The Chemistry of *â***-Diketiminatometal Complexes**

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1. Introduction

1.1. Definition of the *â***-Diketiminato Ligand and Scope of This Review**

Although the β -diketonato¹ **I** and β -enaminoketonato 2.3 **II** ligands are among the most ubiquitous chelating systems in coordination chemistry, the isoelectronic *â*-diketiminato ligands **III** have received only recent, but significantly increasing, attention.

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This system is obviously of great interest considering the scope for variation of the $R¹$ groups on nitrogen, which may be hydrogen or alkyl, aryl, or silyl groups. The $R¹$ groups can also be linked with the R''/R''' groups to form either neighboring fused six-membered (**IV**) or five-membered (**V**) heterocyclic rings.

The *â*-diketimine is also related to a number of macrocyclic compounds, such as **VI** and **VII**. Macrocycles **VI** may, for example, be prepared either by (i)

a template reaction involving the co-condensation of a bis(*â*-diketonato)nickel complex with an *o*-phenylenediamine or (ii) a co-condensation reaction of pentane-2,4-dione with an o -phenylenediamine.⁴ Metal complexes derived from **VI** usually form out-of-plane metal complexes, as do the natural macrocycles such as porphyrin (**VII**), porphodimethane, chlorin, bacterchlorin, and isobacterchlorin.5

For the purpose of this review, focus will be solely on complexes of the monoanionic ligands, such as **III**-**V**. Our aim is to have covered the literature comprehensively to the end of 2001 (but see section 8).

The β -dialdiminato ligand **III** has $R'' = H$, and a few derived metal complexes have been made. The term *â*-diiminatometal complexes, used by some authors, is therefore more comprehensive. [Curiously, a paper concerned with *â*-diketiminatom(II) com-
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Michael Lappert is Research Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sussex. A graduate of Northern Polytechnic, his B.Sc. was followed by a Ph.D. (with W. Gerrard) to which in 1960 he added a D.Sc. (University of London). He has been at Sussex since 1964, having previously been at UMIST (1959−1964). He was the recipient of the first Chemical Society Award for Main Group Metal Chemistry (1970) and then of the Organometallic Award (1978). He won the ACS−F. S. Kipping Award for Organosilicon Chemistry (1976); with the RSC (he was its Dalton Division President, 1989−1991), he has been a Tilden (1972), Nyholm (1994), and Sir Edward Frankland (1998) Medallist and Lecturer. He was elected FRS in 1979 and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (München, 1989). With co-workers he has published almost 700 papers, 2 books, numerous reviews (including 5 previously in *Chem. Rev.*; the first in 1956), and a few patents on various aspects of inorganic and organometallic chemistry.

plexes $(M = Mn, Zn, Cd)$ referred to these as "vinamidinemetal" derivatives;6a another labeled some Zr complexes as "*â*-iminatoaminates".7] The acronym "[R1 2nacnac]-" has recently been used for **III** with R′ $=$ H and R'' $=$ Me $=$ R''', by analogy with acac⁻; e.g., **III** with $R^1 = C_6H_3^iPr_2 \text{-} 2,6$, $R' = \overline{H}$, and $R'' = Me = R''$ has been referred to as the ligand [Dinn-nacnac] $R^{\prime\prime\prime}$ has been referred to as the ligand [Dipp₂nacnac]⁻.

Throughout this review the symbol $R = \text{SiMe}_3$.

1.2. Some Significant Developments

The field owes its genesis in the mid to late 1960s to classical coordination chemistry studies of homo-

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leptic M(II) β -diketiminates (M = Co, Ni, Cu); the emphasis was on their synthesis, spectra, magnetism, and structures.^{2,8a-17}

A major development in the mid 1990s was the recognition that β -diketiminates **III** could play a useful role as *spectator ligands*, like cyclopentadienyls, by virtue of their strong metal-ligand bonds and their exceptional and tunable (by variation of the substituent $R¹$) steric demands. Thus, in 1994 we reported on the ligands $[\{N(R)C(Ph)\}_2CH]^- \equiv L^-$), $[\{N(H)C(Ph)\}_2CH]^- \ (\equiv L^{-})$, and $[N(R)C(Ph)C(H)C]$ $({}^{t}Bu)N(R)$] = $(\equiv L''^{-})$ in the context inter alia of the synthesis and X-ray structures of the crystalline metal complexes [LiL]₂,¹⁸ [SnL(Cl)Me₂],¹⁸ [SnL'(Cl)- $Me₂$],¹⁸ and [ZrL''Cl₃]¹⁹ and showed that the last of these was an effective catalyst (with methylaluminoxane, MAO) for the polymerization of C_2H_4 or $C_3H_6.^{20,21}$

These and other aspects were reviewed in 1995, in connection with the transformation of the bis(trimethylsilyl)methyl [CHR₂]⁻ into the 1-azaallyl, such as [N(R)C(^tBu)C(H)R]⁻, or β -diketiminato (L⁻, L'⁻, L'⁻) ligand;²² for a review of metal 1-azaallyls, see ref 23. The significance of steric effects was further demonstrated by noting that (i) whereas $[CoL₂]$ is a tetrahedral d⁷ complex, $[CoL'_2]$ is square planar;²⁴ (ii) SnL_2 is too sterically hindered to be accessible, but crystalline $[Sn(L)Br]$ is a monomer;²⁴ as is (iii) $[NdL₂Cl]$.⁵⁴ As for (iii), it is noteworthy that even the most bulky substituted bis(cyclopentadienyl)neodymium chloride is a dimer. It also was already evident at that time that there was a *diversity of bonding modes* possible for such *â*-diketiminato ligands in their metal complexes; for example, in [ZrL''Cl₃] the ligand may be regarded as being η^5 -bonded to the metal, whereas in $[Col_2]$ or $[Col'_2]$ it is an *N,N*-bonded chelate.22,24

In 1997, the synthesis of a new *â*-diketimine, the conjugate acid of the β -diketiminate $[\{N(C_6H_3^iPr_2 -$

a (i) NH₂R¹, C₆H₆, azeotropic distillation; (ii) [Et₃O][BF₄], Et₂O, -78 °C; (iii) NH₂R¹, Et₂O; (iv) NaOMe, MeOH.

 $2,6$)C(Me) $\}$ ₂CH]⁻ (\equiv L'''⁻), was published.²⁵ This ligand, in which each *N*-aryl substituent is almost orthogonal to the NCCCN plane (as also is the case for other *N*,*N*′-diaryl analogues), is playing an increasingly important role, as the following selected examples i-viii, drawn from the post 2000 literature, demonstrate. (i) The crystalline complexes [ML′′′] have Al²⁶ and Ga²⁷ in the rare M(I) oxidation state. (ii) $[GeL'''] [HO{B(C_6F_5)_3}_2]$ is at present the only germanium(II) cationic complex.²⁸ (iii) [Fe(L''')Cl] is a three-coordinate Fe(II) complex29a and is a source of $[\{Fe(L''')\}_2(\mu - N_2)]$ and $M_2[\{Fe(L''')\}_2(\mu - N_2)]$ (M = Na, K).^{29b} (iv) $[Cr(L'')$ (Me) $(\mu$ -Cl)]₂ with AlClEt₂ is an active catalyst for C_2H_4 polymerization.³⁰ (v) [Pt(L''')-Me3] is a moderately stable, coordinatively unsaturated, five-coordinate d^6 16-electron complex.³¹ (vi)

The Cu(II) complex $[Cu(L'')]$ {S(Me)CH₂CPh₂S}] is a structural model for a type 1 copper protein active site. 32 (vii) [Zn(L''')(O $^{1}\rm{Pr})]_{2}^{33}$ and [Sn(L''')(O $^{1}\rm{Pr})]^{34}$ are active catalysts for the living polymerization of *rac*and *meso*-lactide to yield poly(lactic acid).33 (viii) [Zn- $(L''')\{N(SiMe₃)₂\}$ is highly active catalyst for the living copolymerization of cyclohexene oxide and $\mathrm{CO}_2.^{\bar{3}5}$

â-Diketiminates are now known for a large number of s-, p-, d- and f-block metals and a wide variety of substituents R^1 , R' , and R'' for the ligands **III**, as summarized in Table 1.

2. Preparation of â-Diketimines and Their Metal Complexes

There are various synthetic routes to the *â*-diketiminato ligand, either as its conjugate acid or as a metal complex. Most involve the condensation reaction of a primary amine with either a β -diketone or 1,1,3,3tetraethoxypropane, thereby producing a range of β -diketimines. The other main method involves the reaction of a metal alkyl with 2 equiv of a nitrile, or the reaction of a metal 1-azaallyl with 1 equiv of a nitrile.

2.1 Synthesis of a *â***-Diketimine from a** *â***-Diketone or 1,1,3,3-Tetraalkoxypropane**

Until a few years ago the above procedures were the most common synthetic routes for the production of *â*-diketimines. Advantages include acceptable yields, the use of relatively inexpensive or easily synthesized reagents, and their availability for production in large quantities.

There are at present only two synthetic procedures for the conversion of a β -diketone into a β -diketimine. Both take advantage of the fundamental co-condensation reaction of a ketone and a primary amine. It should be noted that some modification has to be made (see steps ii-iv of Scheme 1) to avoid the reaction stopping after the first condensation, giving the enaminoketone (step i in Scheme 1).

The first of the reactions of Scheme 1 was reported over three decades ago.^{8a}

An alternative procedure involved converting a 1,3 diketone into successively a ketoketal and then the β -diketimine (eq 1).^{8b}

A 1,1,3,3-tetraalkoxypropane (a *â*-diacetal) is also a convenient precursor. A standard preparation involved treating 1,1,3,3-tetraethoxypropane with an aromatic amine hydrochloride in aqueous ethanol at 50 °C for 1 h, followed by storage at ambient temperature to crystallize the *â*-diketimine hydrochloride and finally release of the *â*-diketimine with aqueous sodium hydroxide (eq 2).8c

The reaction conditions of Scheme 1 and eqs 1 and 2 should be regarded as illustrative rather than prescriptive. For example, $H{N(C_6H_3}^iPr_2-2,6)C(Me)_{2}$ -CH was made from 2,4-pentadienone, or 1,1,3,3 tetramethoxypropane, and successively ethanolic HCl and aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3{}^{25}$ (see also ref 37). This procedure was used for a series of related *â*-diketimines and -dialdimines.35

2.2. Synthesis of a Metal *â***-Diketiminate by Nitrile or Isonitrile Insertion into a Metal**−**Alkyl Bond**

This involves insertion of an α -hydrogen-free nitrile $R''CN$ or $R'''CN$ into the $M-C_{sp}^3$ bond of $M-CR^1{}_2R'$,
where $R^1 = a$ silvl group, such as $SiMe_2$ (= R), or where $R^1 = a$ silyl group, such as SiMe₃ (\equiv R), or (rarely) hydrogen. The probable reaction pathway is shown in Scheme 2. An alternative, starting with step ii of Scheme 2, is the insertion of the α -hydrogenfree nitrile R′′′CN into the M-C bond of a 1-azaallylmetal fragment.

