

nating atom, and the, in some cases, relatively small spectral differences reflect chemically important variations in excited-state properties.

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Molybdenum(0) and Tungsten(0) Adducts of Some Bicyclic Aminophosphanes Having a P-N Bond in a Constrained Structure

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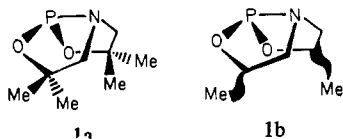
The coordination abilities of the bicyclic aminophosphanes **1a** and **1b**, which have P-N bonds in a strained structure that maintains both phosphorus and nitrogen atoms in a pyramidal configuration, have been evaluated with Mo(0) and W(0) carbonyls. A series of stable $M(\text{CO})_6L_n$ adducts has been synthesized with $M = \text{Mo}$ or W , $n = 1-3$, $L = \mathbf{1a}$ or $\mathbf{1b}$, from $M(\text{CO})_5(\text{pyridine})$, $M(\text{CO})_4(\text{norbornadiene})$, and $M(\text{CO})_3(\text{mesitylene})$. The ligands are coordinated through phosphorus only, as evidenced by the $\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ displacements, the $J_{^{31}\text{P}-^{95}\text{Mo}} = 210$ Hz or $J_{^{31}\text{P}-^{183}\text{W}} \approx 370$ Hz couplings, and the $\nu(\text{CO})$ vibration patterns. Low steric requirements (the *cis*- $M(\text{CO})_4(\text{bcap})_2$ and *fac*- $M(\text{CO})_3(\text{bcap})_3$ isomers are formed readily and exclusively) and good π -accepting capabilities (on the basis of the high $\nu(\text{CO})$ absorption frequencies) are the outstanding characteristics of these constrained ligands. No evidence for coordination through the nitrogen atom was found.

Introduction

The coordinating ability of aminophosphanes in which nitrogen is directly bound to phosphorus is generally characterized by an increased donor character of the phosphorus atom at the expense of that of nitrogen. This and the planar configuration of the nitrogen atom, as well as the relatively shorter P-N bond lengths generally found, are usually interpreted as resulting from a $\text{Np}_x\text{-Pd}_x$ contribution to this bonding.¹

Little work has been devoted to *constrained aminophosphanes*, i.e., aminophosphanes in which the nitrogen atom is prevented from being coplanar with its substituents. This being unfavorable to the overlap of the π orbitals, it should decrease the σ -donor ability of phosphorus, increase its π -accepting character, and make the nitrogen recover part of its own donor character. The very few, usually unstable, examples of N-bound BH_3 or BF_3 aminophosphane adducts known belong to this category.²

In the bicyclic aminophosphanes **1**,³ abbreviated *bcap*, whose



coordinating properties are evaluated here, the nitrogen atom is forced to a pyramidal configuration as a consequence of the

pyramidal configuration of the phosphorus atom transmitted by the constraining bicyclic system. This decrease the $p_x\text{-d}_x$ interaction and hinders the draining of electron density from nitrogen toward phosphorus. The nitrogen atom of ligands **1** have indeed been shown to display a definite donor character by forming unusually stable adducts with BH_3 and BF_3 .²

Where the ligand ability of phosphorus is concerned, this lowering of its σ -donor contribution due to the constrained structure could be partly compensated by the increased p character of the lone pair, by an increased π -acceptor character, and by a reduced cone angle at phosphorus, although the presence of one or two methyl groups on the carbon atoms α to the oxygen atoms may contribute to steric hindrance. The electron-withdrawing character of the oxygens is also expected to enhance the π -acceptor character of these ligands.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the coordinating properties of ligands **1** toward some low-valent transition-metal derivatives in order to situate their π -accepting character with respect to related ligands.⁴⁻⁷ The choice of the rather soft molybdenum(0) and tungsten(0) carbonyls was further dictated by the surprising fact that the sole known example of coordination of a metal by a tricoordinated nitrogen atom bound to phosphorus has been observed in a tungsten carbonyl derivative of a phosphonitrilic compound.⁸ In all the other cases reported so far, ligands having a P-N bond have been found to coordinate through phosphorus only.⁹

