

## LANTHANIDES AND ACTINIDES

ANNUAL SURVEY COVERING THE YEAR 1980 \*

TOBIN J. MARKS

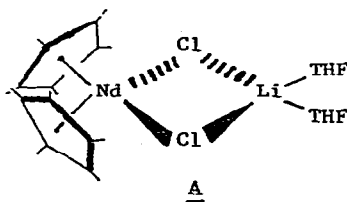
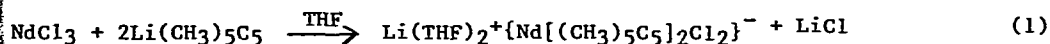
Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201 (U.S.A)

General

An American Chemical Society Symposium Series volume entitled "Lanthanide and Actinide Chemistry and Spectroscopy" has appeared (1). Of particular interest to organometallic chemists are the chapters entitled, "Nonclassical Activation of Carbon Monoxide by Organoactinides"(2), "Alkyl, Hydride, and Related Bis(trimethylsilyl)amide Derivatives of the 4f- and 5f-Block Metals"(3), "Organic Derivatives of the f-Block Elements: A Quest for Orbital Participation and Future Perspective"(4), "Synthesis and Spectroscopy of Novel Mixed-Ligand Organolanthanide Complexes"(5), "Cyclooctatetraeneactinide(IV) Bis-borohydrides"(6), "Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Studies of Uranocenes"(7). The papers in this 472-page volume are taken from a symposium held in September of 1979.

Lanthanides

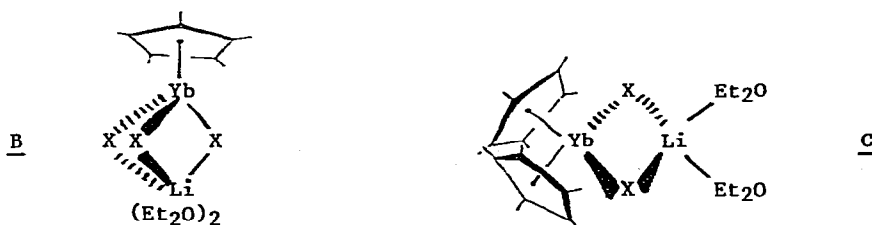
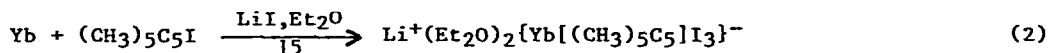
The year 1980 saw considerable progress in the chemistry of lanthanides with substituted cyclopentadienyl ligands. Wayda and Evans (8) reported that an anionic bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) derivative of neodymium(III) could be prepared via the approach of eq.(1). Structure A was proposed for this complex.



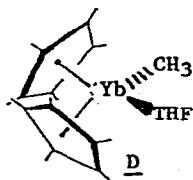
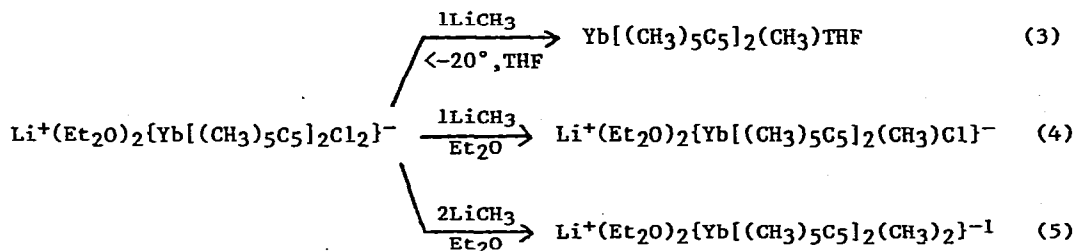
The stability of this compound is believed to reflect the steric demands of the  $\eta^5\text{-(CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5$  ligand, since analogous  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$  derivatives of early lanthanides

\*Previous survey see J. Organometal. Chem., 203 (1980) 415 - 448.

have not been synthetically accessible (9). This is not, however, the case for the later lanthanides where many bis(cyclopentadienyl) derivatives are known (9). Watson (10) has prepared both Yb(II) and Yb(III) complexes of the  $\eta^5\text{-(CH}_3\text{)}_5\text{C}_5\text{I}$  ligand. In an interesting metal oxidation reaction,  $(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5\text{I}$  (generated in situ from  $\text{I}_2$  and  $\text{Li}(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5$ ) was reported to react with ytterbium metal in diethyl ether according to eq.(2). Structure B was proposed for this



compound. In longer duration reactions, eq.(2) yields principally  $\text{Li}^+(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\{\text{Yb}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2\text{I}_2\}^{-}$ , for which a structure (C) analogous to A (vide supra) was suggested. Chloride derivatives ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$ ) of presumably analogous structures could be synthesized from  $\text{YbCl}_3$  and appropriate quantities of  $\text{Li}(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5$ . Various methyl derivatives were then prepared as shown in eqs.(3)-(5). The neutral complex  $\text{Yb}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2(\text{CH}_3)\text{THF}$  was assigned structure D;



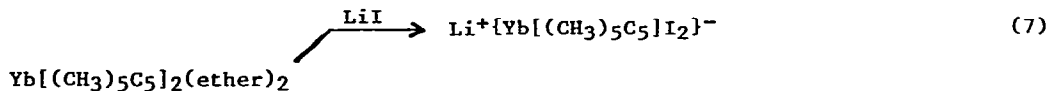
it could also be prepared by demethylating  $\text{Yb}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2(\text{CH}_3)_2^{-}$  with  $\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ .

It was also possible to obtain divalent ytterbium compounds via the route of eq.(6). Some but not all of the coordinated ether could be removed by heating

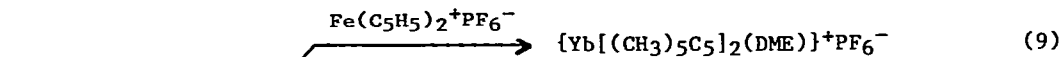


ether = Et<sub>2</sub>O, THF, 1/2 DME

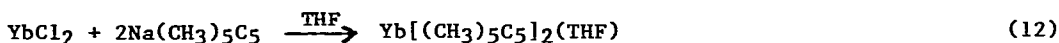
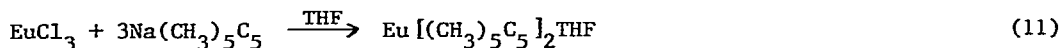
in vacuo. The divalent complexes undergo interesting ring displacement reactions, as shown in eqs.(7) and (8). Oxidation proceeds cleanly to give Yb(III)



complexes (eqs.(9) and (10)).



Zalkin, Andersen, et al. (11) have synthesized bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) derivatives of europium and ytterbium using Na(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>C<sub>5</sub> (eqs.(11) and (12)). In eq.(11), a reduction of Eu(III) to Eu(II) occurs, and



Eu[(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>C<sub>5</sub>]<sub>2</sub>(THF)·Et<sub>2</sub>O is isolated after extracting with ether. Recrystallization from toluene yields Eu[(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>C<sub>5</sub>]<sub>2</sub>(THF). In contrast, the reaction of the YbCl<sub>2</sub> with two equivalents of Na(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>C<sub>5</sub> initially yields the red Yb[(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>C<sub>5</sub>]<sub>2</sub>(THF) complex on crystallization of the product extracts from ether. A small yield of the corresponding (green) Yb[(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>C<sub>5</sub>]<sub>2</sub>(Et<sub>2</sub>O) complex was later crystallized from the remaining mother liquor. An X-ray structural study was undertaken of the Yb[(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>C<sub>5</sub>]<sub>2</sub>(THF) complex, which crystallizes with half a mole of toluene. As can be seen in Figure 1, the complex is monomeric, with an average Yb-C bond distance of 2.663(2) Å and a Yb-O bond distance of 2.412(5) Å, both of which are shorter than the corresponding distances in Yb(CH<sub>3</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·THF (vide infra). The ring centroid-Yb-ring centroid angle is 144°, while the ring centroid-Yb-O angles average 108°.

