# INTERACTION OF VINYLGERMANES WITH IRON CARBONYLS. X-RAY CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF THE $\mathrm{Ge}\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{4}$ COMPLEX 

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## Summary

The reaction between vinylgermanes and iron carbonyls yields, besides $\pi$-olefin complexes, the cluster compound $\mathrm{Ge}\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{4}$ (I), characterized here by X-ray crystallography. The presence of an unsaturated substituent at the Ge atom plays an important role in the formation of I.

## Introduction

As we have reported previously [1], vinylgermanes and hexavinyldigermane react with nonacarbonyldiiron in hydrocarbon solvents at $35-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (like their Si analogues [2]) forming $\pi$-olefin complexes with the $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}$ group coordinated by the vinyl $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ bond of the germane, while under more severe conditions we obtained a dark red crystalline substance (I) containing $\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{Fe}$ and Ge , but no hydrogen. In the present paper we describe the preparation of 1 in more detail and report its molecular structure determined by an X-ray single crystal structural study.

## Results and discussion

Complex I (yield ca. 4\%) was obtained by boiling tetravinylgermane with $\mathrm{Fe}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}$ in benzene or toluene. The same reaction with $\mathrm{Fe}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{9}$ gave a slightly smaller yield, and the reaction between hexavinyldigermane and $\mathrm{Fe}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}$ gave ca. $2 \%$ of $I$. The formation of I obviously proceeds through elimination of all the vinyl groups from the Ge atom. We found that such an elimination of all organic radicals under heating with iron carbonyls also took place in the case of alkenyl-alkylgermanes. Thus boiling of $\mathrm{Et}_{3} \mathrm{Ge}\left(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$ with $\mathrm{Fe}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}$ in toluene gives I, while
heating of $\mathrm{GeEt}_{4}$ with $\mathrm{Fe}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}$ in toluene or with $\mathrm{Fe}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{9}$ in benzene does not. Therefore we propose that the reaction passes through intermediate formation of ( $\eta^{2}$-vinylgermane) $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}$ complexes, as reported earlier [1]. The coordination of iron by a vinyl group directly bound to the Ge atom should labilize the other $\mathrm{Ge}-\mathrm{C}$ bonds (as observed in cyclogermapentadiene iron complexes [3]) and hence promote the formation of I.

Complex I belongs to a rather poorly investigated class of carbonyliron clusters containing non-transition elements, which now rouse considerable interest [4-7].

TABLE 1
INTERATOMIC DISTANCES (Å)

| $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{A})-\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{B})$ | $2.825(1)$ | $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{A}) \cdots \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{C})$ | $4.380(1)$ | $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{B}) \cdots \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{C})$ | $4.371(1)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{C})-\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{D})$ | $2.821(1)$ | $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{A}) \cdots \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{D})$ | $4.374(1)$ | $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{B}) \cdots \mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{D})$ | $4.327(1)$ |
|  | A | B | C | D |  |
| $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $2.388(1)$ | $2.407(1)$ | $2.406(1)$ | $2.398(1)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1.820(5)$ | $1.849(5)$ | $1.825(5)$ | $1.833(5)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $1.778(6)$ | $1.779(5)$ | $1.805(5)$ | $1.801(5)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $1.783(5)$ | $1.807(5)$ | $1.810(5)$ | $1.803(5)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $1.794(6)$ | $1.801(5)$ | $1.812(5)$ | $1.799(5)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $1.139(6)$ | $1.127(6)$ | $1.138(7)$ | $1.134(7)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $1.140(7)$ | $1.139(7)$ | $1.138(6)$ | $1.134(7)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $1.161(7)$ | $1.142(6)$ | $1.142(7)$ | $1.148(6)$ |  |