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and after the four recrystallizations, 200 mg (56%) of white needles (mp 118 °C), soluble in the usual solvents. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₆NO₃PW: C, 30.41; H, 3.12; N, 2.73; P, 6.04; W, 35.87. Found: C, 30.48; H, 3.07; N, 2.76; P, 6.51; W, 37.57. Mass spectrometry (M_r = 513.12; [ion], m/e for isotope ¹⁸⁴W (relative intensity)): MH⁺, 514 (5.0%); M⁺, 513 (35.1%); [M - 2CO]⁺, 457 (9.5%); [M - 3CO]⁺, 429 (37.0%); [M - 5CO]⁺, 373 (100%).

Bis[3,3,7,7-tetramethyl-2,8-dioxa-5-aza-1-phosphabicyclo(3.3.0)octane]tetracarbonylmolybdenum(0) (4a). The ligand (620 mg, 3.28 mmol) was added to a solution of Mo(CO)₄(nbd) (490 mg, 1.63 mmol) in 80 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The reaction was complete after 18 h of stirring at room temperature. Evaporation of the solvent gave 850 mg of a light beige powder. This was washed twice with 2 mL of pentane and recrystallized from hexane/CH₂Cl₂ (7:3) at -30 °C to yield 750 mg (79%) of large square, light yellow crystals, mp 181 °C dec, soluble in CH₂Cl₂ and CH₃CN, sparingly soluble in hydrocarbons. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₃₂MoN₂O₈P₂: C, 40.96; H, 5.46; Mo, 16.38; N, 4.79; P, 10.58. Found: C, 40.74; H, 5.22; Mo, 16.36; N, 4.78; P, 10.53. Mass spectrometry (M_r = 586.43; chemical ionization [ion], m/e (relative intensity)): MH₂⁺, 590 (62.9%); MH⁺, 589 (84.4%); M⁺, 588 (100%); [LH]⁺, 190 (68.1%).

Bis[3,7-dimethyl-2,8-dioxa-5-aza-1-phosphabicyclo(3.3.0)octane]tetracarbonylmolybdenum(0) (4b). A solution of 805 mg (5 mmol) of **1b** in 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added to a solution of 750 mg (2.5 mmol) of Mo(CO)₄(nbd) dissolved in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. After 17 h of stirring at room temperature, the solution was concentrated and 10 mL of hexane was added. The brown powder that precipitated was filtered, washed three times with 2 mL of hexane, dried, and recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂/hexane to yield 690 mg (50%) of a light brown compound (mp 110 °C dec) soluble in CH₂Cl₂ and CH₃CN and insoluble in aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons. Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₂₄MoN₂O₈P₂: C, 36.22; H, 4.56; Mo, 18.09; N, 5.28; P, 11.68. Found: C, 36.04; H, 4.64; Mo, 18.02; N, 5.26; P, 11.75. Mass spectrometry (M_r = 530.30; [ion], m/e for isotope ⁹⁸Mo (relative intensity)): M⁺, 532 (6%); [M - CO]⁺, 504 (5%); [M - 3CO]⁺, 448 (24%); [M - 4CO]⁺, 420 (18%); [L]⁺, 161 (11%); [C₄H₈NOP]⁺, 117 (100%).

Bis[3,7-dimethyl-2,8-dioxa-5-aza-1-phosphabicyclo(3.3.0)octane]tetracarbonyltungsten(0) (5b). A solution of 512 mg (3.18 mmol) of **1b** in 30 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added to 414 mg (1.06 mmol) of W(CO)₄(nbd). After 36 h of stirring at room temperature, the solution was concentrated, and 15 mL of pentane was added. The adduct that precipitated was filtered, washed three times with 5 mL of pentane, and dried under vacuum to yield 461 mg (70%) of transparent crystals (mp 126–128 °C dec) sparingly soluble in CH₂Cl₂. Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₂₄N₂O₈P₂W: C, 31.09; H, 3.91; N, 4.53; P, 10.02; W, 29.74. Found: C, 31.12; H, 3.86; N, 4.53; P, 10.07; W, 28.04%. Mass spectrometry (M_r = 618.21; [ion], m/e for isotope ¹⁸⁴W (relative intensity)): M⁺, 618 (22%); [M - 2CO]⁺, 562 (43%); [M - 3CO]⁺, 534 (16%); [M - 4CO]⁺, 506 (86%); [C₄H₈NOP]⁺, 117 (64%).

