Reactivities of Intermediates Relevant to Metal Alkyl Carbonylation. Flash Photolysis of CH₃Mn(CO)₅ Studied by Time-Resolved Infrared and Optical Detection

In this laboratory we have begun an investigation into the photochemistry of some metal alkyl and acyl complexes in order to obtain greater insight into the mechanisms of the reversible carbonylation of metal alkyls such as shown in eq 1. In this

$$CH_{3}Mn(CO)_{5} + CO \rightleftharpoons (CH_{3}CO)Mn(CO)_{5}$$
(1)

context, we have used a combination of laser flash photolysis with both optical and time resolved infrared (TRIR) detection to probe the transient photochemistry of $CH_3Mn(CO)_5$ (I) with the goal of modeling spectroscopic and kinetic data relevant to Mn(I)intermediates. These studies have led to the determination of the kinetics behavior of the solvated intermediates *cis*-CH₃Mn(CO)₄S (S = solvent) in cyclohexane and THF solutions and to the observation that the initial intermediate formed by CO photodissociation must be remarkably selective in reactions with potential donors and hence must be relatively long-lived in comparison to intermediates previously proposed in the photoreactions of d⁶ metal carbonyls.

Laser flash photolysis ($\lambda = 308 \text{ nm}$) of CH₃Mn(CO)₅ (10⁻⁴-10⁻³ mol dm⁻³) in cyclohexane or isooctane solutions under Ar or CO results in the 100- μ s TRIR spectrum shown in Figure 1. The depletion of I is evident in this spectrum with the negative Δ (Abs) values noted for ν_{CO} modes at 2014 and 1991 cm⁻¹. Accompanying these changes, a transient species, A, is formed which has three ν_{CO} bands at 1986, 1974, and 1940 cm⁻¹ in the TRIR spectrum (Figure 1) and a λ_{max} at 410 nm in the optical spectrum, properties close to those attributed to *cis*-CH₃Mn-(CO)₄(CH₄) formed by CO photodissociation from I in a methane matrix.² These spectroscopic observations are consistent with the labilization of CO following irradiation to give *cis*-CH₃Mn-(CO)₄S (eq 2). We have no evidence for trans-CO labilization

$$CH_3Mn(CO)_5 + S \xrightarrow{h\nu} cis-CH_3Mn(CO)_4S + CO$$
 (2)

or formation of $Mn(CO)_5$ resulting from homolytic metal-alkyl bond cleavage³ in the present case.

Under an Ar atmosphere, the decay of A follows second-order kinetics with regeneration of CH₃Mn(CO)₅. Under CO, both the rates of decay of A and the reformation of CH₃Mn(CO), are accelerated and are pseudo first order (Figure 2). From these observations, the second-order rate constant for the reaction of A with CO in C_6H_{12} is calculated to be $2.2 \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ by the TRIR method and $2.0 \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ by visible detection. These values lie close to those previously found for the reaction of the solvated $Cr(CO)_{s}S$ or $Mo(CO)_{s}S$ intermediates with CO in cyclohexane.⁴ Significantly, when the solvent is changed from an alkane (cyclohexane or isooctane) to THF, the reaction of cis- $CH_3Mn(CO)_4S$ with CO (as studied by optical detection), is 4 orders of magnitude slower ($k_{\text{THF,CO}} = 1.4 \times 10^2 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$), consistent with the increased donor strength of THF. Thus, the combined spectroscopic and kinetic data show that photolysis of CH₃Mn(CO)₅ in hydrocarbon or THF solutions results in the formation of cis-CH₃Mn(CO)₄S, which reacts with CO at rates comparable to those found for analogous solvento complexes of d⁶ metal carbonyls.

However, we have observed an additional feature regarding the photolysis of $CH_3Mn(CO)_5$ that does not find a place in the group VI metal hexacarbonyl photochemistry. Namely, when the flash photolysis of $CH_3Mn(CO)_5$ in cyclohexane is carried out under

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Figure 1. Time-resolved IR spectrum obtained 100 μ s after laser flash photolysis of CH₃Mn(CO)₅ in isooctane under Ar. The negative bands correspond to the depletion of CH₃Mn(CO)₅; the positive bands correspond to *cis*-CH₃Mn(CO)₄(S) (S = solvent).



Figure 2. Kinetic traces showing the decay of cis-CH₃Mn(CO)₄S (S = cyclohexane) at 1976 cm⁻¹ and the reformation of CH₃Mn(CO)₅ at 2014 cm⁻¹ following laser flash photolysis of CH₃Mn(CO)₅ in cyclohexane under 0.1 atm of CO. IR changes are shown in transmittance mode.