Zinnen, Pluth, and Evans (12) have reported the synthesis of Yb(CH<sub>3</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(THF) by four different routes (eqs.(13)-(16)). The ytterbium

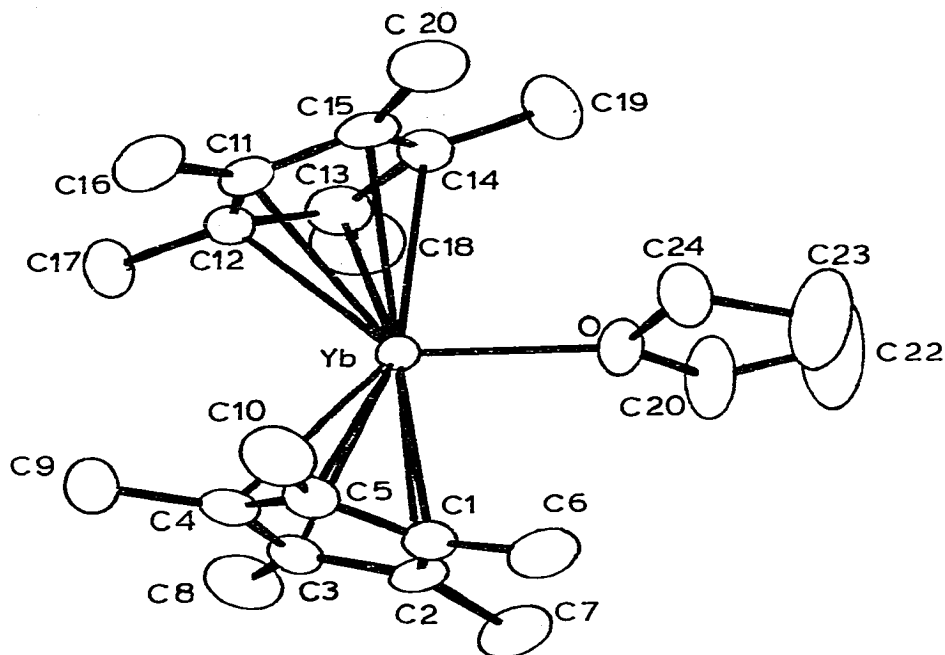
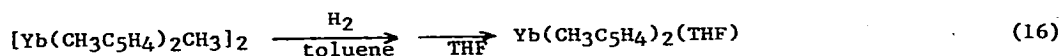
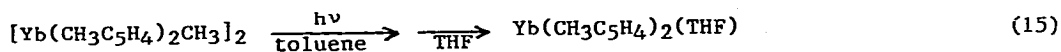
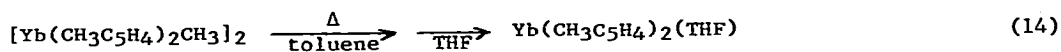
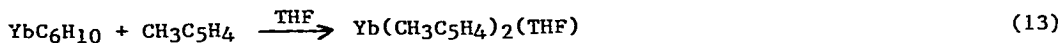


Fig. 1. The molecular structure of  $\text{Yb}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2(\text{THF})$  from ref. 5.



precursor in eq.(13) is prepared by condensing ytterbium vapor with 3-hexyne. Circumstantial chemical evidence was presented to argue that eq.(16) proceeds via an ytterbium hydride. The molecular structure of  $\text{Yb}(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)_2(\text{THF})$  was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction and the result is shown in Figure 2. In the solid state the compound exists as a chain polymer where each ytterbium(II) ion is bonded to one terminal  $\text{CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$  ligand ( $\text{Yb}-\text{C} = 2.76(1) \text{ \AA}$ ), a single THF ligand ( $\text{Yb}-\text{O} = 2.53(2) \text{ \AA}$ ), and two shared, bridging  $\text{CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$  ligands (average  $\text{Yb}-\text{C} = 2.89(2) \text{ \AA}$ ). The  $\text{Yb}-\text{C}$  bond distances are seen to be longer than in related  $\text{Yb}(\text{III})$  complexes such as  $[\text{Yb}(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)_2\text{Cl}]_2$  (9), for which  $\text{Yb}-\text{C} =$

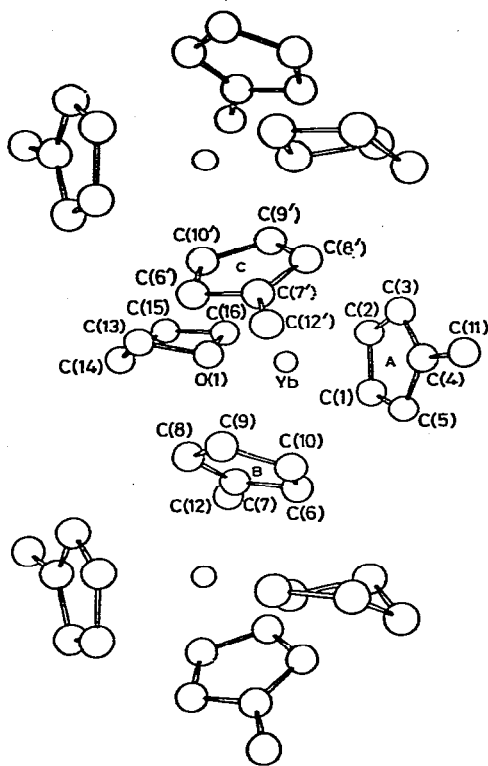
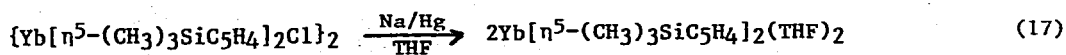


Fig. 2. The solid state structure of  $\text{Yb}(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)_2(\text{THF})$  from ref. 12.

2.58(1) Å. The angles between the various ring centroids and the ytterbium ion in the present case range from  $114.6^\circ$  to  $118.0^\circ$ . This structural result presents an interesting contrast to the aforementioned  $\text{Yb}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2(\text{THF})$  structure, where the steric bulk of the  $\eta^5\text{-(CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5$  ligands apparently impedes molecular association.

An additional example of divalent ytterbium complexes with substituted cyclopentadienyl ligands  $[(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_4]$  is provided by work of Lappert, Atwood, *et al.* (13). Reduction of  $\{\text{Yb}[\eta^5\text{-(CH}_3)_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_4]_2\text{Cl}\}_2$  proceeds as shown in eq. (17). The THF in the product can be displaced by TMEDA or removed by



sublimation at ca.  $300^\circ\text{C}/10^{-3}$  Torr. Reaction with iodine yields  $\{\text{Yb}[(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_4]_2\text{I}\}_2$ . The molecular structure of the THF complex was determined by X-ray diffraction techniques and the result is presented in Figure 3. The ligation geometry is approximately tetrahedral with the angles ring

centroid-Yb-ring centroid = 133°; ring centroid-Yb-O(1) = 107°; ring centroid-Yb-O(2) = 106 and 109°; and O(1)-Yb-O(2) = 85°. The average Yb-C distance is 2.76 Å (ranging from 2.64(4)–2.84(4) Å), and the Yb-O distances are 2.42(2) and 2.39(3) Å. Clearly, the bulkier trimethylsilyl ring substituents and the additional coordinated THF molecule inhibit the intermolecular ring sharing found in Yb(CH<sub>3</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(THF) (*vide supra*).

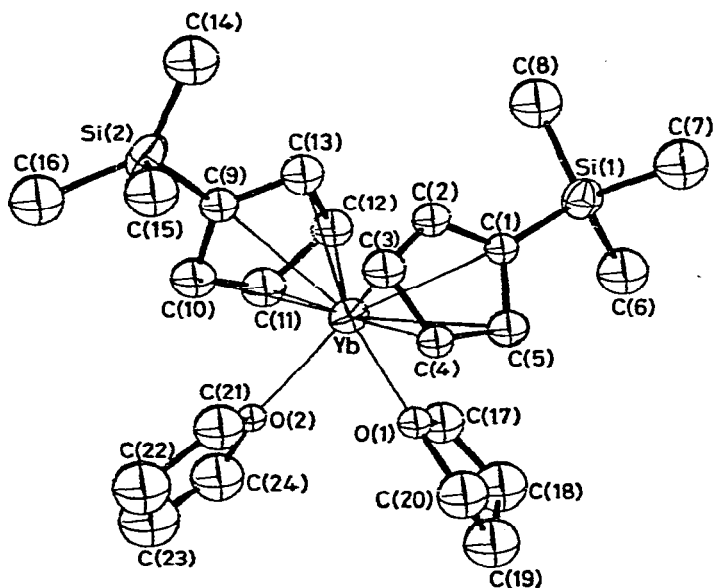
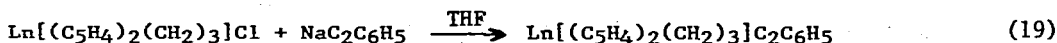
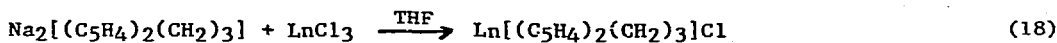


Fig. 3. The molecular structure of Yb[(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SiC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>(THF)<sub>2</sub> from ref. 13.

