CHEMISTRY OF μ-DITHIOBIS(TRICARBONYLIRON), AN INORGANIC MIMIC OF ORGANIC DISULFIDES

II *. NUCLEOPHILIC S-S BOND CLEAVAGE BY ORGANOLITHIUM AND ORGANOMAGNESIUM REAGENTS **

DIETMAR SEYFERTH*, RICHARD S. HENDERSON, LI-CHENG SONG, and GARY B. WOMACK

Department of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (U.S.A.)

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Summary

Organolithium and Grignard reagents cleave the S-S bond of $(\mu$ -S₂)Fe₂(CO)₆ at -78° C to give intermediates of type $(\mu$ -RS) $(\mu$ -MS)Fe₂(CO)₆ (M = Li or MgX). These may be alkylated with organic halides to produce complexes of type $(\mu$ -RS) $(\mu$ -R'S)Fe₂(CO)₆ and protonated to yield $(\mu$ -RS) $(\mu$ -HS)Fe₂(CO)₆.

Introduction

 μ -Dithiobis(tricarbonyliron) (1) [2] contains an S₂ ligand which has a S-S σ bond and which bridges two Fe(CO)₃ units which are bonded by a "bent" Fe-Fe bond [3]. In Part I of this series we showed that the S-S bond of I could be reduced to the sulfur-centered dianion, **2**, by the action of LiBEt₃H and other complex metal hydrides [1]. This reaction most likely proceeds in two steps: (1) nucleophilic cleavage of the S-S bond (eq.1) and (2) deprotonation of the SH function generated in the first step (eq.2). Such reactions are characteristic of the S-S bond in organic disulfides [4]. Furthermore, **1** could be reduced to dianion **2** by elemental sodium; such reduction of the S-S bond is also readily effected with organic disulfides [5].

These similarities of 1 with organic disulfides led us to search for other reactions of 1 for which there are known precedents in organic disulfide reactivity. Nucleophilic cleavage of the S-S bond of organic disulfides is a very general and important process [6] and it was of interest to us that such cleavage could be readily effected

** Dedicated to my friend, Professor Oleg A. Reutov, on the occasion of his 65th birthday on September 5, 1985 and in recognition of his outstanding contributions to organometallic chemistry.

^{*} For part I see ref. 1.



with organolithium compounds [7] and with Grignard reagents [8] (eq.3). We report $RSSR + R'M \rightarrow RSR' + RS^{-}M^{+}$ (3)

here the results of our studies of the reaction of 1 with such organometallic reagents.

Results and discussion

When a red tetrahydrofuran (THF) solution to μ -dithiobis(tricarbonyliron) at -78° C was treated (under nitrogen) with a solution of CH₃Li/LiBr in diethyl ether, an abrupt color change to green occurred when exactly one molar equivalent of the lithium reagent had been added. Addition of iodomethane to this mixture caused a green-to-red color change. Subsequent workup, gave the two isomers of (μ -CH₃S)₂Fe₂(CO)₆ (**3a** and **3b**) [9] in 82% yield. These conversions are summarized in eq. 4 and 5. The **3a/3b** ratio was 3.2.





Symmetrically substituted $(\mu$ -RS)₂Fe₂(CO)₆ complexes are more readily prepared by other means (including the alkylation of dianion 2 [1]) and the RLi cleavage of 1 is of unique utility in its application to the preparation of unsymmetrically substituted complexes, $(\mu$ -RS)(μ -R'S)Fe₂(CO)₆. For instance, cleavage of 1 with CH₃Li/LiBr at -78° C, followed by addition of iodoethane, gave $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -C₂H₅S)Fe₂(CO)₆ as an air-sensitive red oil in 77% yield. Three isomers were present, with 4a and 4b predominating. A number of such $(\mu$ -RS)(μ -R'S)Fe₂(CO)₆ complexes



were prepared in this manner. The reactions employed are given in Table 1. The unsymmetrical products were a, e/e, e isomer mixtures and were isolated as air-sensitive red oils.

In one $CH_3Li/(\mu-S_2)Fe_2(CO)_6$ reaction the intermediate bridging thiolate complex was protonated (with CF_3CO_2H at $-78^{\circ}C$) rather than alkylated. The product obtained in 94% yield was an air-sensitive red solid whose NMR spectrum showed it to be a 7.9/1 mixture of 5a and 5b.



