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## Journal of Coordination Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gcoo20

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To cite this article: Mohammad El-khateeb , Mousa Al-Noaimi , Ala'a Al-Akhras , Helmar Görls & Wolfgang Weigand (2012) Heterocyclic thiocarboxylato complexes of iron: synthesis, characterization, electrochemistry, and reactions, Journal of Coordination Chemistry, 65:14, 2510-2522, DOI: <u>10.1080/00958972.2012.698406</u>

To link to this article: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00958972.2012.698406</u>

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# Heterocyclic thiocarboxylato complexes of iron: synthesis, characterization, electrochemistry, and reactions

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(Received 1 October 2011; in final form 24 April 2012)

Heterocyclic-thiocarboxylato complexes of iron, CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het (het = 2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O, 2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S, CH<sub>2</sub>-2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S), have been synthesized *via* the reaction of iron sulfides, ( $\mu$ -S<sub>x</sub>) [CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (x = 3, 4), with heterocyclic acid chlorides het-COCl. Photolytic substitutions of these complexes CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het with triphenylphosphine, triethylphosphite, triphenylar-sine, and triphenylantimony [ER<sub>3</sub> (E = P, R = Ph, OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>; E = As, Sb, R = Ph)] exclusively gave the monosubstituted complexes CpFe(CO)(ER<sub>3</sub>)SCO-het in good yields. The new complexes have been characterized by elemental analysis, UV-Vis, IR, <sup>1</sup>H, and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopies and by cyclic voltammetry for a representative family (1, 4a–d). The solid state structures of CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (2), CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5a), CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5b), and CpFe(CO)(SbPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5c) were determined by X-ray crystal structure analysis.

*Keywords*: Iron; Thiocarboxylates; Sulfur; Triphenylphosphine; Triphenylarsine; Triphenylantimony; Photolytic reactions; Complexes; Structures

#### 1. Introduction

Thiocarboxylato ligands have two coordination sites; soft sulfur and hard oxygen enable them to coordinate to a variety of metal centers [1–3]. Their metal complexes are of continuing interest due to their bonding modes, reactivity, and use as metal sulfide or selenide precursors [4–7]. Biological studies on iron thiocarboxylates or selenocarboxylates showed antifungal activity on *Candida albicans* and antibacterial effects against *Bacillus subtilius* and *Staphylococcus aureus* [8]. Studies of the cytogenesis effects of CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>YCO(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)COOH (Y = S, Se) in cultured rat bone marrow cells proved that these two complexes altered cell division [9].

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Organoiron thiocarboxylato complexes are accessible from the reaction of  $(\mu$ -S<sub>x</sub>) [Cp'Fe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (Cp' = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, Bu'C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, 1,3 - (Bu')<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>; x = 1–4) with acid chlorides [10, 11]. These dicarbonyl thiocarboxylates undergo photolytic substitution reactions with EPh<sub>3</sub> (E = P, As, Sb) to produce mono-substituted complexes Cp'Fe(CO)(EPh<sub>3</sub>) SCOR [12]. The di-substituted products (Cp'Fe(EPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SCOR) were never obtained in these reactions due to electronic and steric factors [12]. However, analogous reactions with bis(diphenylphosphino)alkane ligands (Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>) gave either the monosubstituted complexes CpFe(CO)( $\kappa$ P-Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)SCOR for n = 1-6 and the di-substituted complexes CpFe( $\kappa^2 P$ , P-Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)SCOR only for n = 1 and 2 [13, 14].

Treatment of the sulfides  $(\mu$ -S<sub>x</sub>)[CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (x = 3, 4) with *O*-alkyl oxalyl chlorides gave the expected *O*-alkyl thiooxalato complexes CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCOCO<sub>2</sub>R [15]. In a similar way, the thiosulfonato complexes CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SSO<sub>2</sub>R [16] were made from the same reagents and sulfonyl chlorides. Mono-, di-, or tri-thiocarbonato complexes CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCY<sub>2</sub>R (Y = O, S) were reported from the sulfides ( $\mu$ -S<sub>x</sub>)[CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> and chloroformates (ROCOCl), chlorothionoformates (ROCSCl) or chlorodithioformates (RSCSCl), respectively [17–19].

In this article, we describe reactions of the iron sulfides  $(\mu$ -S<sub>x</sub>)[CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> with acid chlorides bearing a heterocyclic group. The substitution reactions of the dicarbonyl iron complexes CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het with triphenylphosphine, triethylphosphite, triphenylarsine, and triphenylantimony are discussed.

