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Organonitrogen Derivatives of Metal Carbonyls. 10. Cyclopentadienylmetal Dicarbonyl Ketoximato Derivatives of Molybdenum and Tungsten^{1,2}

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Compounds of the type $RR'CNOM(CO)_2C_5H_5$ (M = Mo and W; $R' = CH_3$, $R = CH_3$, $CH=CH_2$, $CH=C(CH_3)$), and $(CH₂)₂CH=CH₂; R + R' = (CH₂)₅$ can be prepared by the following three methods: (1) reaction of RR'C=NOSn(CH₃)₃ with C₅H₅M(CO)₃Cl; (2) reaction of RR'C=NOLi with C₅H₅M(CO)₃Cl; (3) reaction of RR'C=NOH with C₅H₅M(CO)₃Cl in the presence of pyridine. Ultraviolet irradiation is necessary for the syntheses of the tungsten compounds but not for their molybdenum analogues. The proton and carbon-13 NMR spectra of the ten $RR/CNOM(CO)_2C_3H_5$ derivatives are described and discussed.

Introduction

In 1974 the reaction of $\text{NaMo(CO)}_3\text{C}_3\text{H}_5$ with 2-bromo-2-nitrosopropane was reported⁴ to give a volatile purple solid of stoichiometry $(CH_3)_2CNOMo(CO)_2C_5H_5$, apparently containing a novel neutral three-electron donor R_2CNO ligand. The structure of this complex was unclear from the chemical and spectroscopic studies. However, subsequent x-ray crystallography studies by Doedens and Khare^{5,6} indicated that this complex had structure I ($M = Mo; R = R' = CH_3$) in which the nitrogen and oxygen atoms but not the carbon atom of the R_2CNO ligand was bonded to the molybdenum atom.

The preparation of $(CH_3)_2CNOMo(CO)_2C_5H_5$ from $NaMo(\rm CO)_{3}C_{5}H_{5}$ and 2-bromo-2-nitrosopropane has several disadvantages. It proceeds in relatively low yield $(\sim 11\%)$. In addition the required 2-bromo-2-nitrosopropane is an unstable, explosive reagent that is somewhat inconvenient to handle. Finally, attempts to use this method for the preparation of the analogous tungsten compounds were unsuccessful.

A close examination of structure I ($M = Mo$; $R = R' =$ $CH₃$) suggests that the R₂CNO ligand may be regarded as derived from the corresponding ketoxime $R_2C=NOH$ by deprotonation. This suggested the possibility of developing more efficient and convenient methods for the preparation of complexes of the structure I from ketoximes. This paper describes several new methods for preparing these complexes.

Experimental Section

Microanalyses (Table I) were performed by the Atlantic Microanalytical Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga. Molecular weight determinations (Table I) were determined in benzene solution using a Mechrolab Model 301 vapor pressure osmometer located in the laboratory of Professor G. E. Boyd at the University of Georgia. Melting points (Table I) were taken in capillaries and are uncorrected.

Infrared spectra (Table I) were taken in potassium bromide pellets and recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Model 257 spectrometer with grating optics. Proton NMR spectra (Table 11) were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Hitachi R-20 spectrometer or Varian T-60 spectrometer at 60 MHz. Carbon-13 NMR spectra (Table 11) were recorded on a Jeolco PFT-100 spectrometer operating at 25.035 MHz with proton noise decoupling and a deuterium lock using a 6 to 10 **s** repetition rate. Both the proton and carbon-13 NMR spectra were **run** in CDC13 solutions using tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. **In** the carbon-13 NMR spectra chromium(III) acetylacetonate was added in \sim 0.15% concentration as a shiftless relaxation reagent to facilitate observation of the metal carbonyl resonances.

Dichloromethane and diethyl ether were freshly distilled over phosphorus pentoxide and calcium hydride, respectively. Pyridine was dried over solid potassium hydroxide and then freshly distilled over barium oxide. Solvents were saturated with nitrogen before use in organometallic experiments.