Tris[3,3,7,7-tetramethyl-2,8-dioxa-5-aza-1-phosphabicyclo(3.3.0)octane]tricarbonylmolybdenum(0) (6a). Mo(CO)₃(mes) (346 mg, 1.15 mmol) was added to a solution of the ligand (670 mg, 3.54 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (80 mL). The reaction was complete after 24 h of stirring at room temperature. The white-beige powder (784 mg) obtained after evaporation of the solvent was washed three times with 3 mL of pentane and recrystallized from hexane/CH₂Cl₂ (10:2) at -30 °C to yield 620 mg (72%) of white parallelepipedic crystals, mp 190 °C dec, soluble in CH₂Cl₂ and CH₃CN and sparingly soluble in hydrocarbon solvents. Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₄₈MoN₃O₉P₃: C, 43.37; H, 6.43; Mo, 12.85; N, 5.62; P, 12.45. Found: C, 43.11; H, 6.51; Mo, 12.73; N, 5.62; P, 12.47. Mass spectrometry (M_r = 747.64; chemical ionization [ion], m/e for isotope ⁹⁸Mo (relative intensity)): MH₃⁺, 754 (61%); MH⁺, 750 (96.3%); M⁺, 749 (100%); [M - CO]⁺, 721 (45.3%); [M - 2CO]⁺, 693 (33.8%); [M - 3CO]⁺, 665 (46.6%); [LH]⁺, 190 (100%).

Tris[3,7-dimethyl-2,8-dioxa-5-aza-1-phosphabicyclo(3.3.0)octane]tricarbonylmolybdenum(0) (6b). Mo(CO)₃(mes) (360 mg, 1.20 mmol) was added to a solution of 600 mg (3.74 mmol) of the ligand in 30 mL of CH₂Cl₂. After 1 h at room temperature, the solution changed from yellow to deep orange. The precipitate that formed by addition of 10 mL of pentane to the concentrated solution was filtered, washed three times with 2 mL of pentane, and dried to yield 360 mg (54%) of a brown solid (mp 160 °C) soluble in CH₂Cl₂ and CH₃CN. Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₃₆MoN₃O₉P₃: C, 38.02; H, 5.47; N, 6.33. Found: C, 36.98; H, 5.34; N, 5.86%. Mass spectrometry (M_r

= 663.46; [ion], m/e for isotope ⁹⁸Mo (relative intensity)): M⁺, 665 (1%); [M - 3CO - L]⁺, 420 (3%); [MoC₄H₈NOP]⁺, 215 (100%); [L]⁺, 161 (7%); [C₄H₈NOP], 117 (59%).

Results and Discussion

Our initial attempts to obtain molybdenum carbonyl adducts of bicycloaminophosphanes by direct substitution of M(CO)₆ (M = Mo, W) failed: after 48 h at 120 °C, only small amounts of CO had evolved from an equimolar mixture of Mo(CO)₆ and **1b**, and this approach is all the more unsuitable because of the tendency of the ligand to polymerize.³ The photochemical activation was as unsuccessful as the thermal activation procedure: after 48 h of irradiation (Hanovia lamp of 125 W) of a 1:1 mixture of W(CO)₆ and **1b**, the infrared spectra showed only little complexation while ³¹P NMR showed intensive degradation of the ligand.

By contrast, well-defined mono-, di-, and trisubstituted M(CO)_{6-n}(bcap)_n adducts could be obtained at room temperature when some of the carbonyl groups were first substituted by the more labile pyridine (py), norbornadiene (nbd), or mesitylene (mes) ligands.