In another study with a substituted cyclopentadienyl ligand, John and Tsutsui (4,14) employed a ring-bridged bis(cyclopentadienyl) ligand, <sup>-</sup>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> (15), to stabilize early lanthanide complexes. The synthesis of the chloro derivatives is shown in eq.(18), and conversion to phenylacetylide compounds in eq.(19). The new complexes were characterized by elemental analy-



Ln = La, Ce

sis, infrared, uv-visible, and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy, and by magnetic susceptibility. No information was provided on the degree of association of these compounds.

The tris(cyclopentadienyl) lanthanides are known to form adducts with Lewis bases,  $\text{Ln}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_3\text{B}$  (9), however only one complex,  $\text{Pr}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3\text{CNC}_6\text{H}_{11}$ , has been characterized by diffraction techniques (16). Rogers, Bynum, and Atwood (17) have now reported a structural study of  $\text{Gd}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3(\text{THF})$ , prepared by reacting equimolar quantities of  $\text{GdCl}_3$  and  $\text{NaC}_5\text{H}_5$  in THF. The pseudotetrahedral coordination geometry found in  $\text{Pr}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3\text{CNC}_6\text{H}_{11}$  and numerous actinide  $\text{M}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_3\text{X}$  compounds is again observed (Figure 4). The average Gd-C distance, 2.74(3) Å

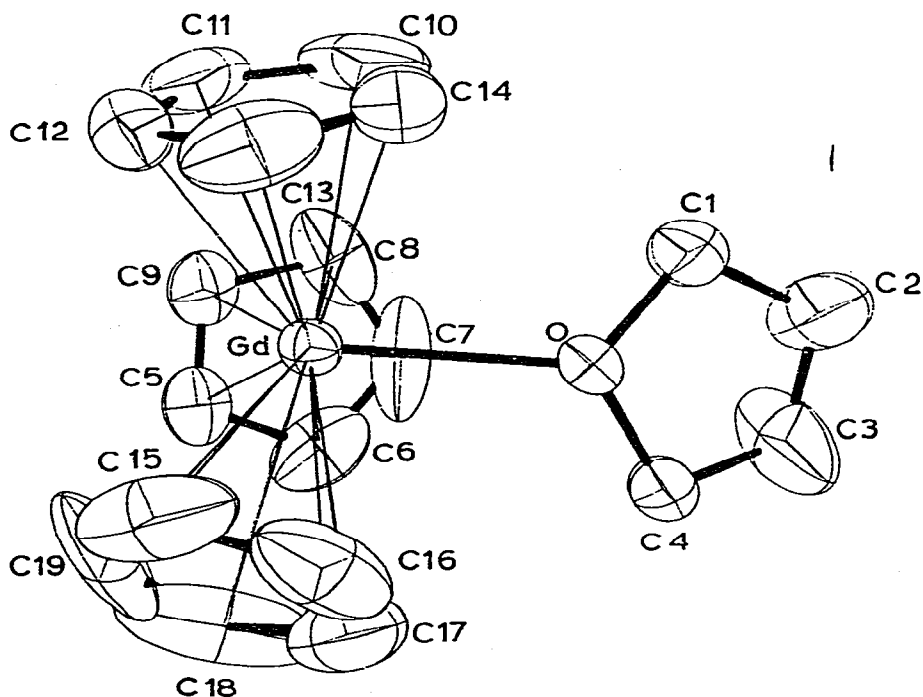
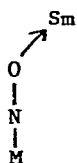
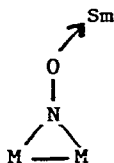


Fig. 4. The molecular structure of  $\text{Gd}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3(\text{THF})$  from ref. 10.

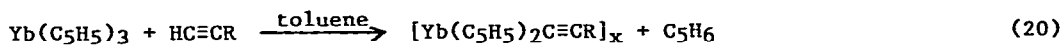
compares favorably with analogous distances in other lanthanide cyclopentadienyl complexes when corrections are made for differences in ionic radii. The ring centroid-Gd-ring centroid angle of  $117^\circ$  and the ring centroid-Gd-O angle of  $99^\circ$  compare favorably with those in  $\text{Pr}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3\text{CNC}_6\text{H}_{11}$  and the actinide  $\text{M}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_3\text{X}$  complexes.

Onaka (18) has now published studies of the interaction of  $\text{Sm}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3$  with transition metal nitrosyls. Shifts in  $\nu_{\text{NO}}$  infrared band positions indicate samarium-nitrosyl interactions ( $\underline{\text{E-G}}$ ) in compounds with terminal ( $\underline{\text{E}}$ ,

EFG

$\text{Cr}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)(\text{CO})_2\text{NO}$ , doubly bridging (F,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{NO}]_2$ ,  $[\text{Cr}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)(\text{NO})_2]_2$ ,  $[\text{Mn}(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)(\text{NO})\text{CO}]_2$ ), and triply bridging (G,  $\text{Mn}_3(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)_3(\text{NO})_4$ ) nitrosyls. Addition of diethylamine regenerates the spectrum of the uncoordinated nitrosyl. The approximate order of Lewis basicity with respect to  $\text{Sm}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3$  is found to be terminal  $\text{NO} > \mu_2\text{-CO} > \mu_2\text{-NO} \approx \mu_3\text{-NO}$ . The greater basicity of the terminally bound ligand is in marked contrast to observations for metal carbonyls (19).

Fischer and Bielang (5,20) have found that ytterbium alkynyls can be readily prepared from the tris(cyclopentadienyl) as shown in eq.(20). Only a single



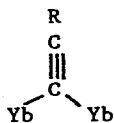
R =  $\underline{n}\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$ , x = 3.0 (in benzene)

=  $\underline{n}\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9$ , x = 2.5 (in benzene)

=  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$

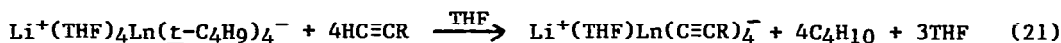
= ferrocenyl

cyclopentadienyl ring could be displaced.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of these compounds exhibit large isotropic shifts and Curie-Weiss temperature dependence. The association is proposed to take place through bridging structures such as H.

H

The analogous chemistry with  $\text{Nd}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3$  is considerably less straightforward, and significant amounts of  $\text{Nd}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3$  are present in the product. In closely related work on lanthanide homoleptic hydrocarbyls, Evans and Wayda (21) have found that anionic as well as bis(cyclopentadienyl) alkynyls can be cleanly prepared in a halide-free synthesis by reacting the corresponding alkyl complex with a mono-substituted acetylene (eqs.(21)-(23)). The complexes with  $\text{R} = \text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$  are by



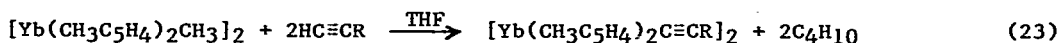


Ln = Sm, Er, Lu

R = C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, n-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>



R = C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>



R = C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>

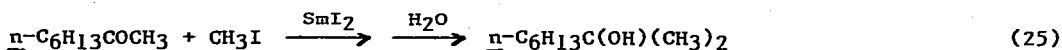
far the most thermally stable.