Reagents. Acetone and cyclohexanone oximes were commercial samples. The unsaturated ketones were converted to their oximes by treatment with hydroxylammonium chloride in aqueous ethanol or tetrahydrofuran using solid calcium carbonate to neutralize the liberated acid. They were isolated by ether extraction, purified by vacuum distillation, and identified by their proton NMR spectra.

The cyclopentadienylmetal tricarbonyl chlorides, $C_5H_5M(\dot{CO})_3Cl$ (M = Mo and **W),** were prepared on a 0.1 mol scale by an adaptation of the standard published method.⁸ The metal hexacarbonyls were allowed to react with sodium cyclopentadienide in boiling tetrahydrofuran for several hours to give solutions of $\text{NaM(CO)}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_5$. These solutions were treated with glacial acetic acid at $0 °C$ followed by excess carbon tetrachloride. After stirring the resulting mixture for 2 h at room temperature, solvent was removed at \sim 25 °C (40) mm). The residue was extracted with acetone. Evaporation of the acetone extracts followed by chromatography on a large Florisil column in dichloromethane solution and crystallization from a mixture of dichloromethane and hexane gave the red crystalline $C_5H_5M(CO)_3Cl$ in up to 80% yields based on $M(CO)₆$.

O-Trimethylstannyl Oximes. (a) $(CH_3)_2C=NOSn(CH_3)_3$. The $(CH₃)₂C=NOSn(CH₃)₃$ was prepared by the procedure of Harrison and Zuckerman. 9 It was purified by vacuum distillation (bp 56-58 °C (0.01 mm) [lit.⁹ bp 58 °C (0.01 mm)]) and identified by its proton NMR spectrum.

(b) $(CH_3)_2C=CHC(CH_3)=NOSn(CH_3)_3$. A solution of 11.3 **g** (100 mmol) of mesityl oxide oxime in 100 ml of diethyl ether and 100 ml of petroleum ether was treated at $0 °C$ with 62.6 mL of 1.5 M n-butyllithium in hexane (94 mmol). After warming to room temperature the resulting $(CH_3)_2C=CHC(CH_3)=NOLi$ was treated with a solution of 19.6 g (104 mmol) of trimethyltin chloride in 200 mL of diethyl ether. After boiling under reflux for 5 h solvent was removed at 25 mm. Fractional vacuum distillation gave 12.8 g (47% yield) of colorless liquid $(CH_3)_2C=CHC(CH_3)=NOSn(CH_3)_3$, bp 48-50 °C (0.15 mm). Anal. Calcd. for $C_9H_{19}NOSn$: C, 39.1; H, 6.9; N, 5.1. Found: C, 39.0; H, 6.8; N, 5.0. Proton NMR spectrum: resonances at *T* 4.49 (broad singlet), 8.10 (singlet), 8.17 (singlet), 8.23 (singlet), and 9.52 (singlet) of approximate relative intensities 1 :3:3:3:9, respectively.

(c) $H_2C=CH(CH_2)_2C(CH_3)=NOSn(CH_3)_3$ **. A solution of 5.7 g** (50 mmol) of allylacetone oxime in 250 mL of diethyl ether was treated with 25 mL of 2.5 M n-butyllithium in hexane (62.5 mmol). The resulting lithium reagent was treated with a solution of 9.5 g (50 mmol) of trimethyltin chloride in 100 mL of diethyl ether. After boiling under reflux for 2 h, the resulting mixture was filtered. Removal of solvent at \sim 25 mm followed by fractional vacuum distillation gave 9.5 g (69%) yield) of liquid $H_2C=CH(CH_2)_2C(CH_3)=NOSn(CH_3)_3$, bp 35-36 $^{\circ}$ C (0.2 mm). Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₉NOSn: C, 39.1; H, 6.9; N, 5.1. Found: C, 39.0; H, 7.0; N, 4.9. Proton NMR spectrum: resonances at *T* 4.1 (broad multiplet), 4.9 (multiplet), 7.7 (multiplet), 8.15 (doublet, \sim 1.5 Hz separation), and 9.58 (singlet) of approximate relative intensities 1:2:4:3:9, respectively.