TABLE 2
BOND ANGLES ( ${ }^{\circ}$ )

| $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{A}) \mathrm{GeFe}(\mathrm{B})$ | 72.20 (3) | $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{A}) \mathrm{GeFe}(\mathrm{C})$ | 132.04(3) | $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{B}) \mathrm{GeFe}(\mathrm{C})$ | 130.56(3) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Fc}(\mathrm{C}) \mathrm{GcFc}(\mathrm{D})$ | 71.94 (3) | $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{A}) \mathrm{GcFo}(\mathrm{D})$ | 132.16(3) | $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{B}) \mathrm{GcFc}(\mathrm{D})$ | 128.52(3) |
|  | A | B | C | D |  |
| GeFeFe | 54.21(2) | 53.60(2) | 53.90(2) | 54.16(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{GeFeC}(1)$ | 151.4(2) | 144.2(2) | 151.6(2) | 143.8(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{GeFeC}(2)$ | 104.7(2) | 111.3(2) | 103.4(2) | 111.4(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{GeFeC}(3)$ | 86.3(2) | 85.0(2) | 90.1 (2) | 83.8(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{GeFeC}(4)$ | 85.4(2) | 85.8(2) | 83.2(2) | 83.2(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{FeFeC}(1)$ | 97.4(2) | 90.6(2) | 98.7(2) | 89.7(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{FeFeC}(2)$ | 158.3(2) | 164.7(2) | 156.3(2) | 165.4(2) |  |
| FeFeC(3) | 86.0(2) | 93.7(2) | 85.3(2) | 92.6(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{FeFeC}(4)$ | 92.1(2) | 89.5(2) | 92.2(2) | 87.6(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(1) \mathrm{FeC}(2)$ | 103.9(2) | 104.6(2) | 104.5(2) | 104.7(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(1) \mathrm{FeC}(3)$ | $95.1(2)$ | 98.0(2) | 95.3(2) | 99.8(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(1) \mathrm{FeC}(4)$ | 94.0(2) | 95.8(2) | 91.5(2) | 96.4(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(2) \mathrm{FeC}(3)$ | 88.0(2) | 86.3(2) | 88.2(2) | 87.2(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(2) \mathrm{FeC}(4)$ | 90.6(3) | 87.0(2) | 91.5(2) | 88.5(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(3) \mathrm{FeC}(4)$ | 170.9(2) | 165.7(2) | 173.0(2) | 163.8(2) |  |
| $\mathrm{FeC}(1) \mathrm{O}(1)$ | 179.5(5) | 178.1(4) | 177.3(5) | 178.6(5) |  |
| $\mathrm{FeC}(2) \mathrm{O}(2)$ | 177.2(5) | 179.6(5) | 177.2(4) | 179.1(5) |  |
| $\mathrm{FeC}(3) \mathrm{O}(3)$ | $176.5(5)$ | 174.8(5) | 175.1(5) | 175.4(4) |  |
| $\mathrm{FeC}(4) \mathrm{O}(4)$ | 177.6(5) | 175.0(5) | 176.3(4) | 175.1(4) |  |



Fig. 1. Molecular structure of $\mathrm{Ge}\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{4}$ (I) with selected bond lengths.

This feature and also the formation of I in reactions of various vinylgermanes with iron carbonyls merits the unequivocal structural characterization of $I$.

Elemental analysis of I established only the percentage of carbon (25.8\%) and the total content of Fe and Ge . The ratio $\mathrm{Fe}: \mathrm{Ge}$ was difficult to determine and this ambiguity led to the incorrect assignment of I in [1]. The IR spectrum of I in heptane contains four bands of terminal carbonyls with $\nu(\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{O}) 2078,2050,2030$
(Continued on p. 324)

