REACTIONS OF HYDRIDOCARBONYLTRIS(TRIPHENYLPHOSPHINE)-RHODIUM WITH ALKYNES

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SUMMARY

The hydride, RhH(CO)(PPh₃)₃, reacts with the alkynes RC₂R (where R = CO_2Me , CO_2Et , CO_2H or C_6H_5), to give stable adducts of the type RCH=CR-Rh-(CO)(PPh₃)₂. Cleavage of the adducts where R = CO_2Me or C_6H_5 with anhydrous HCl gives dimethyl fumarate and *trans*-stilbene respectively, indicating that these adducts have a *trans*-configuration about the double bond. The similar reaction of the hydride with perfluoro-1-butyne also gives a stable, crystalline adduct, CF_3 -CH= $C(CF_3)$ -Rh(CO)(PPh₃)₂, which has been shown by NMR spectroscopy to have a *cis*-configuration, implying that a different mechanism operates in this reaction.

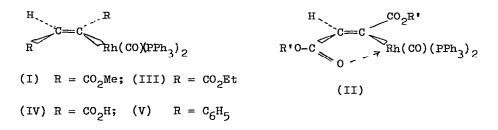
INTRODUCTION

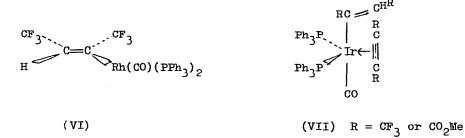
The hydride, RhH(CO)(PPh₃)₃ is an efficient catalyst for homogeneous hydrogenation¹, isomerisation²⁻⁴ and hydroformylation^{2,5} of olefins. One of the key steps in each of these reactions is the insertion of an olefin into the rhodium-hydrogen bond. Recent work⁶ has shown that, with the exception of an adduct from tetrafluoroethylene, the σ -alkyl complexes obtained by reaction of the hydride with alkenes are extremely labile, as expected in view of the high catalytic activity of the hydride. Whereas allene and certain conjugated dienes, which inhibit catalysis, do yield stable π -allyl complexes upon reactions with the hydride⁷. Our interest^{8,9} in the stereochemistry of hydride addition reactions led us to investigate some reactions of RhH(CO)(PPh₃)₃ with some electron-deficient alkynes in the hope that these would yield stable complexes, and lead to a better understanding of the hydride addition step; these reactions are now reported. While this work was in progress some similar reactions of IrH(CO)(PPh₃)₃ with alkynes were reported¹⁰ and brief mention was made to the fact that these authors had also investigated the reactions of the rhodium analogue, but as far as we are aware no details have been reported.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When a suspension of RhH(CO)(PPh₃)₃ in ether is shaken at room temperature with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate the yellow, crystalline solid MeO₂C-CH=

C(CO₂Me)-(RhCO)(PPh₃)₂ is obtained in 81% yield. Its IR spectrum shows a metal carbonyl band at 1965 cm⁻¹, two strong bands at 1708 and 1685 cm⁻¹ attributable to the ester carbonyl groups, and a medium strong band at 1522 cm⁻¹ [ν (C=C)]. The presence in the spectrum of two bands for the ester carbonyl groups and the absence⁸ of any strong band in the region of 1495–1550 cm⁻¹ supports a four-coordinate arrangement about the rhodium atom [structure (I)], rather than an alternative structure (II) in which one of the ester carbonyl groups also coordinates to the metal atom to give a five-coordinate species. The position of the metal-carbonyl band, which is similar to that of trans-RhCl(CO)(PPh₃)₂ $[v(CO) 1960 \text{ cm}^{-1}]^{11}$, is consistent with a trans-square planar arrangement about the rhodium atom. When complex (I) is cleaved with dry hydrogen chloride in benzene at room temperature the only organic product isolated (in 68% yield) is dimethyl fumarate. Wilkinson et al.⁶ have shown that the complex CHF_2 - CF_2 - $Rh(CO)(PPh_3)_2$ undergoes an oxidativeaddition reaction with HCl to give an intermediate Rhm-HCl adduct, which on warming to room temperature decomposes with hydrogen transfer to give 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane. It seems very probable that cleavage of compound (I) occurs in a similar manner, and it is reasonable to assume that the hydrogen transfer to the σ -alkenyl carbon atom will occur with retention of configuration about the double bond; as previously demonstrated for the acid cleavage of certain alkenylmanganese carbonyl complexes^{12,13}. On this basis it is considered that the formation of dimethyl fumarate on acid cleavage of (I) establishes a trans-configuration about the double bond.





Diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate and acetylenedicarboxylic acid react similarly with RhH(CO)(PPh₃)₃ at room temperature to give the adducts (III) and (IV) in 25% and 72% yields respectively. The IR spectrum of compound (IV) shows, in addition to the metal carbonyl band at 1970 cm⁻¹, bands at 1690 and 1645 cm⁻¹ for the

carboxyl carbonyl groups, and a band at 1575 cm^{-1} . Although this last band is in the region expected⁸ for a coordinated carbonyl group [structure (II)] in view of the fact that both carboxyl carbonyl groups also are apparent in the spectrum it seems more likely that compound (IV) has a four-coordinate structure and that the band at 1575 cm^{-1} is due to the C=C bond. The IR spectrum of (III) shows some significant differences from those of compounds (I) and (IV) in that only one band at 1680 cm^{-1} is apparent in the ester carbonyl region, and there is a strong band at 1565 cm^{-1} which does not appear in the spectrum of (I). This may indicate that compound (III) is fivecoordinate. Some difficulty was experienced in isolating this compound, and it is possible that although a four-coordinate complex is formed as the initial reaction product some rearrangement to the five-coordinate complex may have occurred during the work-up procedure. Although acid cleavage of the compounds (III) and (IV) has not been undertaken it seems probable that these compounds also have a *trans*-configuration about the double bond.

The reaction of the hydride with diphenylacetylene gives the yellow, crystalline adduct (V) in 82% yield. This compound, which must necessarily be four-coordinate, shows a metal-carbonyl band at 1960 cm⁻¹ in its IR spectrum, and a weak band at 1590 (or 1570) cm⁻¹ for the C=C bond. Cleavage of this adduct with anhydrous HCl gives trans-stilbene as the only organic product. When this cleavage reaction was monitored by IR spectroscopy no *cis*-stilbene was detected at any stage during the reaction, and a control experiment in which *cis*-stilbene was shaken with dry HCl in benzene under identical conditions to those employed in the cleavage reaction failed to give any trans-stilbene. These results imply that the adduct (V) also has a trans-configuration. The other products isolated from this cleavage reaction were RhCl(CO)(PPh₃), and a pale yellow crystalline solid which analysed correctly for RhHCl₂(CO)(PPh₃)₂. Its IR spectrum showed metal carbonyl bands at 2041 and 1953 cm⁻¹, and a rhodium-hydrogen stretching frequency band at 2105 cm⁻¹. The spectrum was similar in all respects to the previously reported compounds RhHCl₂-(CO)L₂ (where L=AsPh₃ or SbPh₃)¹⁴ [cf. where L=AsPPh₃, ν (CO)=2067; $v(Rh-H) = 2087 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; where L=SbPh₃, v(CO) = 2062; $v(Rh-H) = 2035 \text{ cm}^{-1}$] apart from the presence of two metal carbonyl bands, which probably indicates that the product is a mixture of stereoisomers.

