

indicate that the NH₂ bridge remains intact.

Although the mechanism of the oxidative-addition reaction has not been investigated in detail, our qualitative observations suggest that oxidative addition occurs via a coordinatively and electronically unsaturated species, presumably the 14e species Ir-(PEt₃)₂Cl.²⁰ Ethylene loss from **1** occurs readily, at a much faster rate than the reaction with ammonia. The amido complex **2** could also be obtained from reaction of NH₃ with Ir(PEt₃)₃Cl or Ir-(PEt₃)₂(C₂H₄)Cl²¹ at approximately the same rate, suggesting that ligand dissociation is not rate determining and that the same species, Ir(PEt₃)₂Cl, is involved in the rate-determining oxidative addition. This is in accord with the mechanism of H₂ oxidative addition to Rh(I), which has been shown to proceed via the 14e species Rh(L)₂Cl.²² Furthermore, studies of C-H reductive elimination from octahedral Rh(III) complexes have shown that reductive elimination occurs through a five-coordinate, 16e, Rh-(III) species, and therefore, by microscopic reversibility, C-H oxidative addition takes place via the 14e Rh(I) complex.²³

- (19) **7a**: ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆) δ -5.71 (t, *J*_{H-P} = 17.0 Hz, 2 H, Ir-H), N-H obscured by P-CH₂ (~1.8 ppm); ³¹P{¹H} NMR (acetone-*d*₆) δ -5.89 (s); IR (Nujol) 3394, 3325 (m, ν_{N-H}), 2126 (s, ν_{Ir-H}), 2026 cm⁻¹ (s, ν_{CO}). **7b**: ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆) δ -7.94 (t, *J*_{H-P} = 18.5 Hz, 2 H, Ir-H), -0.05 (s (br), 2 H, N-H), 1.01 (s (br), 2 H, N-H); ³¹P{¹H} NMR (acetone-*d*₆) δ -8.52 (s); IR (Nujol) 3410, 3327 (m, N-H), 2175 cm⁻¹ (s).
- (20) Reaction steps involving the addition of NH₃ to ethylene can be excluded since ethylamines were not detected as reaction products.
- (21) Tulip, T., unpublished results. The monoethylene adduct can be generated directly from **1** by heating **1** in hexane under N₂.
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Further studies aimed at defining the mechanism and scope of this unique N-H cleavage reaction are now in progress.

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Supplementary Material Available: Detailed report for structure determinations including tables of fractional coordinates and isotropic thermal parameters, anisotropic thermal parameters, interatomic distances, intramolecular angles, and intermolecular distances and figures depicting the structures for compounds **3a** and **4** (12 pages); tables of calculated and observed structure factors (29 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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- (24) The periodic group notation in parentheses is in accord with recent actions by IUPAC and ACS nomenclature committees. A and B notation is eliminated because of wide confusion. Groups IA and IIA become groups 1 and 2. The d-transition elements comprise groups 3 through 12, and the p-block elements comprise groups 13 through 18. (Note that the former Roman number designation is preserved in the last digit of the new numbering: e.g., III → 3 and 13.)
- (25) Contribution No. 4107.

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Articles

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Synthesis of Aminoxy-carbene Complexes of Iron with *N*-Alkyl, -Allyl, and -Carbamoyl Groups

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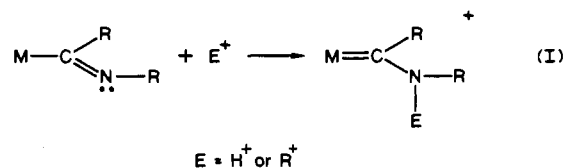
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The aminoxy-carbene complex Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NH)⁺ (I) is deprotonated by NaH to give Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂N) (II), whose nitrogen reacts with electrophiles. With Me₃O⁺, II yields the *N*-methyl carbene Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NMe)⁺ (III). Reaction of II with allyl bromide yields the *N*-allyl carbene Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NCH₂CH=CH₂)⁺ (IV), which under UV photolysis loses CO, allowing the allyl group to coordinate in Cp(CO)Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NCH₂CH=CH₂)⁺ (V). The nitrogen of II adds to the carbon of methyl isocyanate; this is followed by isocyanate nitrogen attack on a coordinated CO ligand to give a carbamoyl-carbene complex, Cp(CO)Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NC(=O)N(Me)C=O) (VI). Protonation of VI cleaves the carbamoyl ligand to give the *N*-carbamoyl carbene Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NC(=O)NHMe)⁺ (VII). These interesting new complexes are characterized by their ¹H and ¹³C NMR and IR spectra.