TABLE 3
GEOMETRIES OF Ge-BRIDGED ORGANOIRON COMPLEXES

|  | Complex | Average bond length ( $\AA$ ) |  | Average FeGeFe angle ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) | Ref. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ | $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ |  |  |
| I | $\mathrm{Gc}\left[\mathrm{Fc}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{4}$ | 2.40(1) | 2.823(2) | 72.1(1) | This work |
| II | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{2} \mathrm{Ge}(\mathrm{Cl}) \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SiMe}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}$ | 2.370(8) | 2.814(8) | 72.7(2) | 9 |
| III | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]_{2}\left(\mu-\mathrm{GePh}_{2}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{CO})$ | 2.422 (15) | 2.666 (3) | 66.8(1) | 10 |
| IV | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}\right]_{2}\left(\mu \text {-GeMe }{ }^{2}\right)_{3}$ | 2.398(4) | 2.750(11) | 70.0(2) | 11 |
| V | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{2}\left(\mathrm{GeEt}_{2}\right)_{2}$ | 2.492(6) | - ${ }^{\text {- }}$ | 104.5 | 12 |
| VI | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{2}\left[\mathrm{Ge}(\mathrm{Cl}) \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{SiMe}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}\right]_{2}$ | 2.444 (2) | 2. | 103.73(7) | 9 |
| VII | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)(\mathrm{CO}]_{2}\left(\mu-\mathrm{GeMe}_{2}\right)(\mu-\mathrm{CO})\right.$ | 2.346(1) | 2.628(1) | 68.15(3) | 13 |
| VIII | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)(\mathrm{CO})_{2}\right]_{2}\left(\mu-\mathrm{GeCl}_{2}\right)$ | 2.357(4) | - | 128.4(2) | 14 |

TABLE 4
ATOMIC COORDINATES (FOR Fe AND $\mathrm{Ge} \times 10^{5}$, FOR C and $\mathrm{O} \times 10^{4}$ ) AND ANISOTROPIC THERMAL FACTORS IN THE FORM $T=\exp [-1 / 4-$ $\left.\left(B_{11} h^{2} a^{\star 2}+\ldots+2 B_{12} h k a^{\star} b^{\star} \ldots\right)\right]$

| Atom | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $B_{11}$ | $B_{22}$ | $B_{33}$ | $B_{12}$ | $B_{13}$ | $B_{23}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Ge | $70202(5)$ | $24082(4)$ | $38713(2)$ | $0.93(2)$ | $1.03(2)$ | $1.18(2)$ | $-0.09(1)$ | $0.28(1)$ | $0.02(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{A})$ | $72950(7)$ | $22455(6)$ | $50362(3)$ | $1.51(3)$ | $1.48(3)$ | $1.19(3)$ | $-0.21(2)$ | $0.23(2)$ | $0.04(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{B})$ | $47109(7)$ | $26611(6)$ | $41957(3)$ | $1.14(2)$ | $1.13(3)$ | $1.48(3)$ | $-0.05(2)$ | $0.53(2)$ | $-0.04(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{C})$ | $77676(7)$ | $12134(6)$ | $30438(3)$ | $1.05(2)$ | $1.11(3)$ | $1.52(3)$ | $0.05(2)$ | $0.36(2)$ | $-0.07(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{D})$ | $81849(7)$ | $35724(6)$ | $31628(3)$ | $1.08(2)$ | $1.12(3)$ | $1.51(3)$ | $-0.17(2)$ | $0.40(2)$ | $0.09(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1 \mathrm{~A})$ | $6591(5)$ | $2327(4)$ | $5807(2)$ | $2.4(2)$ | $1.0(2)$ | $1.7(2)$ | $-0.2(2)$ | $-0.1(2)$ | $0.2(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2 \mathrm{~A})$ | $9109(6)$ | $1857(5)$ | $5275(3)$ | $2.4(2)$ | $3.5(3)$ | $2.0(2)$ | $-0.3(2)$ | $0.1(2)$ | $0.8(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3 \mathrm{~A})$ | $689(6)$ | $781(4)$ | $4903(2)$ | $2.3(2)$ | $2.0(2)$ | $1.3(2)$ | $0.5(2)$ | $0.7(2)$ | $0.3(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4 \mathrm{~A})$ | $7781(6)$ | $3713(5)$ | $5044(3)$ | $3.2(3)$ | $2.1(2)$ | $1.5(2)$ | $-0.9(2)$ | $0.2(2)$ | $-0.2(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1 \mathrm{~B})$ | $3731(5)$ | $2679(4)$ | $4904(2)$ | $1.8(2)$ | $0.7(2)$ | $2.1(2)$ | $-0.2(1)$ | $0.5(2)$ | $0.0(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2 \mathrm{~B})$ | $3393(5)$ | $2960(5)$ | $3509(3)$ | $1.4(2)$ | $2.5(2)$ | $2.2(2)$ | $0.3(2)$ | $0.5(2)$ | $0.0(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3 \mathrm{~B})$ | $4439(5)$ | $1189(4)$ | $3976(2)$ | $1.2(2)$ | $2.0(2)$ | $1.7(2)$ | $-0.4(2)$ | $0.7(2)$ | $-0.1(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4 \mathrm{~B})$ | $5118(5)$ | $4151(5)$ | $4217(3)$ | $1.8(2)$ | $1.9(2)$ | $2.5(2)$ | $0.0(2)$ | $1.2(2)$ | $-0.2(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1 \mathrm{C})$ | $8365(5)$ | $1006(4)$ | $2253(3)$ | $1.9(2)$ | $1.5(2)$ | $2.4(2)$ | $0.3(2)$ | $0.5(2)$ | $0.4(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2 \mathrm{C})$ | $7407(5)$ | $-196(4)$ | $3313(2)$ | $1.3(2)$ | $1.7(2)$ | $1.7(2)$ | $0.2(2)$ | $0.2(2)$ | $-0.2(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3 \mathrm{C})$ | $9526(5)$ | $1104(4)$ | $3521(3)$ | $1.9(2)$ | $1.4(2)$ | $3.4(3)$ | $0.1(2)$ | $0.3(2)$ | $-0.3(2)$ |