As expected, Grignard reagents reacted equally well with $(\mu$ -S₂)Fe₂(CO)₆ under the same conditions (in THF at -78° C). The intermediate in this case, **6**, also is

TABLE 1

 $(\mu-S_2)Fe_2(CO)_6 \xrightarrow[-78°C]{R/Li} \xrightarrow{R'X} (\mu-RS)(\mu-R'S)Fe_2(CO)_6$

RLi	R'X	Product yield (%)	
CH ₃ Li	CH ₃ I	82	<u> </u>
CH,Li	C ₂ H,I	77	
CH ₃ Li	PhCH ₂ Cl	85	
CH ₁ Li	CH ₂ =CHCH ₂ Cl	82	
n-BuLi	CH ₃ I	87	
PhLi	CH ₃ I	70	
PhLi	CH ₂ =CHCH ₂ Cl	75	

RMgX	Product yield (%)	
CH ₃ MgI	81	
CH ₂ =CHMgBr	89	
PhMgBr	83	
CH ₂ =CHCH ₂ MgBr	99	
(CH ₃) ₂ CHMgBr	90	
n-C ₃ H ₇ MgBr	96	
(CH ₃) ₂ CHCH ₂ MgBr	99	
(CH ₃) ₃ CCH ₂ MgCl	43	
cyclo-C ₃ H ₅ MgBr	92	
cyclo-C ₅ H ₉ MgBr	91	
(CH ₃) ₂ C=CHMgBr	94	
p-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄ MgBr	89	

green in THF solution. Examples of $(\mu$ -RS) $(\mu$ -R'S)Fe₂(CO)₆ preparation by the Grignard route are given in Table 2.



This nucleophilic cleavage/alkylation sequence using either an organolithium or a Grignard reagent thus is an excellent route for the preparation of $(\mu$ -RS)₂Fe₂(CO)₆, $(\mu$ -RS)(μ -R'S)Fe₂(CO)₆ and $(\mu$ -RS)(μ -HS)Fe₂(CO)₆ complexes in high yield. It would seem that diverse organic substituents may be introduced via the organometallic reagents (alkyl, vinyl, allyl, aryl groups in the present examples). The introduction of the second substitutent, in view of the broad reactivity of the mercaptide function [10], should be equally versatile in its diversity.

Experimental

General comments. The general comments in Part 1 [4] are applicable. μ -Dithiobis(tricarbonyliron) was prepared as described in detail in Part 1 [1].

Product characterization. In general, the 70 eV electron impact mass spectra of the $(\mu$ -RS)(μ -R'S)Fe₂(CO)₆ complexes showed the molecular ion and fragment ions resulting from the successive loss of the six CO ligands, as well as other fragment ions such as RFe₂S₂⁺ and/or R'Fe₂S₂⁺, Fe₂S₂⁺, Fe₂S⁺, Fe₂⁺, Fe₂⁺ and Fe⁺. Typically, their IR spectra showed four terminal carbonyl bands, e.g., for R = CH₃, R' = C₂H₅, 2080(m), 2048(s), 2005(vs), 1995(vs) cm⁻¹; for R = CH₃, R' = n-C₄H₉, 2077(s), 2040(vs), 1997(vs), 1986(vs) cm⁻¹.

Since the organic substituents which were introduced were all quite simple ones, the spectral data will not be given except in those cases where clear 250 MHz NMR

TABLE 2

spectra were available. In many cases the chemical shift of the protons of the methyl group introduced via the CH₃I reactant served to indicate the isomer ratio. For the $(\mu$ -CH₃S)₂Fe₂(CO)₆ isomers (which are separable by column chromatography), the NMR spectrum of the *e,e* isomer shows the CH₃ resonance at δ 2.07 ppm; the spectrum of the *a,e* isomer shows the axial CH₃ resonance at δ 1.62 ppm and the equatorial CH₃ resonance at δ 2.13 ppm. However, in some other cases the isomer ratio could not be determined. All NMR spectra showed the expected signals in the correct integrated area ratio. The NMR spectra were recorded for samples in CDCl₃ solution.

Organolithium cleavage of $(\mu - S_2)Fe_2(CO)_6$. The reactions of n-BuLi with $(\mu - S_2)Fe_2(CO)_6$, followed by CH₃I quench (which gives a liquid product), and of phenyllithium with $(\mu - S_2)Fe_2(CO)_6$, followed by CH₃I quench (which gives a solid product), are described in order to illustrate the procedures used.

