

JOM 23702

Heterobimetallic Mo–Sn complexes with seven-coordinate molybdenum and five-coordinate tin

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(Received January 25, 1993)

Abstract

New heterobimetallic complexes $[\text{Mo}(\text{SnRCl}_2)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}]$ [(1) $\text{R} = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$, (2) $\text{R} = \text{CH}_3$] have been obtained by reaction of $[\text{Mo}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3(\text{CO})_3]$ and SnRCl_3 . The reactions may be considered as insertion of $[\text{Mo}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2(\text{CO})_3]$ into the Sn–X bond of the organotin halides. The IR and ^1H , ^{13}C NMR spectra of the isolated products are consistent with heptacoordination around the molybdenum, produced by three *facial* carbonyl groups and two *cis*-MeCN, and the other two positions occupied by Cl and SnRCl_2 . Mössbauer spectroscopy data are consistent with the presence of a pentacoordinate environment at tin with a Mo–Sn bond bridged by a chloride atom. The complexes change in solution and intermediates are detected by IR and NMR spectroscopies when coordinating solvents are employed. The thermal behaviour in solution is also reported.

1. Introduction

The involvement of seven-coordinate Mo or W complexes in some catalytic processes [1–3] has encouraged research into related heterobimetallic compounds. Some M–Sn (M = Mo or W) derivatives of the type $[\text{M}(\text{CO})_3\text{L}_2(\text{X})(\text{SnRX}_2)]$ (M = Mo; $\text{L}_2 = \text{bipy}$; $\text{R} = \text{Cl}$), (M = Mo or W; $\text{L}_2 = \text{CH}_3\text{SCH}_2\text{SCH}_3$; $\text{R} = \text{CH}_3$), (M = Mo; $\text{L} = \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$; $\text{R} = \text{Cl}$), and (M = Mo; $\text{L} = \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$; $\text{R} = \text{Bu}$) [4–8] are known. The common feature of the reported structures [5,6] is a seven-coordinate environment in which a chlorine atom bridges the M–Sn bond (M = Mo or W) giving unusual pentacoordination around the tin. In contrast, the structure of the related complex $[\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_2\{\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3\}_3(\text{SnCl}_2\text{Bu})\text{Cl}]$, which contains bulkier ligands than the other examples, shows the chlorine atom to be at a large distance from the tetrahedral tin atom, with a nearly linear Sn–Mo–Cl rearrangement [7].

The reactions which produce these compounds have been described as oxidative additions of the tin(IV) derivative to the starting Mo carbonyl complex. How-

ever, the formation of the trimetallic derivative $[(\text{bipy})(\text{CO})_3\text{ClMo}(\mu\text{-SnCl}_2)\text{MoCl}(\text{CO})_3(\text{bipy})]$ has been considered to be an insertion of an $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_3(\text{bipy})$ fragment into the Sn–Cl bond of the starting $[\text{MoCl}(\text{SnCl}_3)(\text{CO})_3(\text{bipy})]$ [9]. We think that the same criterion could be used to explain the formation of all the above heterobimetallic compounds. Insertion of the 16-electron fragment, $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_3(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2$, into the Sn–X bond of the haloorganotin derivative should be an appropriate way to produce new Mo–Sn systems.

We propose to investigate the requirements to produce heptacoordinate molybdenum compounds bonded to tin and bridged by chlorine. Following our previous work in which RSnCl_3 ($\text{R} = \text{Me}$ or Ph) were allowed to react with $[(\text{phen})\{\text{P}(4\text{-XC}_6\text{H}_4)_2\}_2\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_3]$ derivatives [10], we studied reactions of $[\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_3(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3]$ with SnRCl_3 ($\text{R} = \text{Me}$ or Ph). The different electronic and steric requirements of Me and Ph groups involved in the reactions should influence the production of a pentacoordinate tin environment as well as the stability of the heterobimetallic products.