and $2015 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ but no bands of bridging carbonyl, and essentially coincides with the spectrum of $\mathrm{Ge}\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{4}$, whose existence was briefly reported [8] without any details concerning its synthesis and properties.

The molecular structure of I was determined by an X-ray structural study. This structure is shown in Fig. 1, bond lengths and angles are listed in Tables 1 and 2. The metal framework of molecule I consists of two $\mathrm{GeFe}_{2}$ cycles, joined in a spiro system via the Ge atom, which has a distorted tetrahedral environment. The planes of the metallocycles form a dihedral angle of $88.8^{\circ}$, i.e. they are almost perpendicular to each other. Each Fe atom is coordinated by four linear terminal carbonyl groups, and the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ and $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ covalent bonds complete the distorted octahedral coordination and the 18 -electron outer shell of this atom. All four $\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}$ groups, referred to as A, B, C and D, have essentially the same geometry.

All structurally studied Ge-bridged organoiron complexes (see Table 3) can be divided into three groups: (a) carbonyliron complexes I-IV with a Ge-bridged $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ bond; (b) carbonyliron complexes V and VI containing four-membered $\mathrm{Ge}_{2} \mathrm{Fe}_{2}$ cycles without direct $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ bonds; (c) $\eta$-cyclopentadienyliron complexes VII and VIII. The $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ bond distances differ significantly between these groups, decreasing in the order $\mathrm{b}>\mathrm{a}>\mathrm{c}$. The contraction of $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ bonds in complexes c is due to the change of the oxidation state of iron from 0 in a and b to +1 in c (regarding $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ bonds as non-polar due to the similar electronegativities of Fe and Ge [15]), which results in the decrease of the Fe covalent radius *.

The difference in $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ bond lengths between complexes a and b is due to steric factors. The relationship of the Ge and Fe covalent radii (according to Pauling, 1.22 [17] and $1.24 \AA$ [18], respectively) imposes severe strain in the $\mathrm{GeFe}_{2}$ cycle, manifesting itself in I-IV by small (cf. normal tetrahedral) FeGeFe angles and lengthened $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ bonds. Thus the length of the triply CO -bridged $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ bond in $\mathrm{Fe}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{9}$ is $2.523 \AA$ [19], while in complexes III and IV, where two and three carbonyl bridges, respectively, are replaced by $\mu-\mathrm{GeR}_{2}$ groups, the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ distances are longer by 0.14 and $0.23 \AA$. In I and II the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ bonds of 2.823 and $2.814 \AA$ (average) are considerably longer than the usual values ( $2.4-2.7 \AA$ [20]), though still short enough for covalent bonding. The latter feature is illustrated by comparison with the non-bridged $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ bond of $2.787 \AA$ in the $\mathrm{Fe}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{8}{ }^{2-}$ anion [21] and the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ distance of $2.821 \AA$ in the $\mathrm{Fe}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{6}\left\{\mu-\mathrm{P}_{( }\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right\}_{2}$ molecule, in which the existence of a metal-metal bond was predicted by MO calculations [22]. Thus the effective shortening of the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ bonds in I-IV may be explained by the ring strain (in terms of "bent bonds" as in cyclopropane). Actually, the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ bonds in unstrained $\mathrm{Ge}_{2} \mathrm{Fe}_{2}$ cycles are longer (averaging $2.47 \AA$ in better agreement with the sum of Pauling covalent radii of $2.46 \AA$ ).