The proposal of Scheme 2 was first suggested in the context of the reaction of eq 3 ($\mathbb{R}^1 = \text{SiMe}_3 = \mathbb{R}$, $R'' = Ph$ or C_6H_4Me-4).¹⁸ Both steps i and ii of Scheme

2 involve an initial $C-C$ coupling followed by a 1,3migration of the group $R¹$ from carbon to nitrogen. Such shifts are much more facile for $R¹ =$ SiMe₃ than for $R^1 = H$. For example, the reactions of eq 3 proceeded rapidly in high yield in diethyl ether at 0 $°C.^{18}$ Related anionic SiMe₃ shifts are well documented, but 1,2-rearrangements from carbon to nitrogen are more common 38 than the 1,3 here noted.

It was further shown that isonitriles $R¹NC$ undergo similar insertions, as illustrated in eq 4 ($R^1 = C_6H_3$ - $Me₂$ -2,6).^{39,40} This reaction was believed to proceed via two successive C-C couplings and 1,2-trimethylsilyl migrations.

2.3. Various Other Synthetic Routes to Metal *â***-Diketiminates**

These have generally been restricted to transition metals. Treatment of a Ni(II) or Co(II) halide with LiNEt₂ has led to a number of β -diketiminatometal complexes, although in relatively poor yield, as in eq 5 (13% yield). $9,10$

7 CoCl₂ + 14 LiNEt₂ $\frac{\text{thf}}{\text{}}$

A platinum(IV) β -diketiminate was obtained by the co-condensation of eq 6.41

Interaction of a lithium amide and a tris(imido) manganese(VII) chloride under mild reaction conditions afforded the bis(*â*-diketiminato)manganese(II) complex of eq 7.42

dme/toluene $[Mn(N^{t}Bu)_{3}Cl + Li(NHC_{6}H_{3}Me_{2}-2,6)]$ $-78°$

A useful route to *N*,*N*′-diaryl-*â*-diketiminatoaluminum dialkyls involved condensation between a benzanilide and AlR"₃, eq 8 [R" = Me, R' = H, X = H;

 $R'' = Et$, $R' = Me$, $X = H$; $R'' = Et$, $R' = Me$, $X = Cl$;
 $R'' = Me$, $R' = H$, $X = Cl$; $R'' = Me$, $R' = H$, $X = Me$; $R'' = Me$, $R' = H$, $X = Cl$; $R'' = Me$, $R' = H$, $X = Me$;
 $R'' = Et R' = Me$, $X = Me$ ⁴³ The reaction pathway $R'' = Et$, $R' = Me$, $X = Me$].⁴³ The reaction pathway leading to the *â*-diketiminatoaluminum dimethyl [Al- $\{({\rm N}({\rm Ph}){\rm C}({\rm Ph}))_2{\rm CH}\}({\rm Me})_2\}$ (R'' = Me, R' = H, X = H in eq 8) is shown in Scheme 3. In the absence of an excess of AlMe₃, the macrocycle VIII was isolable.⁴³

A *â*-diketiminatocobalt(III) complex was obtained recently via a new exotic route, consisting of condensation of propargylamine with a polymeric Co(II) basic pivaloate and oxygen gas (Scheme 4).⁴⁴

In some instances, notably for ligands such as $[\{N(R)C(Ph)\}_2CH]$ ⁻ (R = SiMe₃), it is useful to gain access to the derived *â*-diketimine. This has been achieved by treating the alkali metal (M) *â*-diketiminate $(M = Li, Na, K)$ with water (a controlled quantity), 18 1,2-dibromoethane, 18 or cyclopentadiene, 45 with concomitant elimination of MOH, $MBr + CH₂=CHBr$, or MCp, respectively. Use of dibromomethane generated the $CH₂$ -bridged bis-(diketimine).18,46

2.4. Other Synthetic Routes to *â***-Diketimines**

An unusual route to a *â*-diketimine involved the reaction of a 4-aryl-1,2-dithiolium perchlorate or

Scheme 3

 $[Co(OH)_{n} (OOCCMe₃)_{2-n}]_{x}$

 a (i) $4NH_2CH_2C \equiv CH$, CH_2Cl_2 , Ar atmosphere; (ii) $1-2$ equiv of $NH_2CH_2C=CH$, CH_2Cl_2 , or toluene, in air.

sulfate with a primary aromatic amine, to produce a β -diketimine as its perchlorate or sulfate, which with sodium ethoxide afforded the free *â*-diketimine (eq 9).47

A low-yield route to $[H{(N("Bu)C(Me))₂CH}]$ employed ROC(Me)C(H)C(Me)CO and 2('BuNH₂) as starting materials.^{48a}

Another procedure was based on treatment of *â*-chlorocinnamaldehyde with a concentrated aqueous solution of the hydrochloride of a primary arylamine and subsequent neutralization (eq 10) (e.g., $Ar = Ph$ $= Ar$ [']).^{48b}

Unprecedented *N*,*N*′-bis(phosphino)-*â*-diketimines $H{(N(PR'_{2})C(H))}_{2}CH}$ ($R' = Ph$, $N'Pr_{2}$) have been
prepared in a one-pot synthesis using malonodiniprepared in a one-pot synthesis using malonodinitrile, the Schwartz reagent, and a chlorophosphine R'_{2} PCl (R' = Ph, NⁱPr₂) (eq 11).⁴⁹

Reaction of a fluorinated imidoyl chloride with a ketimine yielded a β -diketimine (eq 12) (e.g., R^1 = C_6H_4OMe-4 , $R^F = CF_3$, $R^2 = Ph = \dot{R}^3$.^{50a}

5-Silyl-3-pyrazolines were isomerized upon heating to yield a diimine tautomer of a *â*-diketimine, for example, $N(Ph)C(Me)C(SiMe₂Ph)(H)C(Me)NMe$ from

N(Ph)C(Me)C(H)C(SiMe2Ph)(Me)NMe.50b

A remarkable low-yield conversion of a 5-nitropyrimidin-2(1*H*)-one into a nitro-substituted *â*-diketimine is illustrated in eq 13 ($R^1 = C_6H_2Me_3-2,4,6$).⁵¹

The *â*-diketimines are often precursors of their metal derivatives, either directly by metalation with an electrophilic metal (e.g., Li, Al, Zn) alkyl or amide or indirectly by a ligand transfer reaction between an alkali metal (often Li) *â*-diketiminate and the required metal halide (often Cl). In other instances, as in section 2.2, the metal acts as a template in the synthesis of the metal β -diketiminate.

3. Bonding Modes and Structural Features of â-Diketiminatometal Complexes

There is a considerable diversity of bonding modes for *â*-diketiminatometal complexes, as outlined schematically in **^A**-**J**, in which, for the sake of clarity,

(i) the single pendant groups R^1 , R' , R'' , and R''' (cf. **III**) are omitted (except for **J**) and (ii) the rings in **^A**-**^E** and **^G**-**^I** are shown as being delocalized.

Bonding mode **A** corresponds to the situation in

which the MNCCCN ring is planar and the β -diketiminato ligand **III** behaves in a terminal *N*,*N*′-chelating fashion. The conformational variant **B** shows the sixmembered metallacyclic ring in boat form and, in the limit, the M...CR′ contact is close enough for **III** to be regarded as being η^5 - π -bound, particularly if the metal has unfilled d orbitals of appropriate symmetry (see, especially, section 4.3); in some cases, however, only the metal atom M is out of the almost planar NCCCN moiety. The essential feature of type **C** is that the ligand **III** in a binuclear complex is both chelating and bridging, so that one of the nitrogen atoms of **III** is three-coordinate and the other fourcoordinate; the conformation of the metallacyclic rings may vary. Mode **D** is that in which a binuclear complex **III** is both chelating and bridging, but in this instance implicating both of the four-coordinate nitrogen atoms. Type **E** has been realized in one example $[Ge{C(C(Me)N(C_6H_3{}^{i}Pr_2.2,6))_2}Cl_3]$;⁵² an analogue of the derived conjugate acid $[H{N(R)C-}$ $(\overrightarrow{Ph})_{2}C_{2}CH_{2}$] is known.¹⁸ Thus, in principle, the monoanionic ligand **III**, at present almost invariably *N*,*N*′- or *N*-centered (see **I**), has recently been found in a *C*-centered environment in the above germanium(IV) chloride.52 Strictly **F** is not directly relevant; it represents an M-(**III**-H) fragment, and bis(imine) metal complexes are increasingly of interest as olefin polymerization catalysts; an example is shown in **2** $(R¹ = C₆H₃{}ⁱPr₂·2,6).²⁵$ Mode **G** is a variant of **D**, both being rare Type **H** differs from **C** in that the bridging being rare. Type **H** differs from **C** in that the bridging ligand **III** has both of the three-coordinate nitrogen atoms functioning as terminal ligands to the two metal atoms. Finally, **J** represents a tautomer of **A** or **B**. In the following section, selected examples are chosen to illustrate each mode **^A**-**J**.

Mononuclear *â*-diketiminatometal complexes having a tetrahedral or distorted tetrahedral metal environment generally adopt the bonding mode **A**. Examples based on the ligand $\frac{[\text{N}(R)C(Ph)]_2CH}{[}$ (= L) include $[LiL(thf)_2]$,⁴⁵ $[CoL_2]$,^{22,24} and $[MgL_2]$.⁵³ Mode **A** is also found in (i) most β -diketiminatometal(II) square planar complexes, as in $[CoL'_{2}]$, $L' = [\{N(H)C (Ph)$ ₂CH];^{22,24} (ii) heteroleptic tetravalent metal complexes, if the substituents $R¹$ on the nitrogen atoms are hydrogen, as in $[SnL'(Cl)Me₂];$ ¹⁸ and (iii) the β -diketiminatotin(II) chlorides [SnL''Cl]^{22,24} and

 $[Sn\{N(H)C(Ph)C(H)C(Bu)N(H)\}C]^{24}$ $[L'' = N(R)C(Ph)C(H)C(Pu)NR]$ For complexes of metals having (Ph)C(H)C('Bu)NR]. For complexes of metals having low-lying formally vacant d orbitals of appropriate symmetry, there is the possibility of the β -diketiminato ligand participating not only in *σ*- but also in *π*-bonding, the anionic ligand thus being variously a 4- or 6-electron donor; the latter may be significant particularly for late transition metal complexes.