Preparation of the R₂CNOMo(CO)₂C₅H₅ Derivatives. (a) From the O -Trimethylstannyloximes and $C_3H_3M_0(CO)$ $_3Cl$. A mixture of 5 to 10 mmol of $C_5H_5Mo(CO)_3Cl$, an excess of the O-trimethylstannyloxime (mole ratio Sn/Mo 1.1 to 1.4), and 200 to 300 mL of diethyl ether was boiled under reflux for 24 to 36 h. The resulting

Table I. Preparation and Properties of RR'CNOM(CO)₂C_sH_s Derivatives

^{*a*} Me = methyl, Cp = cyclopentadienyl. ^{*b*} In each case the preparative method for which the yield is given is indicated as follows: Sn = reaction of the O-trimethylstannyloxime with $C_sH_sM(CO)_3C1$ (methods a in the Experimental Section); Li = reaction of the lithium oximate with $C_5H_5M(CO)_3C1$ (methods b in the Experimental Section); Py = reaction of the oxime with $C_5H_5M(CO)_3C1$ in the presence of pyridine (methods c in the Experimental Section).

Table **11.** NMR Spectra of RR'CNOM(CO),C,H, Derivatives

 a Me = methyl, Cp = cyclopentadienyl. b s = singlet, dd = double doublet, m = ill-defined multiplet, br = broad. ^c Relative intensities are given in parentheses.

deep purple reaction mixture was filtered. Solvent was removed from the filtrate at \sim 25 °C (40 mm). The residue was chromatographed on a 2 \times 50 cm Florisil column in dichloromethane solution. In some cases a relatively weak red-violet band of $[C_5H_5Mo(CO)_3]_2$ first appeared. After eluting this band with dichloromethane, the intense violet band of the product was eluted with dichloromethane. The product was isolated by evaporation of the eluate followed by a low-temperature crystallization from a mixture of dichloromethane and hexane. In the case of $CH_2=CH(CH_2)_2C(CH_3)NOMo(C O$ ₂C₅H₅ further chromatography on Florisil in diethyl ether solution was used to obtain an analytically pure product.

(b)From the Lithium Oximate and $C_5H_5Mo(CO)_3Cl$ **.** A solution of 10 to 20 mmol of the ketoxime in 200 mL of diethyl ether was treated at room temperature with a 20% excess of a 2.5 M n-butyllithium solution in hexane. After stirring for 30 min to 1 h at room temperature, the resulting lithium oximate was treated with 5 to 10

mmol of $C_5H_5M_0(CO)_3Cl$ (mole ratio of lithium oximate to $C_5H_5Mo(CO)$ ₃Cl \sim 2:1) in 250 mL of diethyl ether. The reaction mixture was stirred for several hours (5 to 36) at room temperature and then filtered. Solvent was removed from the filtrate at \sim 25 °C (40 mm). The residue was chromatographed on a 2×50 cm Florisil column in dichloromethane solution. After eluting $[C_5H_5Mo(CO)_3]_2$ with dichloromethane, the major purple band of the product was eluted with dichloromethane. After evaporation of the eluates, the resulting products were purified by low-temperature crystallizations from mixtures of dichloromethane and hexane. In some experiments the products were purified further by chromatography on Florisil in diethyl ether solution and crystallizations from mixtures of diethyl ether and hexane.

(c) From the Oxime and $C_5H_5Mo(CO)_3Cl$ in the Presence of **Pyridine.** A solution of 20 mmol of the ketoxime in 85 mL of pyridine was heated with 1.4 g (5 mmol) of $C_5H_5Mo(CO)_3Cl$ to 70 °C for

6 h. Pyridine was then removed at \sim 25 °C (0.1 mm). The residue was chromatographed on a 2 **X** 50 cm Florisil column in dichloromethane solution. After eluting the first small band of $[C_5H_5$ - $Mo(CO)₃$, with dichloromethane, the major purple band of the $R_2CNOMo(CO)_2C_5H_5$ derivative was eluted with dichloromethane. This product was isolated by evaporation of this eluate followed by crystallization from mixtures of dichloromethane and hexane.

