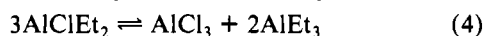


experimental details of the kinetic runs are given in Table I.

Results

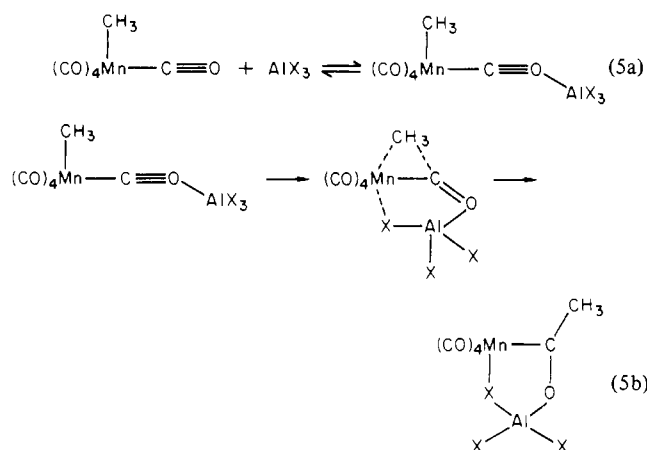
For both AlBr_3 and AlCl_3 , the reaction was complete in the time of mixing, ca. 5 ms. Calculated and observed absorbance changes agreed to within 5%. Because of the sensitivity of AlCl_3 and AlBr_3 to water, it was not possible to use lower acid concentrations than those listed in Table I. Although the rate of reaction was measurable for AlCl_2Et ($k_{\text{obsd}} = 10 \pm 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$) and AlClEt_2 ($k_{\text{obsd}} = 0.37 \pm 0.02 \text{ s}^{-1}$), infrared, NMR, and UV-vis spectroscopy showed that Ia was formed, presumably following redistribution of the alkylaluminum chloride.⁵ For example, NMR data indicate that only one-third of $\text{CH}_3\text{-Mn}(\text{CO})_5$ reacts to form an acetyl product in a benzene solution containing equimolar amounts of AlClEt_2 and $\text{CH}_3\text{-Mn}(\text{CO})_5$. Similarly, the IR spectrum of the reaction product obtained following addition of excess AlClEt_2 to $\text{CH}_3\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5$ is identical with that of Ia prepared from AlCl_3 .³ This implies that the rate-determining redistribution (eq 4) of AlClEt_2



occurs before the alkyl migration reaction of interest. Nevertheless, the overall reaction to form Ia is significantly faster than that observed in the absence of a Lewis acid. Attempts to promote reaction 1 with other Lewis acids resulted in alkyl cleavage for BCl_3 ,³ BBr_3 ,³ Ph_2BBr , and GaCl_3 ,⁶ while no reaction was observed for (*i*-PrO)₃Al, Et_2AlOEt , InCl_3 , or LaCl_3 .

Discussion

A lower limit can now be placed on the rate of reaction 1. Since the reaction was complete within the time required for mixing in the stopped-flow spectrophotometry, a reasonable estimate of the half-life would be less than 4 ms, corresponding to a $k_{\text{obsd}} > 170 \text{ s}^{-1}$. This can be compared to the k_1 value of $2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$ observed for eq 3a with $\text{L} = \text{cyclohexylamine}$ in mesitylene solution at 25.5 °C.⁷ (Under similar conditions, k_1 in hexane is too small to measure.) This large rate enhancement (ca. 10^8) indicates that the Lewis acid is involved in the primary alkyl migration step (eq 3a) and does not merely intercept the coordinatively unsaturated intermediate (eq 3b) in the mechanism outlined above. One possible mechanism for this rate enhancement is coordination of the Lewis acid to the oxygen atom of a terminal carbonyl in $\text{CH}_3\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5$, thereby affording the reaction scheme (5a) and (5b). Al-



though there is no direct experimental evidence for the pre-equilibrium (5a), Lewis acid adducts are well-known for cy-