To discuss the bonding in the complex $\text{[Cu} \cdot \text{[N]} \text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ - ${}^{i}Pr_{2}$ -2,6)C(Me))₂CH}(SCPh₃)] (see section 4.4), the electronic structure of the planar, conjugated *â*diketiminato ligand core **A**, modeled as planar $C_3N_2H_5$, was probed using Amsterdam Density Functional Theory Calculations.¹⁰³ (As the aromatic rings are orthogonal to the C_3N_2Cu plane they are not part of the conjugated π -system.) These yielded the calculated highest energy levels which, with schematic representations, are shown in Figure 1. The HOMO, 2b1, is characterized by out-of-plane p-type orbitals on the two nitrogen atoms and the central carbon (C3) atom. The 5b2, of only slightly lower energy, has

Figure 1.

in-plane, out-of-phase nitrogen-centered orbitals with lobes directed toward the metal; the wave function character is distributed among the out-of-plane orbitals on C3 (37% C_{calcd}) and the terminal N5 (28% N_{calcd} per N). To deeper energy lies the 6a1 orbital that is also able to participate in ligand-metal bonding, although it would be weaker because the energy denominator would be larger. The still deeper binding energy out-of-plane 1a2 and 1b1 orbitals are unlikely to interact significantly with the metal. Thus, the majority of the bonding occurs through the in-plane orbitals 5b2 and 6a1, which form *σ*-bonds to the metal, implying that the ligand functions as a 4-electron donor (see also ref 81). Only if the metalligand metallacycle is strongly boat-shaped (**B**), as in some of the Ti(IV) and Zr(IV) *â*-diketiminates (see section 4.3.2), is a 6-electron $2\sigma+\pi$ -bonding description, involving additionally the 2b1 out-of-plane orbital, appropriate, but it is unlikely to be significant for the less puckered Sc complexes (see section $4.3.1$).⁷⁶

The change from **A** to **B** is caused by steric crowding around the metal center; examples include $[PdL_2]$,⁴⁵ [NdL₂Cl],⁵⁴ and $[ZrL''Cl_3]$.¹⁹ Likewise, the change from a square planar to a tetrahedral late 3d homoleptic M(II) *â*-diketiminate has a steric origin, as first demonstrated for $[C_0L_2]$ and $[C_0L_2]$.²² For the d^8 [ML₂] complexes, whereas the smaller, paramagnetic, tetrahedral Ni complex adopts mode **A**, mode **B** was observed for the larger, diamagnetic, centrosymmetric, square planar Pd analogue **1**. ⁴⁵ Further illustrations of selected geometric parameters for some of these complexes and an example of mode C , $[LiL]_2$, 18 are shown in Figure 2. Another case of C is in $[Li{N(R)C(^tBu)C(H)(C_5H_4N-2)}]_2$.³⁶ There are only a few examples of mode D , as in $[LiL{Li}CHR_2]$ ⁻ (thf) ; selected bond lengths are in Figure 2g.⁵⁵ The crystalline dinuclear barium complex $[Ba₂{(N(C₆H₁₁ -$

Figure 2. Selected geometric parameters for crystalline (a) $[LiL]_2$, (b) $[ZrL''Cl_3]$, (c) $[SnL(Cl)Me_2]$, (d) $[SnL'(Cl)Me_2]$, (e) $[CoL_2]$, (f) $[CoL'_2]$, (g) $[LiL{Li}CHR_2){(thf)}$, (h) $[H{N (R)C(Ph)_{2}C_{2}-CH_{2}$, and (i) $[Li\{\mu-(N(R)C(Ph))_{2}C\}]_{2}CH_{2}$.

 $c)C(Me))₃CH₃(NR₂)$] is unusual in that bonding illustrates three different types, **B**, **G**, and **H**, as shown in **2** ($R^1 = C_6H_{11}$ -c).⁵⁶ Other examples of type

H include $[KL'(thf)_{2}]_{2}$,⁴⁵ and $[Li\{\mu-(N(R)C(Ph))_{2}C\}]_{2}CH_{2}$ (Figure 2i).46 Type **I** is represented by two examples, the Sc(III) complex **3**, in which the two scandium atoms are not only in an eight-membered ring but also part of both a penta- and a hexa-atomic metallacycle,57 and in a germanium compound **4** (see **49** in section 4.7).⁵⁸

Scheme 5 Scheme 6

4. Discussion of Specific â-Diketiminatometal Complexes

The following sections concern *â*-diketiminatometal complexes reported in the literature and include also some unpublished work from the Sussex group. A summary is provided in Table 1.

4.1. Group 1 Metal *â***-Diketiminates**

The first fully characterized crystalline alkali metal β -diketiminate, $[Li\{(N(R)C(Ph))_2CH\}]_2$ (= $[LiL]_2$, Figure 2a), was reported in 1994 ($R =$ SiMe₃); it was obtained from LiCHR₂ and PhCN in diethyl ether (eq 3).¹⁸ Reactions of LiCHR₂ and related lithium trimethylsilylmethyls were later described in a wider context and shown to provide a variety of products, depending on the reaction conditions and the absence or presence of a neutral coligand.⁵⁵ This is exemplified by the reactions between $LiCHR₂$ and PhCN shown in Scheme 5.⁵⁵ The reaction pathway to the lithium 1-azaallyl and *â*-diketiminate is shown in Scheme 2; the formation of the lithium 1,3-diaazallyl (an isomer of the β -diketiminate) was attributed to the reaction of the 1-azaallyl $Li\{N(R)C(Ph)C(H)R\}$, functioning as an *N*-centered nucleophile, with PhCN.

Related β -diketiminates $[Li\{N(R^1)C(R)\}_2CH\}$,

 $[Li\{N(R^1)C(R)C(H)C(Ph)NR\}$ (tmen)], and $[Li\{N-R\}C(R)C(H)C(Ph)NR\}$ (Bu)C(R))₂CH}(CN^tBu)(LiCHR₂)] (R¹ = C₆H₃Me₂-2,6)^{*were*} obtained from LiCHR₂ and the appropriate were obtained from $LiCHR₂$ and the appropriate isonitrile R1NC.39,40

Ligands of the type **IV**, $[(2\text{-}NC_5H_4)_2CH] \ (\equiv L^1)$, **5** $(≡ L²)$, and **6** $(≡ L³)$ have featured in the X-raycharacterized complexes $[LiL^1(thf)_2]$,⁵⁹ [Li(12-crown- $(4)_2]$ [LiL¹₂],⁵⁹ [LiL²]₂,^{36,60} and [LiL³]₂,^{36,60} Those based on L^1 were made from HL^1 and Li^nBu ⁵⁹ and the others from the appropriate lithium 1-azaallyl and benzonitrile.36,60

The vast majority of other lithium *â*-diketiminates are also conveniently prepared from the appropriate diketimine and LiⁿBu. Such lithiation of $\overline{H}[\overline{N(Ph)}C (H)$ ₂CH] in the presence of hmpa yielded the unusual crystalline complex **7**. ⁶¹ A remarkable lithiation

is that of eq 14; the formation of the crystalline product was interpreted to involve the sequence of Scheme 6.46

 $\frac{\text{Li}^n\text{Bu}, \text{Et}_2\text{O}}{\text{Li}\{\mu\text{-}(\text{N}(R) \text{C}(Ph))_2\text{C}\}\}_2\text{CH}_2}$ (14) $[\{H(N(R)C(Ph))_2C\}_2CH_2]$

The compound $Li{N(C_6H_3^iPr_2-2,6)C(Me))_2CH}$ $(=$ LiL) has been obtained in two crystalline forms.³⁷ One, a dimer, has a double *η*3-allylic bridge from one aryl ligand acting as π -donor to the adjacent Li⁺ ion. The other, a dodecamer, has been described as having a slipped ladder structure, the asymmetric unit of which consists of a chain of six LiL units associated by interactions of each Li⁺ ion with one or two carbon atoms of the aryl ring of the adjacent LiL moiety.

Lithium *â*-diketiminates are widely used as ligand transfer reagents by reacting them with various metal chlorides. However, we have found that it is often more practicable (although rarely used) to employ the corresponding sodium or potassium derivative, because the heavier alkali metal chloride coproducts are more readily separated in such reactions than LiCl. The only X-ray-characterized sodium complex is $[NaL(thf)_2]$.⁴⁵ Potassium β -diketiminates have been studied more intensively, as summarized in Scheme 7 (L = $[\{N(R)C(Ph)\}_2CH]$, L' = $[N(R)C$ - $(Ph)C(H)C(Ph)NH$], $L'' = [Me₂Si{NC(Ph)}₂CH]$). Each of the crystalline compounds shown in square brackets has been structurally defined. In [KL(thf)2]*n*, the *â*-diketiminate L behaves as a bridging openchain ligand (type H),⁴⁵ as also is the case for \hat{L}' in $[KL'(thf)_2]_2$ with the NH nitrogen center as the donor site. $62a$ The tricyclic dinuclear complex has L" functioning as a cyclic bridging ligand. $62a$ Its derived diketimine is a cyclotetramer, each unit joined to the next by a hydrogen bond with the four nitrogen atoms coplanar.62a

The crystalline compound $[K{N(C_6H_3}^iPr_2-2,6) C(Me)₂CH$ }] \cdot PhMe was obtained from $K(NR₂)$ and $H[\{N(C_6H_3Pr_2-2,6)C(Me)\}_2CH]$ in toluene;^{62b} it is essentially a monomer, except for a single *η*5-contact (excluding the $ipso-C$) of one of the C_6H_3 ⁱPr₂-2,6 substituents to a neighboring K atom.

4.2. Group 2 Metal *â***-Diketiminates**

The compound $[Mg{(N(Me)C(Me))_2CH}_2]$ was obtained from MgMe₂ and the β -diketimine.⁶³ Reaction of $[Li{(N(R)C(Ph))}_2CH\}_2]$ with MgBr₂ produced crystalline $[Mg{(N(R)C(Ph))_2CH}_2]$.⁵³ Heavier group 2 metal analogues were more readily obtained by the transamination reaction of eq $15.^{64}$

Treatment of $[Li{(NAr)C(Me))_2CH}$ (Ar = C_6H_3 - $P_{r_2-2,6}$) with MeMgCl in thf yielded [Mg $\{N(Ar)C - r_1\}$ $(Me)₂CH₃(Me)(thf)$ (a), which when heated under vacuum at 150 °C afforded the methyl-bridged dimeric complex $[Mg{(N(Ar)C(Me))_2CH}(u-Me)]_2$ (**b**) (eq 16).65 Alternatively, the latter was also obtained from

the corresponding *â*-diketimine and dimethylmagnesium.^{65,66} Likewise, using {H(N(Ar)C(^tBu))₂CH} (Ar $(C_6H_3'Pr_2.2,6)$ and MgMe₂ in thf gave [Mg{(N(Ar)C-
('Bu)) CH}(Me)(thf)] (**c**) which under vacuum at 150 (t Bu))2CH}(Me)(thf)] (**c**), which under vacuum at 150 °C afforded the mononuclear three-coordinate metal complex $[Mg{(N(Ar)C(^tBu)})_2CH{(Me)]}$ (**d**).⁶⁷ This is clearly due to a steric blocking of methyl bridging in (**d**), as evident by noting the values for $(a-d)$ of the $C_{\text{tan}}-N-C$ (*o*) $[117.7(4)^\circ \cdot a \cdot 115.4(3)^\circ \cdot b \cdot 124.4^\circ \cdot a \cdot c$ C_{ipso} -N-C (α) [117.7(4)° **a**, 115.4(3)° **b**, 124.4° av **c**, 125.7(2)° **d** and C_{inc} -N-Mg (β) [121.1(3)° **a** 123.2-125.7(2)° **^d**] and C*ipso*-N-Mg (*â*) [121.1(3)° **^a**, 123.2- (2)° **b**, 117.3° av **c**, 110.4(2)° **d**] angles.65-⁶⁷ (A similar effect has been observed in related Sc compounds, see section 4.3.1.) Similar methods were used to prepare the crystalline allyl analogue which, however, is a hexamer, the allyl group acting as a 1,3 bridge; the thf adduct is a monomer. 68 Crystalline magnesium *â*-diketiminates derived from the ligand $[\{N(C_6H_3^3Pr_2 \text{-} 2,6)C(Me)\}_2CH] \ (\equiv L) \text{ include (i) } [MgL-$ (*µ*-Oi Pr)]2, which was shown to be an active catalyst for the living polymerization of lactide **IX**33,72 (for a review of various catalysts used for this process, see ref 70); (ii) [MgL(X)(OEt2)] (X = OⁱPr, O'Bu, I);⁶⁹ and
(iii) [MøI.(u2-BH.)(OEt2)] (octabedral Mø) ⁶⁹ The com-(iii) [MgL(μ_3 -BH₄)(OEt₂)] (octahedral Mg).⁶⁹ The compound MgL(Cl)(thf) behaved as a ligand transfer agent when treated with $FeCl₂(thf)_{1.5}$ (see Scheme 16).29a Treatment of dibenzylmagnesium with the appropriate tetracyclic diamine yielded the crystalline complex **8**. 71

To date the sole, crystallographically characterized β -diketiminate of the two heaviest natural group 2 metals is the dinuclear complex **2** (see section 3) obtained from $[Ba(NR_2)_2(thf)_2]$ $(R = SiMe_3)$ and $H{N (R^1)C(Me)$ ₂CH (3 equiv).⁵⁶

The crystalline compound [MgL(OtBu)(thf)], obtained from LiL and MeMgCl(thf), was an active catalyst for the ring-opening polymerization of *L*- or rac-lactide in CH₂Cl₂;⁷² for a further discussion, using zinc catalysts, see section 4.5.