The use of lanthanides in organic synthesis continues to attract attention, and Girard, Namy, and Kagan (22) have reported on the properties of SmI<sub>2</sub> and YbI<sub>2</sub>. These reagents were prepared from the metals as shown in eq.(24). In THF



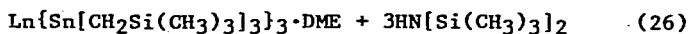
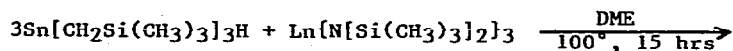
Ln = Sm, Yb

solution, these complexes deoxygenate epoxides and sulfoxides, as well as reduce some activated double bonds (e.g., cinnamic acid + 3-phenylpropionic acid). In addition, aldehydes are selectively reduced to alcohols in the presence of ketonic functionalities, and most alkyl halides and tosylates are reduced to alkanes. Grignard-like additions to ketones (e.g., eq.(25)) are also



observed with the samarium salt in THF. This reaction appears to be catalyzed by FeCl<sub>3</sub>.

Compounds containing praseodymium- and neodymium-to-tin bonds have been synthesized by Razuvaev, Kalinina, and Fedorova (23) using the approach of eq.(26). The compounds are nearly colorless, relatively stable thermally,

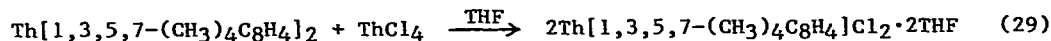
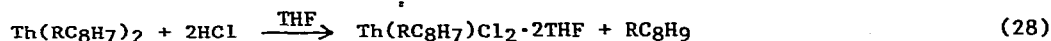
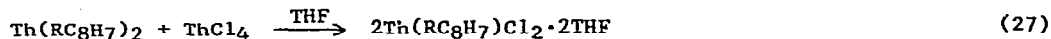


Ln = Pr, Nd

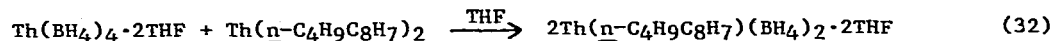
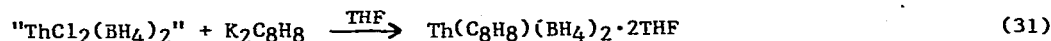
oxygen- and moisture-sensitive solids which are almost insoluble in both polar and non-polar solvents. They were characterized by elemental analysis and infrared spectroscopy. Reaction with benzoyl peroxide yields [(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>3</sub>Sn-Ln(O<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub> compounds.

Actinides

The year 1980 saw considerable activity in the area of 5f cyclooctatetraene complexes. LeVanda, Solar, and Streitwieser (6,24) reported that "half-sandwich" cyclooctatetraene complexes of Th(IV) can be prepared by the approach of eqs.(27)-(29). Analogous half-sandwich tetrahydroborate compounds

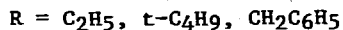
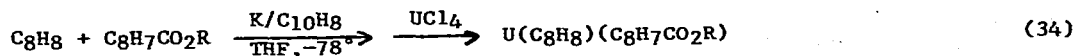
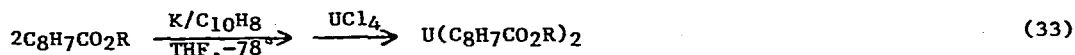


have been synthesized as shown in eqs.(30)-(32).



Vibrational spectra indicate that the  $\text{BH}_4^-$  ligands are coordinated in a tridentate fashion. The molecular structure of  $\text{Th}(\text{C}_8\text{H}_8)\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  has been determined by X-ray diffraction for two different crystalline modifications (25), and the result (Figure 5) confirms the half-sandwich structural proposal. The structure of the single molecule present in the  $\alpha$  form is in good agreement with the two crystallographically nonequivalent molecules in the  $\beta$  form. The average Th-Cl distance is 2.686(6) Å, the average Th-O, 2.57(2) Å, and the average Th-C(ring), 2.72(2) Å. The Cl-Th-Cl angles range from 99.0(3) to 109.6(1)° and the O-Th-O angles from 130.6(2)° to 136.5(3)°; there is roughly an inverse relationship between the relative magnitudes of these two quantities for a given  $\text{Th}(\text{C}_8\text{H}_8)\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  molecule.

Streitwieser, Burghard, Morrell, and Luke (26) have reported the synthesis of uranocenecarboxylic esters following the methodology of eqs.(33) and (34).



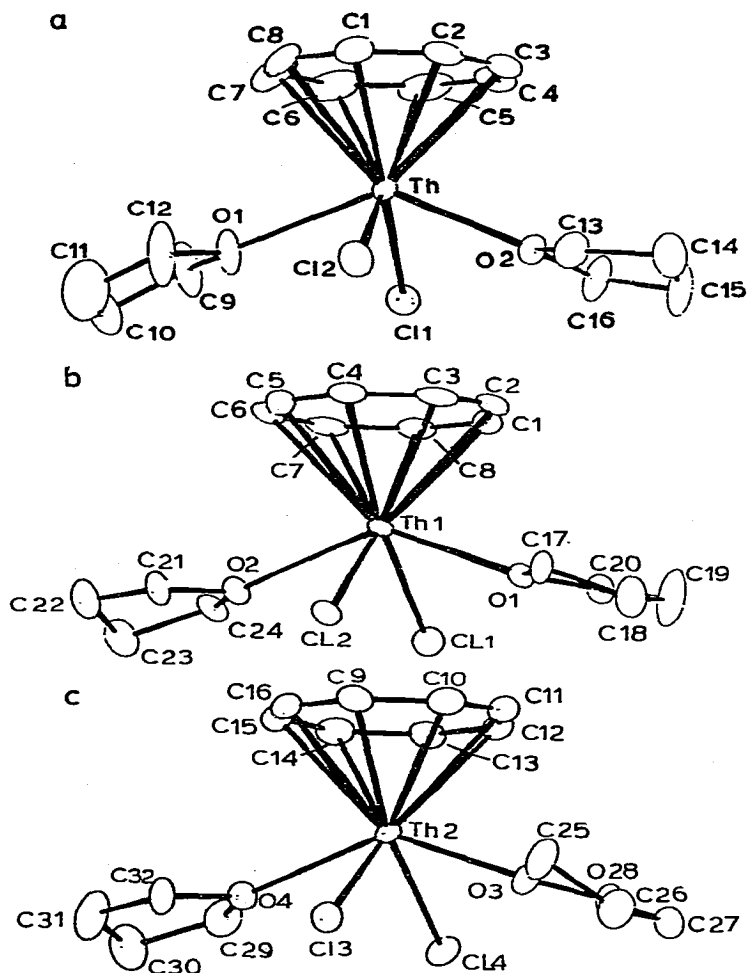


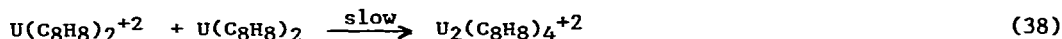
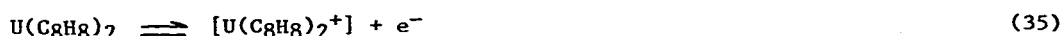
Fig. 5. Solid state structures of  $\text{Th}(\text{C}_8\text{H}_8)\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  in (a) and (b,c) crystalline modifications. From ref. 25

The mixed sandwich in eq.(34) was contaminated with small amounts of uranocene ( $\text{U}(\text{C}_8\text{H}_8)_2$ ) and the corresponding  $\text{U}(\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{CO}_2\text{R})_2$  complex. The new complexes were characterized by a variety of physicochemical techniques. These compounds are considerably more sensitive to protolysis than uranocene, and this was interpreted in terms of greater ionic character in the metal-ligand bonding.

A review of the NMR spectroscopy of uranocene and substituted uranocenes has been published by Streitwieser and Luke (7). The article begins with a general introduction to the sources of isotropic shifts in U(IV) complexes and a review of results on  $\text{U}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_3\text{X}$  systems. There follows an extensive discussion of variable temperature  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data on a large number of uranocene derivatives

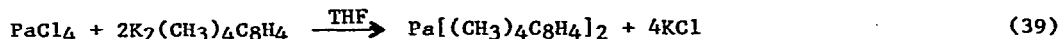
along with complementary magnetic susceptibility data. For the purpose of factoring out the relative contributions of dipolar (pseudocontact) and contact terms to the observed isotropic shifts, it is concluded that effective axial symmetry can be assumed. Also, it is not correct to assume that  $\chi_{\perp}$  (the magnetic susceptibility transverse to the pseudo-eightfold axis) is zero in uranocene systems. It is also concluded that the contact shift for uranocene ring protons is of the same sign as found for the cyclopentadienyl protons in  $U(C_5H_5)_3X$  systems (27,28); however it is larger in magnitude, suggesting somewhat greater metal-ligand bond covalency in the cyclooctatetraene systems. The contact contribution to the isotropic shifts of ring substituents attenuates rapidly with the number of intervening sigma bonds.

