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# Syntheses, NMR (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>31</sup>P) spectroscopy and crystal structures of complexes of copper(I) halides with isatin-3-thiosemicarbazones

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## Syntheses, NMR (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>31</sup>P) spectroscopy and crystal structures of complexes of copper(I) halides with isatin-3-thiosemicarbazones

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Isatin-3-thiosemicarbazones (H<sub>2</sub>itsc) react with copper(I) bromide or iodide in a 1 : 1 mol ratio in acetonitrile in the presence of two moles of Ph<sub>3</sub>P to form tetrahedral monomeric complexes of composition [CuX( $\eta^1$ -S-H<sub>2</sub>itsc)(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>], X = Br (1), I (2). These complexes, which have been characterized by single-crystal structure determinations, are unlike the iodo-bridged dinuclear complex of copper(I) iodide of pyrrole-2-carbaldehydethiosemicarbazone (Hptsc), namely [Cu<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -I)<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^1$ -S-Hptsc)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (3). In both 1 and 2, the geometry around Cu is distorted tetrahedral with P–Cu–P bond angles being 121.97(3) (1) and 124.09(5)° (2). Proton NMR confirms that thiosemicarbazone coordinates to the Cu atom as a neutral ligand, and <sup>31</sup>P NMR shows that there is no dissociation of the complexes in solution; coordination shift values suggest that Ph<sub>3</sub>P stabilizes the Cu(I) oxidation state.

Keywords: Copper(I); Isatin-3-thiosemicarbazones; Halides; Phosphine; Crystal structures

#### 1. Introduction

Isatin diketone, on condensation with a thiosemicarbazide, forms three types of thiosemicarbazones, isatin-3-thiosemicarbazone (I,  $H_2L$ ), isatin-2-thiosemicarbazone (II,  $H_2L$ ) and isatin-2,3-bis(thiosemicarbazone) (III,  $H_2LL$ ), all of which form metal complexes [1–15]. Only a few of these are structurally characterized, namely, [Ni(HL)<sub>2</sub>]·EtOH, [Ni(HL)<sub>2</sub>]·2DMF [12], [TIMe<sub>2</sub>(HL)(DMSO)] [13], [SnMe<sub>2</sub>(L) {O(S)PPh<sub>2</sub>}]·EtOH [14] and [SnMe<sub>2</sub>(HLL)] [14]. Isatin-3-thiosemicarbazone generally coordinates through N, S, O donor atoms and isatin-2, 3-bis-thiosemicarbazone is an

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N,S-chelate. Coordination through O donor atoms is dependent on the nature of the metal and is weak in some cases. Isatin thiosemicarbazones, like other thiosemicarbazones, have several biochemical applications [16–22].

In this article we report the complexes of isatin-3-thiosemicarbazone with copper(I) halides, namely  $[CuBr(\eta^1-S-H_2itsc)(Ph_3P)_2] \cdot 2CH_3CN$  (1) and  $[CuI(\eta^1-S-H_2itsc)(Ph_3P)_2] \cdot CH_3CN$  (2), in which the neutral ligand is coordinated through S alone. These are the first examples of structurally characterized complexes of Cu(I)/Cu(II) with isatin thiosemicarbazones.



#### 2. Experimental

Copper(I) bromide and iodide were prepared by the reduction of  $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$  using  $SO_2$  in the presence of NaBr or NaI in water [22]. Isatin-3-thiosemicarbazone was prepared by following the general procedure of Anderson *et al.* [23]. C, H and N analyses were obtained with a Carlo-Erba 1108 instrument. IR spectra were recorded using KBr pellets on a Pye Unicam SP-3-300 or a Nicolet 320 FTIR spectrophotometer in the 4000–200 cm<sup>-1</sup> range. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Jeol AL300 FT spectrometer at 300 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with TMS as internal reference. <sup>31</sup>P spectra were recorded at 121.5 MHz, using CDCl<sub>3</sub> with phosphoric acid as external reference.