#### 2. Experimental

#### 2.1. Materials and methods

All manipulations were performed using standard Schlenk techniques under nitrogen. Diethyl ether, hexane, tetrahydrofuran, and benzene were dried over sodium/benzophenone and were freshly distilled under nitrogen prior to use. Dichloromethane was heated under reflux over  $P_2O_5$  and was freshly distilled under nitrogen prior to use. The compounds ( $\mu$ -S<sub>x</sub>)[CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (x = 3, 4) were prepared by previously published procedures [20]. The following chemicals were used as received (ACROS): iron dimer [CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, 2-furan carbonyl chloride, 2-thiophene carbonyl chloride, 2-thiopheneacetyl chloride, triphenylphosphine, triethylphosphite, triphenylarsine, triphenylantimony, and elemental sulfur. Silica gel of particle size 0.063–0.200 mm (70–230 mesh) was dried at 110°C and employed for column chromatography.

All reaction steps were monitored by thin layer chromatography. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT-IR spectrometer. Electronic spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu 240-UV-Visible spectrophotometer. Electrochemical measurements were performed in 99.8% anhydrous acetonitrile (ALDRICH, HPLC grade) using a computer controlled Volta Lab model PGP201 with a platinum working electrode, a platinum wire auxiliary electrode, and silver wire pseudo-reference electrode. Ferrocene (0.665 V vs. normal hydrogen electrode) is used as an internal reference [21]. A Haake D8-G refrigerated bath and circulator was used to maintain the cell temperature at  $25.0 \pm 0.1^{\circ}$ C. Tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, twice recrystallized and vacuum dried at  $110^{\circ}$ C, was used as the supporting

electrolyte  $(0.1 \text{ mol } \text{L}^{-1})$ . Experimental solutions were degassed by bubbling with nitrogen gas. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker-Avance 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are given in ppm relative to TMS (<sup>1</sup>H) at 0 ppm and to H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (<sup>31</sup>P). Elemental analyses of C, H, and S were carried out on a Eurovector E.A.3000 instrument using copper sample tubes. Melting points were reported on an electrothermal melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Photolytic reactions were carried out using a low pressure mercury lamp bought from Herauios.

#### 2.2. General procedure for preparation of CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het, 1-3

A 100 mL Schlenk flask was charged with iron sulfides  $(\mu$ -S<sub>x</sub>)[CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (2.83 mmol) and 50 mL of diethyl ether. The acid chloride (3.40 mmol) was added by syringe. The resulting mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature, solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was dissolved in 2 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. This solution was introduced to a silica gel column and was eluted with hexane to remove any unreacted acid chloride. Elution with a mixture of dichloromethane and hexane (1:1 volume ratio) gave an orange band which was collected and identified as CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het, followed by a red band which was also collected and identified as CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cl. The CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het was recrystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane at  $-4^{\circ}$ C.

**2.2.1.** CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O) (1). Orange (78%); m.p.: 127–128°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  2045, 1999 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1604 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.08 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.42 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>); 7.08 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>); 7.49 (d, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (mm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 321 (8.00 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>FeO<sub>4</sub>S (%): C, 47.40; H, 2.65; S, 10.54. Found (%): C, 47.07; H, 2.62; S, 11.07.

**2.2.2.** CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (2). Orange (82%); m.p.: 144–145°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  2045, 1999 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1590 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.06 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 7.00 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.4 Hz); 7.39 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.8 Hz); 7.74 (d, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.2 Hz). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 328 (8.00 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (%): C, 45.02; H, 2.52; S, 20.03. Found (%): C, 45.00; H, 2.57; S, 20.13.

**2.2.3.** CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (3). Orange (85%); m.p.: 157–158°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  2044, 1997 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1606 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 4.14 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.89 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.96 (d, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>); 7.25 (m, 2H, H<sub>b</sub> and H<sub>c</sub>). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 327 (7.22 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (%): C, 46.72; H, 3.02; S, 19.19. Found (%): C, 46.50; H, 3.00; S, 19.25.