clopentadienyl, anionic, and donor-substituted metal carbonyls.⁸ In these systems, the bifunctionally coordinated CO exhibits a greatly reduced CO stretching frequency and bond order. In addition, extended Hückel molecular orbital calculations on the alkyl migration reaction carried out by Berke and Hoffmann⁹ indicate that coordination of an electrophile such as H^+ or Li^+ to a terminal carbonyl stabilizes the transition state (eq 3a) by ca. 3 kcal/mol. We¹⁰ have previously observed a small rate enhancement of methyl migration in the presence of carboxylic acids, and Collman et al.¹¹ reported a 2400-fold increase in the alkyl migration rate in $\text{RFe}(\text{CO})_4\text{-M}^+$ when M^+ is changed from $((\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{P})_2\text{N}^+$ to Li^+ . Although the observed rate enhancement for AlBr_3 requires a significantly larger reduction in the activation energy than that calculated by Berke and Hoffmann, their arguments are in qualitative agreement with the present result.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation and from the donors of the Petroleum Research Fund, administered by the American Chemical Society. We also thank the National Science Foundation for a Graduate Fellowship award to T.G.R. We appreciate helpful discussions with R. E. Stimson.

Registry No. Ia, 74417-97-3; Ib, 72319-91-6; $\text{CH}_3\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5$, 13601-24-6; AlBr_3 , 7727-15-3; AlCl_3 , 7446-70-0; AlCl_2Et , 563-43-9; AlClEt_2 , 96-10-6.

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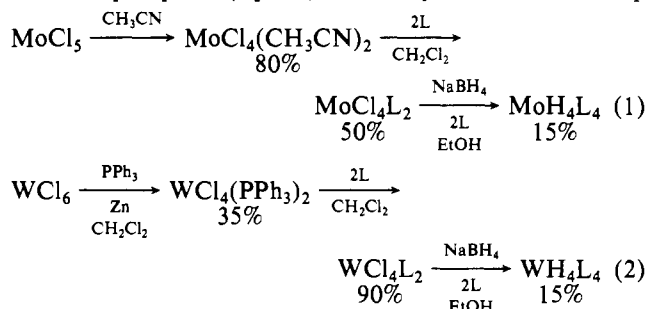
Improved Synthesis of Some Molybdenum and Tungsten Tetrahydrides

Robert H. Crabtree* and Gregory G. Hlatky

Received July 27, 1981

Polyhydride complexes of the type MH_xL_y ($x \geq 3$) have been increasingly studied recently.¹ We have considered the tertiary phosphine tetrahydrides of molybdenum and tungsten as possible sources of highly reactive, highly ligand-deficient species, but a detailed study of their chemistry has required that we develop better synthetic routes to these compounds.

The most common method to date of preparing molybdenum and tungsten tetrahydrides is NaBH_4 reduction of MCl_4L_2 ($\text{M} = \text{Mo}$ or W ; $\text{L} = \text{tertiary phosphine}$) in ethanol in the presence of excess phosphine (eq 1, 2).²⁻⁵ The yields of the last step



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are usually low, and the purifications are often made difficult by the presence of considerable amounts of byproducts. Although the required MoCl_4L_2 intermediates can be prepared in fairly good yield from MoCl_5 , the tungsten analogues can only be prepared in about 30% yield from WCl_6 .^{6,7} One-step preparations of the tetrahydrides directly from the metal chlorides using metal tetrahydridoborates are also inefficient.^{8,9} We report here a greatly improved method for preparing molybdenum and tungsten tetrahydrides using LiEt_3BH .

Experimental Section

All reactions were carried out in a prepurified argon atmosphere.¹⁰ Glassware was oven-dried before use. Tetrahydrofuran, petroleum ether (35–60 °C), and benzene were distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl. Acetonitrile was distilled from CaH_2 . These solvents were stored over molecular sieves in an argon atmosphere. Absolute methanol, ethanol, and 2-propanol were dried with molecular sieves and deaerated by argon purge. ^1H NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL FX-90 and Bruker HX-270 spectrometers (other physical data can be found in ref 4). $\text{MoCl}_4(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2$ and $\text{MoCl}_4(\text{THF})_2$ were prepared by literature methods.⁶ WCl_6 , dppe (Alfa-Ventron), PMePh_2 , PEtPh_2 (Strem Chemicals), and LiEt_3BH (1 M solution in THF from Aldrich Chemicals) were used as received.