2. Results and discussion

The new complexes $[\text{Mo}(\text{SnRCl}_2)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}]$ [(1) $\text{R} = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$, (2) $\text{R} = \text{CH}_3$] are yellow solids, light-

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sensitive, air-unstable, but stable when stored under dinitrogen in the dark. They are soluble in the common solvents, but the solutions show slow changes at room temperature, to produce $[\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_6]$ and other decomposition products. This occurs in some cases even under di-nitrogen. Repeated attempts to obtain adequate crystals for crystal structure determination failed, and only decomposition products were recovered. The complexes were fully characterized by IR, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR (Table 1), UV-vis and Mössbauer spectroscopies. The compounds are non-conductors in acetone solution (10^{-3} M). The analytical data are consistent with the proposed formulations.

2.1. Characterization of the complexes

2.1.1. IR spectroscopy

The infrared spectra of the compounds $[\text{Mo}(\text{SnRCl}_2)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}]$ (**1** R = C_6H_5 , **2** R = CH_3) in the solid state show two bands in the carbonyl stretching region at 1998vs, 1925sh–1904vs, and 2006vs, 1919sh–1898vs, respectively. The pattern of the bands, one sharp, and the other broad and split, suggests a *fac*-distribution of the three carbonyl groups [11]. These bands are shifted to higher frequencies compared to those of the parent compound $[\text{Mo}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3(\text{CO})_3]$ (1916 and 1797 cm^{-1}) [12], consistent with the increase of the formal oxidation state of molybdenum from 0 to II.

Two sharp bands appear in the 2300–2280 cm^{-1} region. The band at higher frequency is assigned to $\nu(\text{CN})$ and the other one to a combination mode from $\delta_s(\text{CH}_3)$ and $\nu(\text{C}-\text{C})$ [13]. Both bands are subject to Fermi resonance coupling so it was necessary to correct the observed values of these frequencies [14,15] (Table 1). Each band has a similar intensity, consistent with *cis* nitrile groups [15]. This is the main spectroscopic difference between the *cis* and *trans* nitrile isomers in related bis(nitrile) derivatives [15].

The IR spectra, in the $\nu(\text{CO})$ region, of **1** and **2** in different solvents (Table 2) show two strong absorption

TABLE 1. Selected nitrile ligand bands in the IR spectra of the compounds $[\text{Mo}(\text{SnRCl}_2)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}]$ [R = Ph (**1**), Me (**2**)]

1	2	Assignment
1362m	1366m	$\delta_s(\text{CH}_3)$
939w	945w	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{C})$
2309s	2319s	$\nu(\text{CN})$ ^a
2282s	2292s	
		Corrected
2290	2300	$\nu(\text{CN})$ [14,15]

^a Fermi resonance with $\delta_s(\text{CH}_3) + \nu(\text{C}-\text{C})$.

TABLE 2. Values of $\nu(\text{CO})$ (cm^{-1}) of **1** and **2** in different solvents^a

Solvent	1	2
Acetonitrile	2017vs, 1932sh, 1916vs	2014vs, 1930sh, 1919vs
Acetone	2007vs, 1921sh, 1902vs	1997vs, 1907sh, 1890vs
Dichloromethane	2017vs, 1935sh, 1920vs	2016vs, 1932sh, 1899vs
Ethanol	2005vs, 1920sh, 1903vs	2004vs, 1919sh, 1899vs
Chloroforme	2013s, 1915s,b	2012s, 1909s,b
Benzene	2009s, 1923s,b	2009s, 1925s,b
Toluene	2020s, 1927s,b	2020s, 1927s,b

^a vs, very strong; s, strong; sh, shoulder; b, broad.

bands, consistent with the presence of only one isomer. The second band is broad or split, depending on the solvent employed. O-donor solvents produce the largest shifts of $\nu(\text{CO})$ values to lower frequencies with respect to those observed in CH_3CN solution.

For non-isomeric forms of related seven-coordinate compounds, the position of the $\nu(\text{CO})$ band of highest energy and the magnitude of the separation (Δ) of the two lower energy bands may be used to assign the geometry of the complex [16]. On this basis, and from our IR data (Table 2), a capped octahedral geometry seems reasonable.

2.1.2. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy

Table 3 summarizes the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra and their assignments. Both compounds (**1** and **2**) show two ^1H NMR signals, at 2.63, 2.56 ppm and 2.63, 2.60 ppm, respectively, consistent with two different nitrile groups. In addition, in both complexes a signal is observed at 2.40 ppm, attributed to the protons of CH_3 groups of coordinated acetone.

