# Synthesis of the triscyclopentadienyl(hydroxo)uranium(IV) complexes $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]\left(\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right.$ or $\left.{ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}\right)$ and their transformation into $\mu$-oxo bridged derivatives. Crystal structure of the trinuclear compound $\left[\left(\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right)_{3}\right]$ 

Jean-Claude Berthet and Michel Ephritikhine<br>Laboratoire de Chimie de l'Uranium, Service de Chimie Moléculaire, DSM, DRECAM, CNRS URA 331, CEA CE Saclay, 91191 Gif sur Yvette (France)<br>Monique Lance, Martine Nierlich and Julien Vigner<br>Laboratoire de Cristallochimie, Service de Chimie Moléculaire, DSM, DRECAM, CNRS URA 331, CEA CE Saclay, 91191 Gif sur Yvette (France)<br>(Received February 12, 1993)


#### Abstract

The $\mathrm{U}(\mathrm{IV})$ hydroxo-complexes $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]\left(\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right.$ or $\left.{ }^{1} \mathrm{Bu}\right)$ have been prepared, either by hydrolysis of the corresponding hydrides $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right.$ ] or by treatment of the cationic compounds [ $\left.\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{BPh}_{4}\right]$ with sodium hydroxide. Reaction of $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]$ with $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right]$ gave the $\mu$-oxo derivative [ $\left.\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}\right]_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right]\left(\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)$ and thermolysis of the hydroxo-complexes afforded the trinuclear compounds $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right\}_{3}\right]$. The crystal structure of $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right\}_{3}\right]$ has been determined.


## 1. Introduction

Almost all the organometallic complexes of the $f$ elements are exceedingly sensitive to moisture, and the decomposition products are generally assumed to be hydroxide derivatives. In a few cases, new interesting organolanthanide compounds containing hydroxyl bridges have been isolated after partial hydrolysis of a given precursor, either using carefully controlled experimental conditions or, accidentally, during the work-up or crystallization in the presence of adventitious traces of water [1,2]. Such hydroxo-complexes of the $5 f$ elements have not been characterized, although [U(C) $\left.\mathrm{H}_{5}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})$ ] was mentioned in a review article [3], without details of its preparation and identification. Here we report synthesis of the triscyclopentadienyl(hydroxo)uranium(IV) compounds [U( $\left.\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})$ ] (R $=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$ or ${ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}$ ) and some of their reactions which gave $\mu$-oxo derivatives; we describe the crystal struc-

[^0]ture of the trinuclear complex $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}_{5}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}(\mu\right.\right.$ $\mathrm{O})_{3}$ ].

## 2. Results and discussion

2.1. Synthesis of the hydroxo-complexes $\left[U\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}\right.$ (OH)] ( $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$ or ${ }^{t} \mathrm{Bu}$ )

The hydroxide complexes [ $\left.\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right](1 \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{R}$ $=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3} ; \mathbf{1 b}, \mathrm{R}={ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}$ ) have been obtained by treatment of the corresponding hydrides $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right]$ [4] with exactly 1 mol equivalent of water in toluene; the green solution rapidly turned orange and a gas, presumably dihydrogen, was evoived (eqn. (1)).

$$
\begin{align*}
& {\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right]+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}} \\
& \qquad \begin{array}{l}
{\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]+\mathrm{H}_{2}} \\
\left(\mathbf{1 a}, \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3} ;\right. \\
\left.\mathbf{1 b}, \mathrm{R}={ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}\right)
\end{array} \tag{1}
\end{align*}
$$

After extraction into pentane, the orange products were analytically pure; 1a was isolated as an oil and 1b
was crystalline. The yields of these reactions were not reproducible and varied from $20 \%$ to $60 \%$, apparently depending on the rate of addition of water, agitation, and concentration. Such difficulties in controlling the hydrolysis of organolanthanide compounds have been already noted [2].