A full account of uranocene electrochemistry has now appeared (29). Butcher, Pagni, and Chambers have studied  $U(C_8H_8)_2$  cyclic voltammetry in a number of solvents and over a wide temperature range. The oxidation processes observed are best described by eqs.(35)-(38). The first oxidation (eqs.(35),(36))

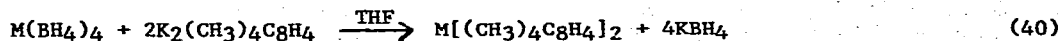


is irreversible, apparently because the initially produced cation,  $[U(C_8H_8)_2^+]$ , undergoes an irreversible structural or solvation change. Interestingly, the cation produced in eq.(36) is more readily oxidized than  $U(C_8H_8)_2$  (eq.(37)). Such behavior has been observed in the cyclic voltammetry of other metallocenes. The final step to yield  $U_2(C_8H_8)_4^{+2}$  (eq.(38)) was shown to be bimolecular.

Bis(1,3,5,7-tetramethylcyclooctatetraene) complexes of protactinium, neptunium, and plutonium have now been reported by Solar, Burghard, Banks, Streitwieser, and Brown (30). The protactinium complex could be prepared by conventional methodology (eq.(39)), however, the neptunium and plutonium compounds

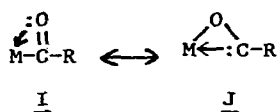


were best prepared from the metal tetrakis(tetrahydroborates) as shown in eq.(40). It appears that the nonconventional route minimizes competing reduc-

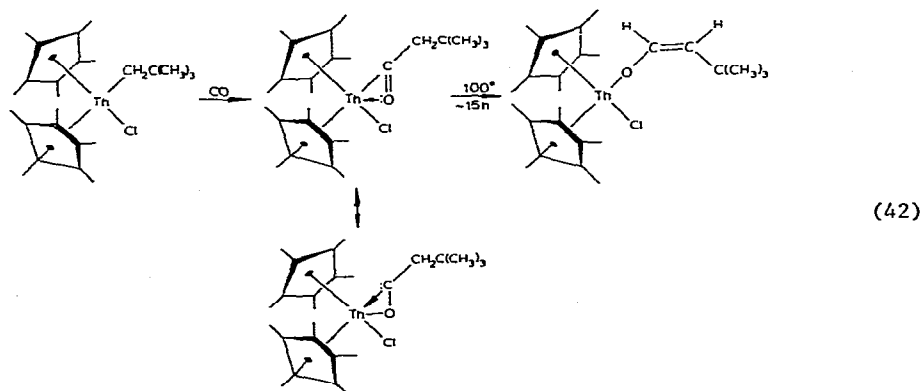
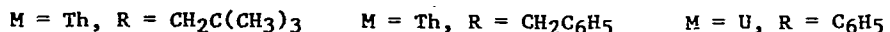
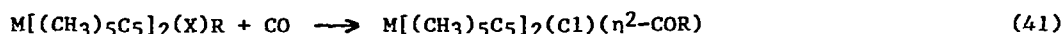


tion to M(III). The new compounds were characterized by uv-visible spectroscopy and X-ray powder diffraction. Sandwich structures analogous to that of  $U[(CH_3)_4C_8H_4]_2$  (31) are proposed.

Much new information also appeared on pentamethylcyclopentadienyl actinide compounds during 1980. The  $M[(CH_3)_5C_5]_2R_2$  and  $M[(CH_3)_5C_5]_2(R)Cl$  derivatives ( $M = Th, U$ ) are some of the most reactive actinide hydrocarbyls synthesized to date. In regard to chemistry with carbon monoxide, the kinetic lability and oxygen affinity of the actinide ions gives rise to decidedly nonclassical behavior. The pivotal concept here is that this oxophilicity results in dihapto, oxygen-bound migratory insertion products (I, J) which exhibit carbene-like (J) chemical, structural, and spectroscopic properties (2,32). Thus the reaction of



the chloro alkyls with carbon monoxide is irreversible and yields unusual dihaptoacyls (eqs. (41,42)). The C-O stretching frequencies in the range



1430-1480  $cm^{-1}$  are very low in energy; typical nonconjugated transition metal acyl  $\nu_{CO}$  values are in the range of ca. 1620-1680  $cm^{-1}$  while  $\nu_{CO}$  for nonconjugated transition metal dihaptoacyls fall in the range 1505-1620  $cm^{-1}$ . In addition, the  $^{13}C$  chemical shift of the acyl carbon atom in  $Th[(CH_3)_5C_5]_2[\eta^2-COCH_2C(CH_3)_3]Cl$  (eq.(42)), 360.2 ppm, is in the region of carbene complexes and far downfield from the shifts found in d-block dihaptoacyls. The molecular structure of  $Th[(CH_3)_5C_5]_2[\eta^2-COCH_2C(CH_3)_3]Cl$  (Figure 6) confirms that

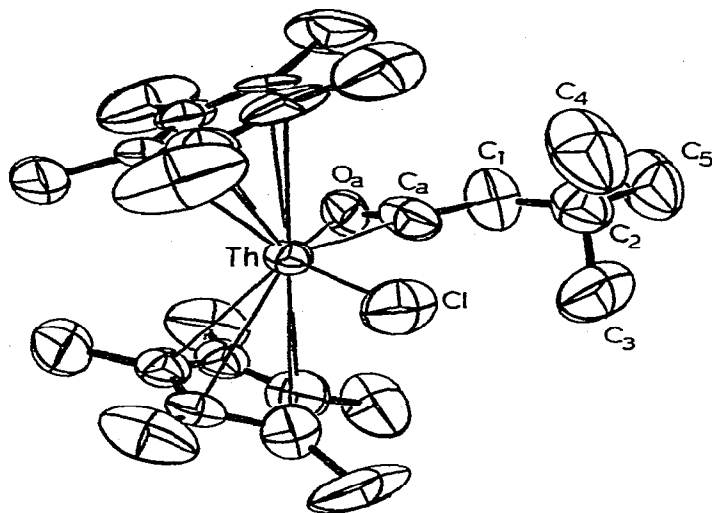
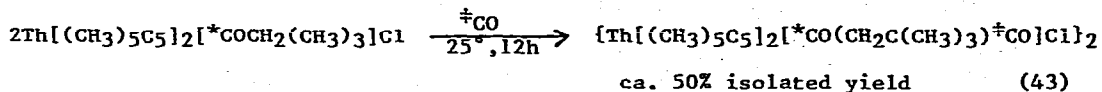


Fig. 6. Molecular structure of  $\text{Th}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2[\eta^2\text{-COCH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3]\text{Cl}$  from ref. 32.

this is a dihaptoacyl with a metal-oxygen interaction of unprecedented magnitude. Two features of the dihaptoacyl ligation are particularly striking. First, the Th-O distance (2.37(2) Å) is 0.07 Å shorter than the Th-C distance (2.44(2) Å). This ordering is in contrast to the corresponding M-O vs. M-C parameters in Group IVB dihaptoacyls (33) where the metal-oxygen distance is clearly longer than the metal-carbon distance. The disparity is even greater for Mo and Ru dihaptoacyls. Furthermore, the Th-O distance in the actinide dihaptoacyl is only ca. 0.17 Å longer than a Th-O single bond distance (34)