In addition, the spectrum of **2** shows three signals at 1.5, 1.45 and 1.42 ppm, with their corresponding tin satellites, which are unequivocally assigned to different CH_3 groups bonded to tin.

TABLE 3. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data (ppm) of **1** and **2**

	1	2	
^1H NMR	$\delta(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})$	2.63 ^a , 2.56	2.63 ^a , 2.60
	$\delta(\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3)$	2.40	2.40
	$\delta(\text{CH}_3\text{Sn})$ ^c	–	1.5 ^b , 1.45 ^a , 1.42
^{13}C NMR	$\delta(\text{CO})$	197.71	199.91
	$\delta(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)$	148.43, 135.7 ^d , 131.19, 129.56	–
	$\delta(-\text{CN})$	127.71, 117.68 ^f	127.27, 126.26, 117.68 ^f
	$\delta(\text{CH}_3\text{Sn})$	–	14.98 ^e
	$\delta(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})$	3.18, 3.01 ^a , 1.1 ^f	3.19, 2.98 ^a , 1.16 ^f

^a Attributed to $[\text{Mo}(\text{SnRCl}_2)(\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}]$. ^b Attributed to $[\text{Mo}(\text{SnRCl}_2)(\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3)_2(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}]$. ^c $J(^{119}\text{Sn}-\text{CH}_3) = 73.7$ Hz, $J(^{117}\text{Sn}-\text{CH}_3) = 70.7$ Hz (1.5 ppm); $J(^{119}\text{Sn}-\text{CH}_3) = 75.2$ Hz, $J(^{117}\text{Sn}-\text{CH}_3) = 71.9$ Hz (1.45 ppm); $J(^{119}\text{Sn}-\text{CH}_3) = 76.1$ Hz, $J(^{117}\text{Sn}-\text{CH}_3) = 72.8$ Hz (1.42 ppm). ^d $J(\text{Sn}-\text{C}) = 61.4$ Hz. ^e $J(\text{Sn}-\text{C}) = 291.7$ Hz. ^f Attributed to free CH_3CN .

After 24 h, the intensity of the signals has decreased, especially those due to CH₃CN. The signals at 2.56 ppm (1) and 2.60 ppm (2) decrease *ca.* 70% and the signals at 2.63 ppm (1 and 2) *ca.* 40%. These observations are consistent with reactions in solution, possibly involving substitution of CH₃CN groups by solvent molecules, yielding [Mo(SnRCl₂)(CH₃CN)(CH₃COCH₃)(CO)₃Cl].

This suggestion is also supported by the observation in the spectrum of 2 of signals at 1.42, 1.45, 1.50 ppm, the last of which is assigned to a new compound [Mo(SnRCl₂)(CH₃COCH₃)₂(CO)₃Cl].

The ¹³C NMR spectra show the presence of free acetonitrile [17], which is consistent with the substitution of this ligand by solvent to produce new species. The single signal observed at *ca.* 198 ppm is assigned to the carbonyl groups bonded to the molybdenum atom. This fact suggests an equivalence of the three carbonyl ligands, which is attributed to a fluxional process at room temperature [18]. The other assignments (Table 3) are also consistent with the above suggestions.

2.1.3. Mössbauer spectroscopy

The new heterobimetallic compounds [Mo(SnRCl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl] [(1) R = C₆H₅, (2) R = CH₃] described must contain Mo–Sn and Mo–Cl bonds to achieve an 18-electron configuration around the hepta-coordinate molybdenum. However, the crystal structure and the Mössbauer spectroscopy of the related compound [Mo(SnCH₃Cl₂)(bipy)(CO)₃Cl] [5,19] indicated the presence of an additional interaction be-