#### 2.1. Synthesis of 1

To a stirred solution of the ligand (0.038 g, 0.174 mmol) in acetonitrile (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added a solution of copper(I) bromide (0.025 g, 0.174 mmol) in the same solvent (15 cm<sup>3</sup>). The mixture was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. Solid Ph<sub>3</sub>P (0.092 g, 0.348 mmol) was then added and stirring continued for 1 h. The clear orange solution that formed was filtered and set aside for crystallization. The orange crystals obtained were filtered off, washed and dried (yield 65%; m.p. 217–219°C). The complex is only very slightly soluble in CHCl<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, but is soluble in DMSO and hot aceto-nitrile. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>38</sub>BrN<sub>4</sub>OP<sub>2</sub>SCu(%): C, 60.84; H, 4.28; N, 6.30. Found: C, 60.59; H, 4.36; N, 6.27. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 7.61 sb (<sup>1</sup>NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.56 dd (C<sup>4,7</sup>H), 7.21 d (C<sup>5</sup>H), 7.3 s (C<sup>6</sup>H), 7.64 dd (C<sup>6,8</sup>H), 7.46 m (C<sup>3,5</sup>H), 7.26–7.40 m (Ph<sub>3</sub>P). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 24.02 (PPh<sub>3</sub>).

#### 2.2. Synthesis of 2

To a stirred solution of the ligand (0.028 g, 0.131 mmol) in acetonitrile (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added a solution of copper(I) iodide (0.025 g, 0.13 mmol) in the same solvent (15 cm<sup>3</sup>). The mixture was stirred for 4 h at room temperature and then solid Ph<sub>3</sub>P (0.068 g, 0.262 mmol) was added. The same procedure was followed as above to obtain orange crystals (yield 68%; m.p. 192–195°C). Anal. Calcd C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>41</sub>IN<sub>5</sub>OP<sub>2</sub>SCu(%): C, 57.81; H, 4.20; N, 7.18. Found: C, 57.44; H, 4.25; N, 7.22. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 7.68 sb (<sup>1</sup>NH<sub>2</sub>), 12.67 s (N<sup>2</sup>H), 7.59 dd (C<sup>4,7</sup>H), 6.92 d (C<sup>5</sup>H), 7.15 s (C<sup>6</sup>H), 7.26–7.37 m (Ph+Ph<sub>3</sub>P). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 24.17 (PPh<sub>3</sub>).

#### 2.3. Crystallography

An orange prismatic crystal of **1** was mounted on a glass fiber. Crystal data were collected on an Enraf Nonius CAD4 automatic diffractometer equipped with a graphite monochromator and Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Unit cell dimensions and intensity data were measured at 223 K. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares based on  $F^2$  with anisotropic thermal parameters for nonhydrogen atoms using XCAD-49 (data reduction) and SHELXL (absorption correction, structure solution refinement and molecular graphics) [24]. H-atoms were included in structure factor calculations in idealized positions.

An orange prismatic crystal of **2** was mounted on a glass fiber. Crystal data were collected at 193(1) K using a Rigaku MSC Mercury CCD diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71071$  Å). The structure was solved by Patterson methods and expanded using Fourier techniques [24]. Nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Crystallographic data are summarized in table 1.

	1	2
Empirical formula	C49H44BrCuN6OP2S	C47H41CuN5OP2SI
M	970.35	976.33
Temperature (K)	223(3)	193
Space group	$P\bar{1}$	$P\overline{1}$
Unit cell dimensions		
a (Å)	12.5058(12)	11.623(1)
b (Å)	12.9855(12)	13.632(1)
c (Å)	16.8013(17)	16.261(2)
$\alpha$ (°)	100.804(9)	67.93(1)
$\beta$ (°)	102.810(8)	70.26(1)
$\gamma$ (°)	112.897(8)	69.09(1)
$V(Å^3)$	2334.3(4)	2167.8(5)
Ζ	2	2
$D_{\rm calc} ({\rm Mgm^{-3}})$	1.381	1.496
Absorption coefficient $(mm^{-1})$	1.480	1.380
F(000)	996	988
Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	$0.30 \times 0.20 \times 0.15$	$0.30 \times 0.20 \times 0.20$
$2\theta$ range (°) for data collection	3.11-28.01	6.1-55.0
Reflections collected	12 768	21 287
Independent reflections	$11247~(R_{\rm int}=0.0439)$	9410 $(R_{\rm int} = 0.055)$
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.005	1.00
<i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ ( <i>R</i> , $\omega R$ )	0.0470, 0.0891	0.063, 0.115

Table 1. Crystal data for 1 and 2.