#### 2.3. General procedure for preparation of CpFe(CO)(ER3)SCO-het, 4-6

A THF solution of CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het (1.00 mmol) and ER<sub>3</sub> (1.20 mmol) was irradiated by UV-light at 0°C until disappearance of bands at 2044–2045 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1997–1999 cm<sup>-1</sup> and the appearance of a single band at 1947–1968 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the resulting solid was redissolved in 2 mL of

 $CH_2Cl_2$  and transferred to a silica gel column made up in hexane. The column was first eluted with hexane to remove any unreacted  $ER_3$ . Elution with hexane/diethyl ether solution (1:1 volume ratio) gave a dark red band of the products. The product was recrystallized from dichloromethane/hexane at  $-4^{\circ}C$ .

**2.3.1.** CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O) (4a). Orange (77%); m.p.: 188–189°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  1960 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1603 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 4.58 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.34 (d, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.6 Hz); 6.95 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.6 Hz); 7.26 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.6 Hz), 7.39 (m, 15H, PPh<sub>3</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 100. UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 331 (8.20 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>PS (%): C, 64.70; H, 4.31; S, 5.96. Found (%): C, 63.94; H, 4.26; S, 6.01.

**2.3.2. CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub><b>O) (4b).** Dark red (68%); m.p.: 162–163°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  1960 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1603 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 4.66 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.34 (d, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.8 Hz); 6.94 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.8 Hz); 7.27 (m, 2H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.8 Hz), 7.40 (m, 15H, AsPh<sub>3</sub>). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 330 (8.10 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>SAs · 0.25CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (%): C, 58.21; H, 3.92; S, 5.31. Found (%): C, 57.98; H, 3.95; S, 5.52.

**2.3.3. CpFe(CO)(SbPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O) (4c).** Black red (60%); m.p.: 128–130°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C=O}$  1951 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1607 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 4.74 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.26 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.6, 3.4 Hz); 6.78 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.6 Hz); 7.26 (m, 2H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.4 Hz); 7.39 (m, 9H, SbPh<sub>3</sub>); 7.54 (m, 6H, SbPh<sub>3</sub>). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 334 (8.00 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FeO<sub>3</sub>SSb (%): C, 55.36; H, 3.68; S, 5.10. Found (%): C, 54.92; H, 3.63; S, 5.34.

**2.3.4. CpFe(CO)(P(OEt)\_3)SCO(2-C\_4H\_3O) (4d).** Red (78%); m.p.: 128–129°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  1968 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1595 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 1.29 (m, 9H, CH<sub>3</sub>); 4.00 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.79 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.39 (d, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.4 Hz); 7.03 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.4 Hz); 7.45 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.4 Hz). <sup>31</sup>P-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 239. UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 335 (7.85 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FeO<sub>6</sub>PS (%): C, 46.17; H, 5.24; S, 7.25. Found (%): C, 45.63; H, 5.21; S, 7.62.

**2.3.5. CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5a).** Orange (80%); m.p.: 174–175°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C=O}$  1959 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1604 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.61 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.95 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=3.9, 4.1 Hz); 7.32 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=4.1 Hz); 7.45 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=3.9 Hz), 7.37 (m, 15H, PPh<sub>3</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  101. UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 349 (7.61 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FeO<sub>2</sub>PS<sub>2</sub> (%): C, 62.82; H, 4.18; S, 11.57. Found (%): C, 62.71; H, 4.22; S, 10.92.

**2.3.6. CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5b).** Dark red (70%); m.p.: 155–156°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C=O}$  1959 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1603 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.67 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.93 (d, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=4.8 Hz); 7.31 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=3.1 Hz); 7.42 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=4.8 Hz), 7.39 (m, 15H, AsPh<sub>3</sub>). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm)

 $(\varepsilon_{\text{max}}, \text{ (mol } L^{-1})^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1})$ : 355 (7.92 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FeO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>As (%): C, 58.21; H, 3.87; S, 10.72. Found (%): C, 58.10; H, 3.77; S, 10.32.

**2.3.7. CpFe(CO)(SbPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5c).** Black red (60%); m.p.: 158–160°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  1949 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1603 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 4.75 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.86 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=4.2, 4.3 Hz); 7.25 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=4.2 Hz); 7.35 (m, 9H, SbPh<sub>3</sub>); 7.44 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub>=4.3 Hz); 7.55 (m, 6H, SbPh<sub>3</sub>). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 357 (8.46 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FeO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Sb (%): C, 53.98; H, 3.59; S, 9.94. Found (%): C, 53.43; H, 3.60; S, 9.42.