The chemical consequences of CO migratory insertion in the oxophilic organoactinide environment are a carbene-like reactivity leading to functionalization at the acyl carbon atom and retention of the metal-oxygen bond. Thus, heating  $\text{Th}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2[\eta^2\text{-COCH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3]\text{Cl}$  does not result in decarbonylation as is the case for analogous transition metal acyls, but rather in hydrogen atom migration to yield an enolate (eq.(42)). This 1,2 rearrangement is quantitative and stereospecific; it is reminiscent of hydrogen atom migration processes in carbene chemistry. Perhaps the most interesting new reaction of a carbene-like organoactinide dihaptoacyl is a coupling reaction with additional carbon monoxide (eq.(43)). The structure of the dark-violet product has been



elucidated by X-ray diffraction (Figure 7). Oligomerization of four carbon mon-

oxide molecules has taken place to yield a dimeric thorium enedionediolate complex. The observed metrical parameters are in accord with the valence-bond structure K. Thus, C<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> (Figure 7) (1.26(2) Å) is shorter than C<sub>1</sub>-O<sub>1</sub> (1.34(2) Å) while Th-O<sub>2</sub> (2.53(1) Å) is considerably longer than Th-O<sub>1</sub> (2.27(1) Å). The C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>1</sub>' distance of 1.35(4) Å suggests appreciable double bond character. One possible mechanism for the formation of K is via insertion of CO into the Th-C(acyl) bond to form a ketene (L, M) (eq.(44)) which subsequently undergoes intermolecular coupling. Presumably, initial CO interaction could

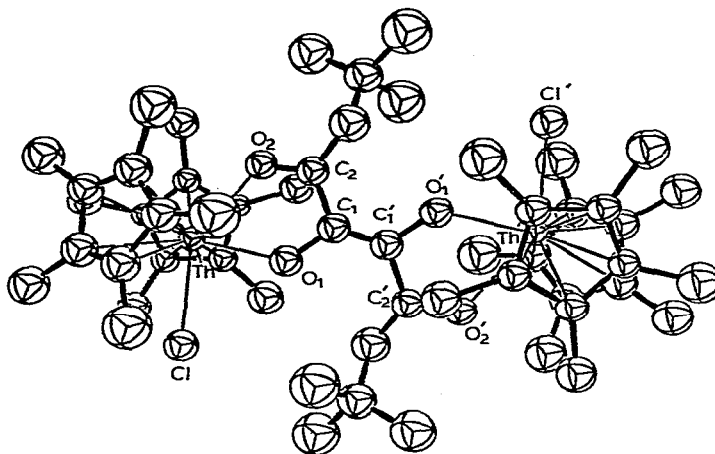
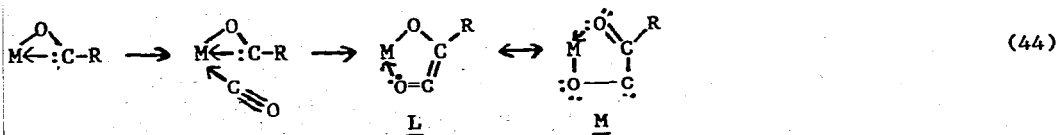
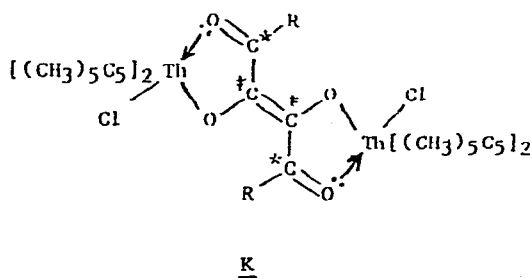
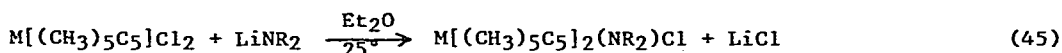


Fig. 7. Solid state structure of  $\{\text{Th}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2[\mu\text{-CO}(\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{CO})\text{Cl}]\}_2$  from ref. 32.



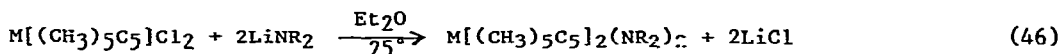
involve coordination to the metal ion as shown or to the electrophilic vacant "carbene" p atomic orbital. In view of the affinity of the Th(IV) ion for oxygenated ligands, interaction of the ketene oxygen atom with the metal ion seems reasonable. There is precedent for the reaction of carbenes with CO to form ketenes (35), the transfer of coordinated carbenes to carbon monoxide (36,37), and the formation of complexes between transition metal ions and ketenes (38). The precise manner in which the ketene units formally couple in the present case to form a dimer has not been reported for free ketenes. Isotopic labelling studies ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) indicate that the integrity of the different CO moieties is maintained in the oligomerization process.

The reaction of the actinide  $\text{M}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2\text{Cl}_2$  complexes with dialkylamides yields a series of bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) uranium and thorium chloro-dialkylamides and bis(dialkylamides) (eqs.(45) and (46)) (2). The chlorodi-



M = Th, U

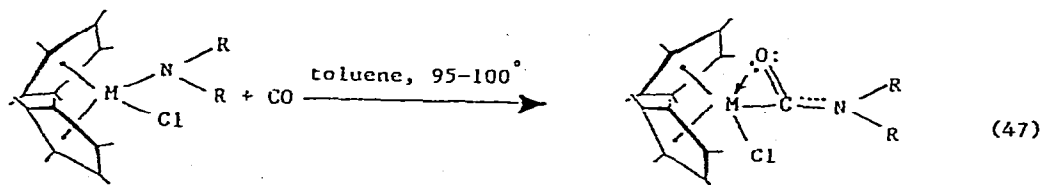
R = CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>



M = Th, U

R = CH<sub>3</sub>

alkylamides react irreversibly with carbon monoxide to form, via migratory insertion, carbamoyls (eq.(47)). The low energies of the C-O stretching



M = Th, U

R = CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>

frequencies (1490–1560  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) suggest dihapto-carbamoyl ligation, consistent with the high oxygen affinity of the actinide ions and the results on analogous organoactinide acyl complexes (vide supra). This conclusion has been verified by a single crystal diffraction study on  $\text{Th}[(\text{CH}_3)_5\text{C}_5]_2[\text{CON}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2]\text{Cl}$  (Figure 8) which



shows the simultaneous presence in the solid of two isomers (N and O) which variable temperature NMR studies reveal to be in dynamic equilibrium (eqs.(48) and (49)). For  $M = U$ ,  $R = C_2H_5$   $\Delta H = 5.0 \pm 0.4 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  and  $\Delta S = 8 \pm 1 \text{ e.u.}$  for

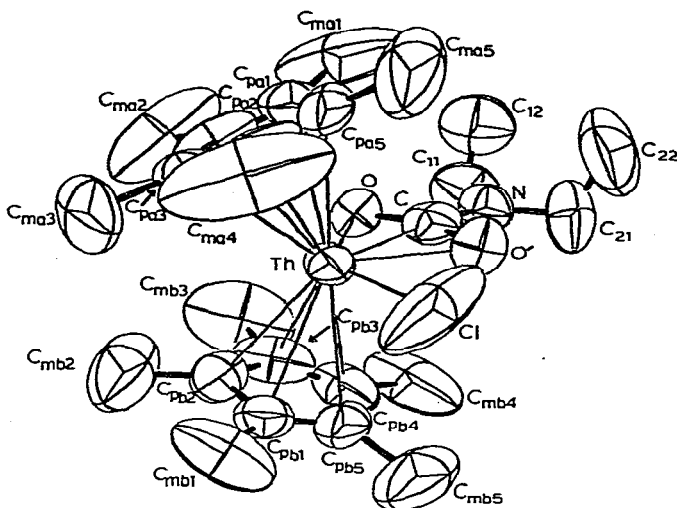
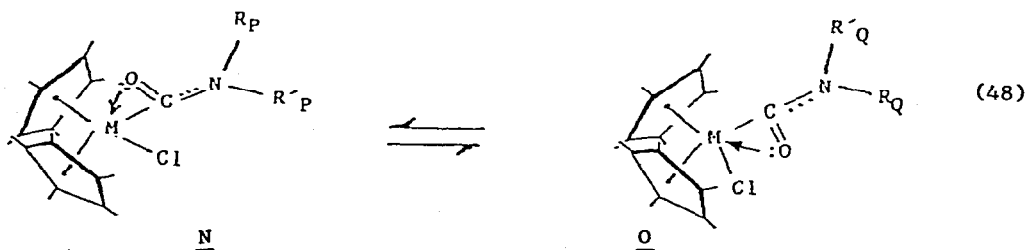
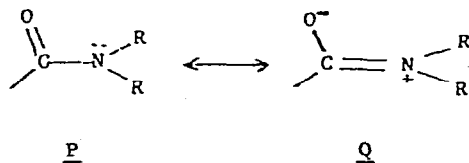