Tetrahydridotetrakis(methyldiphenylphosphine)molybdenum(IV). Freshly-prepared $\text{MoCl}_4(\text{THF})_2$ (1.91 g, 5.0 mmol) was added to PMePh_2 (5.0 mL, 25 mmol) in THF (50 mL) and refluxed for 30 min, depositing an orange-red solid. On cooling to 20 °C, LiEt_3BH solution (65 mL, 65 mmol) was added slowly by syringe over 10 min. The deep-red solution was stirred at 20 °C for 12 h. Ethanol (10 mL) was added carefully (there is a vigorous effervescence) to destroy the residual borohydride. The solvent was evaporated in vacuo to give a deep-red oil. Addition of methanol (100 mL) precipitated an orange-yellow solid, which was filtered off and washed with methanol (3 × 10 mL). Recrystallization from benzene/methanol affords 3.00 g (67%) of yellow powder. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{56}\text{P}_4\text{Mo}$: C, 69.33; H, 6.27. Found: C, 69.49; H, 6.30. NMR (C_6D_6): δ -2.05 (quintet, $J_{\text{PH}} = 33$ Hz).

Tetrahydridotetrakis(methyldiphenylphosphine)tungsten(IV). WCl_6 (1.60 g, 4.0 mmol) was dissolved in THF (40 mL), and PMePh_2 was (4.0 mL, 20 mmol) added. The mixture was refluxed for 1 h, depositing an off-white solid. On cooling to 20 °C, LiEt_3BH solution (50 mL, 50 mmol) was added by syringe to give a deep-red solution. After 12 h of stirring at 20 °C, ethanol was added as above, the solution evaporated in vacuo, and the crude product precipitated by slow addition of ethanol (100 mL). Recrystallization from benzene/ethanol gave 2.78 g (70%) of yellow microcrystalline product. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{56}\text{P}_4\text{W}$: C, 63.16; H, 5.70. Found: C, 63.01; H, 5.81. NMR (toluene- d_8 , 60 °C): δ -1.72 (quintet, $J_{\text{PH}} = 31$ Hz).

Tetrahydridobis(1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane)molybdenum(IV). $\text{MoCl}_4(\text{THF})_2$ (0.77 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to dppe (dppe = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane; 1.65 g, 4.1 mmol) in THF (30 mL) and refluxed for 30 min. The mixture was cooled to 20 °C, and LiEt_3BH solution (32 mL, 32 mmol) was added slowly by syringe. The deep-red solution was stirred at 20 °C for 12 h. After ethanol (5 mL) was added, the solution was evaporated in vacuo and the crude

Table I. Comparison of Yields (%) from NaBH_4 and LiEt_3BH

compd	NaBH_4	LiEt_3BH
$\text{MoH}_4(\text{PMePh}_2)_4$	45 ^{a,c}	67 ^b
$\text{MoH}_4(\text{dppe})_2$	15 ^{a,d}	50 ^b
$\text{WH}_4(\text{PMePh}_2)_4$	4 ^{d-f}	70 ^e
$\text{WH}_4(\text{PEtPh}_2)_4$	2.5 ^{d,e,g}	49 ^e

^a Yield from NaBH_4 reduction of MoCl_4L_2 . ^b Yield from LiEt_3BH reduction of $\text{MoCl}_4(\text{THF})_2$. ^c Reference 5. ^d Reference 4. ^e Overall yield from WCl_6 . ^f 16% yield from WCl_4L_2 . ^g 8% yield from WCl_4L_2 .

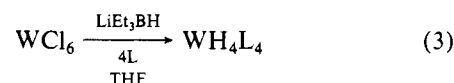
product precipitated with ethanol (80 mL). Recrystallization from warm benzene/ethanol gave 0.89 g (50%) of yellow product. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{52}\text{P}_4\text{Mo}$: C, 69.64; H, 5.84. Found: C, 69.15; H, 5.99. NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -4.06 (quintet, $J_{\text{PH}} = 30$ Hz).