#### 3. Results and discussion

When copper(I) halides were reacted with H<sub>2</sub>itsc in the absence of Ph<sub>3</sub>P, orange, insoluble products were formed. The addition of one mol equivalent of Ph<sub>3</sub>P did not form a clear solution, but addition of a further mol equivalent of Ph<sub>3</sub>P did. Slow evaporation of the solutions gave orange crystals of  $[CuX(\eta^1-S-H_2itsc)(Ph_3P)_2]$ , X = Br (1), I (2).

#### 3.1. Crystal structures

The atom numbering schemes for 1 and 2 are shown in figures 1 and 2, respectively, and selected bond lengths and angles are given in table 2. In both complexes the geometry around copper is a distorted tetrahedron. Isatin-3-thiosemicarbazone acts as a neutral, monodentate ligand coordinating through S alone. Other coordination sites of the tetrahedron are occupied by two P atoms from two Ph<sub>3</sub>P ligands and a halide ion. Cu–S bond distances, 2.3566(10) and 2.399(2) Å in 1 and 2, respectively, are close to those [2.379(3), 2.402(3) Å] in [CuBr(PPh\_3)<sub>2</sub>(L)] and [CuI(PPh\_3)<sub>2</sub>(L)] [25], but somewhat shorter than the distance [2.331(4) Å] in the iodo-bridged dimer, [Cu<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -I)<sub>2</sub> ( $\eta$ <sup>1</sup>-S-Hptsc)<sub>2</sub>(PPh\_3)<sub>2</sub>] (Hptsc = pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde thiosemicarbazone) [22]. This difference may be attributed to the number of Ph<sub>3</sub>P ligands involved. In complexes in which isatin-3-thiosemicarbazone acts as an anionic ligand, M–S distances are considerably longer: 2.456(2) Å in [SnMe<sub>2</sub>(HL){O(S)PPh<sub>2</sub>}·EtOH (HL = anion of isatin-3-thiosemicarbazone) [14] and 2.900(4) Å in [TIMe<sub>2</sub>(HL)(DMSO)] [13]. Furthermore, C–S distances, 1.689(3) Å in 1 and 1.676(5) Å in 2, are shorter than the C–S distances in related species: 1.741(6) in [SnMe<sub>2</sub>(HL){O(S)PPh<sub>2</sub>}·EtOH [14],



Figure 1. The structure of complex 1 showing the atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



Figure 2. The structure of complex 2 showing the atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

1				
Cu(1)-Br(1)	2.5459(6)	C(19)–N(14)	1.311(4)	
Cu(1) - P(1)	2.2967(9)	C(19)–N(13)	1.351(4)	
Cu(1) - P(2)	2.2852(9)	N(13)–N(12)	1.362(3)	
Cu(1) - S(1)	2.3566(10)	N(12)-C(18)	1.288(4)	
S(1)-C(19)	1.689(3)			
P(2)-Cu(1)-Br(1)	105.32(3)	Cu(1)-S(1)-C(19)	113.30(12)	
P(2)-Cu(1)-P(1)	121.97(3)	S(1)-C(19)-N(14)	125.5(3)	
P(1)-Cu(1)-S(1)	110.19(4)	S(1)-C(19)-N(13)	117.6(2)	
S(1)-Cu(1)-Br(1)	109.22(3)	N(14)-C(19)-N(13)	117.0(3)	
P(2)-Cu(1)-S(1)	105.16(3)	C(19) - N(13) - N(12)	119.5(3)	
P(1)-Cu(1)-Br(1)	104.48(3)	N(13)-N(12)-C(18)	116.0(3)	
2				
Cu(1)–I(1)	2.692(1)	C(9)–N(4)	1.321(9)	
Cu(1) - P(1)	2.296(2)	C(9)–N(3)	1.355(9)	
Cu(1) - P(2)	2.278(2)	N(3) - N(2)	1.355(6)	
Cu(1) - S(1)	2.399(2)	N(2)-C(7)	1.283(9)	
S(1)-C(9)	1.676(5)			
P(2)-Cu(1)-I(1)	105.87(6)	Cu(1)-S(1)-C(9)	115.5(2)	
P(2)-Cu(1)-P(1)	124.09(5)	S(1)-C(9)-N(4)	124.6(6)	
P(1)-Cu(1)-S(1)	108.61(7)	S(1)-C(9)-N(3)	117.3(5)	
S(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)	112.13(4)	N(4)-C(9)-N(3)	118.0(5)	
P(2)-Cu(1)-S(1)	98.87(6)	C(9)-N(3)-N(2)	121.2(5)	
P(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)	107.09(5)	N(3)-N(2)-C(7)	118.2(5)	