Introduction

The general reaction¹ of electrophiles (E⁺) with imidoyl ligands to form aminocarbene complexes (eq I) may be illustrated by the protonation of Cp(CO)₂Fe(=C(H)(=NR)), where Cp = η-C₅H₅,² (CO)₂(PPh₃)₂(Cl)Os(=C(H)(=NMe)),³ and Cl-(PEt₃)₂Pt(=C(H)(=NR))⁴ to give the corresponding amino-

carbene complexes. By treatment with base, these aminocarbenes



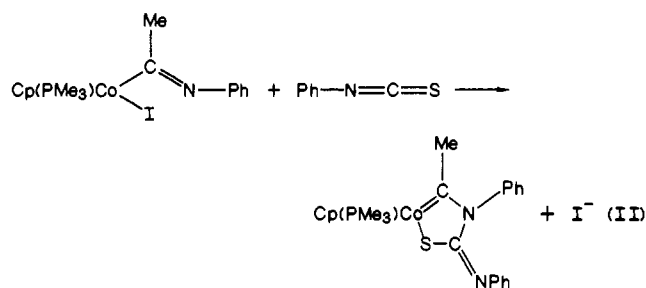
are deprotonated to regenerate the imidoyl complexes. The above platinum imidoyl complex⁴ is alkylated by Me₂SO₄ to give the aminocarbene, where E = Me (eq I). Werner and co-workers⁵⁻⁷

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Table I. Infrared Spectra of the Complexes in CH₂Cl₂ Solvent

complex	$\nu(\text{CO}), \text{cm}^{-1}$	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O}), \text{cm}^{-1}$
$[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2\text{Fe}(\overline{\text{COCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}})]\text{PF}_6$ (I(PF ₆))	2060 (vs), 2015 (vs)	
$\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2\text{Fe}(\overline{\text{COCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}})$ (II)	2035 (vs), 1980 (vs)	
$[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2\text{Fe}(\overline{\text{COCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NCH}_3})]\text{PF}_6$ (III(PF ₆))	2054 (vs), 2009 (vs)	
$[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2\text{Fe}(\overline{\text{COCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2})]\text{PF}_6$ (IV(PF ₆))	2055 (vs), 2008 (vs)	
$[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})\text{Fe}(\overline{\text{COCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2})]\text{PF}_6$ (V(PF ₆))	2010 (vs)	
$\text{Cp}(\text{CO})\text{Fe}(\overline{\text{COCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{Me})\text{C}=\text{O}})$ (VI)	1960 (vs)	1602 (s), 1675 (s)
$[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2\text{Fe}(\overline{\text{COCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NC}(\text{O})\text{NHCH}_3})]\text{PF}_6$ (VII(PF ₆))	2064 (vs), 2020 (vs)	1732 (s)

have reported reactions in which the imido group in Cp-(PMe₃)Co(-C(Me)(=NPh)) adds to the electrophilic carbon center in a variety of unsaturated organic molecules (e.g., acetone, MeCN, CS₂, Ph₂C=S, and PhNCS). The reaction (eq II) with phenyl isothiocyanate is typical of this reactivity.⁵



Recently, we reported⁸⁻¹⁰ a simple method for preparing aminoxy-carbene complexes from relatively electron-poor metal carbonyl complexes and aziridine (eq III). The aminocarbene



ligand of Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NH)⁺ (I) was deprotonated with NaH to give the imido complex Cp(CO)₂Fe(-COCH₂CH₂N) (II), whose nitrogen was sufficiently basic to form a complex, [Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂N)Pd(μ-Cl)Cl]₂, upon reaction with PdCl₂(NCMe)₂.¹¹ In the present paper, we describe further studies of the nucleophilicity of the nitrogen in II in its reactions with organic electrophiles.