Tetrahydridotetrakis(ethylidiphenylphosphine)tungsten(IV). WCl_6 (1.20 g, 3.0 mmol) and PEtPh_2 (3.24 mL, 15 mmol) were refluxed in THF (30 mL) for 1 h, depositing an off-white solid. After cooling to 20 °C, LiEt_3BH solution (50 mL, 50 mmol) was added by syringe. The solution was stirred at 20 °C for 6 h. Methanol (5 mL) was added slowly, and, after effervescence ceased, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. 2-Propanol (20 mL) and petroleum ether (40 mL) were added slowly, and the mixture was cooled at -20 °C for 1 day. The orange-yellow solid was filtered off and recrystallized from benzene/petroleum ether to afford 1.54 g (49%) of orange-yellow microcrystals. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{64}\text{P}_4\text{W}$: C, 64.73; H, 6.17. Found: C, 64.44; H, 6.25. NMR (toluene- d_8 , 60 °C): δ -1.91 (quintet, $J_{\text{PH}} = 32$ Hz).

Results and Discussion

Lithium triethylborohydride has high nucleophilicity¹¹ and, with only one available hydride, little or no tendency to form chelated or borohydride-bridged metal complexes. The borane-derived hydrolysis byproducts are alcohol soluble, making isolation and purification of the desired compound much more convenient.

In Table I, yields of tetrahydrides prepared from LiEt_3BH are compared with yields from NaBH_4 . The improvement is particularly striking for the tungsten compounds. Indeed, an advantage of this method is that the tungsten tetrahydrides can be prepared directly from WCl_6 (eq 3), avoiding the need



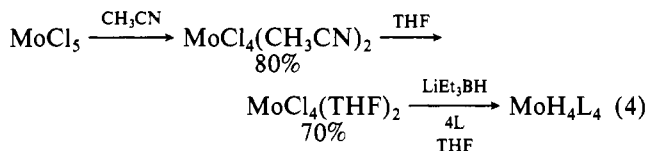
to isolate the corresponding WCl_4L_2 complexes. $\text{WH}_4(\text{dppe})_2$ is formed by this reaction in yields of about 35% (vs. 4% overall in three steps from WCl_3 with NaBH_4), but isolation of this compound is difficult and analyses were variable and poor. The same was true, in our hands, of the complex prepared by standard methods.⁴ Reaction of LiEt_3BH with WCl_6 and PMe_2Ph in THF gives only $\text{WH}_6(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})_3$ ¹² (NMR (C_6D_6): δ -1.20, quartet, $J_{\text{PH}} = 36$ Hz) in 17% yield; no $\text{WH}_4(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})_4$ is formed.

Yields are not greatly affected for reaction times of 3–18 h but 6–12 h appear to be optimum. Isolation of the tungsten complexes is more difficult, and yields are lower if the phosphine and WCl_6 are not refluxed before adding LiEt_3BH . We find the overall yields for the reduction step of the molybdenum compounds are lower when MoCl_4L_2 is used instead of $\text{MoCl}_4(\text{THF})_2$. The preparation of $\text{MoCl}_4(\text{THF})_2$ gives a yield at least comparable to those of the MoCl_4L_2 complexes (eq 4);¹³ eq 1 and 4 are thus similar until the hydride reduction step.

All the tetrahydrides are stable to air in the solid state for prolonged periods, but $\text{MoH}_4(\text{PMePh}_2)_4$ shows some degra-

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dation after a month; this compound is best stored in an inert atmosphere.

Acknowledgment. We thank the U.S. Department of the Army for support of this work and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for a fellowship (to R.H.C.).

Registry No. MoH₄(PMePh₂)₄, 32109-07-2; WH₄(PMePh₂)₄, 36351-36-7; MoH₄(dppf)₂, 32109-09-4; WH₄(PEtPh₂)₄, 41627-13-8; LiEt₃BH, 22560-16-3; MoCl₄(THF)₂, 16998-75-7; WCl₆, 13283-01-7.