Table 2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 1 and 2.

1.705(14) in  $[TIMe_2(HL)(DMSO)]$  [13], 1.712(4), 1.723(8) Å in  $[Ni(HL)_2] \cdot EtOH$  and  $[Ni(HL)_2] \cdot 2DMF$  (HL = isatin-3-thiosemicarbazone) [18]. The free ligand has a C–S bond length of 1.663(4) Å [14], and this supports the view that the ligand coordinates to Cu in the thione form.

Cu–P bond lengths, 2.2852(9), 2.2967(9) Å in 1 and 2.296(2), 2.278(2) Å in 2, are similar to Cu–P distances in analogous complexes [22, 25]. The Cu–Br bond length, 2.5459(6) Å in 1, is close to that in [CuBr(PPh\_3)<sub>2</sub>(L)], 2.536(2) Å. These are less than sum of the ionic radii of Cu and Br, 2.73 Å [26]. Similarly, the Cu–I bond distance, 2.692 Å, in 2 is close that in [CuI(PPh\_3)<sub>2</sub>(L)], 2.661(2) Å, but smaller than the bridging Cu–I bond distance, 2.707(2) Å, in [Cu<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -I)<sub>2</sub>( $\eta$ <sup>-1</sup>S-Hptsc)<sub>2</sub>(PPh\_3)<sub>2</sub>]. All Cu–I distances are less than the sum of the ionic radii of Cu and I, 2.97 Å [26]. Angles around Cu range from 104.48(3) to 121.97(3)° in 1 and 98.87(6) to 124.09(5)° in 2, indicating some distortion of the tetrahedron. This distortion is greater in 2 than in 1. The P1–Cu–P2 angle is 121.97(3)° in 1 and 124.09(5)° in 2 and this may be attributed to steric interactions between Ph<sub>3</sub>P ligands. Cu–S–C angles of 113.30(12) and 115.5(2)° in 1 and 2, respectively, are larger than in cases when the ligand chelates [92.1(2)–100.7(5)°] [13, 14].

#### 3.2. NMR spectroscopy

Proton NMR of **2** shows a characteristic imino N<sup>2</sup>*H* signal at low field,  $\delta$  12.67 ppm, similar to that for the free ligand at  $\delta$  12.46 ppm [14], and indicates that the imino hydrogen is not deprotonated when the ligand coordinates through S. N<sup>1</sup>*H*<sub>2</sub> protons of free H<sub>2</sub>itsc show two broad peaks at  $\delta$  8.84(s) and 8.49(s) ppm in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> [14], which shift to higher field at  $\delta$  7.68(sb) ppm in **2**. This is in accord with the behavior of thiosemicarbazones in the coordinated form although the magnitude of the shift is small, considering that H<sub>2</sub>itsc in **2** is not deprotonated [20, 21]. The same behavior is expected for **1**. The <sup>31</sup>P NMR signal for free Ph<sub>3</sub>P appears at -7.17 ppm and this is shifted downfield to  $\delta$  24.02 ppm in **1** and  $\delta$  24.17 ppm in **2**. This shows that PPh<sub>3</sub> is not dissociated in CDCl<sub>3</sub> [27].

#### Supplementary material

Supplementary data are available from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC), 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44-1223-336033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk) on request, quoting the deposition numbers CCDC 252075 for 1 and 251683 for 2.

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