Experimental Section

All reactions were performed under an N₂ atmosphere with use of Schlenk techniques. Unless noted otherwise, reagent-grade chemicals were used as received. The solvent Et₂O was distilled from Na/benzophenone under N₂; CH₂Cl₂ was dried over CaH₂ and distilled under N₂. The solvents were stored over type 4A molecular sieves. MgSO₄ was dried in an oven before use. Complex I(PF₆), [Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NH)]PF₆, was prepared as reported previously.¹¹ The photolysis reactions were carried out in a Bradford Scientific unit equipped with a General Electric F4T4-BL ultraviolet light source emitting primarily 366 nm wavelength light. The quartz reaction vessel was water-cooled.

Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 281 or 681 spectrometer. Most ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained on a Nicolet NT-300 spectrometer. Spin-decoupled and 2-D NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker WM-300 instrument. The mass spectrum of complex VI was obtained on a Finnigan 4000 GC/MS, while FAB mass

Table II. ¹H NMR Data for the Complexes^a

complex	OCH ₂	NCH ₂	Cp	other
I	4.60 (t) ^d	3.70 (t) ^d	5.30 (s)	9.50 (s) [NH]
II	3.75 (t)	3.60 (t)	5.00 (s)	
III	4.60 (t) ^d	3.77 (t) ^d	5.26 (s)	3.27 (s) [NCH ₃]
IV	4.66 (t) ^d	3.76 (t) ^d	5.30 (s)	<i>b</i>
V	4.79 (m)	3.65 (m)	5.06	<i>b</i>
	4.64 (m)	3.43 (m)		
VI	4.66 (s, br)	4.02 (s, br)	4.84 (s)	3.00 (s) [NCH ₃]
VII	4.78 (t) ^d	4.00 (t) ^d	5.24 (s)	6.61 (s) [NH], 2.81 (d) ^c [NCH ₃]

^aIn CD₃CN; chemical shifts (δ) in ppm downfield from Me₄Si. Legend: t = triplet, d = doublet, s = singlet, br = broad, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet. ^bSee Table IV for allyl resonances. ^cJ_{HH} = 4.6 Hz. ^dJ_{HH} = 9–10 Hz.

spectra were run on samples in an ONPOE (*o*-nitrophenyl octyl ether) matrix with a Kratos MS-50 spectrometer. IR and NMR spectra of the complexes are collected in Tables I–IV.

Syntheses of the Complexes. [Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NMe)]PF₆ (III(PF₆)). The imido complex Cp(CO)₂Fe(-COCH₂CH₂N) (II) was generated¹¹ by adding 50% NaH (0.050 g, 1.0 mmol) in mineral oil to 0.050 g (0.13 mmol) of [Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NH)]PF₆ (I-PF₆) in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and stirring for 2 h. After the mixture was filtered under N₂ through MgSO₄, (Me₂O)PF₆ (0.026 g, 0.13 mmol) was added. After this mixture was stirred for 15 min, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was washed with small amounts of Et₂O until the washings were colorless. The residue was then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ under N₂. After filtration through MgSO₄, the light yellow filtrate was evaporated under vacuum until a precipitate began to form. Further precipitation was induced by the addition of Et₂O. The mixture was allowed to stand at -20 °C overnight, and the solvent was decanted, leaving a light yellow powder of the product, III, which was washed with Et₂O and hexanes and then vacuum-dried; yield 0.029 g (57%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₂F₆FeNO₃P: C, 32.46; H, 2.97. Found: C, 32.25; H, 2.64. FAB MS: *m/e* 262 (M⁺), 234 (M⁺ - CO), 206 (M⁺ - 2CO), where M⁺ is the cation in III.

[Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NCH₂CH=CH₂)]PF₆ (IV(PF₆)). Excess 50% NaH (0.18 g, 3.8 mmol) in mineral oil was added to 0.18 g (0.46 mmol) of I in 40 mL of CH₂Cl₂ to generate II. After it was stirred for 2 h, the mixture was filtered through MgSO₄, and CH₂=CHCH₂Br (0.56 g, 4.6 mmol) was added to the filtrate. The solution was refluxed for 4 h. Then, an excess of KPF₆ (1.5 g) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and purified by recrystallization as described in the preparation of III. The product, IV, was a light yellow powder, yield 0.065 g (33%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₄F₆FeNO₃P: C, 36.06; H, 3.26; N, 3.23. Found: C, 36.25; H, 3.49; N, 3.27. FAB MS: *m/e* 288 (M⁺), 260 (M⁺ - CO), 232 (M⁺ - 2CO).

[Cp(CO)Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NCH₂CH=CH₂)]PF₆ (V(PF₆)). Photolysis of a light yellow solution of IV (0.090 g, 0.2 mmol) in 35 mL of CH₂Cl₂ for 2 h changed the color to dark yellow. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ and purified as described in the isolation of III. The product, V, was a dark yellow powder, yield 0.069 g (82%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₄F₆FeNO₃P: C, 35.58; H, 3.48; N, 3.46. Found: C, 35.47; H, 3.53; N, 3.21. FAB MS: *m/e* 260 (M⁺), 232 (M⁺ - CO).

Cp(CO)Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NC(=O)N(Me)C=O) (VI). The oil was removed from 50% NaH (0.25 g, 63 mmol) in mineral oil by washing

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Table III. ^{13}C NMR Data for the Complexes^a

complex	carbene	CO	Cp	OCH ₂	NCH ₂	other
I ^{b,c}	221.5	212.1	88.7	74.2	47.0	
II ^{b,d}	183.7 ^e	214.3	85.6	64.9	56.2	
	<i>f</i>	<i>f</i>	88.0 ^c	66.5 ^c	57.3 ^c	
III ^c	218.8	211.4	87.7	72.8	53.0	37.2 [NCH ₃]
IV ^c	220.3	221.2	87.9	73.2	53.2	<i>h</i>
V ^c	225.5	218.5	87.2	75.9 ⁱ	49.4 ⁱ	<i>h</i>
VI ^e	184.5	214.4	88.3	71.6	46.4	29.0 [NCH ₃], 153.0 [NC(=O)N], 247.7 [Fe(C=O)N]
VII ^c	<i>f</i>	210.9	88.3	74.9	50.4	27.9 [NCH ₃], 147.5 ^e [NC(=O)N]

^aChemical shifts in ppm, referenced from CD₃CN (δ 1.29). ^bReference 11. ^cIn CD₃CN solvent. ^dIn C₆D₆ solvent. ^eIn CD₂Cl₂ solvent. ^fNot observed. ^gAssignment uncertain due to low signal to noise ratio. ^hSee Table IV for allyl resonances. ⁱ*t*, $J_{\text{CH}} = 157.5$ Hz. ^j*t*, $J_{\text{CH}} = 144.5$ Hz.

Table IV. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Data for the Allyl Groups in IV and V^a

complex	C _a	C _b	C _c
	^1H NMR		
IV	4.32 (d) ^e	5.90 (m)	5.41 (m) 5.39 (m)
V	3.65 (d)	5.48 (m)	3.04 (dd) ^g 3.97 (dd) ^h
	^{13}C NMR		
IV	50.4	131.3	121.1
V	48.1 ^b	72.5 ^c	52.7 ^d

^aSolvents and abbreviations are the same as in Tables II and III for these compounds; carbon atoms a, b, and c are identified in Scheme I. ^b*t*, $J_{\text{CH}} = 148$ Hz. ^c*d*, $J_{\text{CH}} = 161.6$ Hz. ^d*t*, $J_{\text{CH}} = 164.6$ Hz. ^e $J_{\text{HH}} = 5.9$ Hz. ^f $J_{\text{HH}} = 13.0$ Hz. ^g $J_{\text{HH}} = 12.0$ and 5.8 Hz. ^h $J_{\text{HH}} = 12.1$ and 6.8 Hz.