4.3. Early Transition Metal *â***-Diketiminates**

4.3.1. Scandium â-Diketiminates

Two different approaches have been reported for the synthesis of scandium β -diketiminates: (i) the insertion of a nitrile into a scandium-1-azaallyl or a scandium-alkyl bond and (ii) the simple ligand transfer between the appropriate lithium *â*-diketiminate and scandium chloride. Procedure i was established for $[ScCp*_{2} {(N(H)C(C_6H_4OMe-4))_2CH}]$; the proposed pathway is shown in Scheme 8 ($R' = C_6H_4$ -OMe-4).73

Examples of both neutral and zwitterionic *â*-diketiminatoscandium complexes have been prepared, as summarized in Schemes 9 and 10 and eqs 17 and

18.74-⁷⁶ Several of these compounds have been iso-

Scheme 8

Scheme 9

lated as base-free four-coordinate metal complexes. Steric interactions between $C_6H_3^{\dagger}Pr_2$ -2,6 (= R¹) and
the Sc-alkyl groups force the scandium in **9** (Scheme the Sc-alkyl groups force the scandium in **9** (Scheme 9) to adopt the bonding mode **B**, with the β -diketiminato ligand functioning as a 4-electron donor (see section 3).⁷⁶ Variable-temperature NMR spectroscopy revealed coalescence behavior for these, consistent with equilibration of two such equivalent out-of-plane structures via a *C*²*^ν* symmetric transition state of

mode **A** (for **A** and **B**, see section 3); kinetic parameters for these fluxions were obtained.76 The four-coordinate Sc dialkyls were somewhat thermally unstable in benzene solution, due to the cyclometalation of eq 17; these products (not included in Table 1) were identified spectroscopically.76

Treatment of $[Sc{(N(R^1)C(Me))_2CH}(CH_2Ph)_2]$ (R¹ $= C_6H_3$ ⁱPr₂-2,6) with tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane
gave the zwitterionic product of eq. 18⁷⁴ gave the zwitterionic product of eq 18.74

A number of crystalline tellurium-containing *â*diketiminatoscandium complexes were obtained as summarized in Scheme 10.⁷⁵

Two crystalline scandium *â*-diketiminates based on the ligand $[\{N(CH_2CH_2NEt_2)C(Me)\}_2CH]^- \ (\equiv L^-)$ were prepared as shown in eq 19.57 The distorted

$$
\text{ScCl}_{3} \xrightarrow[\text{F-Lic1}]{} \text{ScLCl}_{2} \xrightarrow[\text{F-2 NaCl}_{3}$ \text{NaCl}_{3}$ \text{HNR}_{2}$ \xrightarrow[\text{F1}]{} \text{Meq} \xrightarrow[\text{F1}]{} \text{Meq} \xrightarrow[\text{F1}]{} \text{O(H}_{2})_{2} \xrightarrow[\text{F1}]{} \text{O(H}_{2})_{2} \xrightarrow[\text{F1}]{} \text{O(H}_{2})_{2} \xrightarrow[\text{F1}]{} \text{O(H}_{2})_{2} \xrightarrow[\text{F1}]{} \text{O(H}_{2})_{2}
$$

octahedral scandium dichloride (Cl-Sc-Cl′, 167°) upon treatment with $NaN(SiMe₃)₂$ underwent an unusual activation of one of the methyl groups of the ligand L^- to give the pentacyclic $(\mu$ -CH₂)₂ dinuclear complex **4** (see section 3).

4.3.2. Group 4 Metal â-Diketiminates

The first *â*-diketiminatotitanium complexes were reported in 1998*,* partly in the context of their role as procatalysts for the polymerization of olefins.⁷⁷⁻⁸⁰ The complex $[Ti{(N(Ph)C(Me))_2CH}Cl_2(thf)_2]$ was prepared from the corresponding lithium *â*-diketiminate and $[TiCl_3(thf)_3]$.^{77,80} Similarly, using the ligand $[\{N(C_6H_2Me_3-2,4,6)C(R')\}_2CH]^-$ (R' = Me or 'Bu) or
 $[N(C_6He^{i}Pre_2 6)C(Me)C(H^-]^-$ afforded the crystal- $[\{N(C_6H_3Pr_2-2,6)C(Me)\}_2CH]$ ⁻ afforded the crystalline Ti(III) dichlorides, which with LiMe gave the appropriate Ti(III) dimethyls which, except for the one derived from the 2,6-diisopropyl-substituted ligand, were thermally labile.⁷⁸ The crystalline [Ti- ${(N(C_6H_3Pr_2-2,6)C(Me))_2CH}Me_2]$ with $B(C_6F_5)_3$, unlike the isoleptic V(III) complex, was a low-activity catalyst for the polymerization of C_3H_6 or $CH_2=CH-$ ⁿBu, a process inhibited by toluene.⁷⁸ A DFT computational study on mono(*â*-diketiminato)M(III) alkyls $(M = Ti, V, Cr)$ has shown that their propensity for undergoing insertion and chain termination by *â*-H transfer, when used as catalysts for olefin polymerization, was similar to catalysts such as corresponding M(III) complexes including $M(NMe₂)₂R$ or $[CrCp[*] (X)R'$].⁸¹

Using the ligand $[\{N(C_6H_4Me-4)C(Me)\}_2CH]^-$ (= L^-), the crystalline Ti(IV) complexes [Ti(L) X_3] were obtained from Ti(NMe₂)₄ with HL (for $X = NMe₂$) or TiCl₄ with LiL (for $X = Cl$).⁷⁹

The first zirconium β -diketiminate complex of type **IV** was prepared in 1991 by the insertion of acetonitrile into a 1-azaallyl-Zr bond of a cationic Zr(IV) complex (Scheme 11); the anion was $[BF_4]^{-0.82}$

Scheme 11

Several X-ray-characterized mono-19,45 and bis-60 β -diketiminatozirconium chlorides, produced by the reactions of eqs 2054 [for structure, see Figure 2b,

suggested to be an η^5 -ligand-metal complex¹⁹ (or an analogue45) and 21 (or its quinolyl analogue, see **6**)

 $(R' = Ph \text{ or } {}^tBu, R'' = H \text{ or } R)$,^{36,60,83,84} were shown to the active catalysts with MAO for the polymerization be active catalysts with MAO for the polymerization of ethylene and, to a lesser extent, propylene.

An alternative approach to the synthesis of *â*diketiminatozirconium chlorides and dimethylamides was by amine eliminations, as shown for **¹⁰**-**¹²** in Scheme 12; the complexes **11** and **12**, like **13**, featured *^η*5-(2*σ*+*π*)-6-electron-bound (bonding mode **B**) ligands (for further discussion, see section 3).⁸⁵ **Scheme 12**

From the Zr(IV) chlorides **10** and **12**, further complexes were obtained (eqs 22 and 23) (\mathbb{R}^1 = Me or $CH₂Ph).⁸⁵$

Ethylene polymerizations were conducted using the β -diketiminatozirconium complexes of Scheme 12 and eqs 22 and 23 in the presence of MAO.⁸⁶ The mono*â*-diketiminates possessed low activity and provided polyethylenes (PEs) with a trimodal, very broad molecular weight distribution. Both the disubstituted complexes **11** and **12** and the cyclopentadienyl-type derivatives of eq 23 behaved as single-site catalysts under the same conditions, with the activity of the latter considerably higher. The dialkylated zirconium complexes afforded PEs with a significantly narrower molecular weight distribution than the corresponding dichlorides. The use of $[Ph_3C][B(C_6F_5)_4]$ and **13** yielded the salt **14** of eq 24 which, with small

amounts of MAO, showed increase in catalytic activity. The $[B(Ar_F)_4]$ analogue of **14** with **13** gave the catalytically inactive $[(ZrCp{(N(Ph)C(Me))}_2CH]$ - $Me)_2(\mu$ -Me)][B(Ar_F)₄], which with AlMe₃ yielded a compound formulated as $[ZrCp{(N(Ph)C(Me))}_2CH$

 $(\mu$ -Me)₂AlMe₂]⁺; the latter with MAO was an active catalyst.

Interesting results on the synthesis and structures of various other five- and six-coordinate Zr(IV) β -diketiminates have been reported using the ligand $[{N(C_6H_4Me-4)C(Me)}_2CH]$ ⁻ (= L⁻).^{79,87} The crystalline complex $[ZrL(CH_2Ph)_3]$, obtained from $[Zr(CH_2-P)_3]$ Ph)4] and HL, eliminated toluene when heated, giving the crystalline cyclometalated product of eq 25 $(R¹)$

 $=C_6H_4Me-4$); the κ^2 -formulation for one of the benzyl ligands in the final product is supported by the short $Zr-C_{inso}$ bond length of 2.584(2) \AA [cf. the $Zr-CH_2$ bond length of 2.302(2) Å].87 The bulkier *â*-diketiminato ligand $[\{N(C_6H_3{}^iPr_2 2, 6)C(Me)\}_2CH]^- \ (\equiv L'^-)$ in the thermally more stable trialkyl $[ZrL'Me₃]$, was obtained from $ZrCl₄$ and successively LiL' and LiMe.⁸⁷ The crystalline compounds $[ZrL'Cl_3(thf)]$, $[ZrL'Cl_3]$, and $[ZrL'_{2}Cl_{2}]$ were fully characterized.⁷⁹

The amine elimination route was also (see Scheme 12) used for the synthesis of $[ZrL(NMe₂)₃]$ and $[ZrL₂ (NMe₂)₂$ from $Zr(NMe₂)₄$ and HL. With $Ti(NMe₂)₄$ only the tris(amido)TiL was accessible.⁷⁹ The amides with the appropriate R'OH gave $[ZrL_2(OR)_2]$ and $[ZrL(OMe)_3]$ $(\overline{R'} = Me, OC_6H_4Me-4, OCH_2C_6H_4Me-$ 4).79

The fused pentacyclic crystalline tris(*â*-diketiminato)zirconium chloride **15** was obtained from the dinuclear potassium precursor (see Scheme 7) as shown in eq 26.62a

4.3.3. Group 5−*7 Metal â-Diketiminates*

â-Diketiminatovanadium complexes date from 1998.^{77,78} The complexes [VLCl₂] and [VLCl₂(thf)₂] [L $=$ {N(Ph)C(Me)}₂CH] were prepared from LiL and $VCl₃$ or $[VCl₃(thf)₃]$, respectively.⁷⁸ Some reactions of the latter are shown in Scheme 13. The $[B(Ar_F)_4]^-$

Scheme 13

salt, like the adduct from the neutral dialkyl and $B(C_6F_5)_3$, was a catalyst for ethylene polymerization.79,87 Further dichlorides and dialkyls were obtained similarly: $[V{ (N(C_6H_3{}^{i}Pr_2-2,6)C(Me))}_2CH}X_2]$ $(X = C_L, Me, "Bu)$ and $[V{(N(C₆H₃ⁱPr₂ - 2, 6)C(Fu))₂CH}-C_{L₁}$ $Cl₂$].⁷⁸

The first chromium(III)⁸⁸ (1989) and tungsten(III)⁸⁹ (1993) β -diketiminates were prepared by the insertion methods of Scheme 14 and eq 27.