A more reliable preparation of $1 \mathbf{a}$ and 1 b consists in treating the cationic complexes $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{BPh}_{4}\right]$ with 1 mol equivalent of finely powdered sodium hydroxide in tetrahydrofuran (THF); by this method (eqn. (2)), the products were isolated in much improved yields ( $70-95 \%$ ).

$$
\begin{gather*}
{\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{BPh}_{4}\right]+\mathrm{NaOH} \longrightarrow} \\
{\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]+\mathrm{NaBPh}_{4}}  \tag{2}\\
\mathbf{1}
\end{gather*}
$$

Complexes 1a and 1b were characterized by their elemental analyses (Table 1). In the IR spectrum, the bands centred at $3690 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (1a) and $3700 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (1b) are assigned to $\nu(\mathrm{OH})$. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectra exhibit a low field paramagnetic signal corresponding to the hydrogen atom of the hydroxide moiety. Osmometric measurements revealed that these compounds are monomeric in solution; this was not surprising as we had already found that in this series of $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{X})\right]$ complexes ( $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$ or ${ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}$ ), the bulkiness of the cyclopentadienyl ligands prevents the formation of bridged dimers [4,5].

### 2.2. Formation of $\mu$-oxo derivatives from the hydroxocomplexes [ $\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})$ ]

Dehydration of mononuclear [M]-OH species, leading to oxo-bridged complexes, is a classical reaction that is considered as essential in solution-gel chemistry (oxolation or condensation reactions) [6]. In some cases,
such oxo compounds were obtained fortuitously during the treatment or crystallization of a metal compound, and it is often assumed that [ M ]-OH entities, resulting from the reaction with adventitious traces of moisture, are involved in their formation [7]. One might expect that complex 1a should be easily transformed by elimination of $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ into the oxo-bridged bimetallic organouranium complex $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}\right\}_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right] 2$; this was recently synthesized by treatment of [ $\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right.$ $\left.\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}$ ] with carbon dioxide and its crystal structure was determined [8]. In fact, complex 2 was not obtained by condensation of two molecules of $1 \mathbf{a}$; on the contrary, in the presence of one equivalent of $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 2$ was totally converted into 1a (eqn. (3)) (NMR experiment).


The two oxo-bridged compounds $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right.\right.\right.$ -$\left.\left.\left.\mathrm{Me}_{3}\right)_{3}\right\}_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right] 2$ and $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right\}_{3}\right] 3$ were obtained from the hydroxide 1a, but without elimination of water. These complexes were formed simultaneously when 1a was heated in toluene in the presence of one equivalent of $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right]$. The reaction, which has been monitored by NMR spectroscopy was complete after 24 h at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; the spectrum showed that the ratio [2]:[3] was $65: 35$ but, once 1a had totally disappeared, approximately $60 \%$ of the initial quantity of $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right]$ was still present. Under the same conditions, thermolysis of 1 a afforded only compound 3, with elimination of trimethylsilylcyclopentadiene (almost quantitative yield after 40 h ). These results suggested that complex 2 results from the reaction de-

TABLE 1. Analytical and ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR data

| Compound | Analyses ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | NMR data ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\underline{19}\left[\mathrm{U}^{\left.\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]}\right.$ | C $42.97(43.23)$ <br> H 5.92 (6.04) <br> Si $12.90(12.63)$ | $\begin{aligned} & 35.42\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, w_{1 / 2}=40 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{OH}\right) \\ & -1.14(27 \mathrm{Me}, \mathrm{Me}) \\ & -9.16 \text { and }-13.95(6 \mathrm{H}+6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) \end{aligned}$ |
| 1b [ $\mathrm{U}_{\left.\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}{ }^{\text {' }} \mathrm{Bu}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]}$ | $\begin{array}{cc} \mathrm{C} & 52.60(52.42) \\ \mathrm{H} & 6.42(6.51) \\ \mathrm{U} & 38.20(38.47) \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 57.87\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{w}_{1 / 2}=80 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{OH}\right) \\ & 0.05(27 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Me}) \\ & -11.76 \text { and }-16.79(6 \mathrm{H}+6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) \end{aligned}$ |
| $3\left[\left(\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right\}_{3}\right]$ | C $36.57(36.35)$ <br> H $5.04(4.95)$ <br> Si $10.90(10.62)$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.19(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Me}) \\ & -17.79 \text { and }-32.27(4 \mathrm{H}+4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) \end{aligned}$ |
| $\left[\left(\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}{ }^{\text { }} \mathrm{Bu}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right)_{3}\right]$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 6.53(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Me}) \\ & -15.30 \text { and }-37.63\left(4 \mathrm{H}+4 \mathrm{H}, w_{1 / 2}=100 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}\right) \end{aligned}$ |