four times with 10-mL portions of hexanes; the NaH was then dried under vacuum for 2 h. After it was dried under vacuum for 2 h, 0.25 g (0.64 mmol) of I was dissolved in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂ under N₂. This solution was added to the dry NaH to form II; the mixture was stirred for 2 h and then filtered through MgSO₄. To this solution was added 54 μL (0.92 mmol) of MeNCO; this solution was stirred for 1.5 h. In order to protonate any unreacted II and thereby facilitate its removal, 0.5 g (3 mmol) of NH₄PF₆ was added to the solution, which was stirred for 3 min and then quickly filtered through MgSO₄. The filtrate, which contained a mixture of complexes I, VI, and VII, was evaporated under vacuum to leave a residue, which was dissolved in Et₂O (I and VII are mostly insoluble). The Et₂O solution was filtered through MgSO₄ and evaporated under vacuum. The yellow residue was dissolved in acetone and chromatographed on a 2.5 \times 10 cm Kieselgel column with acetone as the eluent. The yellow fraction was evaporated to leave bright yellow VI, yield 0.045 g (23%). The product decomposes slowly in solution so that an analytically pure product could not be obtained by recrystallization. It was characterized by its IR and NMR spectra (Tables I–III) and by MS: m/e 304 (M⁺), 247 (M⁺ – NCOMe).

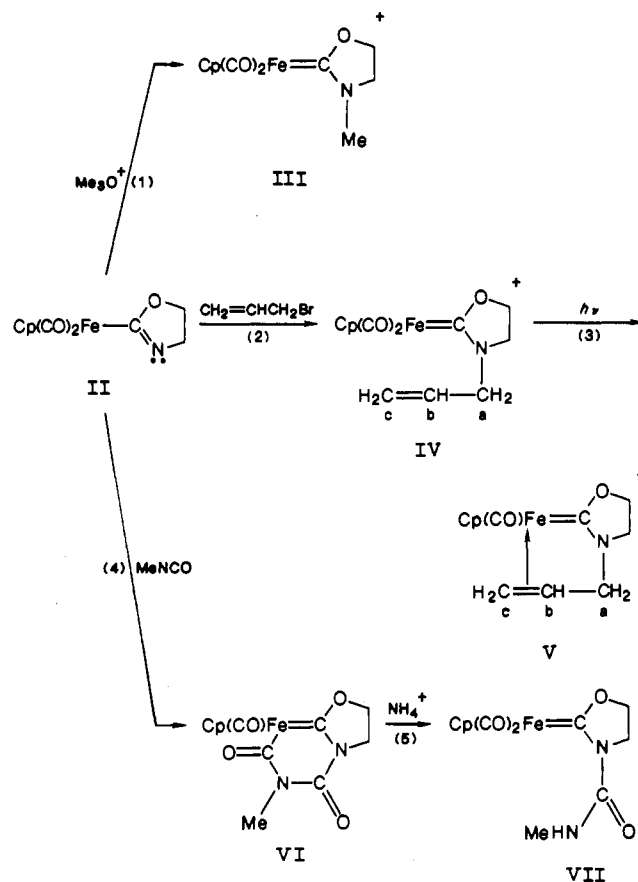
[Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂NC(=O)NHMe)]PF₆ (VII(PF₆)). Excess NH₄PF₆ (~0.5 g, 3 mmol) was added to a solution of 0.0070 g (0.023 mmol) of VI in 8 mL of CH₂Cl₂. After the mixture was stirred 4 h, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the orange residue was extracted into CH₂Cl₂ and purified as described for the isolation of III. The yield of the orange VII was 0.0078 g (75%). Calcd for C₁₂H₁₃O₄FeF₆PN₂: C, 32.03; H, 2.91; N, 6.22. Found: C, 31.73; H, 2.85; N, 6.14. FAB MS: m/e 305 (M⁺), 277 (M⁺ – CO), 248 (M⁺ – 2CO).