The $\mathrm{Ge}\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{4}$ moieties in the molecule I have essentially the same geometry as in complex II, containing one such moiety. Complex I contains three types of structurally non-equivaient CO groups, with $\mathrm{Ge}, \mathrm{Fe}$ and CO as trans ligands and slightly different $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{CO}$ distances, averaging $1.83(1), 1.79(1)$ and $1.80(1) \AA$, respectively.

The molecular structure of I is very similar to that of $\mathrm{Sn}\left[\mathrm{Fe}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}\right]_{4}$ (III) [23], although the crystals of I and III are not isomorphous. The $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Sn}$ bonds in III are

[^0]longer than the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Ge}$ bonds in I (average 2.54 vs. $2.40 \AA$ ). As a consequence, the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{Fe}$ bonds in III are also longer ( 2.87 vs. $2.823 \AA$ ) and the FeSnFe angles are smaller than the FeGeFe angles in I ( 69 vs. $72.1^{\circ}$ ).

## Experimental

IR spectrum of I in heptane was measured with a UR-20 spectrophotometer. An X-ray diffraction experiment was carried out with a Syntex P2 four circle autodiffractometer (graphite monochromated Mo- $K_{\alpha}$ radiation, data collection at $-120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ). Structure determination and refinement was carried out using an Eclipse S/200 computer with programmes [24].

Crystal data of I: $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{Fe}_{4} \mathrm{GeO}_{16}$, monoclinic, at $-120^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \quad a=9.494(2), b=$ $11.818(2), c=20.652(4) \AA, \beta=98.74(2)^{\circ}, V=2290.2(7) \AA^{3}, Z=4, d_{\text {calcd. }}=2.16 \mathrm{~g}$ $\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$, space group $P 2_{1} / c$.

Intensities of 4574 independent reflections with $I \geqslant 2 \sigma$ were measured by the $\theta / 2 \theta$ scan technique ( $2 \theta \leqslant 62.5^{\circ}$ ). The structure was solved by an direct method and refined by the block-diagonal least squares procedure to $R=0.039$ and $R_{\mathrm{w}}=0.038$ using reflection weights $w=\sigma_{\mathrm{F}}{ }^{-2}$ and anisotropic thermal factors for all atoms. Final atomic parameters are listed in Table 4.

## Synthesis of $I$

a) A mixture of $5 \mathrm{~g}(10 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathrm{Fe}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}$ and $1.8 \mathrm{~g}(10 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathrm{Ge}\left(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{4}$ in 50 ml of toluene was refluxed under stirring for 6 hours. The reaction mixture was chromatographed on a silica gel column using pentane as eluent. The yellow band, after evaporation to ca. $1 / 3$ volume and freezing at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ yielded 0.17 g (ca. 4\%) of brick-red crystalline I , m.p. $98^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (dec., from heptane). Found: $\mathrm{C}, 25.84 \%$. $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{Fe}_{4} \mathrm{GeO}_{16}$ calcd: $\mathrm{C}, 25.82 \%$.
b) A mixture of $5 \mathrm{~g}(10 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathrm{Fe}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}$ and $1.5 \mathrm{~g}(5 \mathrm{mmol})$ of hexavinyldigermane in 50 ml of toluene was refluxed for 5 hours and then treated as above, giving $0.10 \mathrm{~g}(2 \%)$ of I .
c) From $2.5 \mathrm{~g}(5 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathrm{Fe}_{3}(\mathrm{CO})_{12}$ and $0.9 \mathrm{~g}(5 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathrm{GeEt}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$ by the same procedure was obtained 0.05 g (ca. $2 \%$ ) of I .

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[^0]:    * According to Creswick et al. [16], ligands can affect metal-metal bond lengths also by direct interaction with antibonding orbitals of these bonds.