Molybdenum(0) and Tungsten(0) Pentacarbonyl Bicycloaminophosphane Adducts 2 and 3. The monosubstituted metal carbonyl adducts M(CO)₅(bcap) **2** (M = Mo) and **3** (M = W) were prepared from M(CO)₅(py)¹⁰ by allowing it to react with equimolar quantities of **1a** or **1b**. The displacement of pyridine occurred at room temperature. Infrared monitoring showed that the reaction is about 3 times slower with W than with Mo and also about 3 times slower with the sterically more hindered **1a** as compared to **1b**. The crude reaction products were contaminated by ca. 10% of impurities, which needed repeated recrystallizations to be eliminated, thus lowering the final yields (54–64%). The coordination of the metal by the two diastereoisomers (α and β) of **1b**³ occurred equally well, and contrary to what had been observed in the presence of B₂H₆,² no epimerization of the ligand was found. The initial 4:1 ratio of the two isomeric free ligands was conserved upon coordination, as shown by ³¹P NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture, but only the adduct of the most abundant, 2,2'-endo,endo isomer^{3b} was isolated.

The isolated compounds are thermally stable and soluble in most common solvents but highly air sensitive. Their composition was checked by elemental analysis and their molecular complexity by mass spectrometry using chemical ionization to insure that adducts of the easily formed dimers of the ligands had not been obtained.³

The coordination of the ligands through phosphorus is evidenced by the NMR spectra, which exhibit the expected displacements (larger with Mo than with W)¹¹ of the ³¹P resonance toward lower fields, as well as by the characteristic phosphorus-metal ¹J coupling in the case of tungsten. The δ (³¹P) data are collected in Table I, together with some found in the literature for related M(CO)₅L adducts.

The relatively high value (366 Hz) of the ¹J_{P-¹⁸³W} coupling is closer to those found in W(CO)₅L with symmetrical phosphites such as P(OEt)₃ (391 Hz) of P(OCH₂)₃CC₅H₁₁ (393 Hz) than for amides: P(NMe₂)₃ (297 Hz) or P[N(C₂H₅)₂CH₂]₃CC₅H₁₁ (318 Hz).^{9d,13}

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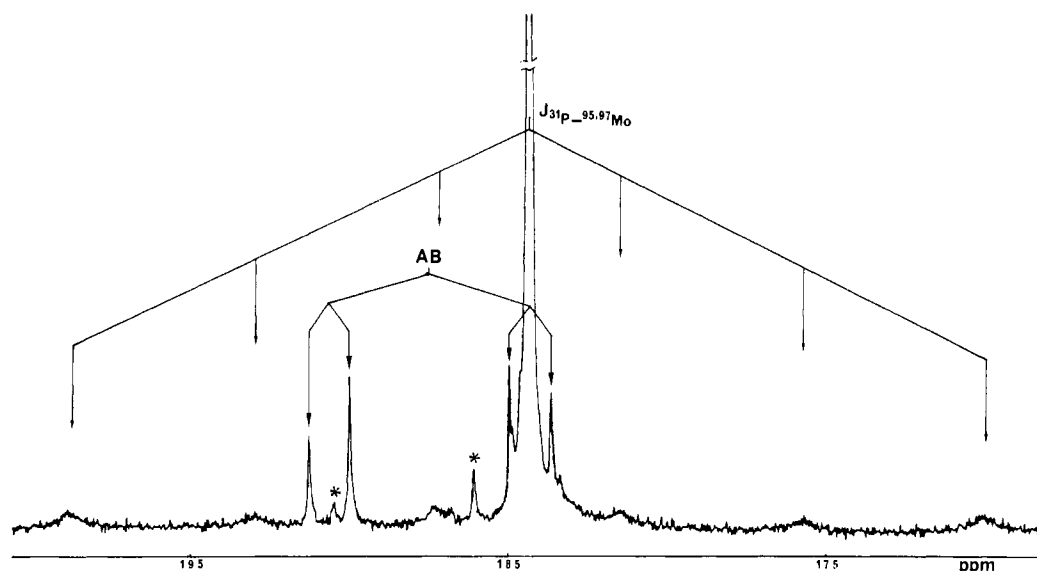


Figure 1. Proton-decoupled ^{31}P NMR spectra of $(\text{CO})_4\text{Mo}[\text{P}(\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}]_2$ (**4b**), 0.2 M in CH_2Cl_2 . The asterisks refer to signals that were not assigned.