Results and Discussion

The reactions of the imido complex Cp(CO)₂Fe(=COCH₂CH₂N) (II) reported in this paper are summarized in Scheme I; equations discussed below are those numbered in Scheme I. All of the products are air-stable in the solid state for a period of at least several months.

The nitrogen of II is methylated (eq 1) by [Me₃O]PF₆ within 15 min at room temperature to give the *N*-methyl carbene III in 57% isolated yield. As expected, the $\nu(\text{CO})$ values (Table I) for III are higher than those of II; however, they are not quite as high as those for I, indicating that Me is more electron-donating than H. In the ^1H NMR spectrum (Table II) of III, the two sets of CH₂ protons in the carbene ring each occur as triplets, as expected for an A₂B₂ system; this pattern is characteristic of I, II, and aminooxycarbene complexes of other metals.^{8–11}

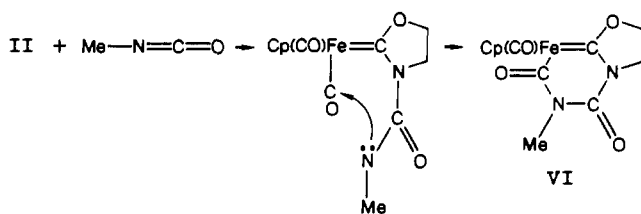
Scheme I



Allyl bromide reacts (eq 2) with II in refluxing CH₂Cl₂ to give the *N*-allyl carbene complex IV in 33% isolated yield. The same complex was prepared similarly from allyl iodide. The $\nu(\text{CO})$ frequencies of IV are very similar to those of the *N*-methyl complex III. Ultraviolet photolysis (eq 3) of IV results in the loss of a CO ligand and coordination of the olefinic bond of the allyl group to the Fe to give V in 82% yield. As expected, V shows only one $\nu(\text{CO})$ band in its IR spectrum.

Notable changes occur in the ^1H NMR spectrum in the conversion of IV to V. In IV, the OCH₂CH₂N sets of protons each occur as triplets as found in other simple aminooxycarbene complexes (e.g., I and III). However, in V, the asymmetry at the Fe causes all four of the OCH₂CH₂N protons to become inequivalent, and the OCH₂ and NCH₂ resonances become complex multiplets. The allyl ^1H and ^{13}C signals of IV and V are summarized in Table IV. The ^{13}C chemical shift assignments were made on the basis of spectra of related derivatives in this study; for V, a proton-coupled ^{13}C spectrum gave J_{CH} values (Tables III and IV), which were helpful in making the proposed assignments. The ^1H NMR assignments for IV were based on integrations and the close similarity of the allyl portion of the spectrum to that of allylamine. For V, the assignments were made on the basis of integration, chemical shift values, coupling patterns, and, most importantly, a proton-correlated 2D NMR experiment. The two CH_a protons

Scheme II



(Table IV) occur as a simple doublet due to coupling with H_b in IV but become inequivalent in V. The chemical shifts of the olefinic protons in IV move upfield upon coordination to the Fe in V; the upfield shift is very similar to that observed for propene when it becomes coordinated in $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{propene})^+$.¹² The olefinic ^{13}C resonances (C_b and C_c) of IV have chemical shifts typical of those of free alkenes,¹³ but in V, these resonances move upfield into the range observed for $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{olefin})^+$ complexes.¹² It should be noted that it is possible in V for the olefin to be oriented relative to the other ligands in two ways; NMR spectra of the complex show, however, the presence of only one isomer.