Scheme 14

The crystalline chromium *â*-diketiminates, prepared according to Scheme 15 ($\rm R^1 = C_6H_3^{\dagger}Pr_2 \text{-} 2.6$), were shown to be active catalysts (with MAO AlClEt. were shown to be active catalysts (with MAO, AlClEt₂ or AlClMe2) for ethylene polymerization, yielding high molecular weight PEs. 30, 90

In contrast to the alkylation reactions of complex 16, in which the $(\mu$ -Cl)₂ bridges were retained (Scheme 15), treatment of **16** with NaOC(O)R′ or Li-

Scheme 15

Scheme 16

 $[M_2({\rm (FeL}^2)_2(\mu-N_2))]$ M = Na, K

 ${O(R')C_2CH}$ gave the mononuclear crystalline complexes **17** and **18**. 90

The first *â*-iminatomanganese compound was obtained in poor yield by the unusual redox reaction of eq 7.⁴² Orange crystals of $[Mn{(N(R)C(Ph))}_2CH_2]$ were obtained in almost quantitative yield from MnCl₂ and the lithium β -diketiminate.⁹¹ Using MnI₂ and $[LiL(OEt₂)]$ in diethyl ether gave the X-raycharacterized complex $[MnL(\mu-I)_2Li(OEt_2)]$, $(L = [\overline{N} (C_6H_3P_2-2,6)C(Me)$ ₂CH]).⁶

4.4. Late Transition Metal *â***-Diketiminates**

Complexes considered in this section are those of the group $8-11$ metals. In a 1966 review of the stereochemistry of bis(chelate)metal(II) complexes, a short section was devoted to the then available data on bis(*â*-iminate)s; these were then restricted to the homoleptic M(II) complexes of Co, Ni, and Cu.² The first of these was $\left[\text{Cu}\right]$ (N(Ph)C(H))₂CH $\left|_2\right]$ ^{12,13} Others, studied during 1964-1968, were of formula [M- $\{ (N(R¹)C(R[']))₂CH\}₂$ $]$ (R¹ = H, Me, Et, CH₂Ph, Ph, C_6H_4Me-3 , C_6H_4Me-4 ; $R' = H$, Me).^{8a,11-13,16,17,92-94} The interest then was to establish their structures, in most cases by measurements of magnetic moments, ligand field spectra, and isotropic 1H NMR spectral

shifts. Of such complexes, only those with $R^1 = H$ were judged to have a planar four-coordinate metal environment, the others being tetrahedral (Co) or distorted tetrahedral. The first X-ray structural data were reported for homoleptic complexes derived from a ligand **XI**: the distorted tetrahedral Cu(II) complex $(R'' = CO₂Et, 1969)¹⁵$ and the *D*₂-symmetric Ni(II) analogue $(R'' = H, 1970)^{14}$

The effect on the metal environment of changing the *N*,*N*′-substituents on the nitrogen atoms from hydrogen (square planar) to trimethylsilyl $(= R,$ distorted tetrahedral) was first demonstrated crystallographically in 1995 for the Co(II) complexes [M- $\{ (N(R¹)C(Ph))₂CH\}₂\}$ [see Figure 2e,f]^{22,24} and has subsequently been reinforced by similar data for the Cu(II)^{91,95} and Ni(II) ($R^1 = R, 45$ H^{91,95}) analogues. In the spiro tetrahedral metal complexes $[M(N(R))C (Ph)$)₂CH $\frac{1}{2}$], each of the six-membered metallacycles is coplanar (bonding mode \bf{A}) for $\bf{M} = \bf{Fe}$, \bf{Co} , \bf{Ni} , or Cu but changes to planar and bonding mode **B** for M) Pd, as shown in **¹⁹**. ⁴⁵ The dihedral angles between

the two ligand planes in the tetrahedral complexes are 85.8° (Fe), 91,95 90° (Co), 22,24 78.4° (Ni), 45 and 71.7° (Cu);^{91,95} this compares with 82.1° in [Ni{(N(Ph)C- $(Me))_2CH\frac{1}{2}$ ⁹⁶ and 84.2° in [Ni{(N(C₆H₄Cl-4)C-(H))₂Ph}₂].⁹⁷ The electronic perturbation due to the transmission of unpaired spin density from a Ni atom into the ligand for a series of homoleptic Ni(II) *â*-diketiminates has provided a tool for their conformational analysis,⁹⁸ by measuring the paramagnetically induced ¹H NMR chemical shifts.⁹⁹ Furthermore, if the substituents at C-2 and C-4 of the NCCCN backbone differed, such asymmetric complexes could be chiral and configurationally stable on the NMR time scale.100

The syntheses of the above homoleptic M(II) complexes were unexceptional (but see eq $5^{9,10}$ and Scheme 4^{44}) and involved the reaction of the β diketimine or its hydrochloride with $[NEt_4][MX_4]$ (X $=$ Cl or Br^{8a}) or M(OAc)₂ in the presence of a base such as NaOMe or aqueous ammonia. 8a, 11-13, 92-94 Alternatively, the reaction between $[LiL]_2$ and anhydrous MCl_2 (L = [{N(R)C(Ph)}₂CH]⁻) or [PdCl₂(cod)] in diethyl ether yielded $[M{(N(R)C(Ph))_2CH}_2]$ (M = Co,^{22,24} Ni,⁴⁵ Cu,^{91,95} Pd⁴⁵). Treatment of [LiL]₂ with hydrated $CoSO_4$ gave $[CoL'₂]^{22,24}$ and the corresponding Ni and Cu complexes were obtained from the appropriate $MCl₂$ in the presence of a trace of water $(L' = [{N(H)C(Ph)}_2CH]$.^{91,95} Other homoleptic M(II) β -diiminates reported were $[{\rm Co}\{ {\rm N}({\rm R}^{\rm 1}){\rm C}({\rm R}^{\prime}{\rm)C}({\rm R}^{\prime}){\rm C}$ - $(R''')NR¹_{2}$] $[R¹ = Ph = R'', R' = H = R''', R¹ =$
C_eH_tX-4 (X = Me OMe Br) R'' = Ph R' = H = R''' C_6H_4X-4 (X = Me, OMe, Br), $R'' = Ph$, $R' = H = R''$;
 $R' = C_6H_4Br_4 = R''$ $R' = H = R'''$ and close Ni(II) $R^1 = C_6H_4Br-4 = R''$, $R' = H = R'''$] and close Ni(II) analogues $48b$ and Cu(II) analogues.^{48b}

The influence of varying the substituent R′ at C-2 and C-4 of the ligand $[\{\overline{N}(C_6H_3P_1P_2-2,6)C(R')\}_2CH]$ (≡ [L¹]⁻ for R' = Me, or [L²]⁻ for R' = ^tBu) has been
demonstrated by the reactions of Scheme 16[,] the demonstrated by the reactions of Scheme 16; the more bulky $[L^2]$ ⁻ ligand gave rise to the crystalline, high-spin, three-coordinate Fe(II) complex **20**, whereas the other two, derived from $[L^1]^-$, were shown to have a high-spin, tetrahedral $Fe(II)$ environment.^{29a}

Complex **20** with sodium naphthalenide yielded the crystalline dinitrogen-bridged complex having a long $N-N$ bond of 1.182(5) Å, which on further reaction with sodium or potassium gave the salts containing the corresponding dianion in which each of the N atoms of the bridging N_2 had short contacts to M (Na or K).29b

The crystalline, trigonal, planar Cu(I) complexes $[CuL³]$ _n (bridging through the nitro group) and $[CuL³]$ $(PPh₃)]$ were obtained as shown in eq 28,⁵¹ whereas

$$
HL^3 + [Cu[NCMe)_4][PF_6] \xrightarrow{Et_3N, MeOH} \frac{1}{n} (CuL^3)_n \xrightarrow{PPh_3, MeOH} [CuL^3(PPh_3)] \tag{28}
$$

$$
TIL4 + CuBr(SMe2) \xrightarrow{CH_2=CHR} [Cu(L4)(\eta-CH_2=CHR)]
$$
\n(29)

the Cu(I)(L⁴)- η -CH₂=CHR′ (R′ = H or Ph) complexes arose from the reactions of eq 29, which with $O₂$ yielded $[\{CuL^4(\mu\text{-}OH)\}_2]$ via a suggested $[\{CuL^4(\mu\text{-}OH)\}_2]$ O) $_{2}$] intermediate¹⁰¹ [L³ = [{N(C₆H₂Me₃-2,4,6)C(H) }₂-CNO₂], $L^4 = [{N(C_6H_3Me_2 \cdot 2,6)C(Me)}_2$ ₂CH]].

A number of crystalline *â*-diketiminatocopper(II) thiolates have been reported (Scheme 17, $R' = C_6H_3$ -

Scheme 17

 $Me₂$ -2,6) and were regarded as structural models [especially the four-coordinate copper complex **21**; the $SC(Ph)₂CH₂OMe$ analogue was also obtained³²] for a type 1 copper protein active site.^{32,102,103}

A further series of three-coordinate copper(II) complexes was obtained as shown in Scheme 18.104The phenolates were thermally stable but dioxygensensitive. These results were taken as shedding further light on the possible nature of intermediates

Scheme 18

involved in the processing of phenolic species by Cu- (II) sites in biology and catalysis.