The $\nu(\text{CO})$ vibration frequencies are collected in Table II, where they are compared to those of related $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}$ adducts having other phosphorus- or nitrogen-based ligands. All the *monoaminophosphane* adducts reported here exhibit four $\nu(\text{CO})$ vibrations, which are assigned to the $2A_1 + E$ modes expected for C_{4v} symmetry and to the B_1 mode, which becomes active when the ligand lowers the local symmetry at the metal. The relatively high frequencies observed further confirm that coordination occurs through the phosphorus atom rather than through the nitrogen atom^{4,15} and reflect its good π -accepting character. Furthermore, the $A_1^{(1)}$ vibration is found at higher frequency than the E mode vibration, while the contrary would have been expected if the ligands were N-coordinated.^{4,15}

It is noteworthy that the A_1 and E frequencies found for adducts of **2** are the highest in Table II, but for those of PCl_3 . They are higher than those found with $\text{P}(\text{OPh})_3$ or with the larger, less strained bicyclic ligands $\text{P}(\text{OCH}_2)_3\text{CR}$ and are rated among those which display the highest acceptor/donor ratio.⁶

Molybdenum and Tungsten Tetracarbonyl Bis(bicycloaminophosphane) Adducts 4 and 5. Molybdenum tetracarbonyl norbornadiene¹⁶ reacted at room temperature with 2 molar equiv of **1a** and **1b** to give the air-sensitive but thermally stable compounds **4** ($M = \text{Mo}$) and **5** ($M = \text{W}$). The increased lability of norbornadiene with respect to pyridine results in shorter reaction times. The 2:1 ligand:metal ratio was established by elemental analysis and mass spectrometry. When a twofold excess of $\text{M}(\text{CO})_4(\text{nb})$ was used, the same adducts were obtained, while the excess of starting material was recovered unreacted.

Compound **4a** presents a single signal in the ^{31}P NMR of the crude reaction mixture and therefore consists of a single isomer. The coordination by phosphorus is attested to by the displacement of the ^{31}P resonance toward lower fields with respect to the free ligand (Table I). The $\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ of *cis* adducts is close to that of the monosubstituted adduct in accordance

with the fact that the phosphorus atoms are in both cases *trans* to CO groups.^{12c}

This assignment is also supported by four $\nu(\text{CO})$ vibrations ($2A_1 + B_1 + B_2$) in the infrared spectra, while only the E_u mode should be active in the *trans* isomer (although the A_{1g} and B_{1g} modes can become active when the ligand lowers the symmetry at the metal). Table III compares the $\nu(\text{CO})$ frequencies of the bicycloaminophosphane adducts with those of related *cis*- or *trans*- $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4\text{L}_2$ adducts, where L_2 can also represent bidentate symmetric or mixed phosphorus-nitrogen ligands. Again, the $\nu(\text{CO})$ frequencies would have been expected to be lower if coordination had occurred through nitrogen.

Since the free ligand **1b** consists of a 4:1 mixture of two diastereoisomers, one expects the formation of three isomeric $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4(\text{bcap})_2$ adducts in 16:4:1 relative ratios, provided there is no interconversion between the two diastereoisomeric ligands upon coordination² and provided their distribution on the metal is stochastic. Accordingly, one finds an intense singlet (80% of total peak area) in the proton-decoupled ^{31}P spectra of adduct **4b** (Figure 1). This singlet is accompanied by an AB system (18% of total peak area, δ_{P_a} 184.5; δ_{P_b} = 190.7 ppm; $J_{P_a-P_b}$ = 41 Hz), as expected for the second most abundant isomeric adduct in which the metal would bear two distinct ligands in *cis* configuration. The difference in chemical shifts of δ 6.2 between the two phosphorus atoms is close to that which is found in the two distinct uncomplexed isomeric ligands (δ 7.2).³ No attempt was made to identify the singlet expected from the third adduct, in view of its low proportion.