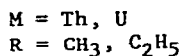
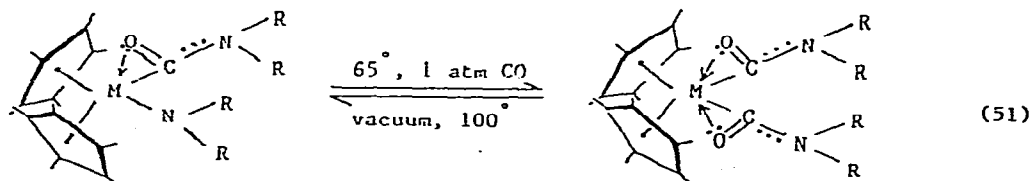
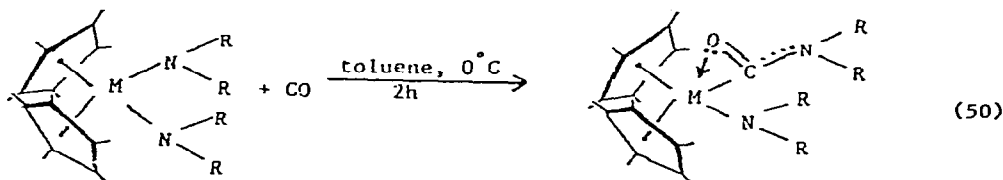
Fig. 8. The molecular structure of  $Th[(CH_3)_5C_5]_2[n^2-CON(CH_2CH_3)_2]Cl$  from ref. 2.



this equilibrium, while  $\Delta G^\ddagger = 37 \pm 2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  for this structural interconversion. The barrier to rotation about the C-N bond is very high ( $\Delta G^\ddagger \geq 147 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) this result and the metrical data (vide infra) suggest a large degree of C-N multiple bonding (hybrid Q) in actinide dihapto carbamoyls,

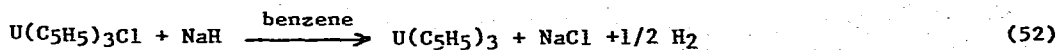


possibly stabilized by the metal-oxygen interaction. The Th-O distances in Figure 8 are 2.383(31) and 2.460(16) Å, the average Th-C distance, 2.418(20) Å, and the Th-C-O angles accompanying the above distances, 70.1(15)° and 74.5(1)°, respectively. The bis(dialkylamides) undergo stepwise migratory CO insertion to yield mono- and biscarbamoyls (eqs.(50) and (51)). The molecular structure of



the M = U, R = CH<sub>3</sub> biscarbamoyl is shown in Figure 9. The U-O distances are 2.370(5) and 2.342(7) Å, the corresponding U-C distances, 2.405(8) and 2.402(9) Å, and the corresponding U-C-O angles, 73.0(4)° and 71.8(5)°.

In the area of cyclopentadienyl compounds, Zanella, Rossetto, de Paoli, and Traverso (39) have described a new, efficient synthesis of U(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> using sodium hydride as the reducing agent (eq.(52)). When the reaction is carried



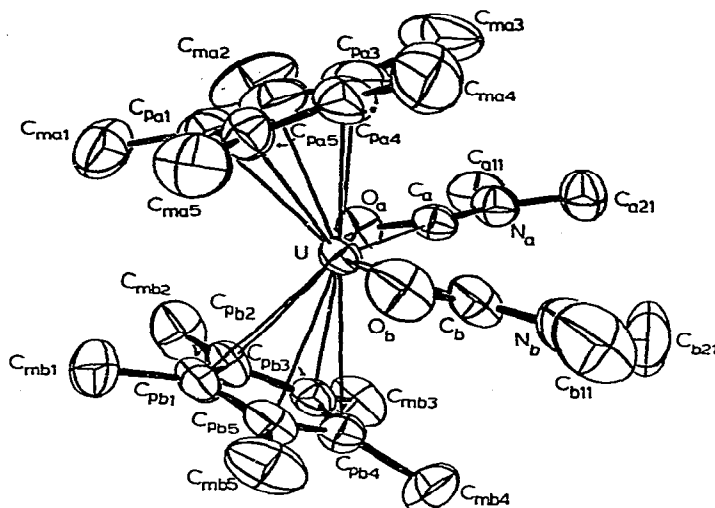
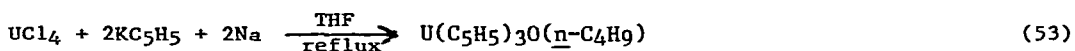


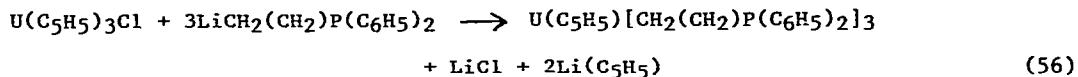
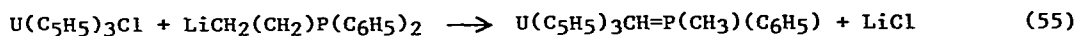
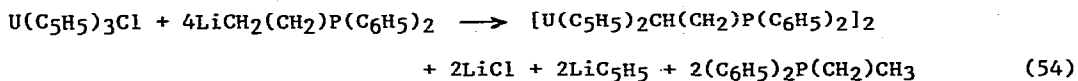
Fig. 9. Solid state structure of  $U[(CH_3)_5C_5]_2[n^2-CON(CH_3)_2]_2$  from ref. 2.

out in THF,  $U(C_5H_5)_3(THF)$  is the product. In related reductive chemistry, McLaren, Kanellakopulos, and Dornberger (40) found that an attempt to prepare cyclopentadienyl uranium complexes in oxidation states lower than +3 resulted in attack on the THF solvent and formation of an *n*-butoxy compound (eq.(53)).



In connection with the assignment of the  $U(C_5H_5)_4$  optical spectrum (41), Amberger has studied the vibrational spectra (far infrared and Raman) of  $U(C_5H_5)_4$ ,  $Th(C_5H_5)_4$ , and  $Th(CH_3C_5H_4)_4$  in the region of metal- $C_5H_5$  stretching and deformation modes (42). He concludes that shoulders on various bands in the  $U(C_5H_5)_4$  optical spectrum are not vibronic in origin but likely arise from the fact that the  $S_4$  site symmetry does not closely enough approximate idealized  $T_d$  symmetry. Amberger's crystal field analysis for  $U(C_5H_5)_4$  (41) is to a certain degree extrapolable to  $Np(C_5H_5)_4$ , and Kanellakopulos, Klenze, Schilling, and Stollenwerk (43) have reported isotropic shift  $^1H$  NMR data for the neptunium compound. The ring proton resonance at 16.0 ppm above TMS is in the region predicted by Amberger's calculations. The temperature dependence of the shift is Curie-like, and the room temperature hyperfine coupling constant, -1.7 MHz, is slightly larger than found for  $Np(C_5H_5)_3Cl$  (-1.3 MHz).