[^1]picted by eqn. (4); such formation of a $\mu$-oxo derivative from an equimolar mixture of hydride and hydroxide complexes is, to our knowledge, unprecedented.
\[

$$
\begin{array}{r}
{\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]+\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right] \longrightarrow} \\
 \tag{4}\\
{\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}\right\}_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right]+\mathrm{H}_{2}}
\end{array}
$$
\]

Reaction (4) was hindered by the concomitant thermal transformation of 1a into the trinuclear compound 3 (eqn. (5)).

$$
\begin{align*}
& {\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right] \stackrel{110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}}{\longrightarrow}}  \tag{5}\\
& \quad 1 / 3\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right\}_{3}\right]+\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}
\end{align*}
$$

Red needles of $\mathbf{3}$ were progressively deposited from a refluxing solution of 1 la in pentane ( $40 \%$ isolated yield after 5 days); these crystals were suitable for an X-ray diffraction study (vide infra). Complex 3 was obtained alternatively in almost quantitative yield by treating 1a with an excess of sodium hydride in tetrahydrofuran; the reaction was complete after 10 min in the ultrasound bath, a gas was evolved and 1 mol equivalent of $\mathrm{NaC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$ was liberated (NMR experiment). Similar treatment of 1b gave $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}{ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right\}_{3}\right]$, which was characterized only by its NMR spectrum.

These reactions leading to the oxo-bridged compounds 2 (eqn. (4)) and 3 (Scheme 1) underscore the acidic character of the hydroxide complexes 1 and are reminiscent of the reactions of alcohols with [ $\left.\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right][4]$ and $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)_{3} \mathrm{X}\right](\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{Cl}$ or OR$)$ [9] which gave alkoxide derivatives, with elimination of dihydrogen and cyclopentadiene respectively.

It seems likely that the two routes leading to 3 (Scheme 1) involve the same intermediate $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{Si}-\right.\right.$ $\left.\mathrm{Me}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{O}$, which undergoes rapid trimerization. Such intermediates [ $\mathrm{M}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ] have been proposed to account for the synthesis of the trinuclear compounds $\left[\left(\mathrm{M}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right]_{3}\right](\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Zr}[10]$, Hf [11]) according to eqns. (6) and (7).

$$
\begin{align*}
3\left[\mathrm{Zr}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}\right]+3 \mathrm{CO}_{2} \longrightarrow \\
{\left[\left\{\mathrm{Zr}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right\}_{3}\right]+9 \mathrm{CO} } \tag{6}
\end{align*}
$$

$\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\prime}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{ONa})\right]$


## $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\prime}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]$ <br> 1

Scheme 1. Preparation of $3\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\prime}=\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)$


Fig. 2. View of molecule $\mathbf{3}$ in the plane of the uranium-oxygen ring.
2.12(1) $\AA$ and average 2.08(4) $\AA$, are classical for uranium alkoxides [14], and are similar to those determined in the dinuclear complex $\left[\left\{U\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}\right]_{2}(\mu\right.$ $\mathrm{O})] 2(\mathrm{U}-\mathrm{O}=2.1053(2) \AA[8])$ and the cation $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{7}\right)\right.\right.$ $\left.\left.(\mathrm{Br})(\mathrm{NCMe})_{4}\right\rangle_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right]^{2+}(\mathrm{U}-\mathrm{O}=2.057(1) \AA[15])$; the ring planarity and the short $\mathrm{U}-\mathrm{O}$ bond distances are reflecting the strong $\pi$ bonding between the metal and oxygen atoms. However, because of the ring formation, the $\mathrm{U}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{U}$ angles are far from linear with a mean value of $142(2)^{\circ}$. The geometry of the $\eta^{5}-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$ is unexceptional, with U -C(ring centroid) distances ranging from $2.49(2) \AA$ to $2.51(2) \AA(\langle U-C$ ring centroid $)\rangle=2.51(3) \AA$ in $\left[U\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}\right][16]$ and $2.53(1)$ $\AA$ in 2 [8]). The $\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$ substituents of two adjacent cyclopentadienyl rings are staggered and remote from the metal centre; this is the best geometry for minimization of steric interactions. The metal environments in the complexes $\left[\left(\mathrm{M}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right)_{3}\right](\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Zr}[10]$,