The broad (ca. 20–30 Hz line width at midheight) satellite sextuplets due to the $^1J_{^{31}\text{P}-^{95,97}\text{Mo}}$ couplings (^{95}Mo (15.7%) and ^{97}Mo (9.5%), both having $I = 5/2$ and close magnetic moments) are well detected (Figure 1). Their values of 210 Hz are very close to that found by Verkade et al.^{12a} for $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_5\text{P}(\text{OEt})_3$ (214 Hz) in spite of the lower electronegativity of one of the phosphorus' substituents (cf. $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_5\text{P}(\text{NMe}_2)_3$, 173 Hz).

The $\text{W}(\text{CO})_4(\text{bcap})_2$ adduct of **1b** displays a very similar ^{31}P NMR spectrum, with a main singlet (ca. 90% of total peak area) at 160 ppm and an AB system centered at 165.6 ppm. The P-W coupling is evident in the satellites on the main peak ($^1J_{^{31}\text{P}-^{183}\text{W}}$ = 370 Hz).

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The *cis* configurations of the main isomers of **4b** and **5b**, isolated by recrystallization, are further attested to by the four $\nu(\text{CO})$ stretching vibrations. They appear in the infrared spectra at values close to those found for the other *cis* adducts (Table III).

The fact that only the *cis* isomer has formed even with ligand **1a** shows that its four methyl groups on the carbon α to the oxygen atoms do not contribute sufficiently to steric hindrance to destabilize the *cis* configuration in favor of a *trans* configuration.

While ligands having unconnected P and N donor sites have been found to behave as bidentate donors with respect to group 6 metal carbonyls,^{9a,b} no evidence for the formation of adducts in which ligands **1a** or **1b** act in a bidentate fashion, either in mononuclear or in bridged species, was obtained with $\text{M}(\text{CO})_4(\text{nb})$ (M = Mo, W), even though two sites were made readily available in the coordination sphere of the metal.

Molybdenum Tricarbonyl Tris(bicycloaminophosphane) Adducts. Trisubstituted adducts of $\text{M}(\text{CO})_3(\text{bcap})_3$, with M = Mo, were obtained when $\text{M}(\text{CO})_3(\text{mes})$ ¹⁸ was allowed to react with 3 molar equiv of the ligands. Both adducts are thermally stable. No evidence for the formation of compounds having other stoichiometries such as, for example, $\text{M}(\text{CO})_3(\text{bcap})_2$, where one of the ligands could exhibit a bidentate behavior, was found.

Only the *fac* isomer was observed to form in both CH_2Cl_2 and benzene as solvents,¹⁹ as evidenced by a single signal in the proton-decoupled ³¹P NMR spectra of the crude reaction mixture with ligand **1a**. The values of the chemical shifts are close to those found in the mono- and *cis* disubstituted adducts, as expected, since the phosphorus atoms are comparably located *trans* to CO groups (Table I). The P-Mo coupling satellites confirm that coordination occurs through phosphorus (¹J_{31P-95,97Mo} = 210 Hz). The $\nu(\text{CO})$ vibrations in CH_2Cl_2 further establish a *fac* configuration of the adduct since they consist of two absorptions, the A₁ and E modes, at 1666 (s)

and 1879 (vs) cm^{-1} , expected for C_{3v} symmetry, while the *mer* configuration should give three active modes (2 A₁ + B₁).^{17a}

Similar conclusions were reached for the isolated adduct of ligand **1b**, which consists of the most abundant of the five possible isomers expected from the various possible combinations of the two diastereoisomeric ligands on the metal.

Characteristic Features of the Bicyclic Aminophosphanes 1 as a Ligand. Consistent behavior of the ligand and consistent spectral characteristics of the adducts were found throughout the series of the eight $\text{M}(\text{CO})_{6-n}(\text{bcap})_n$ compounds we prepared. They may be summarized as follows. Both constrained aminophosphanes readily give stable zerovalent Mo and W complexes. Coordination always occurs through phosphorus. Only the *cis* isomers and *fac* isomers are formed when *n* = 2 or 3, respectively. The $\nu(\text{CO})$ frequencies rank among the highest found with phosphorus ligands in such adducts.

