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COMMUNICATION

SOME NEW ETHYLXANTHATE COMPLEXES OF MOLYBDENUM(II) AND TUNGSTEN(II)

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INTRODUCTION

Transition-metal complexes containing molybdenum-sulphur bonds are of continuing interest since they play an important role in the nitrogenase enzyme system. Many examples of dithiocarbamate organometallic complexes of molybdenum(II) and tungsten(II) are known: in particular the compounds $[M(CO)_n(S_2CNR_2)_2]$ ($M = Mo$ and W ; $n = 2$ and 3 ; $R = Me, Et$ and iPr) have a wide range of chemistry.¹⁻⁵ Until now very few monoxanthate organometallic complexes of molybdenum(II) and tungsten(II) have been prepared, and here we wish to report the synthesis and spectral properties of the new monoethylxanthate complexes $[MI(CO)_3L(S_2COEt)]$ ($M = Mo$ and W ; $L = PPh_3, AsPh_3$ and $SbPh_3$) which are prepared by reaction of $[MI_2(CO)_3(NCMe)_2]$ ⁶ with L in CH_2Cl_2 , followed by further reaction *in situ* with NaS_2COEt .

EXPERIMENTAL

$[MI_2(CO)_3(NCMe)_2]$ ($M = Mo$ and W) were prepared according to literature methods⁶ and $[M(CO)_6]$, PPh_3 , $AsPh_3$, $SbPh_3$ and KS_2COEt were purchased from commercial sources. Dichloromethane was distilled before use. 1H n.m.r. spectra were recorded on a Jeol FX60 n.m.r. spectrometer (all spectra were recorded against tetramethylsilane). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 197 infrared spectrophotometer. Elemental analyses for carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen were recorded on a Carlo Erba Elemental Analyser MOD1106 (using helium carrier gas).

MoI(CO)₃(PPh₃)(S₂COEt)

To $MoI_2(CO)_3(NCMe)_2$ (0.5 g, 0.97 mmol) dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (15 cm³) with continuous stirring under a stream of dry nitrogen was added PPh_3 (0.25 g, 0.97 mmol). After stirring for one minute, KS_2COEt (0.135 g, 0.96 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for a further 3 hours. After filtration, removal of the solvent *in vacuo* gave brown crystals of $[MoI(CO)_3(PPh_3)(S_2COEt)]$ (yield = 0.4 g, 60%), which was recrystallised from CH_2Cl_2 .

TABLE I
Analytical data for the $[\text{MI}(\text{CO})_3\text{L}(\text{S}_2\text{COEt})]_d$ complexes

	M	L	Colour	Yield %	Found (Calcd.) %
(1)	Mo	PPh_3	Brown	60	C 42.05 (41.74)
					H 3.08 (2.90)
(2)	Mo	AsPh_3	Brown	65	C 39.54 (39.23)
					H 3.01 (2.72)
(3)	Mo	SbPh_3	Brown	66	C 36.17 (36.87)
					H 2.9 (2.56)
(4)	W	PPh_3	Orange	68	C 36.82 (37.02)
					H 2.56 (2.90)
(5)	W	AsPh_3	Orange	62	C 34.67 (35.04)
					H 2.39 (2.43)
(6)	W	SbPh_3	Orange	63	C 33.28 (33.14)
					H 2.37 (2.30)

^areaction times for $\text{L} + [\text{MI}_2(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})_2] \rightarrow [\text{MI}_2(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})\text{L}]$ and $\text{KS}_2\text{COEt} \rightarrow [\text{MI}(\text{CO})_3\text{L}(\text{S}_2\text{COEt})]$: (1) PPh_3 , 1 minute, KS_2COEt , 3 hours; (2) AsPh_3 , 3 minutes, KS_2COEt , 3 hours; (3) SbPh_3 , 5 minutes, KS_2COEt , 3 hours. Similar times were recorded for the tungsten complexes (4), (5) and (6).