The reaction between RhH(CO)(PPh₃)₃ and hexafluoro-2-butyne occurs readily at room temperature to afford the yellow, crystalline adduct (VI) in 83% yield. Its IR spectrum shows a metal-carbonyl band at 1985 cm⁻¹, a weak-medium band at 1604 cm⁻¹ [ν (C=C)], and strong ν (C-F) bands in the region of 1090-1345 cm⁻¹. Its ¹H NMR spectrum shows a quartet (J 10.7 Hz) at τ 5.16 arising from coupling of a vinylic proton with a geminal CF₃ group, and further quartet splitting (J 2.5 Hz) arises by coupling of this proton to the *trans*-CF₃ group; the magnitude of the ¹H-¹⁹F coupling to the vicinal CF₃ group is more consistent with a *trans*-H-CF₃ arrangement (*ie.* a *cis*-adduct) than a *cis*-H-CF₃ arrangement (*trans*-adduct)¹⁵⁻¹⁷. The ¹⁹F NMR spectrum shows a quartet (J 11.2 Hz) at -27.1 ppm downfield from external trifluoroacetic acid for a CF₃ group geminal to the rhodium atom, and in agreement with this assignment this band is further split into doublets (J 2.5 Hz) by coupling to the *trans*-vinylic proton. The other CF₃ group appears as a quartet of doublets at -19.9 ppm due to coupling with the *cis*-vicinal CF₃ group and the geminal vinylic proton; the large ¹⁹F-¹⁹F coupling constant again supports¹⁵⁻¹⁷ the assignment of

a cis-configuration to this compound.

This difference in the stereochemistry of the hydride addition reaction with hexafiuoro-2-butyne and the other acetylenes employed in this work could be explained in terms of cis-trans isomerisation of adducts formed initially in the reactions with the acetylenes RC₂R (where $R = CO_2Me$, CO_2H , CO_2Et or Ph); a similar isomerisation has been shown to occur on heating some analogous (perfluoroviny)arsenic compounds¹⁶. However, the mild conditions employed for these reactions make this explanation unlikely, and a more reasonable assumption is that the change in stereochemistry is indicative of a change in reaction mechanism. It has been previously established¹⁸ that the initial step in the reactions of RhH(CO)(PPh₃)₃ and similar complexes with unsaturated ligands is dissociation of a triphenylphosphine ligand to give RhH(CO)(PPh₃)₂. This coordinatively unsaturated hydride is then considered to react with the unsaturated ligand, in this case an acetylene molecule, to form a five-coordinate π -complex. In the case of the acetylenes where R = CO₂Me, CO₂Et, CO₂H or C₆H₅ it seems probable that these π -complexes will be relatively unstable, and that the equilibrium will lie well over on the hydride side. In these cases an alternative reaction pathway involving direct attack of $RhH(CO)(PPh_3)_2$ on the acetylene, either by a free radical or nucleophilic mechanism, could operate, leading to formation of the trans-adducts, as previously observed for reactions between other metal carbonyl hydrides and electron-deficient acetylenes^{8,19}. In the case of the reaction with hexafluoro-2-butyne the π -complex would be expected to be more stable, and may have a sufficiently long lifetime to enable cis-hydride transfer to occur from the rhodium atom to the acetylenic carbon atom with the formation of the isolated cis-adduct, *i.e.* a similar mechanism to that postulated to occur in the reaction between cis-(Et₃P)₂PtHCl and hexafluoro-2-butyne^{15,20}. In this context it would be interesting to compare the stereochemistry of addition of $RhH(CO)(PPh_3)_3$ to acetylenes with that of $IrH(CO)(PPh_3)_3$, since the π -acetylene-IrH complexes should be more stable and should give cis-adducts with the majority of disubstituted acetylenes. Although the reactions of the iridium hydride with acetylenes have been reported¹⁰ and have been shown to give a rather different type of complex (VII), the stereochemistry of the addition step was not commented on. This difference in the type of complex obtained from the iridium analogue compared with those obtained in this work with the rhodium hydride is probably due to the different reaction conditions employed. The reactions with IrH(CO)(PPh₃)₃ were carried out using an excess of the acetylene and a reaction temperature of 70° , rather than a 1/1 acetylene/hydride ratio at room temperature as used in this work.