These data are all consistent with (1) a high π -accepting capability, better, on the basis of the $\nu(\text{CO})$ infrared data, than those of $\text{P}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$, $\text{P}(\text{OCH}_2)_3\text{CR}$, or $\text{P}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN})_3$, and (2) low steric hindrance, lower than those of these latter ligands, although the two contributions cannot be separated. Both arise from the constraints due to the bicyclic structure of the *bcap* ligands.

These features are further corroborated by the very short P-Fe bond length (2.105 Å) found in $(\eta^5\text{-Cp})\text{Fe}(\text{Ph})(\text{CO})\text{-}[\text{P}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}]$ compared to 2.23 Å for the related PPh_3 adducts.²⁰ This shortening (0.12 Å) is significantly greater than that found in $\text{M}(\text{CO})_5\text{L}$ (M = Cr, Mo) adducts, on progressing from PPh_3 to $\text{P}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN})_3$ (0.06 Å). The latter ligand has recently been described as a good π acceptor.⁷

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Registry No. **2a**, 79201-51-7; **2b** (α), 79201-52-8; **2b** (β), 79254-37-8; **3a**, 79201-53-9; **4a**, 79201-54-0; **4b** (α,α), 79215-51-3; **4b** (α,β), 79201-55-1; **5b** (α,α), 79201-56-2; **6a**, 79215-50-2; **6b** (α,α,α), 79215-52-4; $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_3(\text{py})$, 14324-76-6; $\text{W}(\text{CO})_3(\text{py})$, 14586-49-3; $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4(\text{nb})$, 12146-37-1; $\text{W}(\text{CO})_4(\text{nb})$, 12129-25-8; $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_3(\text{mes})$, 12089-15-5.

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Reaction of (Chlorophosphine)iron Tetracarbonyl Complexes with Aluminum Chloride. Iron Tetracarbonyl Complexes of Two-Coordinate Phosphorus Cations

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The (chlorophosphine)iron tetracarbonyl complexes $\text{Me}_2\text{NP}(\text{Cl})_2\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$, $(\text{Et}_2\text{N})_2\text{P}(\text{Cl})\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$, $(i\text{-Pr}_2\text{N})_2\text{P}(\text{Cl})\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$, $[(\text{Me}_2\text{Si})_2\text{N}]_2\text{P}(\text{Cl})\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$, and $(t\text{-Bu})(\text{Me}_2\text{N})\text{P}(\text{Cl})\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$ have been prepared by reaction of the corresponding phosphorus(III) chlorides with $\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_9$ in hexane solution. These $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$ complexes have been characterized by elemental analysis and ³¹P NMR, ¹³C NMR, and IR spectroscopy. The coordinated phosphonium ions $[(\text{Me}_2\text{N})\text{P}(\text{Cl})\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4]^+$, $[(\text{Et}_2\text{N})_2\text{PFe}(\text{CO})_4]^+$, $[(i\text{-Pr}_2\text{N})_2\text{PFe}(\text{CO})_4]^+$, $[(\text{Me}_2\text{Si})_2\text{N})_2\text{PFe}(\text{CO})_4]^+$, and $[(t\text{-Bu})(\text{Me}_2\text{N})\text{PFe}(\text{CO})_4]^+$ have been prepared as their AlCl_4^- salts by treatment of the respective precursor (chlorophosphine)iron tetracarbonyl complexes with the stoichiometric quantity of Al_2Cl_6 in CH_2Cl_2 solution. These phosphonium ion complexes have been identified by elemental analysis and ³¹P NMR, ¹³C NMR, and IR spectroscopy. The π -acceptor nature of phosphonium ion ligands is discussed on the basis of various spectroscopic data.

Introduction

Recent years have witnessed an increasing concern with the chemistry of coordinatively unsaturated cations which feature main-group elements other than carbon as the central atom. At present, the best known of these species are the two-co-

ordinate phosphorus cations of general formula R_2P^+ (phosphonium ions).² Since the six-valence-electron phosphonium

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