Hf [11] and $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{H} ; \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{U}$ and $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$ ) are quite similar since the $\langle\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{O}\rangle$ angles are 97.5(2), 97(2) and 97.1(4) for $\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Zr}, \mathrm{Hf}$, and U respectively, and the corresponding (ring centroid-M-ring centroid) angles are 124(1), 123 and 123(1); the $\langle\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{M}\rangle$ angles of the planar metal-oxygen rings are also very close: 142(1), 143(1) and 142(2) respectively.

## 3. Experimental details

### 3.1. General methods

All preparations and reactions were carried out under argon (less than 5 ppm oxygen) using standard Schlenk vessel and vacuum-line techniques, or in a dry box. Solvents were thoroughly dried and deoxygenated by the standard methods, and distilled immediately before use. Deuteriated solvents were dried over $\mathrm{Na}-\mathrm{K}$ alloy.

Elemental analyses and molecular weight determinations were carried out by Analytische Laboratorien at Engelkirchen (Germany). The IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 782 instrument in Nujol mulls, ${ }^{1}$ H NMR spectra on a Bruker W60 (FT) instrument and referenced internally using the residual proton solvent resonances relative to tetramethylsilane ( $\delta=0$ ). The analytical and NMR data are presented in Table 1. Sodium hydroxide was finely divided in a grinder and dried under vacuum; a powder of NaH was obtained from a commercial suspension in mineral oil (Aldrich) after washing with toluene and drying under vacuum. The compounds $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right],\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{R}\right)_{3}\right]$ $\left[\mathrm{BPh}_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right.$ or $\left.{ }^{\mathrm{C}} \mathrm{Bu}\right)[4]$ and $\left[\left\{\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}\right\}_{2}\right.$ ( $\mu-\mathrm{O})][8]$ were prepared according to published methods.

TABLE 2. Selected bond distances ( $(\AA)$ and angles ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) with estimated standard deviations for 3

| Uranium environment |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U(1)-U(2) | 3.979 (1) | U(1)-U(3) | 3.947 (1) | U(2)-U(3) | 3.946 (1) |
| $\mathrm{U}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | 2.05 (1) | $\mathrm{U}(2)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 2.05 (1) | $\mathrm{U}(3)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 2.11 (1) |
| $\mathrm{U}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 2.09 (1) | $\mathrm{U}(2)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 2.11 (1) | $\mathrm{U}(3)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | 2.12 (1) |
| <U(1)-C) | 2.79 (5) | 〈U(2)-C) | 2.79 (10) | (U(3)-C) | 2.77 (9) |
| $\mathrm{U}(1)-1{ }^{\text {a }}$ | 2.51 (2) | U(2)-3 | 2.51 (2) | U(3)-5 | 2.51 (2) |
| U(1)-2 | 2.50 (1) | $\mathrm{U}(2)-4$ | 2.51 (1) | $\mathrm{U}(3)-6$ | 2.49 (1) |
| $\mathrm{U}(2)-\mathrm{U}(1)-\mathrm{U}(3)$ | 59.72 (2) | $\mathrm{U}(1)-\mathrm{U}(2)-\mathrm{U}(3)$ | 59.74 (2) | $\mathrm{U}(1)-\mathrm{U}(3)-\mathrm{U}(2)$ | 60.55 (2) |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{U}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 97.3 (5) | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{U}(2)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 96.7 (5) | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{U}(3)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | 97.4 (6) |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{U}(1)-1$ | 107.1 (6) | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{U}(2)-3$ | 106.8 (5) | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{U}(3)-5$ | 109.9 (6) |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{U}(1)-2$ | 110.7 (5) | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{U}(2)-4$ | 110.4 (6) | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{U}(3)-6$ | 106.8 (5) |
| $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{U}(1)-1$ | 110.1 (6) | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{U}(2)-3$ | 107.5 (6) | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{U}(3)-5$ | 110.4 (5) |
| $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{U}(1)-2$ | 105.3 (6) | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{U}(2)-4$ | 107.4 (6) | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{U}(3)-6$ | 106.6 (6) |
| $1-\mathrm{U}(1)-2$ | 123.3 (5) | 3-U(2)-4 | 124.5 (6) | 5-U(3)-6 | 122.8 (6) |
| Trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl ligand |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\langle\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}\rangle_{\text {ring }}$ | 1.43 (6) | $\left\langle\right.$ Si-C $\left.{ }_{\text {ring }}\right\rangle$ | 1.86 (8) | $\left\langle\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{Me}}\right\rangle$ | 1.88 (5) |
| $\langle\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}\rangle_{\text {ring }}$ | 108 (2) | $\left\langle\mathrm{C}_{\text {ring }}-\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{Me}}\right.$ ) | 109 (1) |  |  |