Preparation of the R₂CNOW(CO)₂C₅H₂ Derivatives. (a) From the **O-Trimethylstannyloximes and** $C_5H_5W(CO)_3CL$ **. A mixture of 5 to** 10 mmol of $C_5H_5W(CO)_3Cl$, an excess of the O-trimethylstannyloxime (mole ratio Sn/W = 1.2 to 1.5), and *250* to *350* mL of diethyl ether was exposed for 1 h at room temperature to the ultraviolet irradiation from a 450 W mercury lamp in a water-cooled Pyrex immersion well. Solvent was removed from the filtered reaction mixture at \sim 25 °C (40 mm). The residue was chromatographed on a 2 **X** 50 cm Florisil column in dichloromethane solution. The strong purple band of the product was eluted with dichloromethane and crystallized from a mixture of dichloromethane and hexane at low temperatures to give the $R_2CNOW(CO)_2C_5H_5$ derivative. In the case of $CH_2=C$ - $H(CH₂)₂C(CH₃)NOW(CO)₂C₅H₅$ the product was purified further by chromatography on a Florisil column in diethyl ether solution.

(b) From the Lithium Oximate and C₅H₅W(CO)₃Cl. A solution of 15 mmol of the ketoxime in 400 mL of diethyl ether was stirred with 17.5 mmol of *n*-butyllithium for 30 min at room temperature. The resulting mixture was treated with 3.7 g (10 mmol) of C_5H_5 - $W(CO)₃Cl$ and then irradiated for 1 h at room temperature with a *450* W ultraviolet lamp in a water-cooled Pyrex immersion well. Solvent was removed from the filtered reaction mixture at \sim 25 °C (40 mm). The residue was chromatographed on a 2 **X** 50 cm Florisil column prepared in diethyl ether. The dark red band of the product was eluted with diethyl ether. Evaporation of the eluate at \sim 25 °C (40 mm) gave the crude $R_2NCOW(CO)_2C_5H_5$ derivative. This product was purified further by low-temperature crystallization from mixtures of dichloromethane and hexane and, if necessary, by chromatography on Florisil in diethyl ether solution.

(c) From the Oxime and $C_5H_5W(CO)_3C1$ in the Presence of Pyridine. **A** mixture of 2.0 g (27.4 mmol) of acetone oxime, 0.92 g (2.5 mmol) of $C_5H_5W(CO)_3Cl$, and 170 mL of pyridine was irradiated for 48 h with a 100 W ultraviolet lamp. Pyridine was removed from the filtered reaction mixture at \sim 25 °C (0.1 mm). The black residue was chromatographed on a 2 **X** 50 cm Florisil column in dichloromethane solution. The major purple band was eluted with dichloromethane. Evaporation of this eluate followed by crystallization from a mixture of dichloromethane and hexane gave $(CH₃)₂CN$ $OW(CO)₂C₅H₅$.

Results and Discussion

 $RR/CNOM(CO)₂C₅H₅$ derivatives: The following three methods were used to prepare the

$$
RR'CNOSn(CH3)3 + C5H5M(CO)3Cl \rightarrow RR'CNOM(CO)2C5H5
$$

+ CO + (CH₃)₃SnCl (1)

 $RR'CNOLi + C_{5}H_{5}M(CO)_{3}Cl \rightarrow RR'CNOM(CO)_{2}C_{5}H_{5} + CO$
+ LiCl + LiCl **(2)**

$$
RR'CNOH + C_sH_sN + C_sH_sM(CO)_sCl \rightarrow RR'CNOM(CO)_2C_sH_s + CO + [C_sH_sN]Cl
$$
\n(3)

The lithium oximates required for the second method were readily obtained by treatment of the ketoxime with n-butyllithium. The O -trimethylstannyloximes required for the first method were prepared by reactions of the lithium oximates with trimethyltin chloride using a general procedure reported by Harrison and Zuckerman.' The **0-trimethylstannyloximes** are moisture-sensitive distillable liquids. The previously unreported **O-trimethylstannyloximes** derived from mesityl oxide and allylacetone were characterized by their elemental analyses (C, H, N) and proton NMR spectra.