A 200 ml Schlenk flask equipped with a serum cap and a magnetic stir-bar was charged with 1.00 g (2.91 mmol) of $(\mu$ -S₂)Fe₂(CO)₆ and was flushed with nitrogen. THF (75 ml) was added and the red solution was cooled to -78° C. Subsequently, 1.3 ml (3.0 mmol) of 2.4 *M* n-butyllithium in hexane was added, with stirring, by syringe in three portions over 15 min to the solution, causing a color change to dark green. The mixture was stirred for 20 min and then 0.9 ml (14.4 mmol) of iodomethane was added. Following this, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 1 h, the solvent was removed from the red solution on a rotary evaporator, leaving a red-brown oil which was chromatographed (silicic acid/pentane) to give 0.853 g (2.05 mmol, 70% yield) of (μ -CH₃S)(μ -n-BuS)Fe₂(CO)₆ as an air-sensitive red oil. The product was purified further by short-path distillation at 50°C and 0.2 mmHg. The exact isomer ratio could not be determined by NMR, but it was estimated that equal amounts of the *e*,*e* and the two *a*,*e* isomers were present (μ (CH₃), 1.67, 2.12, 2.17).

A similar reaction of 3.0 ml (2.91 mmol) of 0.98 *M* phenyllithium in cyclohexane/diethyl ether with 2.91 mmol of $(\mu$ -S₂)Fe₂(CO)₆ in 75 ml of THF at -78° C, followed by addition of 0.9 ml of CH₃I, gave a brown-red, oily solid. Chromatography (silicic acid/20% CH₂Cl₂/pentane) resulted in isolation of 1.102 g (2.53 mmol, 87% yield) of $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -C₆H₅S)Fe₂(CO)₆, a red solid, m.p. 83–85°C after recrystallization from pentane. According to the NMR spectrum (CH₃ resonances at δ 1.77, 2.10 and 2.20 ppm), the CH₃ *a*/Ph *e*, CH₃ *e*/Ph *e* and CH₃ *e*/Ph *a* isomers were present in 3/2.1/1 ratio.

The following compounds were prepared by this procedure (cf. Table 1): $(\mu$ -CH₃S)₂Fe₂(CO)₆ [1], red solid, *a,e* to *e,e* isomer ratio of 3.2. $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -C₂H₅S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, three isomers by NMR, **4a** \cong **4b** > **4c**; δ (CH₃)

 $(\mu = 11_3 S)(\mu = 2_2 11_5 S) F C_2(=CO)_6$, red on, three isomers by HVR, 4a = 4b > 4c, $b(=11_3)$ 1.57 (4a), 2.03 (4c), 2.06 (4b). Anal. Found: C, 27.82; H, 2.15. C₉H₈O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 27.86; H, 2.08%.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -C₆H₅CH₂S)Fe₂(CO)₆, dark red solid, m.p. 85–87°C, (CH₃ e, PhCH₂ a): (CH₃ e, PhCH₂ e) isomer ratio 5.5 by NMR (δ 2.02 (e,a), 2.12 (e,e) (s, SCH₃), 2.21 (e,a), 3.53 (e,e) (s, CH₂Ph), 6.97–7.33 (Ph) ppm) Anal. Found: C, 37.46; H, 2.23. C₁₄H₁₀O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 37.36; H, 2.24%.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -CH₂=CHCH₂S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, b.p. 80°C at 0.4 mmHg; by NMR (CH₃ e, allyl a) > (CH₃ e, allyl e) > (CH₃ a, allyl e)(δ 1.77 (a,e), 2.21 (e,e), 2.25 (e,a) (s, SCH₃), 2.85, 3.17 (d, J 6 Hz, S-CH₂), 4.95-6.10 (m, CH=CH₂) ppm). Anal. Found: C, 30.06; H, 2.05. C₁₀H₈O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 30.03; H, 2.02%.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S) $(\mu$ -n-C₄H₉S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, b.p. 50°C/0.2 mmHg; by NMR (CH₃ *a*, Bu *e*) \cong (CH₃ *e*, Bu *e*) \cong (CH₃ *e*, Bu *a*); δ (CH₃) 1.67, 2.12, 2.17 ppm. Anal. Found: C, 31.96; H, 2.74. C₁₁H₁₂O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 31.76; H, 2.91%.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S) $(\mu$ -C₆H₅S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red solid, m.p. 83-85°C (from pentane), isomer ratio given above. Anal. Found: C, 36.05; H, 1.91. C₁₃H₈O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 35.81; H, 1.85%.