Cramer, Maynard, and Gilje (44) have studied the reaction of the phosphoylide  $(C_6H_5)_2P(CH_2)CH_2Li$  with tris(cyclopentadienyl) uranium chloride in detail (eqs.(54)-(56)). Two forms of the dimeric product of eq.(54) differing



only in the identity of included solvent molecules have been structurally characterized. An unusual dimeric structure of approximate  $C_2$  symmetry was found (Figure 10) with two bis(cyclopentadienyl) uranium units bridged by two apparently deprotonated (assuming U(IV)) ylide moieties. The coordination geometry about the uranium ions is that of a highly distorted square-pyramid with  $\angle \text{C}_3\text{-U-C}_4 = 69(1)^\circ$  and  $\angle \text{C}_2\text{-U-C}_3 = 130(1)^\circ$ . Uranium-ylide carbon atom

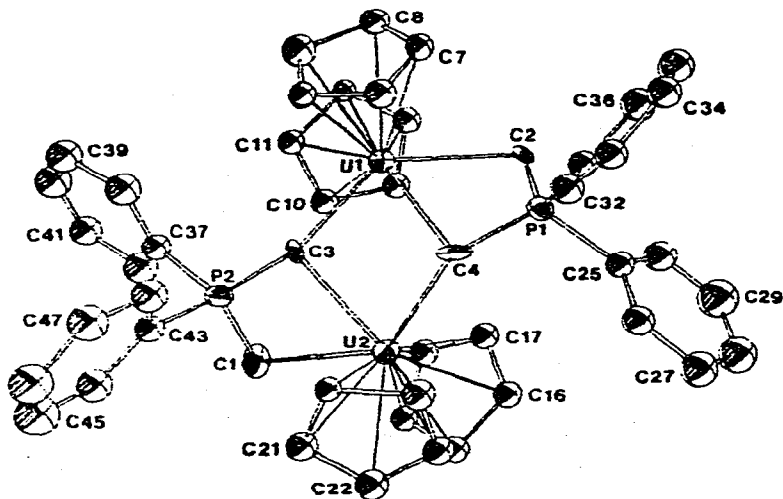
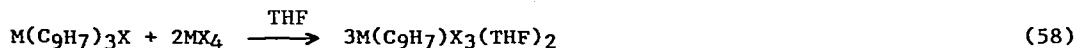
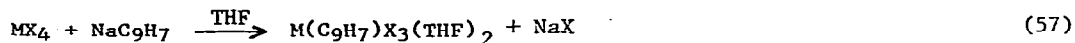


Fig. 10. The solid state structure of  $[\text{U}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_2(\mu\text{-CH})(\text{CH}_2)\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2]_2$  from ref. 44.

distances in the more precise of the two structures were found to be 2.66(3) Å ( $\text{U}_2\text{-C}_1$ ) and 2.55(3) Å ( $\text{U}_1\text{-C}_2$ ). The U-U distance of 3.810(2) Å suggests little metal-metal interaction when compared with a U-U distance of 3.12 Å in uranium metal.

Goffart, Piret-Meunier, and Duyckaerts (45) have now reported further results in the area of indenyl actinide complexes. Monoindenyl complexes were prepared

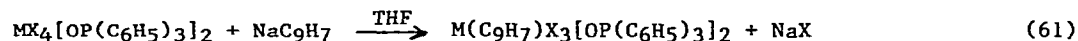
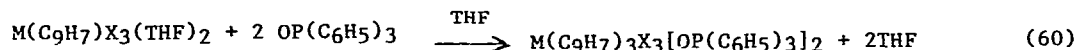
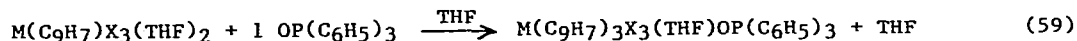
as shown in eqs.(57) and (58). Complexes with triphenylphosphine oxide as a



M = U, X = Cl, Br

= Th, X = Cl

ligand are accessible via the approach of eqs.(59)-(61). Heating under high



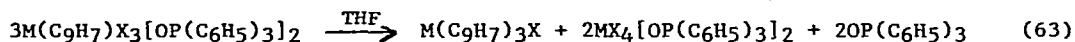
M = U, X = Cl, Br

M = Th, X = Cl

vacuum can be employed to remove one equivalent of base (eq.(62)). In the solid



state, the triphenylphosphine oxide complexes are surprisingly stable to air, however gentle heating of, or addition of pentane to THF solutions results in disproportionation (eq.(63)), with the rate being more rapid for M = Th than for



M = U. The new complexes were studied by infrared, mass, and uv-visible spectroscopy, and magnetic susceptibility. The solid state structure of  $U(C_9H_7)Br_3(THF)[OP(C_6H_5)_3]$  has been studied by X-ray diffraction (45,46) and the coordination geometry about the uranium ion is the pseudo-octahedral configuration (Figure 11) found for the cyclopentadienyls  $U(CH_3C_5H_4)Cl_3(THF)_2$  (47),  $U(C_5H_5)Cl_3[OP(C_6H_5)_3]_2$  (48), and  $U(C_5H_5)Cl_3[OP[N(CH_3)_2]_3]_2$  (49). Important bond distances in the present case are U-Br(1) = 2.769(3) Å, U-Br(2) = 2.704(3) Å, U-Br(3) = 2.740(3) Å, U-O(1) = 2.320(14), U-O(2) = 2.479(14) Å, U-C(23) = 2.746(27) Å, U-C(24) = 2.761(26) Å, U-C(25) = 2.801(26) Å, U-C(30) = 2.790(25) Å, and U-C(31) = 2.695(27) Å. Important angles are: Br(1)-U-Br(2) = 90.2(1) Å, Br(1)-U-Br(3) = 163.1(1)°, Br(1)-U-O(1) = 83.3(4)°, Br(1)-U-O(2) = 83.0°, and Br(2)-U-Br(3) = 95.2(1)°.

Meunier-Piret, Declercq, Germain, and Van Meerssche (50) have determined the molecular structure of tris(indenyl) uranium by X-ray diffraction. The coor-

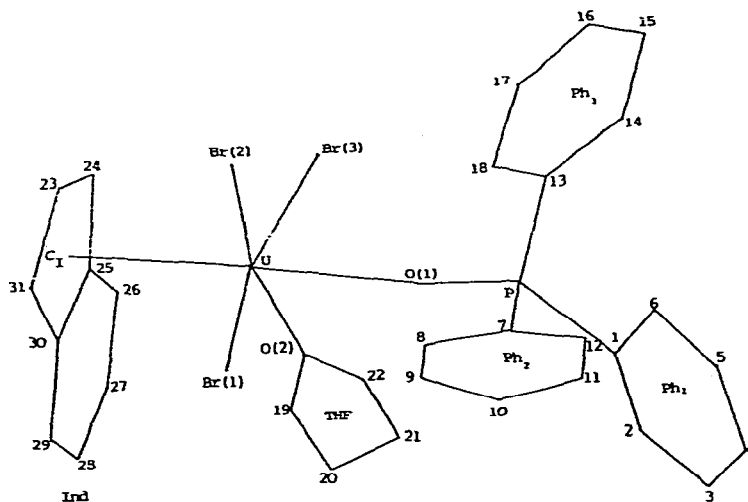


Fig. 11. The molecular structure of  $U(C_9H_7)Br_3(THF)[OP(C_6H_5)_3]$  from ref. 46.

dination geometry about the U(III) ion is approximately trigonal (Figure 12) as found for  $Sm(C_9H_7)_3$  (51) with uranium-to-carbon bond distances falling in the range 2.734(21) Å to 2.846(24) Å. The dihedral angles between the planes of the three indenyl ligands are:  $\angle[C(2)-C(10)]-[C(11)-C(19)] = 123^\circ$ ,  $\angle[C(11)-C(19)]-[C(20)-C(28)] = 122^\circ$ ,  $\angle[C(2)-C(10)]-[C(20)-C(28)] = 115^\circ$ .

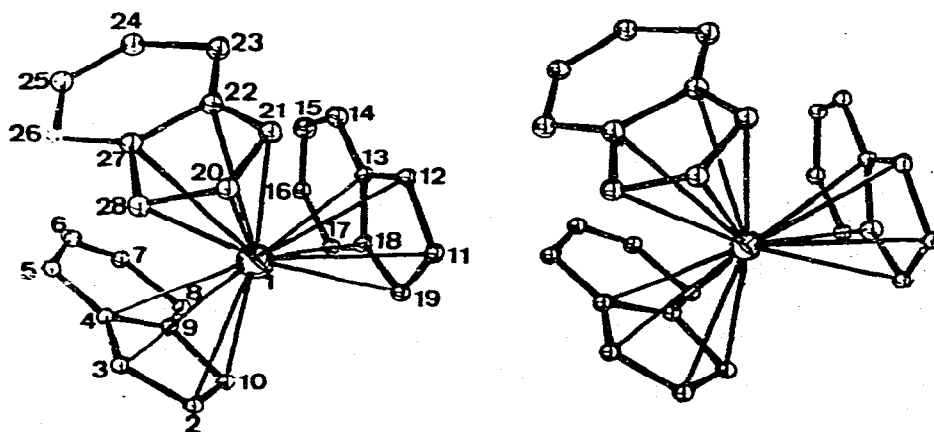


Fig. 12. The solid state structure of tris(indenyl) uranium from ref. 50.

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