**2.3.8.** CpFe(CO)(P(OEt)<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5d). Red (82%); m.p.: 100–101°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  1968 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1603 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 1.29 (m, 9H, CH<sub>3</sub>); 4.02 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.80 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 7.00 (d, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.4, 4.2 Hz); 7.03 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.2 Hz); 7.45 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.3 Hz). <sup>31</sup>P-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 238. UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 360 (7.50 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FeO<sub>5</sub>PS<sub>2</sub> (%): C, 44.55; H, 5.06; S, 13.99. Found (%): C, 43.81; H, 5.19; S, 13.34.

**2.3.9.** CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (6a). Orange (76%); m.p.: 158–159°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C=0}$  1958 (s);  $\nu_{SC=0}$  1617 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.05 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.52 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.82 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.0, 4.1 Hz); 6.90 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.0 Hz); 7.13 (d, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>, J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.1 Hz); 7.38 (m, 15H, PPh<sub>3</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  98. UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 397 (7.26 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FeO<sub>2</sub>PS<sub>2</sub> (%): C, 63.39; H, 4.43; S, 11.28. Found (%): C, 62.97; H, 4.40; S, 11.63.

**2.3.10. CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (6b).** Dark red (72%); m.p.: 115–116°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  1959 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1618 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 4.02 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.58 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.77 (d, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>,  $J_{HH}$ =4.8 Hz); 6.96 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>,  $J_{HH}$ =3.3 Hz); 7.11 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>,  $J_{HH}$ =4.8 Hz); 7.37 (m, 15H, AsPh<sub>3</sub>). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 408 (8.00 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FeO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>As · 0.5CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (%): C, 55.94; H, 4.00; S, 9.79. Found (%): C, 55.65; H, 4.12; S, 10.27.

**2.3.11. CpFe(CO)(SbPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (6c).** Black red (55%); m.p.: 129–130°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C\equiv O}$  1947 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1603 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.72 (dd, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>,  $J_{HH} = 15.7$ , 4.0); 4.67 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 5.59 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>,  $J_{HH} = 4.3$ , 3.7 Hz); 7.09 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>,  $J_{HH} = 4.3$  Hz); 7.35 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>,  $J_{HH} = 3.7$  Hz); 7.38 (m, 9H, SbPh<sub>3</sub>); 7.50 (m, 6H, SbPh<sub>3</sub>). UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 401 (7.40 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FeO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Sb (%): C, 54.66; H, 3.82; S, 9.73. Found (%): C, 54.07; H, 3.79; S, 9.73.

**2.3.12. CpFe(CO)(P(OEt)\_3)SCO(2-CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (6d).** Red (80%); m.p.: 111–112°C. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{C=O}$  1967 (s);  $\nu_{SC=O}$  1607 (m). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.25 (m, 9H, CH<sub>3</sub>); 4.01 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.13 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.54 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 6.86 (d, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>,  $J_{HH} = 4.0, 4.0$  Hz); 7.09 (d, 1H, H<sub>c</sub>,  $J_{HH} = 4.0$  Hz); 7.25 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>,  $J_{HH} = 4.0$  Hz). <sup>31</sup>P-

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  236. UV-Vis in acetonitrile:  $\lambda_{max}$  (nm) ( $\varepsilon_{max}$ , (mol L<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 388 (7.22 × 10<sup>3</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FeO<sub>5</sub>PS<sub>2</sub> (%): C, 44.55; H, 5.06; S, 13.99. Found (%): C, 43.81; H, 5.19; S, 13.34.

### 2.4. Crystallographic analysis of CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (2), CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5a), CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5b), and CpFe(CO)(SbPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5c)

Single-crystals suitable for X-ray structure analysis of **2**, **5a**, **5b**, and **5c** were obtained by recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane. The X-ray diffraction intensity data for these compounds were collected on a Nonius Kappa CCD diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation. Data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects but not for absorption effects [22, 23]. Crystallographic data as well as structure solution and refinement details are summarized in table 1.

The structures were solved by direct methods (SHELXS [23]) and refined by fullmatrix least-squares techniques against  $F_0^2$  (SHELXL-97 [24]). All hydrogen positions were included at calculated positions with fixed thermal parameters. All non-disordered non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically [24]. XP (SIEMENS Analytical X-ray Instruments, Inc.) was used for structure representations.

#### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Synthesis of complexes

Heterocyclic thiocarboxylato complexes of iron CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het, 1–3 are readily synthesized by reaction of iron sulfides  $(\mu$ -S<sub>x</sub>)[CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> with the corresponding heterocyclic acid chlorides as shown in equation 1.