The first rhodium β -diketiminate $[Rh{(N(Ph)C - R)}$ $(Me))_2CH$ ₂(CO)₂][BF₄], obtained from [Rh_{(COD) $(\mu$ -Cl) $\{2\}$ and the β -diketiminium tetrafluoroborate in EtOH, was reported in 1979; it comprised weak dimers, stacked in a columnar fashion, with Rh'''Rh contacts of 3.271(3) Å.¹⁰⁵ The complex $\left[\text{Rh}\right\{\text{(N)CH-1}\right\}$ (Me)Ph-*R*)C(H))₂CH₃(COD)] was a catalyst for enantioselective hydrosilylation of prochiral ketones.¹⁰⁶

The bulky $[\{N(C_6H_3X_2-2,6)C(Me)\}_2CH]^-$ (L⁵, X = Me; L^6 , $X = Cl$) ligands were effective in stabilizing the robust, crystalline, three-coordinate $14 e^{-1} Rh(I)$ complexes $[\text{RhL}^5(\text{COE})]$,¹⁵⁰ $[\text{RhL}^6(\text{COE})]$ (which has an additional Rh \cdots Cl close contact)¹⁵¹ and [RhL⁵-(NBE)], prepared from $LiL⁵$ or $LiL⁶$ and the appropriate Rh(I) precursor; the four-coordinate Rh(I) complexes [RhL⁵(COD)-1,5], [RhL⁵(C₂H₄)₂], [RhL⁶(C₂H₄)₂], and $[RhL^{5}(COE)(NCMe)]$ were also obtained.¹⁵¹ Solution NMR and IR spectroscopic data provided evidence for the existence of $[RhL^{5}(COE)(N_{2})]$, $[RhL^{5}$ - $(COD-1,4)$], $[RhL⁵(Me₂C=CMe₂)]$, $[RhL⁵(COE)(H₂)]$, and $[\{RhL⁵(COE)(\mu-H)\}_2]$ (COE = cyclooctene, COD $=$ cyclooctadiene, NBE $=$ norbornene).¹⁵¹ In solution, $[RhL^{5}(COE)]$ was fluxional (attributed to an allyl/ hydride mechanism), implicating the [RhL⁵-(cyclooctyl)H] isomer, which in the case of the iridium analogue $[IrL^{5}(cyclooctyl)H]$ was the preferred product, although with H_2 it yielded the crystalline $[IrL⁵ (COE)(H)₂$ ^{[151} Some ADF calculations were carried out to probe the observed hydrogenation and isomer $ization.^{150,151}$

â-Diketiminatoplatinum complexes have received little attention. The cationic $Pf(IV)$ complex of eq 6 was reported in 1976.⁴¹ Recently the crystalline, fivecoordinate, but thermally stable, platinum(IV) alkyl $[Pt{ (N(C₆H₃ⁱPr₂-2,6)C(Me))₂CH } Me₃]$ was preparedfrom the potassium β -diketiminate and [${PtMe₃(\mu$-}$] OTf_{4} ; variable-temperature ¹H NMR spectra showed it to be highly fluxional in solution down to 223 K.³¹ It was light-sensitive in solution, but its thermal stability is noteworthy, as five-coordinate Pt- (IV) alkyls are often highly labile intermediates in many reductive eliminations of Pt(IV) complexes.

4.5. Group 12 Metal *â***-Diketiminates**

Early work on β -diiminates of zinc concerned the synthesis (from HL' and $ZnCl_2$, in the presence of a base) and spectra of the complexes ZnL'_{2} (L' = $[N(Et)C(H)C(H)C(Me)NEt]$,¹⁰ $[\{N(Ph)C(H)\}_2CH]$,¹² and $[\{N(R^1)C(H)\}_2CPh]$ $(R^1 = C_6H_4Cl-4, C_6H_4Me-4)^{94}$. Revival of interest in zinc *â*-diketiminates has largely been triggered by the disclosure that some are living single-site catalysts not only for the ring-opening polymerization of lactide (LA)33,107,108 (see Scheme $19³³$ for a review of this topic using these and other

Scheme 19

catalysts, see ref 70) but also for the copolymerization of cyclohexene oxide (CHO) and carbon dioxide $35,109,110$ [see Scheme 20, illustrated for a metal alkoxide, such as [Zn(L)Oi Pr].35

The heteroleptic *â*-diketiminatozinc complexes employed in these catalytic studies were prepared by the methods of Scheme 21, in which the ligand $L =$ $[\{N(R^1)C(Me)\}_2CH]$ $(R^1 = C_6H_3R^2_2.2, 6$ with $R^2 = Me$,
Et nPr iPr; C_eH₂iPrR³-2, 6 with $R^3 = H$ Me, Et nPr; Et, ⁿPr, ⁱPr; C₆H₃ⁱPrR³-2,6 with R³ = H, Me, Et, ⁿPr;
C_eH₂FtⁿPr-2 6; CeH₂Me₂-2.4 6) or [{N(CeH₂ⁱPr₂- $C_6H_3Et^{n}Pr-2,6$; $C_6H_2Me_3-2,4,6$ or $[\{N(C_6H_3{}^{i}Pr_2 2,6$)C(H)}₂CH].^{33,35} Representative examples were X-ray-characterized (see Table 1). Similar experiments yielded the complexes $[Zn\{N(C_6H_3{}^{i}Pr_2-$ 2,6)C(Me))₂CH}R'] (R' = Me, Ph, ^tBu(thf)^{1,6b}
Some significant observations on LA poly

Some significant observations on LA polymerization to PLA followed. (i) $[Zn\{N(C_6H_3P_2-2,6)C(Me)\}_2-$ **Scheme 20**

 $CH{(\mu-O^iPr)}_2$ (21) exhibited especially fast rates in CH_2Cl_2 and good control of polydispersity, and there was a linear relationship between the molecular weight of PLA and conversion, with the initiator as the end-group.33 (ii) The importance of changing the 2,6-dialkylphenyl substituents was demonstrated by showing that **21** and *D*,*L*-LA yielded heterotactic PLA (especially at low temperatures), whereas 2.6 -Et₂C₆H₃ or 2,6- $P\Pr_{2}C_{6}H_{3}$ analogues were less selective.³³ (iii) With *meso*-LA, **21** yielded syndiotactic PLA, but at a lower rate than with *D*,*L*-LA.33 Using the same β -diketiminato ligand as **21**, the corresponding thf adduct of the trimethylsiloxide was also an active catalyst, but less so than the crystallographically characterized isoleptic $[Mg{(N(C_6H_3{}^iPr_2-2,6)C(Me))_2 CH{O^tBu}(thf)].⁷²$

Active catalysts for the polymerization of CHO and CO₂ were of the formula $[Zn\{N(C_6H_3Pr_2-2,6)C(Me)\}_2-$ CH X] (X = OR', OCOR', NR₂, but not with X = Cl, Br, Et), $[Zn{(N(C_6H_3{}^iPr\text{-}2-Et\text{-}6)C(Me))}_2CH{(OMe)}]$ (the most active), and $[Zn\{N(C_6H_3Et_2-2,6)C(Me)\}_2$ - CH ₃ X'] ($X' =$ OMe, OⁱPr, OAc, NR₂).³⁵ The polymers
were atactic and of low polydispersity and contained were atactic and of low polydispersity and contained *trans*-cyclohexane linkages in the main chain, consistent with backside attack of the epoxide during enchainment.109,110 Restricted rotation about the *N*aryl bond appeared to be important. Using an optically active complex **22** gave enantioselective copolymer, with $R' = 'Pr = R''$ and $R''' = 'Bu$ the most active 109 active.109

The first examples of crystalline zinc compounds with bridging fluorine and hydrogen atoms were synthesized as represented in Scheme 22 ($R^1 = C_6H_3$ - $Me₂-2,6$).¹¹¹

Scheme 22

The crystalline zinc and cadmium heterobimetallic complexes $[ML'(\mu-I)_2Li(OEt_2)]$ (M = Zn, Cd), isoleptic with the Mn(II) complex, were obtained from [LiL′- $(\overline{\text{OE}}t_2)$] and $\overline{\text{MI}}_2$, $L' = [{\rm NC}_6\text{H}_3^{\mathrm{i}}\text{Pr}_2\text{-}2,6)\text{C}(\text{Me})\}^2_2\text{CH}]^{6}$
ZnCl₂ and [LiL'']₂ gave the crystalline [ZnL''(u-Cl)]₂ ZnCl₂ and [LiL'']₂ gave the crystalline $[ZnL''(\mu\text{-}Cl)]_2$, $L'' = [{N(R)C(Ph)}_2CH].$ ¹¹²

4.6. Group 13 Metal *â***-Diketiminates**

The first simple group 13 metal β -diketiminates reported were boron complexes (1989-1992), prepared either from the β -diketimine and BF₃(OEt₂), for example, to give 23 (eq 30);^{113,114} or by heating a

trialkylborane and a nitrile in an autoclave, for example, the crystalline $[B\{ (N(H)C(Me))_2CCN\}Et_2]$ from BEt_3 and $\text{EtCN}.^{115}$ Reaction of 23 with [Cr(CO)_3 -(NCMe)₃] gave crystalline $[B{(N(Me)C(Me))_2CH}F_2$ - $(Cr(CO)₃)$ **24**, which has the ligand in bonding mode **B**, in contrast to the **A** in **23**. ¹¹³ Some geometrical parameters are compared in Figure 3.113

Figure 3. Selected geometrical parameters for **23** (a) and **24** (b).

Data on *â*-diketiminatoboron complexes derived from the ligand $[\{N(C_6H_4Me-4)C(Me)\}_2CH]^-$, are summarized in Scheme 23 ($R^1 = C_6H_4Me-4$).^{116a}

Predating these publications was a 1968 paper on fluorescent $BF₂$ complexes of di- and tripyrrylmethenes, using ligands of type **XI**, such as **XII**. 116b

More recent studies have involved other boron dipyrromethane conjugates (BDP), including aryl-substituted 4,4′-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-5-indecene (BO-DIPY) dyes as fluorescent probes; examples are **XIII**116c and **XIV**116d (such complexes are not included in Table 1).

The first *â*-diketiminatoaluminum compound [Al- $\{ (N(Me)C(Me))_2CH \}Cl_2$] was prepared in 1991 from $H[\{N(Me)C(Me)\}_2CH]$ and AlCl₃/NEt₃; with BCl₂R' it yielded $[B\{N(Me)C(Me))_2CH\}R'[AICl_4]$ (R' = Cl, Et, Ph).^{128b} One of the latter $(R' = Cl)$ with LiCl yielded $[B\{N(\text{Me})C(\text{Me})\} _2CH\}Cl_2]$.^{128b} The β -diketiminatoaluminum dimethyl **25** and its isostructural gallium complex were reported in 1994, prepared from the appropriate MClMe₂ (M = Al, Ga) and $\text{Li}\{(2\text{-}NC_5H_4)_2\}$ CH}].59

The next development, in 1998, related to the synthesis of a series of well-characterized complexes, as summarized in Scheme 24 ($R¹ = C₆H₄Me-4$).¹¹⁷ The

Scheme 24

more hindered, crystalline [Al{(N(C₆H₃ⁱPr₂-2,6)C(Me))₂-CH ${M}$ e₂] was obtained from AlMe₃ and the β diketimine.¹¹⁷ The compounds $[A]\{(N(R^1)C(Ph))_2CH\}$ - R'_{2}] (R^{1} = Ph, $C_{6}H_{4}Cl_{2}$; R' = Me, Et) were prepared from $PhC(O)N(R')H$ and $AlMe₃$ or $AlEt₃$.⁴³

Scheme 25

Significant interest in this area was sparked by the disclosure that certain neutral and cationic *N*,*N*′- (chelate)aluminum alkyls were catalysts or procatalysts for the polymerization of olefins. The chelates have included β -diketiminates;^{118,153} their preparation is summarized in Scheme 25 ($R' = C_6H_3'Pr_2-2,6$).
Complexes 27 and 28 were structurally character-Complexes **27** and **28** were structurally characterized. The former crystallizes as an ion pair in which the $[B(C_6F_5)_4]^-$ anion binds weakly to the Al atom of the cation through an *m*-fluorine, whereas the latter contains two cations and two anions that crystallize as $\{[Al\{(N(C_6H_3Pr_2-2,6)C(Me))_2CH\}(Me)]_2[B(C_6F_5)_3 Me$ }⁺ and [B(C₆F₅)₃Me]⁻.