Similar reactions of $[\text{MI}_2(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})_2]$ with L followed by KS_2COEt gave the new compounds $[\text{MI}(\text{CO})_3\text{L}(\text{S}_2\text{COEt})]$ (see Table I for reaction times).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Elemental analysis (Table I) and infrared and ^1H n.m.r. spectroscopy (Table II) support the formulation of the new complexes as being $[\text{MI}(\text{CO})_3\text{L}(\text{S}_2\text{COEt})]$ ($\text{M} = \text{Mo}$ and W ; $\text{L} = \text{PPh}_3$, AsPh_3 and SbPh_3). Since the complexes $[\text{MI}_2(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})\text{L}]$ ($\text{M} = \text{Mo}$ and W ; $\text{L} = \text{PPh}_3$, AsPh_3 and SbPh_3) have been prepared⁷ and fully characterised it was decided to prepare the ethylxanthate complexes from the $[\text{MI}_2(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})\text{L}]$ complexes which are in turn prepared by reaction of $[\text{MI}_2(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})_2]$ ⁶ with L in CH_2Cl_2 , followed by reaction *in situ* with NaS_2COEt to give good yields of the new compounds, $[\text{MI}(\text{CO})_3\text{L}(\text{S}_2\text{COEt})]$. The compounds are moderately stable in the solid state when stored under argon and are soluble in CH_2Cl_2 and CHCl_3 .

In view of the previously reported X-ray crystal structures of related seven-coordinate complexes⁸⁻¹⁶, all having capped octahedral geometry, it is highly likely that the ethylxanthate complexes will have a similar geometry since their carbonyl infrared pattern closely resembles other analogous seven-coordinate complexes with this coordination geometry.

We are currently investigating the catalytic activity of these $[\text{MI}(\text{CO})_3\text{L}(\text{S}_2\text{COEt})]$ compounds since the seven-coordinate complexes $[\text{MX}_2(\text{CO})_3\text{L}_2]$ ($\text{M} = \text{Mo}$ and W ; $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$ and Br ; $\text{L} = \text{PPh}_3$ and AsPh_3) have recently been discovered to be catalysts in the ring opening polymerisation of norbornene.^{17,18}

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TABLE II
IR^a and ¹H n.m.r.^b data for the [M(CO)₃L₂(S₂COEt)] complexes.

	M	L	ν(CO) cm ⁻¹	ν(CS) cm ⁻¹	¹ H n.m.r. data (δ) ^b		
					Ph	CH ₂	CH ₃
(1)	Mo	PPh ₃	2040(s), 1950(s) and 1875(s)	860(w)	7.38(s, 15H)	4.25(q, 2H, 7.32Hz)	1.34(t, 3H, 7.32Hz)
(2)	Mo	AsPh ₃	2040(s), 1970(s) and 1945(s)	850(w)	7.40(s, 15H)	3.91(q, 2H, 7.32Hz)	1.14(t, 3H, 7.32Hz)
(3)	Mo	SbPh ₃	2040(s), 1970(s) and 1940(s)	860(w)	7.44(s, 15H)	4.06(q, 2H, 7.32Hz)	1.17(t, 3H, 7.32Hz)
(4)	W	PPh ₃	2035(s), 1950(s) and 1935(m)	870(w)	7.49(s, 15H)	4.30(q, 2H, 6.84Hz)	1.29(t, 3H, 6.84Hz)
(5)	W	AsPh ₃	2030(s), 1950(s) and 1920(s)	860(w)	7.42(s, 15H)	3.95(q, 2H, 7.32Hz)	1.17(t, 3H, 7.32Hz)
(6)	W	SbPh ₃	2030(s), 1950(s) and 1930(m)	865(w)	7.47(s, 15H)	4.15(q, 2H, 7.32Hz)	1.25(t, 3H, 7.32Hz)

^aSpectra recorded in CHCl₃; w. weak; m. medium; s. strong. ^bSpectra recorded in CDCl₃ (+25°C) and referenced to Me₄Si.

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