The complexes isolated during this work are all reasonably stable in air, and show no tendency to dissociate at room temperature in solution, unlike the fluoroalkyl complex $Rh(CF_2CF_2H)(CO)(PPh_3)_2^6$, although we have yet to investigate the properties of these compounds at higher temperatures.

EXPERIMENTAL

IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 621 grating instrument as mulls in Nujol and HCB, and NMR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer R10, a Varian HA100 or a Hitachi-Perkin-Elmer R20A instrument. Molecular weight determinations were carried out using a Mechrolab vapour pressure osmometer. Chromatographic separations were carried out using either deactivated alumina (Grade H) or Florisil (100–200 u.s. mesh). All solvents were dried and de-aerated before use, and light petroleum had a boiling range of 40–60°. Except where stated, all reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen.

Dimethyl and diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate, acetylenedicarboxylic acid, and diphenylacetylene were commercial samples used without further purification, as were the samples of rhodium trichloride trihydrate and triphenylphosphine. Hexa-fluoro-2-butyne was prepared by a previously reported procedure²¹. *cis*-Stilbene was obtained in 10% yield by reduction of diphenylacetylene using a copper-zinc couple and glacial acetic acid²². Hydridocarbonyltris(triphenylphosphine)rhodium was prepared from rhodium trichloride trihydride using the method previously reported by Wilkinson *et al.*¹⁸.

Reactions of hydridocarbonyltris(triphenylphosphine)rhodium

(a). With dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate. The acetylene (0.2 g, 1.4 mmole) was added to a suspension of the hydride (1.0 g, 1.08 mmole) in diethyl ether (50 ml), and the mixture was shaken for 30 min. Filtration gave a yellow solid, which was recrystallised from acetone to give dimethyl[carbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodio]fumarate (I) (0.7 g, 81%), m.p. 155° (with decomp.). [Found: C, 64.6; H, 4.8; mol.wt., 754 (benzene). $C_{43}H_{37}O_5P_2Rh$ calcd.: C, 64.7; H, 4.6%; mol.wt., 798.] Its IR spectrum showed bands at 3050 m, 2990 w, 2940 s, 2790 w, 2730 w, 1965 vs, 1730 m, 1708 s, 1685 s, 1655 m, 1605 w, 1522 m, 1475 w, 1431 vs, 1390 m, 1330 m, 1315 m, 1240 m, 1205 m, 1180 m, 1155 m, 1110 m, 1105 m, 1090 m, 1033 w, 1024 w, 1005 w, 995 w, 935 w, 890 w, 860 w, 785 w, 772 w, 750 m(sh), 740 m, 719 m, 700 m, 690 s, 572 s and 495 m cm⁻¹. Its ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, with TMS internal reference; 100 MHz) showed bands at $\tau 2.5$ (30, complex multiplet: aromatic protons), 5.49 (1, singlet; vinylic proton), 6.74 (3, singlet; OCH₃ protons) and 6.98 (3, singlet; OCH₃ protons).