CO rather than Ar, the yield of A produced is reduced by a factor of 5 as monitored by both IR spectroscopy and optical detection. Similar behavior was noted in isooctane solution. In order to verify this observation, samples were irradiated at constant laser power, cell orientation, and CH₃Mn(CO)₅ concentration. In addition, this behavior could be verified on a single cyclohexane solution of I by first carrying out the flash photolysis under argon and determining the initial Δ (Abs) (due to *cis*-CH₃Mn(CO)₄(C₆H₁₂) formation) and then flushing the solution with CO and noting the much smaller Δ (Abs) upon flash photolysis. Repeating the cycle on this solution reproduced these observations. In direct contrast, we have not observed similar effects of CO on the initial Δ (Abs) values following flash photolysis of CH₃Mn(CO)₅ in THF or of Cr(CO)₆ in C₆H₁₂.

To account for these observations, we conclude that photolysis of CH₃Mn(CO)₅ in C₆H₁₂ results in CO labilization to give an intermediate, II, that can react competitively either with C₆H₁₂ to form *cis*-CH₃Mn(CO)₄S or with CO to regenerate CH₃Mn-(CO)₅ (Scheme I). From the ratio of *cis*-CH₃Mn(CO)₄(C₆H₁₂) produced under 1 atm of CO to that formed under Ar, together with the relative concentrations of CO and C₆H₁₂ ([CO]/[C₆H₁₂] = 10⁻³), the selectivity of II toward CO over C₆H₁₂ is calculated to be ~5 × 10³. While this selectivity is unprecedented for simple metal carbonyls of this type, a similar selectivity toward CO over C₆H₁₂ has been observed for the 16-electron fragment (η^5 -

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Scheme I



 C_5H_5)Rh(C_2H_4) following photolysis of $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)$ Rh(C_2H_4)₂ in cyclohexane under CO.5 The different behavior of II in THF would be consistent with the higher nucleophilicity of this solvent, giving it a greater competitive advantage vs CO.¹

A possible explanation of the apparent selectivity of II in C_6H_{12} would be that the CH₃Mn(CO)₄ intermediate is formed in a triplet electronic state⁶ having either a trigonal-bipyramidal C_{3v} geometry with an axial CH₃ group or a square-pyramidal geometry with a basal CH₃. Either geometric or electronic constraints might give such species sufficient lifetime to demonstrate selectivity in coordinating a sixth ligand. Formation of $Cr(CO)_5$ as a singlet state in a naked, open-faced C_{4v} geometry⁷ would explain the contrasting lack of selectivity that this species shows.⁸ Additional studies targeted at probing the reactions of such intermediates among acyl- and alkylmanganese carbonyls are underway.⁹

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- A reviewer has proposed that II might be a species such as a short-lived photogenerated acyl complex. However, in our ongoing flash photolysis studies of $CH_3C(O)Mn(CO)_5$, we find no evidence for the formation of any species that could explain the CO effects on the yields of A formed in the flash photolysis of I.

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Oxidatively Enhanced Intramolecular Carbonyl Scrambling in the Mixed-Metal Cluster [Re₇C(CO)₂₁Rh(CO)₂]²⁻

The effect of odd-electron configurations on the reactivity of metal carbonyl clusters has been receiving increased attention recently, as illustrated in several reviews that have been published on the electrochemistry of metal clusters.¹ The most striking result



Figure 1. ¹³C NMR Spectra of (A) [Re(CO)₃Re₆C(¹³CO)₁₈Rh- $({}^{13}CO)_2]^{2-}$, (B) $[Re({}^{13}CO)_2Re_6C({}^{13}CO)_{18}Rh({}^{13}CO)_2]^{2-}$, and (C) [Re- $(CO)_{3}Re_{6}C(^{13}CO)_{18}]^{3-}$

obtained involves intermolecular lability, namely the reductive, electrocatalytic (ETC) substitution of a carbonyl ligand by nucleophiles. These reactions show large rate enhancements with increased selectivity. Increases in intramolecular lability as well as the effect of oxidation have been explored to a much lesser extent.

In mononuclear systems, one-electron oxidation has been shown to promote the rate of migratory insertion reactions,² reductive eliminations,³ and cis-trans isomerization.⁴ Similar studies of metal clusters have been limited to a recent report by Geiger involving the oxidatively electrocatalyzed isomerization of $Cp_3Rh_3(CO)_3$ from a C_s isomer to a C_{3v} isomer.⁵ We wish to report a dramatic increase in intramolecular ligand lability upon one-electron oxidation, as evidenced by unusual carbonyl scrambling behavior for the selectively ¹³CO enriched mixed-metal cluster, $[PPN]_2[Re_7C(CO)_{21}Rh(CO)_2]$ (PPN = N(PPh_3)_2).

The reaction of $[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$ with $[Re_7C(CO)_{21}]^{3-}$ leads to the formation of the mixed-metal cluster $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}\text{Rh}(\text{CO})_2]^{2-}$, as reported by Henly et al.⁶ $[\text{Re}_7 C(CO)_{21} Rh(CO)_2]^{2-}$ is a 1,4bicapped octahedron in which a $Rh(CO)_2$ moiety caps the face

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