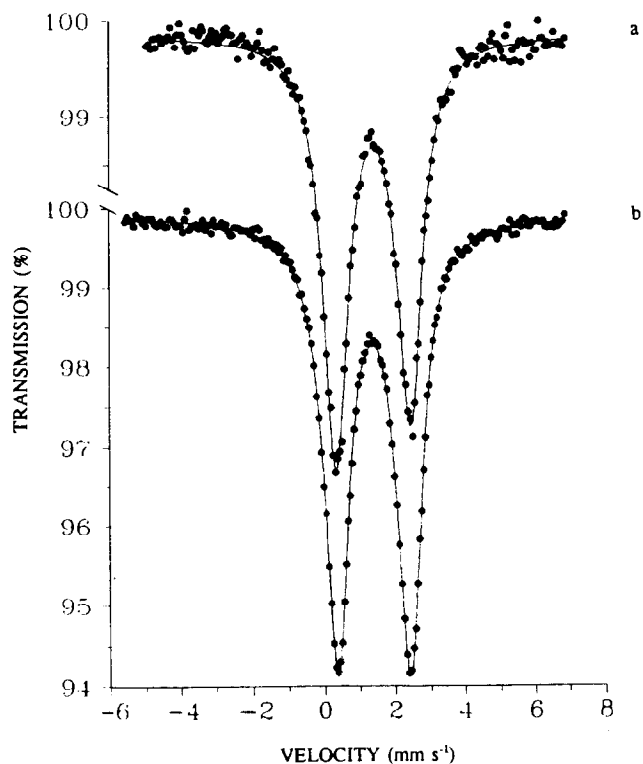


Fig. 1. Mössbauer spectra of [Mo(SnC₆H₅Cl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl] (a) and [Mo(SnCH₃Cl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl] (b) at 77 K.

tween the molybdenum and tin atoms through a bridged chloride which produced five-coordination at tin.

A similar situation is suggested for our compounds. Figure 1 shows the Mössbauer spectra of 1 and 2. The

TABLE 4. Heating of 1 and 2 in various solvents ^a

Compound	Solvent	Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	Atmosphere	Species observed
1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	40	24	N ₂	Starting compound
	(CH ₃) ₂ CO	53	1–40	N ₂	Starting compound + evolved species
	(CH ₃) ₂ CO	53	50	N ₂	Starting compound + evolved species + [Mo(CO) ₆]
	(CH ₃) ₂ CO	53	52	N ₂	[Mo(CO) ₆]
	C ₆ H ₆	80	1	N ₂	Starting compound
	C ₆ H ₆	80	3	N ₂	Starting compound + [Mo(CO) ₆]
	C ₆ H ₆	80	12	N ₂	[Mo(CO) ₆]
	CH ₃ C ₆ H ₅	110	0.5	N ₂	Starting compound + [Mo(CO) ₆]
	CH ₃ C ₆ H ₅	110	3	N ₂	[Mo(CO) ₆]
2	CH ₂ Cl ₂	40	24	N ₂	Starting compound
	(CH ₃) ₂ CO	53	5	N ₂	Starting compound + evolved species
	(CH ₃) ₂ CO	53	48	N ₂	Starting compound + evolved species + [Mo(CO) ₆]
	(CH ₃) ₂ CO	53	51	N ₂	[Mo(CO) ₆]
	C ₆ H ₆	80	1	N ₂	Starting compound + [Mo(CO) ₆]
	C ₆ H ₆	80	7	N ₂	[Mo(CO) ₆]
	C ₆ H ₆	80	0.5	CO	Starting compound + [Mo(CO) ₆]
	C ₆ H ₆	80	1	CO	[Mo(CO) ₆]

^a IR spectra were monitored at hourly intervals.

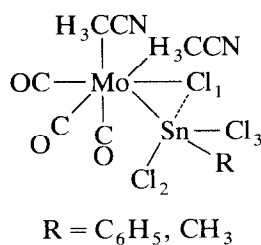


Fig. 2. Proposed structure for the complexes [Mo(SnRCl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl] [(1) R = C₆H₅, (2) R = CH₃].

isomer shifts (i.s.) in both cases are consistent with an oxidation state IV for tin. The i.s. and quadrupole splitting (q.s.) values (1 i.s. = 1.44, q.s. = 2.08 mm s⁻¹; 2 i.s. = 1.41, q.s. = 2.04 mm s⁻¹) are smaller than the corresponding values for the related compound [Mo(SnCH₃Cl₂)(bipy)(CO)₃Cl] [19] (i.s. = 1.54, q.s. = 2.44 mm s⁻¹). The decrease in i.s. values implies a decrease in the electron density of the tin atom, suggesting five-coordination in the complexes **1** and **2**. It is also in agreement with the presence of a Mo–Sn···Cl unit in which a Mo–Sn bond bridged by a chloride atom is implicated, the Sn···Cl interaction being stronger than that observed in [Mo(SnCH₃Cl₂)(bipy)(CO)₃Cl] [19]. Then, an environment around the tin atom like that represented in Fig. 2 is proposed for our complexes.