(b). With diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate. When the acetylene (0.5 g, 2.9 mmole) was shaken at room temperature for 3 days with a suspension of the hydride (2.0 g, 2.16 mmole) in ether (50 ml), a yellow solid (1.5 g) was obtained after filtration. Chromatographic separation on Florisil(diethylether eluant) gave yellow crystals of diethyl[carbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodio]fumarate (III) (0.6 g, 25%), m.p. 145° (with decomp.); considerable decomposition occurred during chromatography, and attempts to purify the product by the alternative procedure of recrystallisation from acetone or from a mixture of dichloromethane and light petroleum were unsuccessful. (Found : C, 64.8; H, 4.5. $C_{45}H_{41}O_5P_2Rh$ calcd. : C, 65.4; H, 5.0%.) Its ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) showed bands at τ 2.5 (30, complex multiplet; aromatic protons), 5.46 (1, singlet; vinylic proton), 6.28 (2, quartet, J 7 Hz; CH₂ protons), 6.40 (2, quartet, J 7 Hz; CH₂ protons), 9.03 (3, triplet, J 7 Hz; CH₃ protons) and 9.36 (3, triplet, J 7 Hz; CH₃ protons). Its IR spectrum (Nujol and HCB mulls) showed bands at 3055 m, 3024 w, 2980 m, 2920 w, 2900 w, 1962 vs, 1680 s, 1565 s, 1478 s, 1434 s, 1389 m, 1362 m, 1292 m, 1240 m, 1159 m, 1090 m, 1065 w, 1034 m, 1023 m, 996 w, 969 w, 869 w, 845 w, 742 s, 713 m, 692 s, 565 w, 550 w, 538 w, 513 s, 500 m, 492 m, 464 w, 444 w, 440 w, 424 w, 415 w, and 323 w cm⁻¹.

(c). With acetylenedicarboxylic acid. A mixture of the acid (0.15 g, 1.4 mmole)

and the hydride (1.0 g, 1.08 mmole) in benzene (50 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 4 h to yield pale yellow crystals of [carbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodio]fumaric acid (IV) (0.6 g, 72%), which was recrystallised with some difficulty from a mixture of dichloromethane and light petroleum. [Found : C, 63.6; H, 4.6; mol.wt., 774(benzene). $C_{41}H_{33}O_5P_2Rh$ calcd. : C, 63.9; H, 4.3%; mol.wt., 771.] This compound decomposed slowly above 190°. Its IR spectrum showed bands at 3100–2500 s(broad), 1970 vs, 1810 w, 1700 m(sh), 1690 s, 1645 s, 1575 s, 1480 s, 1430 s, 1410 w, 1310 m, 1270 m, 1210 s, 1180 m, 1155 w, 1110 w(sh), 1095 s, 1070 w, 1025 m, 995 m, 970 w, 890 w, 865 w, 845 w, 835 w, 748 s, 740 s, 720 m, 691 vs, 680 vs, 672 s, 657 w, 639 w, 615 w, 597 w, 535 s(sh), 515 vs, 510 vs, 495 s, 463 m, 450 w, 415 m, 380 w and 350 w cm⁻¹. Its ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) showed only a multiplet at τ 2.5 for the aromatic protons, and bands due to the carboxylic acid and vinylic protons could not be detected.

(d). With diphenylacetylene. When the hydride (2.0 g, 2.16 mmole), diphenylacetylene (0.4 g, 2.2 mmole) and ether (50 ml) were sealed under vacuum in a tube (100 ml), which was then shaken at room temperature for 1 week, chromatographic separation (ether eluant) of the low melting, yellow solid residue, obtained on removal of the solvent, gave two fractions. The first of these (0.3 g) was shown by IR spectroscopy to be a mixture of triphenylphosphine and triphenylphosphine oxide. The second, on concentration of the solvent and cooling at 0° overnight gave yellow crystals of *trans*-[carbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodio]stilbene (1.5 g, 82%) (V), m.p. 158° (with decomp.). (Found: C, 73.1; H, 5.2. $C_{51}H_{41}OP_{2}Rh$ calcd.: C, 73.4; H, 4.9%.) Its IR spectrum showed bands at 3050 w, 3030 w, 3000 w, 2960 w, 1960 vs, 1913 w, 1615 w, 1590 w, 1570 w, 1491 w, 1485 m(sh), 1477 m, 1446 w, 1435 s, 1330 w, 1310 w, 1293 w, 1182 w, 1155 w, 1118 w, 1092 m, 1089 m(sh), 1069 w, 1028 w, 1018 w, 995 w, 961 m, 956 m, 850 w, 762 m, 752 m, 739 m, 719 m, 705 m, 691 s, 560 w, 540 w, 535 w, 530 w, 520 s, 500 m, 495 m, 445 w, and 425 m cm⁻¹. Its ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₁: TMS internal reference; 100 MHz) showed bands at τ 2.8 (40, complex multiplet; aromatic protons) and 5.66 (1, singlet; vinyl proton).