 $(\mu$ -C₆H₅S)(μ -CH₂=CHCH₂S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, by NMR (CH₂ doublets at δ 2.84, 3.01, 3.12 ppm) 2/9/5 *e,e,a* allyl group orientations, but specific assignments not possible. Anal. Found: C, 38.99; H, 2.30. C₁₅H₁₀O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 39.03; H, 2.18%.

Grignard cleavage of $(\mu$ -S₂)Fe₂(CO)₆. A 300 ml, three-necked flask equipped with a serum cap and a magnetic stir-bar was charged with $(\mu$ -S₂)Fe₂(CO)₆ (2-3 mmol) and flushed with nitrogen. THF (75 ml) was added; the red solution was cooled to -78° C and then the appropriate Grignard reagent solution was added dropwise with stirring, resulting in a color change to green. The mixture was stirred at -78° C for 15-30 min and then 1.0 ml (16.1 mmol) of iodomethane was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at -78° C and 2-3 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed at reduced pressure, leaving a red oil, which was purified by filtration chromatography (silicic acid) and short path distillation, or a red solid which was chromatographed and recrystallized from pentane.

The following compounds were prepared by this procedure (cf. Table 2):

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)₂Fe₂(CO)₆, red solid, *a*,*e* to *e*,*e* isomer ratio of 3.8.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S) $(\mu$ -CH₂=CHS)Fe₂(CO)₆, CH₃ *a*, CH₂ = CH *e* isomer, red solid, m.p. 77–78°C, separated by column chromatography, recrystallized from pentane; 61% yield; δ (CH₃) 1.66 ppm. Anal. Found: C, 27.99; H, 1.59. C₉H₆O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 28.01; H, 1.57%. CH₃ *e*, CH₂=CH *a* or *e* isomer, orange powder, m.p. 84–85°C (from pentane), 28% yield; δ (CH₃) 2.16 ppm. Anal. Found: C, 28.01; H, 1.65%.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -C₆H₅S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil. Recrystallization from pentane after shortpath distillation (b.p. 142.5°C/0.3 mmHg) gave a red powder, m.p. 71–73°C, which was more soluble in pentane and a deep red powder, m.p. 84–85°C, less soluble in pentane. Both products had identical mass spectra, in agreement with the formula given. Thus some fractionation of isomers occurred.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S) $(\mu$ -CH₂=CHCH₂S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, b.p. 108–110°C/0.4 mmHg; by NMR (CH₃ e, allyl a) > (CH₃ e, allyl e) > (CH₃ a, allyl e). δ (CH₃) at 2.07, 2.12, and 1.62 ppm, respectively.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -Me₂CHS)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, b.p. 100–103°C/0.4 mmHg; by NMR (CH₃ *a*, i-Pr *e*) > (CH₃ *e*; i-Pr *e*) > (CH₃ *e*; i-Pr *a*) δ 1.6 (*a*,*e*), 2.03 (*e*,*e* and *e*,*a*) (s, SCH₃), 1.10 (*e*,*a*), 1.26 (*e*,*e*), 1.33 (*e*,*a*) (d, *J* 6Hz, CH₃), 2.24–2.92 (m, SCH) ppm. Anal. Found: C, 29.99; H, 2.59. C₁₀H₁₀O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 29.88; H, 2.51%.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -n-C₃H₇S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, b.p. 114–116°C/2.0 mmHg, a mixture of three isomers whose ratio could not be determined because of overlapping CH₃ and propyl proton signals; δ (CH₃) 1.65, 2.06, 2.14 ppm. Anal. Found: C, 29.99; H, 2.52. C₁₀H₁₀O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 29.88; H, 2.51%.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -(CH₃)₂CHCH₂S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, b.p. 130°C/0.5 mmHg. A 250 MHz NMR spectrum allowed determination of the isomer ratio of 7a/7b/7c = 2.5/1/3.3: δ 1.64 (7c), 2.10 (7a), 2.11 (7b) (s, SCH₃); 1.95 (7b) (d, J 7.0 Hz, SCH₂), 2.32 (7a) and 2.33 (7c) (d, J 6.6 Hz, SCH₂), 0.93 (7b), 1.03 (7a), 1.08 (7c) (d, J 6.6 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.77-1.91 and 1.52-1.58 (m, CHMe₂) ppm.