The reactions of the **O-trimethylstannyloximes** (eq 1) and the lithium oximates (eq 2) with $C_5H_5Mo(CO)_3Cl$ proceed readily at or near room temperature. However, the reactions of the oximes with $C_5H_5M_0(CO)_3Cl$ in the presence of pyridine (eq 3) required somewhat elevated temperatures $(\sim 70 \text{ °C})$ in order to proceed to completion at a reasonable rate. The corresponding reactions with $C_5H_5W(CO)_3Cl$ require ultraviolet irradiation to form significant quantities of the corresponding $RR/CNOW(CO)₂C₅H₅$ derivative. This appears to be another of the many examples of the greater stability of tungsten-carbon bonds relative to corresponding molybdenum-carbon bonds¹⁰ which makes more vigorous reaction conditions necessary for removal of carbonyl groups. No evidence was obtained in any of the preparations of the dicarbonyls RR'CNOM(CO)₂C₅H₅ for the formation of intermediate tricarbonyls $RR/CNOM(CO)₃C₅H₅$ in which the RR'CNO unit is attached to the metal only through a metal-oxygen bond.

The $RR/CNOM(CO)₂C₅H₅$ derivatives form dark red to violet solids. The molybdenum derivatives RR'CNOMo- $R = CH_2=CHCH_2CH_2$, $R' = CH_3$ can be purified by sublimation at 70-80^oC (0.01 mm) with some decomposition. The tungsten derivatives $\frac{RR'CNOW(CO)}{2}C_5H_5$ also sublime under vacuum, but only with extensive decomposition. $(CO)_2C_5H_5$ ($R = R' = CH_3$; $R = (CH_3)_2C=CH$, $R' = CH_3$;

The RR'CNOM(CO)₂C₅H₅ derivatives are stable to air in the solid state over a period of hours but begin to show signs of decomposition during more prolonged exposure to air. Solutions of the RR'CNOM(CO)₂C₅H₅ derivatives rapidly decompose upon exposure to air and therefore must be handled in an inert atmosphere. However, a tetrahydrofuran solution of $(CH_3)_2CNOMo(CO)_2C_5H_5$ is stable to carbon monoxide at 25 \degree C (1 atm) indicating that the three-membered nitrogen-oxygen-molybdenum ring is resistant to carbon monoxide insertion.

All of the physical and spectroscopic properties of the $RR'CNOM(\bar{CO})_2C_5H_5$ derivatives are consistent with structures of the type I analogous to the structure found by x-ray crystallography^{5,6} for $(CH_3)_2CNOMo(CO)_2C_5H_5.$ Molecular weights of all ten compounds in benzene solution indicate monomeric formulations. The infrared spectra of the $RR'CNOM(CO)_{2}C_{5}H_{5}$ derivatives all exhibit two $\nu(CO)$ frequencies like other $C_5H_5M(CO)_2T$ derivatives. The nonequivalence of the two carbonyl groups in the $RR/CNOM(CO)₂C₅H₅$ derivatives as required by structure I is indicated by the observation of two metal carbonyl resonances in the carbon- 13 NMR spectra at **6** 229 and 223 for the molybdenum derivatives and at **6** 236 and 230 for the tungsten derivatives.

The NMR data also indicate the nonequivalence of the R and R' positions in the RR'CNOM(CO)₂C₅H₅ derivatives as required by structure I. Thus in the $(CH₃)₂CNOM (CO)₂C₅H₅$ derivatives (I: $R = R' = CH₃; M = Mo$ and W) both the proton and carbon-13 NMR spectra exhibit two methyl resonances. Similarly, the carbon- 13 NMR spectra of the $(CH_2)_5CNOM(CO)_2C_5H_5$ derivatives (I: $M = Mo$ and $W: R + R' = -(CH_2)_{5}$ derived from cyclohexanone indicate nonequivalence of all five $CH₂$ groups showing that the two sides of the cyclohexane ring in these complexes are different.