Treatment of salt 26 with C_2H_4 gave the salt containing the cation **29**, which with $MeC\equiv CMe$ yielded C_2H_4 and the analogue in which the CH_2 - $CH₂$ moiety was replaced by $C(Me)=C(Me).¹¹⁸$

Results related to those of Scheme 25 were reported by our group, using the ligands $[N(R)C(R')C(H)C$ - $(R''/NR)^{-}$ $[R' = R'' = Ph, C_6H_4Me-4, C_6H_4OMe-4; R'$ = Ph; and $R'' = C_6H_4Me^{-4}$, ^tBu, 1-adamantyl (Ad);
 $R' = C_6H_4Me^{-4}$, $R'' =$ ^tBul ^{46,119,120} The syntheses of $R' = C_6H_4Me$ -4, $R'' = {}^tBu$].^{46,119,120} The syntheses of
selected crystalline examples are shown in Scheme selected crystalline examples are shown in Scheme 26^{120} and eq 31 (R' = C₆H₄Me-4);⁴⁶ the neutral

Scheme 26

precursors were obtained from AlMe₃ and the appropriate *â*-diketimine. The salts **30** and **31**, which were separated ion pairs, were the first such species to be structurally authenticated;120 the Al atom is in a distorted monopyramidal environment, and the Al-N bond lengths are slightly longer and the ^N-Al-N′ bond angles slightly wider than in the neutral precursor.¹²⁰ Another dimethylaluminum $β$ -diiminate, from the corresponding diimine and AlMe₃, was $\left[\text{Al}\left\{ \left(\text{N}(\text{PPh}_{2})\text{C}(\text{H})\right) \right\} \right] \text{C}(\text{H})\text{M}(\text{e}_{2})$ ⁴⁹

A crystalline *â*-diketiminato(1-azaallyl)aluminum methyl was prepared by the reaction of eq 32.46 An

ansa-CH2-bridged, crystalline (mode **B**), dinuclear complex was obtained, as shown in Scheme $27;^{46}$ it

Scheme 27

is noteworthy that the isoleptic lithium (Figure 2i) and aluminum compounds have different structures.

A number of interesting aluminum *â*-diketiminates derived from the ligands $[\{N(R^1)C(Me)\}_2CH]^-$ (= L^{R1-} ; $R^1 = Me$, ⁱPr, Ph), including the X-ray-
characterized compounds **32**.^{121,122b} **33**.^{122a,b} and characterized compounds **32**, 121,122b **33**, 122a,b and **34**, 122b,123 were obtained as shown in Scheme 28; the

Scheme 28

N,*N*′-diisopropyl (X-ray) and -diphenyl analogues of **32** were also described.¹²¹ The homoleptic complex **33** is a rare tris(*â*-diketiminato)metal complex (but see also **15** and Scheme 37).

Using the bulkier ligand $[\{N(C_6H_3^iPr_2-2,6)C(Me)\}_2-$ CH]⁻ (\equiv L⁻), the derived β -diketiminato dihydride¹²⁴ and dimethyl¹¹⁷ were precursors for further interesting complexes, the majority of which have been crystallographically authenticated, as summarized in Schemes 29 and 30. These data provide further examples of the role of a bulky *â*-diketiminato spectator ligand to stabilize unusual compounds, in this instance the aluminum(I) complex **35**, 26,125 the aluminum imide **36**, 125,126 the heterocycle **37**, ¹²⁷ and the selenols **38** and **39**. 124

Employing the same ligand L^- , the three crystalline *â*-diketiminatometal dichlorides were also (for Al and Ga, see ref 128a) prepared from $[LiL(OEt₂)]$ and $AlCl₃$, $GaCl₃$, and $InCl₃$, respectively, whereas using "GaI" yielded GaLI₂.¹²⁹ The similarly crystalline $[GaLMe_2]$ and $[InLMe_2]$ were obtained from HL

with $GaMe₃$ and $InLCl₂$ with MeMgBr, respectively.129 However, with the ether-free LiL and "GaI", the product was the gallium(I) analogue **40**²⁷ of **35**, as shown, with further interesting reactions of **40** with N_2O ,¹³⁰ S_8 ,¹³⁰ and trimethylsilyl azide,¹³¹ in Scheme 31. Each of the crystalline products, except the gallium sulfide, was structurally established. Compound 41 is a unique dimeric gallium oxide, 130 and **41** and **42** are a structurally isomeric pair.

4.7 Group 14 Metal *â***-Diketiminates and a Phosphorus Analogue**

The first group 14 metal *â*-diketiminates [Sn- $\{(N(R)C(Ph))_2CH\}Cl(Me)_2$ (Figure 2c; mode **B**) and $[Sn{(N(H)C(Ph))}_2CH{Cl(Me)_2}]$ (Figure 2d; mode **A**) were obtained in 1994, as shown in Scheme 32. The reaction with $SnClMe₃$ is particularly surprising.¹⁸

Treatment of the appropriate potassium *â*-diketiminate with $SnCl₂$ or its hydrate yielded the crystalline [Sn{N(R)C(^tBu)C(H)C(Ph)N(R)}Cl],¹³² [Sn- ${N(H)C(H)C(H)C(Ph)N(R)}Cl$,²⁴ and ${Sn(N(H)C-H)N(R)}Cl$ $({}^{t}Bu)C(H)C(Ph)N(H){}Cl.$ ¹³² The structure of each is

Scheme 31

Scheme 32

consistent with there being a stereochemically active lone pair, for example, **43**. ²⁴ These reactions provide

further illustrations that the *N*- and/or *N*-SiMe₃ (\equiv R) groups are not only of steric significance but also can be removable protecting groups.

The crystalline heteroleptic β -diketiminatotin(II) halides SnLX were prepared from SnX_2 and $[LiL]_2$, and it was noted that the second halide X^- was not displaceable by L^- (for related observations, see refs 133 and 134), $L = {\rm [{}N(R)C(Ph)~{}2CH}.^{91,95}$ This and further reactions of SnLCl are summarized in Scheme 33. X-ray data are available for SnLX' $(X' = Cl, Br, F)$ NR2) and **44**. The Sn(IV) compound **44** is particularly noteworthy, being only the third example of an Sn- (IV) complex having a terminal sulfide and the first to have four-coordinate tin; selected geometric parameters are shown in Figure 4.91,95 The exchange process between the chloride and the bromide, studied by 2D EXSY 119Sn NMR spectroscopy, showed that they exchanged on the NMR time scale, believed to implicate a μ -Cl- μ -Br dinuclear transition state.⁹¹

Reactions related to those of Scheme 33 and significant further extensions have been reported for

Figure 4. Selected bond lengths (angstroms) (a) and angles (degrees) (b) for **44**.

Scheme 33

Scheme 34

germanium(II) *â*-diketiminates derived from the ligands $[\{N(R^1)C(Me)\}_2CH]$ ⁻ $[R^1 = Ph;^{133} C_6H_2Me_3$ -2,4,6;¹³⁵ C₆H₃ⁱPr₂-2,6 (Ge,^{28,58,134} Sn^{34,134})], as summarized in Scheme 34 (L = $[\{N(Ph)C(Me)\}_2CH]$), eq 33 (L = $[\{N(C_6H_2Me_3-2,4,6)C(Me)\}_2CH])]^{135}$ and

$$
Lil. \n\begin{array}{c}\n\text{GeCl}_2(1,4\text{-divane}) \\
\text{or SnCl}_2 \\
[-\text{LiCl}]\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n[\text{MLCl}] \quad \xrightarrow{\text{NaN}_3} \\
[\text{Fe, Sn} \quad -\text{FeCl}]\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n[\text{ML(N}_3)] \quad \text{(33)} \\
[\text{Fe, Sn} \quad -\text{FeCl}]\n\end{array}
$$

for $L = [{N(C_6H_3{}^iPr_2.2,6)C(Me)}_2EH]$ (Schemes 35^{28,58,134} and 36^{34,134} respectively): X-ray data are $35^{28,58,134}$ and $36,^{34,134}$ respectively); X-ray data are available for those complexes shown in square brackets. Particularly noteworthy crystalline compounds are the two-coordinate β -diketiminatogermanium(II) cation of salt 45^{28} , the germanium(IV) hydride 46 , which can be regarded as a tautomer of a *â*-diketiminatogermanium(II) compound,⁵⁸ and the compound **47**, ¹³⁴ which is an isomer of the unknown (and presumably too sterically hindered) SnL₂. The Sn-(II) isopropoxide **48** was shown to be an initiator for the living ring-opening polymerization of *rac*-lactide to heterotactic-enriched poly(lactide) (for the more active isoleptic zinc complex, see section 4.5).34

Treatment of $LiL(OEt₂)$ with the appropriate tetrachloride GeCl₄ or $SnX₄$ in diethyl ether afforded

Scheme 35

the metal trihalides $[GeLCl_3]$ (49), SnLCl₃, and $[SnLX₃]$ (X = Br, I).⁵² Compound **49** is a thus far a unique example of *C*-bonded metal *â*-diketiminate (mode **E**); selected bond lengths (Å) are shown in Figure 5 ($\rm R^1 = C_6H_3^{\dagger}Pr_2$ -2,6);⁵² these data may be compared with those for the tin(IV) compounds of compared with those for the tin(IV) compounds of Figure $2c, d$.¹⁸ It may be, in our view, that an alternative interpretation of the X-ray data for compound **49** may be that it is a β -diketiminatogermanium 1,3-

diazaallyl $[GeL{N(R^1)=C(Me)NC(Me)=C(H)R^1}].$

Figure 5.

Treatment of $[P\{W(CO)_5\}_2(C_5Me_5)]$ with acetonitrile yielded the *â*-bis(iminato)phosphorus compound

$[P\{N(H)C(C_5Me_5)C(H)C(H)NH\} \{W(CO)_5\}_2]$.^{136b}

4.8. Lanthanide and Actinide *â***-Diketiminates**

The first 4f-metal *â*-diketiminates were reported in 1994/1995, as shown in Schemes 37 (Ln = Sm, Gd; each was X-ray-characterized)^{137,138} and 38^{54,139} and eq 34.140

 $M = Na$ or K **p** $[Yb\{CH(R)_2\}_2(OEt_2)_2]$ 50

The structures of the crystalline homoleptic Yb(II) β -diketiminate **50** and of two analogues (see Table 1) have been investigated.136a The crystal structures show that in each three of the Yb-N bond distances are slightly shorter than the fourth and the variations in the endocyclic bond lengths, exemplified for $[Yb{N(R)C(C_6H_4Me-4)C(H)C(Ad)NR}_2]$ in Figure 6,

are consistent with the notion that the canonical form $[Yb(L)\{N(R)C(Ad)C(H)C(C_6H_4Me-4)=NR\}]$ makes a contribution. Furthermore, in toluene- d_8 the $^{171}Yb {^1H}$ chemical shift at 293 K is at the unexpected high frequency for a tetrahedral Yb(II) complex of *δ* 2634 for **50** (or 2624 and 2629 for the latter complex)

(cf. ref 139 δ 820 and 830 for [Yb{N(R)C(^tBu)C- $(H)R$ ₂].

