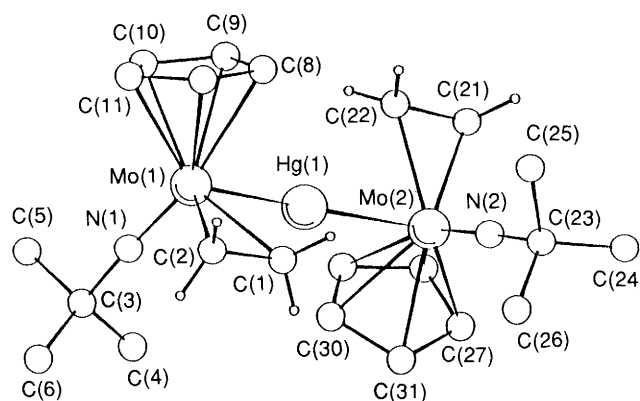
**Fig. 1** Molecular structure of one of the two crystallographically independent molecules of  $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_5)Cl_2(NBu^t)]$  **2a**. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) as follows:  $Mo(1)-Cl(1)$  2.367(1),  $Mo(1)-Cl(2)$  2.361(1),  $Mo(1)-N(1)$  1.712(2),  $Mo-C_{\text{Pcent}}$  2.052,  $N(1)-C(6)$  1.450(4),  $Cl(1)-Mo(1)-Cl(2)$  91.9(1),  $Cl(1)-Mo(1)-N(1)$  102.3(1),  $Mo(1)-N(1)-C(6)$  170.1(2) where  $C_{\text{Pcent}}$  refers to the computed  $\eta-C_5H_5$  centroid.

Reduction of the compound **2b** with sodium amalgam in the presence of trimethylphosphine causes displacement of the  $\eta$ -cyclopentadienyl ring to form the compound  $[Mo(NBu^t)Cl_2(PMe_3)_3]$  **6** which is presumably isostructural with the congener  $[W(NPh)Cl_2(PMe_3)_3]$ .<sup>3</sup> Oxidation of the compound **2a** with chlorine gas affords the  $d^0$  imidotrichloro compound  $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_5)Cl_3(NBu^t)]$  **7** in ca. 60% yield.

Photolysis of the imido alkene chloro complex **3b** in the presence of allylmagnesium chloride yields the  $\pi$ -allyl compound  $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Me)(NBu^t)(\eta^3-C_3H_5)]$  **8** as indicated by



**Fig. 2** Molecular structure of  $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Me)(\eta-C_2H_4)Cl(NBu^t)]$  **3b**. Only hydrogens bonded to the  $\eta-C_2H_4$  ligand are shown for clarity. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) as follows:  $Mo(1)-N(1)$  1.704(6),  $Mo(1)-C(1)$  2.215(8),  $Mo(1)-C(2)$  2.190(9),  $C(1)-C(2)$  1.40(1),  $Mo(1)-C_{\text{Pcent}}$  2.07,  $Mo(1)-N-C(3)$  172.3(5) where  $C_{\text{Pcent}}$  refers to the computed  $\eta-C_5H_4Me$  centroid.



**Fig. 3** Molecular structure of  $[\{Mo(\eta-C_5H_5)(\eta-C_2H_4)(NBu^t)\}_2Hg]$  **4a**. Only hydrogens bonded to the  $\eta-C_2H_4$  ligand are shown for clarity. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) as follows:  $Mo(1)-N(1)$  1.75(2),  $Mo(2)-N(2)$  1.72(3),  $Mo(1)-C(1)$  2.28(3),  $Mo(2)-C(21)$  2.17(3),  $Mo(1)-C(2)$  2.18(3),  $Mo(2)-C(22)$  2.26(2),  $Mo(1)-C_{\text{Pcent}(1)}$  2.05,  $Mo(2)-C_{\text{Pcent}(2)}$  2.01,  $Mo(1)-Hg(1)$  2.692(2),  $Mo(2)-Hg(1)$  2.773(2),  $C(1)-C(2)$  1.427(5),  $C(21)-C(22)$  1.426(5),  $N(1)-C(3)$  1.44(3),  $N(2)-C(23)$  1.40(3),  $Mo(1)-N(1)-C(3)$  175.9(20),  $Mo(2)-N(2)-C(23)$  177.0(18),  $N(1)-Mo(1)-Hg(1)$  90.7(6),  $N(2)-Mo(2)-Hg(1)$  87.6(6),  $Mo(1)-Hg(1)-Mo(2)$  175.8(1) where  $C_{\text{Pcent}(1)}$  and  $C_{\text{Pcent}(2)}$  refer to the computed  $\eta-C_5H_5$  centroids for  $Mo(1)$  and  $Mo(2)$ , respectively.

$^1H$ ,  $^{13}C$  and  $^{13}C-^1H$  correlation NMR spectroscopy. The data are compatible with either of the structures **8a** or **8b** shown in Scheme 1. To our knowledge, compound **8** is the first isolated example of an imido- $\pi$ -allyl compound.

Such species have been implicated as intermediates in the ammoxidation of propene.<sup>2</sup> Preliminary NMR data indicate that formation of the compounds **8** proceeds via the intermediate  $\sigma$ -allyl imido alkene complex  $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Me)(\sigma-CH_2CH=CH_2)(\eta-C_2H_4)(NBu^t)]$  **9** which, upon photolysis, gives the  $\pi$ -allyl compounds **8**.

The reactions and the structures proposed for the new compounds 2–8 are shown in Scheme 1.

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