[^2]3.2. Synthesis of the hydroxo-complexes [ $U\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right.$ $\left.\left.\mathrm{Me}_{3}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]$ (1a) and $\left[U\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}{ }^{\mathrm{C}} \mathrm{Bu}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]$ (1b)
(a) A 50 ml round-bottomed flask was charged with [U(C55 $\left.\left.\mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right]$ ( $300 \mathrm{mg}, 0.46 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), and toluene ( 20 ml ) was condensed into it under vacuum at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Water ( $8.3 \mu \mathrm{l}, 0.46 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added via a microsyringe and the green solution rapidly turned orange, with gas evolution. After 10 min , the solution was evaporated to dryness and the residue was extracted
 of 1 a was obtained ( $190 \mathrm{mg}, 62 \%$ ). A similar experiment with $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}{ }^{\mathrm{B}} \mathrm{Bu}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right](500 \mathrm{mg}, 0.83 \mathrm{mmol})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(15 \mu \mathrm{l}, 0.83 \mathrm{mmol})$ gave an ochre microcrystalline powder of $1 \mathrm{lb}(100 \mathrm{mg}, 20 \%)$. The yields of these reactions varied from $20 \%$ to $\mathbf{6 0 \%}$.
(b) A 50 ml round-bottomed flask was charged with $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{BPh}_{4}\right]$ ( $202 \mathrm{mg}, 0.21 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and $\mathrm{NaOH}(8.3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.21 \mathrm{mmol})$, and THF ( 15 ml ) was condensed into it under vacuum at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the red solution turned orange, and an off-white powder of $\mathrm{NaBPh}_{4}$ precipitated. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was dried overnight under vacuum. The product was extracted into pentane ( 20 ml ) and isolated as an orange oil ( $136 \mathrm{mg}, 98 \%$ ). By the same procedure, $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}{ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}\right)_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{BPh}_{4}\right](400 \mathrm{mg}, 0.43 \mathrm{mmol})$, in the presence of $\mathrm{NaOH}(17.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.43 \mathrm{mmol})$, was transformed into 1b ( $195 \mathrm{mg}, 73 \%$ ). Molecular weight by osmometry: 589 (theoretical 618).
(c) An NMR tube was charged with [ $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right.\right.$ -$\left.\left.\left.\mathrm{Me}_{3}\right)_{3}\right]_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right](10.0 \mathrm{mg}, 7.6 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ in THF-d $\mathbf{d}_{8}(0.4 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(0.1 \mu \mathrm{l}, 7.6 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ was added via a microsyringe. The tube was immersed in an ultrasound bath ( $60 \mathrm{~W}, 40 \mathrm{kHz}$ ) and after 30 min , the spectrum showed the quantitative formation of $\mathbf{1 a}$.