Complexes 1–3 are orange crystals, stable to air as solids and are identified based on spectroscopy, elemental analysis, and X-ray structure determination for **2**. IR spectra of 1–3 show two strong CO-stretching bands at 2044–2045 and 1997–1999 cm<sup>-1</sup>, within the range observed for alkyl or aryl thiocarboxylato analogs CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCOR (2027–2060 and 1984–1998 cm<sup>-1</sup>) [10, 11]. The spectra also contain a band of medium intensity at 1590–1606 cm<sup>-1</sup> for ketonic carbonyl of the thiocarboxylate, which is also comparable to those reported for the corresponding alkyl or aryl thiocarboxylates CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCOR (1595–1613 cm<sup>-1</sup>) [10, 11].

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of 1–3 exhibit a singlet at 4.89–5.08 ppm for the Cp. This chemical shift range is similar to that observed for alkyl or aryl thiocarboxylate (5.00–5.13 ppm)

and CpFe(CO)(SbPh <sub>3</sub> )SCO(2-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>3</sub> S) (5c).				
	2	5a	50	Sc
CCDC No	806381	806382	806383	806384
Empirical formula	C.H.FaO.S.	C.H.FAO.DS.	C.HFaO.AsC.	C.H.FAO.ChS.
Empired total	C121181 CO302	C2911231 CO21 32 55 4 41	C2911231 CO2M302	C2911231 CO20002
FULILIUIA WEIGILL (g IIIOL ) Temmeratura (V)	(6)281	183(7)	103.00	04-0.19 183(7)
I curper ature (N)	(7)(0)	(7)(2)	(7)C01	(7)C01
wavelengtn (A)	0./10/3	0./10/2		0./10/3
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic
Space group	$P2_1/n$	$P2_1/n$	$P2_1/n$	$P_1$
Unit cell dimensions $(A, °)$				
a	9.3113(3)	10.5782(4)	10.4881(4)	8.0694(3)
p	10.7475(5)	14.1678(7)	14.3191(6)	9.3480(3)
c	13.2069(6)	17.1817(9)	17.5130(7)	18.2986(6)
α	90 06	06	90	98.960(2)
β	106.487(2)	98.402(3)	99.488(3)	91.526(2)
γ	06	06	06	107.705(2)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> ), Z	1267.32(9), 4	2547.4(2), 4	2594.13(18), 4	1294.87(8), 2
Calculated density (Mg $m^{-3}$ )	1.678	1.446	1.532	1.655
Absorption coefficient (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	1.513	0.844	2.033	1.790
F(000)	486	1144	1216	644
Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	$0.05 \times 0.05 \times 0.04$	$0.04 \times 0.04 \times 0.04$	$0.04 \times 0.04 \times 0.04$	$0.04 \times 0.04 \times 0.04$
$\theta$ range for data collection (°)	2.97–27.49	2.43–27.47	2.75–27.47	2.93–27.43
Limiting indices	$-12 \le h \le 11;$	$-13 \le h \le 13;$	$-13 \le h \le 13;$	$-10 \le h \le 8;$
	$-12 \le k \le 13;$	$-18 \le k \le 14;$	$-18 \le k \le 17;$	$-12 \le k \le 12;$
	$-15 \le l \le 17$	$-22 \le l \le 21$	$-22 \le l \le 22$	$-23 \le l \le 22$
Reflections collected	8307	16,830	18,106	8834
Independent reflections	2880 [R(int) = 0.0370]	5731 [R(int) = 0.0782]	5948 [R(int) = 0.0559]	5845 [R(int) = 0.0291]
Completeness to $\theta = 27.50 ~(\%)$	99.3	98.4	99.8	98.7
Data/restraints/parameters	2880/0/163	5731/0/335	5948/0/329	5845/0/329
Goodness-of-fit on $F^{2}$ <sup>b</sup>	1.009	0.937	0.973	0.987
Final R indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0323,$	$R_1 = 0.0444,$	$R_1 = 0.0381,$	$R_1 = 0.0361, wR_2 = 0.0746$
	$wR_2 = 0.0751$	$wR_2 = 0.0834$	$wR_2 = 0.0767$	
R indices (all) <sup>a</sup>	$R_1 = 0.0477$ ,	$R_1 = 0.1062,$	$R_1 = 0.0774,$	$R_1 = 0.0571, wR_2 = 0.0829$
	$wR_2 = 0.0815$	$wR_2 = 0.1012$	$wR_2 = 0.0890$	
Largest difference peak and hole $(e.A^{-3})$	0.389 and -0.409 None	0.315  and  -0.344	0.419 and -0.462 None	0.826 and -0.745 None
			11011	