Reaction of II with methyl isocyanate, $\text{Me}-\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{O}$ (eq 4), gives VI, which was not sufficiently stable in solution to allow purification. However, its spectra are consistent with the formulation shown in Scheme I. The mass spectrum of VI shows a parent ion corresponding to the correct composition. The IR spectrum shows three $\nu(\text{CO})$ absorptions; the highest (1960 cm^{-1}) may be assigned to the CO ligand. $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ of the carbamoyl group is assigned to the band at 1602 cm^{-1} , because this frequency is similar to those observed in the related carbamoyl complexes $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2\text{Fe}(-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NHR})$: $\text{R} = \text{H}$, 1593 cm^{-1} ; $\text{R} = \text{CH}_3$, 1625 cm^{-1} .¹⁴ The $\nu(\text{CO})$ band at 1675 cm^{-1} is assigned to the urea-like carbonyl. Organic ureas have $\nu(\text{CO})$ absorptions in the region around 1660 cm^{-1} , e.g., 1695 cm^{-1} for tetramethylurea.¹⁵

The ^1H NMR spectrum (Table II) is consistent with structure VI; in particular, the four $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ protons in the carbene ring are inequivalent because of the asymmetry at Fe, as they were in V, giving rise to broad, highly split signals. In the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of VI, the chemical shifts are reasonably assigned as given in Table III. Only the carbamoyl carbon $\text{FeC}(=\text{O})\text{N}$ assignment at $\delta 247.7$ is somewhat surprising because it is so different from the $\delta 195.2$ signal observed for the carbamoyl carbon in $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2\text{Fe}(-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NHMe})$;¹⁶ however, the carbamoyl group in VI is quite unusual and its chemical shift may not fall in the normal carbamoyl range. Presumably, the formation of VI in eq

4 occurs by initial addition (Scheme II) of the imidoyl nitrogen to the isocyanate carbon followed by nucleophilic attack of the isocyanate nitrogen on the carbon of a CO ligand.

Typically, acids react^{17,18} with carbamoyl ligands by protonating the nitrogen with loss of the amine, which leaves a coordinated CO ligand. Similarly, VI reacts with NH_4^+ , a very weak acid, to protonate the nitrogen and generate a CO ligand to give VII in 75% isolated yield (eq 5).¹⁹ The presence of two CO ligands in VII is established by the presence of two $\nu(\text{CO})$ bands at 2064 and 2020 cm^{-1} in the terminal CO region; the urea-like $\nu(\text{CO})$ absorption at 1732 cm^{-1} has a relatively high value,¹⁵ presumably due to delocalization of electron density from the ring nitrogen into the carbene carbon, which reduces donation to the urea carbonyl group. Both the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra are consistent with structure VII shown in Scheme I. The NCH_3 protons occur as a doublet due to coupling with the NH proton as demonstrated by adding 2 drops of D_2O to an acetonitrile solution of VII, which causes the NCH_3 doublet to collapse to a singlet and the NH signal to disappear. If NaH in mineral oil is added to a CH_2Cl_2 solution of VII, the nitrogen is deprotonated and VI is regenerated.

A variety of other electrophiles were reacted with II. In all of these reactions, it is important that the solutions be rigorously dry; otherwise II is protonated to give the carbene I. This occurred when the following commercial chemicals were used: $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{Cl}$, $\text{CH}_3(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{Br}$, $\text{Et}_2\text{O}\cdot\text{BF}_3$, BF_3 gas, CO_2 , CS_2 , and $(\text{CF}_3\text{CO})_2\text{O}$. When $\text{CH}_3(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{Cl}$ was purified by refluxing and distilling over PCl_5 and then over N,N -dimethylaniline,²⁰ it reacted with an equimolar amount of II to give a small amount of I, but most of II remained unreacted. Phenyl isocyanate, purified by vacuum distillation over P_2O_5 ,²⁰ reacted with II to give a small amount of I, but the IR spectrum of the reaction mixture also suggested the formation of the phenyl analogue of VI, as well as other products. Dry diphenylketene ($\text{Ph}_2\text{C}=\text{C}=\text{O}$) reacted with II to give a mixture of products, which were not identified. There was no reaction of II with ethylene oxide, styrene oxide, ethylene sulfide, or $i\text{-PrN}=\text{C}=\text{N}-i\text{-Pr}$ in refluxing CH_2Cl_2 . Nor was there a reaction with MeNCS or PhNCS at room temperature. Thus, II is only moderately nucleophilic, certainly not as nucleophilic as amines or alkoxides.

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