### 3.2.1. Reaction of $\left[U\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{OH})\right]$ (1a) with [ $\left.\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right]$

An NMR tube was charged with 1a ( $10.0 \mathrm{mg}, 15.0$ $\mu \mathrm{mol})$ and $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{H}\right](9.8 \mathrm{mg}, 15.0 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ in toluene- $\mathrm{d}_{8}(0.4 \mathrm{ml})$. The mixture was heated at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 h , and the spectrum showed the signals corresponding to unreacted hydride ( $52 \%$ ), $2(31 \%)$ and 3 (17\%).
3.2.2. Synthesis of $\left[\left\{U\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}(\mu-\mathrm{O})\right\}_{3}\right]$ (3) and $\left[\left\{U\left(C_{5} H_{4}^{t} B u\right)_{2}(\mu-O)\right\}_{3}\right]$
(a) A 50 ml round-bottomed flask was charged with 1a ( $279 \mathrm{mg}, 0.42 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and pentane ( 20 ml ) was condensed into it under vacuum at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The solution was heated at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 5 days and progressively deposited red needles of 3 . The mixture was cooled to $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, filtered, and the crystals were dried under vacuum ( $89 \mathrm{mg}, 40 \%$ ).
(b) An NMR tube was charged with 1a ( 10 mg ) in toluene $-\mathrm{d}_{8}(0.4 \mathrm{ml})$ and was heated at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 40 h . The spectrum showed the quantitative formation of 3 and $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$; the intensities of the signals corresponding to the $\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$ groups of the cyclopentadienyl ligands of 3 and free cyclopentadiene were in the ratio $2: 1$. Similar results were observed with $\mathbf{1 b}$.
(c) An NMR tube was charged with 1a ( 10.0 mg , $15.0 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ ) and NaH (approximately $3 \mathrm{mg}, 125 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ ) in THF $\mathrm{d}_{8}(0.4 \mathrm{ml})$. The tube was immersed in the ultrasound bath for 10 min , and a gas was evolved. The spectrum showed the exclusive formation of 3 and $\mathrm{NaC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{SiMe}_{3}$; integration of the signals showed that the ratio of coordinated and free cyclopentadienyl was $2: 1$. Similar results were obtained when $\left[\mathrm{U}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}{ }^{4} \mathrm{Bu}\right)_{3}\right.$ $(\mathrm{OH})]$ ( $5.1 \mathrm{mg}, 8.2 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ ) was treated with $\mathrm{KHBEt}_{3}$ ( $8.2 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of a 1 M solution in THF).
3.3. $X$-ray crystal structure of $\left[\left\{U\left(C_{5} H_{4} S i M e_{3}\right)_{2}(\mu\right.\right.$ o) $\}_{3} I$

A selected single crystal was introduced into a thinwalled Lindemann glass tube in the glove box. Data

TABLE 3. Crystallographic data and experimental details for compound 3

| Crystal data |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Crystal dimensions (mm) | $0.45 \times 0.25 \times 0.10$ |
| Colour | red |
| Crystal system | triclinic |
| Space group | P1 |
| $a(\AA)$ | 12.279(2) |
| $b(\AA)$ | 12.369(2) |
| $c(\AA)$ | 22.766(5) |
| $\boldsymbol{\alpha}\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 87.33(2) |
| $\beta\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 74.33(2) |
| $\boldsymbol{\gamma}^{\left({ }^{\circ}\right)}$ | 69.41(2) |
| $V\left(\AA^{3}\right)$ | 3112(2) |
| Z | 2 |
| $D_{\text {calc }}\left(\mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}\right)$ | 1.692 |
| $\mu(\mathrm{Mo}-\mathrm{K} \alpha)\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ | 75.275 |
| Data collection |  |
| $\theta$ limits ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) | 1, 20 |
| Scan type | $\omega, 2 \theta$ |
| Scan width | $0.8+0.35 \tan \theta$ |
| Range abs. trans. | 0.924, 1.053 |
| Range $h$ | -12, 12 |
| $k$ | 0, 12 |
| $l$ | -22, 22 |
| Reflections collected |  |
| total | 6513 |
| unique | 6004 |
| with $I>3 \sigma(I)$ | 3332 |
| Final values |  |
| $R(F)=\Sigma\left\\|F_{0}\left\|-\left\|F_{c} \\| / \Sigma\right\| F_{0}\right\|\right.$ | 0.059 |
| $R_{w}(F)=\left[\Sigma_{w}\left\\|F_{0}\|-\| F_{c}\right\\|^{2} / \Sigma_{w}\left(\left\|F_{0}\right\|\right)^{2}\right]^{1 / 2}$ | 0.070 |
| Max shift/esd | 0.01 |

were collected at room temperature on an Enraf-Nonius CAD 4 diffractometer equipped with a graphite