We investigated the preparation of some RR'CNOM- $(CO)_{2}C_{5}H_{5}$ derivatives from the unsaturated ketones, methyl vinyl ketone, mesityl oxide, and allylacetone in order to see whether these compounds can be decarbonylated to monocarbonyls of the stoichiometry $RR/CNOM(CO)C₅H₅$ in which the carbon-carbon double bond of the R or R' group is bonded to the molybdenum or tungsten atom. However, attempted heating or ultraviolet irradiation of the $RR/CNOM(CO)$, C_5H_5 derivatives with unsaturated R or R' groups gave no evidence for the formation of any stable monocarbonyls. Apparently,the carbon-carbon double bonds in these unsaturated ketone derivatives are not suitably situated to bond to the metal atoms with retention of the metal-oxygen-nitrogen ring system.

We also investigated reactions of $(CH_3)_2C=NOSn(CH_3)_3$ with other transition metal complexes in attempts to convert them to (CH_3) , CNO metal derivatives. Reaction of this tin

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derivative with $Mn(CO)_{5}X$ (X = Br or Cl) gave only with $C_5H_5Mo(NO)_2Cl$ in diethyl ether gave an unidentified yellow solid suggested by its NMR spectrum to contain (CH_3) ₃Sn groups but neither C_5H_5 nor $(CH_3)_2C$ groups. Reaction of $(\tilde{CH}_3)_2C=NOSn(\tilde{CH}_3)_3$ with $C_5H_5Fe(\tilde{CO})_2Cl$ in boiling benzene gave only $(CH_3)_3\text{SnFe(CO)}_2\text{C}_5\text{H}_5$.¹² No tractable products were obtained from reactions of $(CH₃)₂$ - $C=NOSn(CH_3)$, with Fe₂(CO)₉ or $[Mo(NO)_2Cl_2]_n$ in ethereal solvents at or near room temperature. These observations suggest that the range of transition metal systems to which $(CH₃)₂C=NOSn(CH₃)₃$ can transfer $(CH₃)₂CNO$ groups is extremely limited and that in some cases this tin reagent instead transfers (CH_3) , Sn or possibly (CH_3) , SnO units to the transition metal system. $(CH₃)₃SnMn(CO)₅$ ¹¹ Reaction of $(CH₃)₂C=NOSn(CH₃)₃$

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Registry No. MezCNOMo(CO)zCp, **61491-36-9;** (CH₂)₅CNOM₀(CO)₂Cp, 61813-21-6; $\overline{(CH_2=CH)(Me)CNOMo-}$ $(CO)_2$ Cp, 61813-22-7; $(Me_2C=CH)(Me)CNOMo(CO)_2Cp$, **61813-23-8;CHz=CH(CH2)zC(Me)NOMo(CO)2Cp, 61813-24-9;** Me₂CNOW(CO)₂Cp, 61813-25-0; $(CH₂)₅CNOW(CO)₂Cp$, **618 13-26- 1;** (CHz=CH)(Me)CN0W(CO),Cp, **618 13-27-2;** $(Me₂C=CH)(Me)CNOW(CO)₂Cp, 61813-28-3; CH₂=CH-$ (CH₂)₂C(Me)NOW(CO)₂Cp, 61813-29-4; (CH₃)₂C=NOSn(CH₃)₃, 25092-71-1; $(CH_3)_2C=CHC(CH_3)=NOSn(CH_3)_3$, 61812-49-5; $H_2C=CH(CH_2)_2C(CH_3)=NOSn(CH_3)_3$, 61812-50-8; C_5H_5 -Mo(C0)3Cl, **12128-23-3;** CSH5W(C0)3CI, **12128-24-4;** mesityl oxide oxime, **21 58-24-9;** trimethyltin chloride, **1066-45-1;** allylacetone oxime, **59239-06-4;** I'C, **14162-74-4.**

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Electrochemical Studies on $[Mn(CNR)_6]^+$ Complexes

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The $E_{1/2}$ values for the processes $[MnL_6]^+ \rightleftarrows [MnL_6]^{2+} + e^-$ and $[MnL_6]^{2+} \rightleftarrows [MnL_6]^{3+} + e^-$ (L = eleven aryl and four alkyl isocyanides) in dichloromethane were determined by cyclic voltammetry. The alkyl isocyanide complexes are easier to oxidize than the aryl isocyanide complexes in keeping with the better donor strength of these ligands. For the complexes of the aryl isocyanides there is substantial variation of $E_{1/2}$ values. A good correlation between $E_{1/2}$ values for complexes of meta- and para-substituted phenyl isocyanides and Hammett σ values is obtained.