(e). With hexafluoro-2-butyne. Hexafluoro-2-butyne (1.0 g, 6.16 mmole) and the hydride (2.0 g, 2.16 mmole) in ether (50 ml) were sealed under vacuum in a tube and shaken at room temperature for 3 days. Removal of the solvent and chromatographic separation of the yellow solid residue with a 1/1 mixture of ether/light petroleum as eluant gave yellow crystals of cis-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-[carbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodio]-2-butene (VI) (1.5 g, 83%), m.p. 184° (with decomp.). (Found: C, 60.0; H, 3.9; F, 13.8. C₄₁H₃₁F₆OP₂Rh calcd.: C, 60.2; H, 3.8; F, 13.9%). Its IR spectrum showed bands at 3074 m, 3056 m, 3004 m, 1985 vs, 1604 m, 1584 w, 1570 w, 1482 s, 1479 s, 1458 w, 1435 s, 1405 w, 1345 s, 1338 s, 1308 m, 1255 s, 1203 s, 1178 m, 1158 m, 1110 s, 1090 s, 1024 m, 996 m, 888 w, 844 w, 830 w, 806 m, 760 w, 745 s(sh), 740 s, 720 m, 690 s, 660 m, 637 m, 612 m, 570 m, 543 m, 510 s, 443 w, 426 w, and 417 m cm⁻¹. Its ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) showed bands at τ 2.5 (30, complex multiplet; aromatic protons) and 5.16 [1, quartet of quartets; $J(H-F_{aem})$ 10.7 Hz, J(H-F_{trans}) 2.5 Hz]. The ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (CDCl₃; TFA external reference; 56.4 MHz) showed a quartet of doublets at -27.1 ppm [3; J(F-F) 11.2 Hz, J(H-F) 2.5 Hz] and a quartet of doublets at -19.9 ppm [3; J(F-F) 11.2 Hz, J(F-H_{aem}) 10.7 Hz].

Cleavage reactions with anhydrous hydrogen chloride

(a). Dimethyl [carbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodio] fumarate. The adduct (I) (1.0 g, 1.02 mmole), dry hydrogen chloride (0.4 g, 11.0 mmole) and benzene (50 ml) were sealed under vacuum in a tube, which was then shaken at room temperature for 1 day. Evaporation of the solvent gave a red oil (1.0 g), which on sublimation yielded dimethyl fumarate (0.10 g, 68%) identified by IR and ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

(b). trans-[Carbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodio]stilbene. Dry hydrogen chloride (0.5 g) was condensed in vacuo onto a frozen solution (-196°) of the adduct (V) (1.5 g, 1.8 mmole) in ether (50 ml) contained in a reaction tube (250 ml), which was then sealed and allowed to warm up to room temperature. The tube was then shaken for 2 days, whereupon a yellow crystalline solid had separated. This was filtered off (0.95 g) and washed with ether. This product, which was possibly a mixture of isomers of hydridodichlorocarbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodium (Found : C, 60.8; H, 4.4. C₃₇H₃₁Cl₂OP₂Rh calcd.: C, 61.1; H, 4.3%) was insoluble in all common organic solvents. The filtrate was then evaporated to give a yellow solid (0.6 g), which on chromatography on Florisil (light petroleum eluant) gave white crystals of transstilbene (0.22 g, 69%) identified by IR and ¹H NMR spectroscopy and mixed m.p. determination with an authentic sample. Further elution with acetone gave a yellow, crystalline solid (0.2 g), shown by IR spectroscopy to be chlorocarbonylbis(triphenylphosphine)rhodium. (Found: C, 64.6; H, 4.5. C₃₇H₃₁ClOP₂Rh calcd.: C, 64.2; H, 4.3%)

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