The exceptionally large steric influence of the ligand $[\{N(R)C(Ph)\}_2CH]^- \equiv L^-$ and various *N,N*bis(trimethylsilyl) analogues is further evident by the demonstration that (i) derived homoleptic Ln(III)

Figure 7.

 β -diketiminates are not accessible (eq 35)⁵⁴ and (ii)

attempts to replace a halide from $[LnL₂Hal]$ by a bulky alkyl led to the product of disproportionation (eq 36).⁵⁴ The crystal structures of 51 (Figure 7),⁵⁴ $52,^{141}$ and $[CeL'(NR₂)₂]$ {obtained from $[Ce(NR₂)₃]$ and $HL'; L' = [(N(R)C(C_6H_4^tBu-4))_2CH]\},^{141}$ have been recorded recorded.

Some remarkable, apparently subvalent, crystalline samarium and ytterbium *â*-diketiminates have been prepared recently and X-ray-characterized: $[\text{Sm}_2L_3]$ $[\dot{L} = {\rm N}(R)C(P\dot{h})\}$ ₂CH $],$ ^{136a} $[KSmL_2]$ (53),^{136a} [Yb{LiL(thf)}₂] (54),^{136a} [Yb{LiL'(thf)}₂],^{136a} and [(YbL)₃-(thf)] (55)¹⁴² [L' = {N(R)C(C₆H₄Ph-4)}₂CH]. If each of the L and L′ ligands is regarded as bearing a single negative charge (as has been assumed in all of the foregoing discussion in this review), then these complexes represent Sm and Yb in oxidation states $1^{1/2}$, 1, 0, 0, and 1, respectively. However, a more plausible interpretation is that the monoanionic β -diketiminato ligands L⁻ and L'⁻ have an accessible and hence partially occupied LUMO (e.g., L^{2-}). The syntheses of **53**, **54**, and **55** are illustrated by eqs $37,136a$ $38,136a$ and 39^{142} and the structures of crystal-

$$
SmI_2 + KL \longrightarrow Et_2O \longrightarrow [KSmL_2] \tag{37}
$$

YbCl₃
$$
\xrightarrow[2.2.3 \text{ Li}]{1.2 \text{ KL, thf}} \text{[Yb{LiL(thf)}_2]} \qquad (38)
$$

$$
YbL_2 + Yb(C_{10}H_8)(thf)_x \qquad \xrightarrow{-\text{th}f} \qquad \qquad [(YbL)_3(thf)] \qquad (39)
$$

Figure 8.

Figure 9.

Figure 10.

line **53**136a and **55**¹⁴² in Figures 8 and 9, respectively. Complex **53** is a centrosymmetric dimer; one of the ligands L of the monomeric binuclear moiety not only binds the Sm and K ions as shown in Figure 8 but also acts as a bridge by virtue of an η^6 -Ph to the K' ion of a second monomeric moiety.

Only two 5f-metal *â*-diketiminates have been made. The reaction between UCl_4 and $[LiL]_2$ yielded the crystalline salt **56**, comprising the $\left[\{\overline{U}^{VI}L(NR)({\mu} - {\sigma}^{VI})\right]$ Cl) $\{z\}$ ²⁺ cation and two dichloro- β -diketiminatouranium(III) 1,3-diazaallyl anions.¹⁴³ Selected geometric parameters of the UL moiety of the cation and anion are shown in parts a and b, respectively, of Figure 10.¹⁴³ By contrast, from ThCl₄ and $[LiL]_2$, the crystalline complex $[ThL_2Cl_2]$ was obtained.¹⁴⁴

Table 1. *â***-Diketiminatometal Complexes**

5. â-Diketiminatometal Complexes

Table 1 provides a summary of data on *â*-diketiminatometal complexes (and aldiminato analogues) [MS = mass spectrometry; EA = elemental analyses; ***M
corresponds to NMR-active nucleus: UV–vis = eleccorresponds to NMR-active nucleus; $UV - vis = elec$ tronic spectroscopy; $IR =$ infrared spectroscopy; El $=$ electrochemistry; ESR $=$ electron paramagnetic resonance; MCD = magnetic circular dichroism; μ_{eff} = magnetic moment; R = SiMe₃; R' = Si^tBu₃; Ad =
adamantyl: Cn = n^5 -C₅H₅: Cn^{*} = n^5 -C₅Me₅: tmen = adamantyl; Cp = η^5 -C₅H₅; Cp^{*} = η^5 -C₅Me₅; tmen = $(Me₂NCH₂)₂$; pmdeta = $(Me₂NCH₂CH₂)₂NMe$; HMPA $=$ OP(NMe₂)₃; COD $=$ 1,5-cyclooctadiene; COE $=$ $cyclooctene$; NBE = norbornene].

6. Concluding Remarks

The field of *â*-diiminatometal (largely *â*-diketiminatometal) complexes is now very extensive and surely has reached maturity. Of the 166 citations in section 5, 150 deal with original findings. The topic has witnessed rapid growth, as evident from the 38 papers published in 2001, the 20 in 2000, the 49 in ¹⁹⁹⁴-1999, the 14 dealing with unpublished work, and only 32 publications before 1990. Of the 63 natural metals, *â*-diiminates have been reported for all but Rb, Cs, Y, La, Nb, Ta, Re, Ru, Os, Ag, Au, Hg, Pb, As, Sb, Bi, Eu, Dy, Ho, and Lu. Data for 475 metal *â*-diiminates are shown in Table 1.

â-Diketiminates have an important role as spectator ligands, by virtue of their strong binding to metals, their tunable and extensive steric demands, and their diversity of bonding modes. They are often able to stabilize complexes in unusually low metal oxidation states, as cations, and others containing multiply bonded (to metal) coligands. Many such complexes are coordinatively unsaturated and this and other features are the key to their ability to function as catalysts for processes as varied as olefin oligo-, poly-, and copolymerization, ring-opening polymerization of lactide or related monomers, and copolymerization of expoxides and carbon dioxide.

The *â*-diketiminates are structurally related to ligands such as porphyrins and corrins. Appropriate Cu(II) *â*-diketiminates are biomimetic analogues of Cu(II) protein active sites, for example, Cu(II) phenolates as intermediates in the catalytic cycles of metalloenzymes such as galactose oxidase.

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8. Appendix (Added in Proof): 2002 Publications up to End of June

We are aware of 27 papers in the above category. They have contributed to the following areas, using the numbering system of the list of contents. Abbreviations used: $R = \text{SiMe}_3$, $L^1 = [\text{N}(C_6H_3^1Pr_2 -$ 2,6)C(Me) $_2$ CH], L² = [{N(C₆H₃ⁱPr₂-2,6)C(^tBu)}₂CH], $L^3 = [{N(CH_2CH_2NEt_2)C(Me)}_2CH].$

Section 3. The compounds $[YbL^4{\mu}$ -Li(thf) $_2$] $[L^4 =$ ${N(R)C(R')}_2CH$, $R' = Ph$ or C_6H_4Ph-4] have been formulated as Yb(II) complexes with a *dianionic* β -diketiminato ligand.¹⁵⁵

Section 4.1. The compounds $[M{(N(R)C(C₆H₃Me₂-\n$ 2,6))₂SiR}]₂ have been described.¹⁵⁶

Section 4.2. [Mg(L^1 ⁾ⁱPr] is an initiator for the living syndioselective polymerization of methyl methacrylate.¹⁵⁷ [Mg(L¹)(μ -F)(thf)]₂ has been reported.¹⁵⁸ The compounds $[Mg(L^1)(N^iPr_2)(thf)]$ and $[Mg(L^1)(O^tBu)(thf)]$ have been compared with Zn analogues.¹⁵⁹

Section 4.3. DFT studies on early transition metal complexes have been described.¹⁶⁰

Seciton 4.3.1. $[Sc(L²)Me₂]$ has been converted into cationic Sc complexes, which are procatalysts for ethylene polymerization.161 The complex [ScBr(*µ*- $L^{3}MgBr$ ₂] has been formulated as a Sc(I) complex.¹⁶²

Section 4.3.2. Chiral C_2 -symmetric Zr(IV) β -diketiminates have been described.163

Section 4.3.3. Various *â*-diketiminato Cr(III) complexes are procatalysts for ethylene polymerization.164

Section 4.4. Mössbauer and EPR spectra of some planar high spin Fe(II) *â*-diketiminates have been analyzed.¹⁶⁵ Further reactions of $[Rh(L^1)(COE)]^{166}$ and $[Pt(L^1)Me_3]^{167}$ have been described. Transient superoxocopper and $bis(\mu$ -oxo)dicopper β -diketiminates have been identified.¹⁶⁸ $[\text{Cu}\{(N(C_6H_2Me_3-))\}$ 2,4,6)C(Me))₂CH₃(OAc)] underwent oxidative degradation yielding ${N(C_6H_2Me_3-2,4,6)CMe}$ ₂CO.¹⁶⁹

Section 4.5. $[Zn(L^1)X] [X = N^i Pr_2, O^t Bu, OSiPh_3(thf)]$ complexes have been reported.159 An MO study of $[Zn(\overline{L}^1)(OMe)]$ -catalyzed copolymerization of CO_2 and cyclohexene oxide has been reported, 170 as has a review of stereoselective metal (including Zn)-catalyzed polymerizations.171

Section 4.6. Further studies of BODIPY dyes,¹⁷² and a review of $AI(I)$ complexes¹⁷³ have been published. $[A](L^5)I_2]$ and a higher homologue,¹⁷⁴ as well as $[\{Al(L^5)Cl\}_2(\mu\text{-}O)],^{175} \bar{L}^5 = [\{N(Me)C(Me)\}_2\text{CH}]$ have been reported. Data on $[Ga(L^1)(PPh_2)\{OSO_2CF_3\}]$, 176 $[In(L¹)Cl]₂,¹⁷⁷$ and $[In(L¹)(Cl)(μ -OH)]₂$ have appeared.

Seciton 4.8. A review of nonclassical organolanthanide chemistry provided data on $\frac{K(\mu - L^4)}{SmL^4}$ and $[YbL^{4}\{\mu\text{-Li(thf}\}\text{R}]$ (see also ref. 155).¹⁷⁸ The compounds $[Pr(L^3)X_2]$ $(X = Cl, Br, BH_4)$ have a pseudooctahedral Pr environment.¹⁷⁹ The compounds [[]Yb(L¹)Cl₂(thf)₂], [Yb(L¹)Cl(η⁵-C₅H₄Me)], [Yb(L¹)(NR'₂)(η⁵- C_5H_4Me] (R' = ⁱPr, Ph) have been characterized¹⁸⁰ and mentioned in a review.181

Note Added After ASAP Posting

An earlier version of this article posted ASAP August 24, 2002 had an incorrect $N-\bar{N}$ bond length on p 3044 (second full paragraph). The correct bond length appears in this version posted September 11, 2002.

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