Manganese(1) complexes of organic isocyanides [Mn- $(CNR)_{6}$ ⁺ are known¹ to react with oxidizing agents such as $HNO₃$ giving the manganese(II) species $[Mn(CNR)₆]^{2+}$. The reverse reaction is effected by reducing agents including the free ligand itself; hence the synthesis of $[Mn(CNR)_6]^+$ complexes from reactions of an isocyanide and a manganese(I1) salt is often encountered. Recently, electrochemical studies have been reported for $[Mn(CNR)_6]^+$ complexes. By using both dichloromethane² and acetonitrile,³ $E_{1/2}$ values were obtained by cyclic voltammetry for two one-electron oxidation processes: $[Mn(CNR)_6]^+ \rightleftharpoons [Mn(CNR)_6]^{2+} + e^-; [Mn (CNR)_{6}]^{2+} \rightleftharpoons [Mn(CNR)_{6}]^{3+} + e^{-}$. The first oxidation is chemically reversible, with anodic and cathodic currents being equal. The second process is not, a consequence of decomposition of the unstable manganese(II1) species.

In the earlier work^{2,3} differences in the ease of oxidation of complexes of different ligands were noted. The $E_{1/2}$ value for the complex $[Mn(CNCH_3)_6]PF_6$ was found to be 0.38 V vs. SCE (in acetonitrile). Complexes of several aryl isocyanides, p -ClC₆H₄) had $E_{1/2}$ values between 0.68 and 0.95 V vs. SCE, indicating that oxidation is more difficult. A simple interpretation was accorded this observation, based on the relative donor abilities of alkyl and aryl isocyanides established some time ago by infrared studies.⁴ In complexes of aryl isocyanides there is more negative charge withdrawal from the metal by π bonding due to extended conjugation into the aryl ring. The $[Mn(CNR)_6]PF_6$ ($R = C_6H_5$, p-CH₃C₆H₄, p-CH₃OC₆H₄, extent of negative charge buildup on the metal center influences the energies of the HOMO (primarily metal d_{xy} , d_{xz} , d_{yz}) in the complex. In turn there is a direct correlation between HOMO energy and $E_{1/2}$ value.⁵

Variation with R of $E_{1/2}$ values for isoelectronic Cr(CNR)₆ complexes $(R = \text{aryl})$ was also noted in the earlier work.² Lack of alkyl isocyanide complexes of chromium(0) did not allow their inclusion in that study.

Work by McCleverty and co-workers⁶ has further defined differences between isocyanide ligands in a series of complexes $M(CO)_{6-x}(CNR)_x$ (x = 1-3; M = Cr, Mo; R = CH₃, p -ClC₆H₄); infrared, ultraviolet, NMR, and mass spectrometric data and electrochemical measurements were used to assess the effect of varying R and **x** in these systems. The electrochemical measurements showed that for the alkyl isocyanide complexes there are no significant differences in $E_{1/2}$ values, suggesting that alkyl isocyanide ligands are electronically alike. Among the aryl isocyanide complexes, which had higher $E_{1/2}$ values, there was a marked difference in $E_{1/2}$ values between species of the same stoichiometry; this was attributed to the inductive and/or mesomeric effects of aryl ring substituent group. CH_2CH_3 , $CH(CH_3)$ ₂, C_6H_{11} , $C(CH_3)$ ₃, p - $CH_3C_6H_4$, C_6H_5 ,

This work was carried out to extend consideration over a wider range of isocyanides, encompassing both the more commonly used alkyl isocyanides and also a wider range of substituted phenyl isocyanides. A linear free energy correlation