 $b_{s} = \{ \Sigma[|K_{0}| - |F_{0}|]) |\Sigma|F_{0}|; wR_{2} = \{ \Sigma[w(F_{0}^{2} - F_{0}^{2})^{2}] |\Sigma[w(F_{0}^{2})^{2}]\}^{1/2} w^{-1} = \sigma^{2}(F_{0}^{2}) + (aP)^{2} + bP; P = [2F_{0}^{2} + Max(F_{0}^{2})]^{2} + bP; P = [2F_{0}^{2} + Max(F_{0}^{2} + Max(F_{0}^{2})]^{2} + bP; P = [2F_{0}^{2} + Max(F_{0}^{2} + Max(F_{0}^{2})]^{2} + bP; P = [2F_{0}^{2} + Max(F_{0}^{2} + Max(F_{0$ 

Crystallographic data and refinement details for CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (2), CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5a), CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5b), Table 1.

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Scheme 1. Synthesis of the substituted complexes 4-6.

[10, 11] and thiocarbonate (4.98–5.12 ppm) analogs [17]. Resonances of the protons of the heterocycle of **1** and **2** appear as two doublets at 7.48–7.74 ppm for H<sub>a</sub> and 7.07–7.39 ppm for H<sub>c</sub> and as a doublet of doublets at 6.42–7.00 ppm for H<sub>b</sub> (equation (1)). For **3** resonances of the protons of heterocycle are a doublet at 6.96 ppm for H<sub>c</sub> and a multiplet at 7.25 for H<sub>b</sub> and H<sub>a</sub>. These chemical shifts are similar to those observed for heterocyclic-thiolato ruthenium complexes CpRu(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(SC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>E) (E = O or S) [25].

Photolytic CO-substitution of 1-3 with excess triphenylphosphine, triethylphosphite, triphenylarsine, or triphenylantimony gave exclusively the mono-substituted complexes CpFe(CO)(ER<sub>3</sub>)SCO-het in good yields (scheme 1).

IR spectra of **4–6** contain a strong band at 1947–1968 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to terminal carbonyl. This band is shifted to lower wavenumber compared to that of **1–3**. This shift might be attributed to weaker  $\pi$ -acid character of ER<sub>3</sub> compared to that of CO. A similar shift was also observed in the corresponding alkyl or aryl thiocarboxylate systems [26]. The stretching frequency of the carbonyl-thiocarboxylato ligands are at 1595–1618 cm<sup>-1</sup>, similar to that observed for CpFe(CO)(EPh<sub>3</sub>)SCOR (1558–1610 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The CO stretching frequency of the terminal carbonyl for the triethylphosphite complexes (**4d–6d**) is higher than those of **4a–c** to **6a–c**, in accord with the  $\pi$ -accepting properties of P(OEt)<sub>3</sub>. The CO stretching frequencies for these complexes are almost equal for PPh<sub>3</sub> and AsPh<sub>3</sub> adducts but are higher for the corresponding SbPh<sub>3</sub> derivatives.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of **4–6** show a singlet due to cyclopentadienyl at 4.52–4.80 ppm. This range is upfield compared to that of the starting dicarbonyl complexes CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het (4.89–5.08 ppm). This shift may reflect an increase in electron density at Fe following substitution of one carbonyl by ER<sub>3</sub>. The phenyl protons of EPh<sub>3</sub> are at 7.35–7.55 ppm as one (E = P, As) or two multiplets (E = Sb). The CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> protons of P(OEt)<sub>3</sub> complexes appeared as two multiplets, one (4.00–4.02 ppm) for the CH<sub>2</sub> and one (1.25–1.29 ppm) for methyl. These chemical shifts are lower than those observed for dithiocarbonate complexes CpFe(CO)(P(OEt)<sub>3</sub>)SCSOR (1.52 (CH<sub>3</sub>); 4.35 (CH<sub>2</sub>)) [27]. The <sup>31</sup>P-NMR spectra of **4a–6a** show a singlet at 98–101 ppm whereas those



Figure 1. Molecular structure of CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (2).

Table 2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) of 2, 5a, 5b, and 5c.