TABLE 4. Fractional atomic coordinates, thermal parameters and their e.s.d.s. for compound 3

| Atom | $\boldsymbol{x}$ | $y$ | $z$ | $B\left(\AA^{2}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U(1) | 0.0338(1) | 0.3737(1) | 0.21791(5) | 3.86(4) * |
| U(2) | -0.2998(1) | 0.3881(1) | $0.30393(5)$ | 3.28(3) * |
| U(3) | -0.0779(1) | 0.1222(1) | 0.19081(5) | 3.36(3) * |
| Si(1) | 0.0727(9) | 0.5542(9) | 0.3560(4) | 5.3(3)* |
| Si(2) | 0.2848(9) | 0.3955(9) | 0.0553(4) | 5.1(3) * |
| Si(3) | -0.5323(9) | $0.735(1)$ | 0.3436(4) | 5.6(3) * |
| Si(4) | -0.480(1) | 0.1964 (9) | 0.4121(4) | 5.7(3) * |
| Si(5) | 0.2456(9) | -0.1541(9) | 0.1335(5) | 5.2(3) * |
| Si(6) | -0.300(1) | -0.004(1) | 0.1227(5) | 6.4(4) * |
| O(1) | -0.232(2) | 0.232(2) | 0.2551(7) | 3.6(6) * |
| O(2) | 0.034(2) | 0.222(2) | $0.1854(8)$ | 4.1(6) * |
| O(3) | -0.141(2) | 0.429(2) | 0.2761(8) | 4.4(6) * |
| C(11) | 0.257(3) | $0.270(3)$ | $0.238(2)$ | 7 (1) |
| C(12) | $0.233(3)$ | 0.389(3) | 0.251(1) | 4.4(7) |
| C(13) | 0.134(3) | $0.415(3)$ | $0.307(1)$ | 4.2(7) |
| C(14) | 0.113(3) | 0.314(3) | 0.322(1) | 6.4(9) |
| C(15) | 0.191(3) | 0.216(3) | 0.278(2) | 7 (1) |
| C(16) | $0.129(3)$ | 0.662(3) | 0.312(1) | 5.4(9) |
| C(17) | -0.095(3) | 0.602(3) | 0.385(2) | 8 (1) |
| C(18) | 0.132(3) | 0.518(3) | $0.424(2)$ | 7 (1) |
| C(21) | -0.040(3) | 0.604(3) | $0.178(1)$ | 6.4(9) |
| C(22) | $0.095(3)$ | 0.551(3) | $0.156(1)$ | 4.7(8) |
| C(23) | $0.135(3)$ | 0.464(3) | $0.109(1)$ | $4.6(8)$ |
| C(24) | 0.032(3) | 0.441(3) | 0.099(1) | 5.2(8) |
| C(25) | -0.074(3) | 0.527(3) | 0.141(1) | 5.8(9) |
| C(26) | $0.410(3)$ | 0.411(3) | 0.085(2) | 7 (1) |
| C(27) | 0.280(3) | 0.469(3) | -0.022(2) | 7 (1) |
| C(28) | $0.315(4)$ | 0.232(4) | 0.040 (2) | 9 (1) |
| C(31) | -0.473(3) | 0.439(3) | 0.242(1) | 4.0(7) |
| C(32) | -0.532(3) | 0.513(3) | $0.296(1)$ | $4.7(8)$ |
| C(33) | -0.480(2) | 0.609(3) | 0.294(1) | 3.5(7) |
| C(34) | -0.385(3) | 0.582(3) | $0.236(1)$ | 4.0(7) |
| C(35) | -0.386(3) | $0.480(3)$ | $0.207(1)$ | 4.4(7) |
| C(36) | -0.624(3) | 0.716 (3) | 0.421(1) | 6.3(9) |
| C(37) | -0.627(3) | 0.854(3) | 0.308(1) | 6.3(9) |
| C(38) | -0.397(3) | 0.782(4) | 0.349(2) | 8 (1) |
| C(41) | -0.240(3) | $0.362(3)$ | $0.415(1)$ | 4.0.7) |
| C(42) | -0.268(3) | $0.262(3)$ | 0.404(1) | $5.2(8)$ |
| C(43) | -0.398(2) | $0.300(3)$ | 0.412(1) | 3.4(7) |
| C(44) | -0.442(3) | $0.412(3)$ | $0.425(1)$ | 4.8(8) |
| C(45) | -0.344(3) | 0.451(3) | $0.426(1)$ | $4.7(8)$ |
| C(46) | -0.538(4) | 0.210 (4) | 0.343(2) | 10 (1) |
| C(47) | -0.611(4) | $0.232(4)$ | 0.482(2) | 9 (1) |
| C(48) | -0.376(5) | 0.053(5) | $0.415(3)$ | 15 (2) |
| C(51) | -0.093(3) | -0.067(3) | $0.258(2)$ | 7 (1) |
| C(52) | -0.012(2) | -0.123(3) | 0.199(1) | 3.4(7) |
| C(53) | $0.096(3)$ | -0.096(3) | 0.193(1) | 4.3(7) |
| C(54) | 0.080(3) | -0.032(3) | 0.247(1) | 5.9(9) |
| C(55) | $-0.037(3)$ | -0.020(3) | 0.285(1) | 5.3(8) |
| C(56) | $0.220(3)$ | -0.215(3) | $0.064(1)$ | $5.0(8)$ |
| C(57) | $0.353(3)$ | -0.289(3) | $0.160(2)$ | 7 (1) |
| C(58) | $0.318(4)$ | -0.039(4) | $0.122(2)$ | 9 (1) |
| C(61) | -0.028(3) | 0.134(3) | 0.066(1) | 5.1(8) |
| C(62) | -0.067(3) | $0.039(3)$ | 0.080(1) | 4.1(7) |
| C(63) | -0.191(3) | 0.075(3) | 0.107(1) | 4.1(7) |