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Homogeneous Reduction of Ligated Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide to Alkoxyethyl Ligands

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and Alan Cutler*

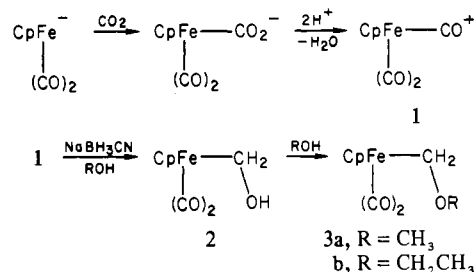
Received July 23, 1981

Studies on the stoichiometric reduction of ligated carbon monoxide to C₁ formyl, hydroxy- or alkoxyethyl, and methyl ligands are pertinent to the rational design of homogeneous catalysts that convert synthesis gas—CO/H₂ mixtures—to organic products.¹ Borohydride reagents (BH₄⁻, HBR₃⁻, HB(OR)₃⁻) reduce, for example, neutral metal carbonyl systems to anionic formyl complexes,^{2a-d} cationic metal carbonyls to neutral formyls,^{2c,d} CpRe(CO)₂NO⁺ to hydroxy-methyl (also with Et₂AlH₂⁻) and methyl compounds,^{2d,e} CpM(CO)₃PPh₃⁺ (M = Mo, W) into CpM(CO)₂PPh₃(CH₃),^{2f} and CO ligated to BH₃ or BEt₃,^{2g} Transition-metal hydride complexes also have been used in fixing CO ligands.³

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Our interest lies in probing reaction pathways for converting ligated CO to hydroxymethyl functionalities and then to C₂ or higher coordinated ligands. Alkoxyethyl complexes represent convenient products of CO fixation during stoichiometric studies since the anticipated instability of the analogous hydroxymethyl compounds is eliminated.^{2d,e,4} Others have contemplated the intermediacy of hydroxymethyl complexes in homogeneous catalysis and have modeled facets of this chemistry with alkoxyethyl or acyloxyethyl derivatives.⁵ We recently reported the selective conversion of CpFe(CO)₂CH₂OCH₃ to the phosphine-substituted complexes and their respective C₂ organic molecules: CpFe(CO)L-(CH₂CH₃)/CH₂=CH₂, CpFe(CO)L(CH₂CO₂CH₃)/CH₃CO₂CH₃, and CpFe(CO)L(CH₂CHO)/CH₃CHO.⁶

This paper reports two observations on the fixation of CO and CO₂ ligands appended to CpFe(CO)₂. First, sodium cyanoborohydride in methanol or ethanol efficiently reduces a carbonyl on CpFe(CO)₃⁺ (**1**), via a hydroxymethyl intermediate, to an alkoxyethyl ligand. Second, CO₂ is incorporated into this sequence by generating **1** from the reaction of CpFe(CO)₂⁻Na⁺ and CO₂ and then adding acid. Together both sequences constitute novel conversion of ligated CO₂ to an alkoxyethyl ligand.



Experimental Section

General Manipulations and Physical Measurements. All synthetic manipulations were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere with standard Schlenk techniques and glassware suitably modified for inert-atmosphere work.⁷ A nitrogen atmosphere was routinely provided for the following four operations: (a) carrying out reactions, (b) handling all solutions of metal complexes, (c) column chromatography, and (d) breaking the vacuum to evacuated vessels, including the Buchi rotovaporator. Solvents for synthetic work and recording of spectral data were deoxygenated by bubbling dinitrogen through for 20 min. Camag alumina (neutral, activity 3) was used in column chromatography.

Infrared spectra were taken of CH₂Cl₂ solutions (0.10 M) with NaCl amalgam-spaced (1.0-mm) solution cells and were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Model 297 spectrophotometer. The ν(CO) frequencies (2200–1500 cm⁻¹) were calibrated against the polystyrene 1601-cm⁻¹ absorption. ¹H NMR spectra were taken of concentrated CDCl₃ solutions, after centrifugation off of insoluble residues. Varian models EM-360 and XL-200 NMR spectrometers supplied the NMR spectra, which are reported as δ values downfield from internal Me₄Si. Combustion microanalyses were performed by Baron Consulting Co., Orange, CT.

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