2		5	a	51	b	5	c
Fe-S1 Fe-C11 Fe-C12 Fe-C6 Fe-C7 Fe-C8 Fe-C9 Fe-C9 Fe-C10 S1-C1	2.2691(6) 1.777(2) 1.773(2) 2.091(3) 2.090(3) 2.091(2) 2.091(2) 2.085(2) 1.737(2)	Fe-S Fe-P Fe-C11 Fe-C6 Fe-C7 Fe-C8 Fe-C9 Fe-C10 S-C1	2.2708(8) 2.2284(9) 1.752(3) 2.100(3) 2.092(3) 2.105(3) 2.115(3) 2.102(3) 1.742(3)	Fe-S Fe-As Fe-C11 Fe-C6 Fe-C7 Fe-C8 Fe-C9 Fe-C10 S-C1	2.2734(8) 2.3258(5) 1.749(3) 2.080(3) 2.089(3) 2.096(3) 2.110(3) 2.086(3) 1.740(3)	Fe-S Fe-C11 Fe-C6 Fe-C7 Fe-C8 Fe-C9 Fe-C10 S-C1	2.2665(10) 2.4777(5) 1.751(4) 2.093(3) 2.084(3) 2.099(3) 2.114(4) 2.109(4) 1.739(3)
C101	1.225(3)	01–C1	1.225(3)	01–C1	1.226(4)	01–C1	1.234(4)
C1–S–Fe C11–Fe–S C12–Fe–S C11–Fe–C12 S–C1–O1	107.79(8) 94.27(8) 92.05(7) 94.00(10) 125.13(17)	Fe-S-C1 C11-Fe-S P-Fe-S P-Fe-C11 S-C1-O1	107.86(10) 93.60(9) 87.27(3) 94.09(10) 126.1(2)	Fe-S-C1 C11-Fe-S As-Fe-S As-Fe-C11 S-C1-O1	107.87(10) 92.36(10) 86.46(2) 94.63(10) 125.8(2)	Fe-S-C1 C11-Fe-S Sb-Fe-S Sb-Fe-C11 S-C1-O1	109.67(12) 88.72(12) 93.10(3) 91.87(10) 124.7(3)

of **4d–6d** exhibit a similar singlet at 236–239 ppm for the phosphine or phosphite. These data are comparable to those observed for cyclopentadienyl iron complexes containing phosphine or phosphite ligands [28–30].

#### 3.2. Crystal structures of 2 and 5a-c

Crystal structure of CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S), **2**, is shown in figure 1 and selected bond lengths and angles of this complex are listed in table 2. The complex displayed a three legged piano-stool configuration at Fe with  $\eta^5$ -cyclopentadienyl. The Fe–C(Cp) (average = 2.09 Å) and Fe–C(O) (1.777(2), 1.773(2) Å) bond lengths of **2** are similar to those found in other CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>-containing complexes [17–19]. The Fe–S bond distance of **2** (2.2691(6) Å) and C–O bond length of the ketonic carbonyl group of the



Figure 2. Molecular structure of CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5a)

thiocarboxylato ligand (1.225(3) Å) are also comparable to those found in CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SC(=O)X complexes. Angles around iron (S1–Fe–C11, S1–Fe–C12, and C11–Fe–C12) are about 90°. The Fe–S–C1 angle of 107.79(8)° is consistent with sp<sup>3</sup> hybridization of sulfur.

Structures of CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (**5a**), CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (**5b**), and CpFe(CO)(SbPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (**5c**) are shown in figures 2–4, respectively. Relevant bond parameters are listed in table 2. These complexes also adopt a three legged piano-stool with  $\eta^5$ -Cp as the seat. The Fe–C(O) bond distances in these molecules are comparable, 1.749–1.752 Å, moderately shorter than the corresponding lengths in **2** (average = 1.775 Å). This is due to stronger  $\sigma$ -donor ability and weaker  $\pi$ -accepting ability of ER<sub>3</sub> compared to carbonyl. The Fe–S bond distances in **5a**, **5b**, and **5c** of 2.2708(8), 2.2734(8) Å, and 2.2665(10) Å, respectively, are similar. However, those of **5a** and **5b** are longer than that of **2** but the corresponding bond of **5 c** is close to that of **2** (2.2691 Å). The C–O bond lengths of the ketonic carbonyl group attached to sulfur are comparable to those found in CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCOZ [Z=2-O<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (1.209(5) Å), 3-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>Ph (1.224(6) Å), 3,5-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(COCl)<sub>2</sub> (1.216(6) Å)] [9, 31, 32]. A noticeable increase in the E–Fe–S bond angle is observed going from E=P to E=Sb in accord with the size of the E-atom and is accompanied by a decrease in S–Fe–C(O) bond angle in the same order.