TABLE 4 (continued)

| Atom | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $B\left(\AA^{2}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C(64) | -0.230(3) | 0.196 (3) | 0.115(1) | 4.6(8) |
| C(65) | -0.132(3) | $0.238(3)$ | 0.091(1) | 5.0(8) |
| C(66) | -0.410(5) | $0.053(5)$ | 0.197(2) | 13 (2) |
| C(67) | -0.387(4) | 0.035(4) | $0.065(2)$ | 10 (1) |
| C(68) | -0.215(4) | -0.156(4) | $0.104(2)$ | 11 (2) |

monochromator ( $\lambda=0.71073 \AA$ ). The cell parameters were obtained by a least-squares refinement of the setting angles of 25 reflections with $\theta$ between $8^{\circ}$ and $12^{\circ}$. Three standard reflections were measured after each hour; a decay of $38.5 \%$ in 32 h was observed and was corrected linearly. The data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects and absorption [17]. The structure was solved by direct method using shelxs86 [18] and refined by full matrix least-squares on F . The $\mathrm{U}, \mathrm{O}$ and Si atoms were refined anisotropically, and H atoms were not introduced in refinements. All calculations were performed on a Micro Vax II computer with the Enraf-Nonius MolEN system [19]. Analytical scattering factors for neutral atoms [20] were corrected for both $\Delta f$ and $\Delta f^{\prime \prime}$ components of anomalous dispersion. Crystallographic data and experimental details are given in Table 3; final positional and thermal parameters are listed in Table 4. Full lists of atomic coordinates, bond lengths, angles, and thermal parameters are available from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.

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[^0]:    Correspondence to: Dr. M. Ephritikhine.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ Analytical data: found (required) in $\% .{ }^{b}$ At $30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in benzene- $\mathrm{d}_{6}$. Data in the form $\delta$ (relative integral, half-height width, assignment); when not specified, the signal is a singlet with $w_{1 / 2}=10-30 \mathrm{~Hz}$.

[^2]:    ${ }^{a}$ is the centroid of the cyclopentadienyl ring 1 , etc.