Anal. Found: C, 31.81; H, 2.94. $C_{11}H_{12}O_6S_2Fe_2$ calcd.: C, 31.76; H, 2.91%. (μ -CH₃S)(μ -Me₃CCH₂S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, b.p. 112°C/0.24 mmHg. Isomer ratio **8a/8b/8c** = 1.3/1/1.3. 250 MHz NMR: δ 0.93 (**8b**), 1.03, 1.09 (**8a**, **8c**) (s, C(CH₃)₃), 2.10 (**8a**, **8b**), 1.66 (**8c**) (s, SCH₃), 1.99 (**8b**), 2.35 and 2.36 (**8a**, **8c**) (s, CH₂) ppm.



Anal. Found: C, 33.81; H, 3.41. $C_{12}H_{14}O_6S_2Fe_2$ calcd.: C, 33.52; H, 3.28%. (μ -CH₃S)(μ -cyclo-C₃H₅S)Fe₂(CO)₆, a red solid, m.p. 63-68°C (from pentane), a 1/1 mixture of **9a** and **9b**. 250 MHz NMR: δ 1.54 (**9b**),



2.07 (**9a**) (s, SCH₃), 1.62 to 1.74 (m, SCH), 0.70–0.86 and 1.0–1.14 (m, ring CH₂) ppm. Anal. Found: C, 30.25; H, 2.10. $C_{10}H_8O_6S_2Fe_2$ calcd.: C, 30.03; H, 2.02%. (μ -CH₃S)(μ -cyclo-C₅H₉S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red oil, b.p. 120°C/0.2 mmHg, a mixture of three isomers whose ratio could not be determined because of overlapping CH₃ and cyclopentyl proton signals; δ (CH₃) 1.62, 2.08, 2.12 ppm. Anal. Found: C, 33.82; H, 2.91. $C_{12}H_{12}O_6S_2Fe_2$ calcd.: C, 33.67; H, 2.83%.

 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -Me₂C=CHS)Fe₂(CO)₆, a red oil, b.p. 85°C/0.06 mmHg, a 1.6/1/1.9 mixture of **10a**, **10b** and **10c** by NMR. 250 MHz NMR: δ 1.66 (**10c**), 2.09 (**10a**), 2.12 (**10b**) (s, SCH₃), 1.79, 1.98 (**10c**); 1.76, 1.89 (**10a**); 1.70, 1.83 (**10b**) (all s, =CMe₂), 5.40 (**10b**), 5.54 (**10a**), 5.62 (**10c**) (s, =CH) ppm. Anal. Found: C, 31.90; H, 2.45. C₁₁H₁₀O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 31.91; H, 2.43%.



 $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -p-CH₃C₆H₄S)Fe₂(CO)₆, red solid, m.p. 106–108°C (from pentane). Two isomers, **11a** and **11b**, were present in 4/1 ratio (by NMR), but assignments could not be made. 250 MHz NMR: δ 2.05, 2.15, 2.27 (s, SCH₃ and C₆H₄CH₃), 6.9–7.1 (m, C₆H₄) ppm. Anal. Found: C, 37.39; H, 2.33. C₁₄H₁₀O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 37.37; H, 2.24%.



Preparation of $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -HS)Fe₂(CO)₆. The monoanion was prepared by the usual method by reaction of 1.82 ml of 1.6 *M* CH₃Li/LiBr in diethyl ether with 2.91 mmol of $(\mu$ -S₂)Fe₂(CO)₆ in 75 ml of THF at -78° C. To this solution was added, with stirring at -78° C, 0.50 ml (5.70 mmol) of CF₃CO₂H. An immediate color change from green to red occurred. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and the volatiles were removed in vacuo. The red-brown solid which remained was extracted with three 25 ml portions of pentane. The extracts were filtered and evaporated in vacuo to leave 0.98 g (2.72 mmol, 94% yield) of $(\mu$ -CH₃S)(μ -HS)Fe₂(CO)₆, an air-sensitive red solid, m.p. 82–84°C after recrystallization from hexane. NMR: $\delta - 2.47$ (*a* SH), -0.52 (*e* SH), 2.18 (*e* SCH₃) ppm. Isomer ratio (*a* SH/*e* SH) 7.9. The mass spectrum (70 eV) showed the molecular ion and, inter alia, fragment ions corresponding to $[M^+ - nCO]$ (n = 1-6). Anal. Found: C, 23.36; H, 1.21. C₇H₄O₆S₂Fe₂ calcd.: C, 23.36; H, 1.12%.

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