#### 3.3. Electrochemistry

Cyclic voltammograms are reported for 1 and 4a–d (table 3). Complex 4a, as a representative example (Supplementary material), displayed a quasi-reversible oxidation at 0.79 V attributed to metal-centered Fe(III/II) couple [33]. This couple is affected by the electron-donor ability of ER<sub>3</sub>. However, the half-wave potential of



Figure 3. Molecular structure of CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5b).



Figure 4. Molecular structure of CpFe(CO)(SbPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S) (5c).

Complex	$(E_{1/2}^0, \mathbf{V})^{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}}$	Electronic spectra λ <sub>max</sub> (nm)
1	1.14	321
4a	0.79	331
4b	0.83	330
4c	0.71	334
4d	0.83	335

Table 3. Cyclic voltammetric and electronic spectroscopic data of 1 and 4a–d.

<sup>a</sup>Solvent: MeCN, supporting electrolyte: Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub> (0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup>), scan rate: 0.1 V s, Pt-disc working electrode, Pt-wire auxiliary electrode, reference electrode Ag at 25°C. <sup>b</sup> $E_{1/2}^0$ M = ( $E_{pa}^0 + E_{pc}^0$ )/2.

CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO(2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O) (1) was shifted anodically by ~300 mV compared to those observed for **4a–d**. This anodic shift can be explained by the difference in electron density added to the metal center by the presence of the  $\sigma$ -donor (ER<sub>3</sub>) relative to CO. Based on the data provided in table 3, the largest shift of the Fe(III/II) redox couple relative to 1 is observed for **4c** (SbPh<sub>3</sub>) followed by **4a** (PPh<sub>3</sub>) with **4b** (AsPh<sub>3</sub>) and **4d** (P(OEt)<sub>3</sub>) being essentially equal. The shift for Fe(III/II) couples is **4b** = **4d** < **4a** < **4c** from a balance between  $\sigma$ - and  $\pi$ -contributions of the (ER<sub>3</sub>) ligands [34, 35].

#### 3.4. Absorption spectra

The optical absorption spectra of 1–6 were recorded in acetonitrile in order to identify the metal-to-ligand charge transfer (MLCT) and  $\pi$ – $\pi$ \* absorption bands expected. The UV-Vis spectra of 1 and 4a are provided in "Supplementary material." Electronic spectra of all the compounds showed two intense absorptions in the UV region. Bands at  $\lambda = 290-300$  nm are assigned as ligand-to-ligand charge transfer and bands at 321–408 nm are assigned to Fe(II)  $\rightarrow$  L(Cp) MLCT transition [36]. The replacement of a CO of 1 with a poorer  $\pi$ -acceptor ER<sub>3</sub> leads to a 10–15 nm increase in  $\lambda_{max}$  for 4a–d, consistent with the corresponding decrease in the energy separation between the highest occupied molecular orbital and lowest unoccupied molecular orbital for these compounds. However,  $\lambda_{max}$  is not very sensitive to the type of ER<sub>3</sub> ligand.

#### 4. Conclusion

Substitution of one CO by ER<sub>3</sub> resulted in an increase in electron density near iron. This is shown by stretching frequencies of the terminal carbonyl group, the Fe–C(O) bond lengths determined from the X-ray data, and the Fe(II/III)-oxidation potentials obtained from CV measurements. The stretching frequencies of terminal carbonyls is in the order CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>SCO-het > CpFe(CO)(P(OEt)<sub>3</sub>)SCO-het > CpFe(CO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>) SCO-het = CpFe(CO)(AsPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO-het > CpFe(CO)(SbPh<sub>3</sub>)SCO-het. The Fe–S bond distances for **5a–5c** are 2.2665(10) Å in **5c** to 2.2734(8) Å in **5b**. The Fe(III/II) redox couple increases in the order **4b = 4d < 4c**.

#### Supplementary material

CCDC-806381, 806382, 806383, and 806384 for **2**, **5a**, **5b**, and **5c**, respectively, contain supplementary crystal data. These data can be obtained free of charge on application to The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre *via* http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif.

#### Acknowledgments

We thank the Deanship of Research, Jordan University of Science and Technology for financial support (grant no. 82/2009).

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