Both **1** and **2** have similar i.s. values, independent of R. This has two possible explanations. One is that the Mo–Sn···Cl bridge bond is weaker for complex **1** than for complex **2**. The other is that the greater s electron density on the tin in complex **2** due to the methyl is compensated for by a great electron delocalization through the Sn–L bond where L = Mo(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl.

2.2. Changes of complexes in solution

We have carried out an IR study of the behaviour of complexes **1** and **2** in different solvents, at room and reflux temperature. The results are summarized in Table 4. The important observations are summarized below.

There is no detectable modification of the initial species in acetonitrile and dichloromethane solution

even after several hours. However, in dichloromethane solution, there is a band assigned to [Mo(CO)₆], which increases in intensity with time. In acetone and ethanol solution, absorptions due to the initial species and new bands attributed to evolved products were observed. This was evident from zero time when acetone and a concentration of 0.045 M or less were used.

In both solvents, a band assigned to [Mo(CO)₆] was observed, but after different times, and in acetone at 0.01125 M after 48 h this was the only band observable.

The rate of decomposition and the formation of [Mo(CO)₆] increases with the temperature even under dinitrogen. Coordinating solvents give rise to intermediate species which appear to stabilise the initial products.

A scheme for the decomposition of the complexes is given in Fig. 3. The disproportionation of Mo^{II} to Mo^{III} derivatives and [Mo(CO)₆] has been already proposed for related complexes [20].

2.2.1. UV-vis spectroscopy

We could not use acetone solvent due to the range of its characteristic absorption. In EtOH, concentrations of 9 × 10⁻⁴ and 3 × 10⁻³ for **1** and **2**, respectively, were required to observe spectral changes.

The conversion of the parent compounds [λ_{max} = 386 nm (**1**) and 375 nm (**2**)] to an intermediate species [λ_{max} = 404 nm (**1**) and 401 nm (**2**)] takes place in 33 and 8 min for complexes **1** and **2**, respectively. Isobestic points appear at 393 nm (**1**) and 375 nm (**2**). After 24 h, a new absorption was observed at 290 nm, attributed to [Mo(CO)₆] [21]. The isobestic point could not be observed when lower concentrations were employed, consistent with the presence of the new species from the beginning of the reaction. Concentration appears to be a determining factor in the above process.

In CH₂Cl₂ solution, independent of the concentrations employed, the complexes show only an absorption at 377 nm of the initial species, which decreases at the same time as the band at 290 nm, characteristic of [Mo(CO)₆] [21], increases.

All the above results show that the complexes generate [Mo(CO)₆] in solution, but the detailed mechanism depends on solvent and concentration.

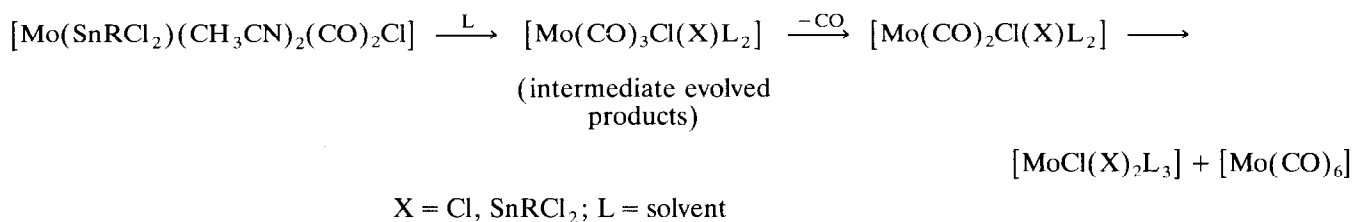


Fig. 3. Possible route of decomposition of the complexes [Mo(SnRCl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl] in solution.

Concluding remarks

Two heptacoordinate MoII complexes containing three *facial* CO groups, two *cis* CH₃CN groups and the last two positions occupied by a Cl and SnRCl₂ (R = CH₃ or C₆H₅) were obtained (Fig. 2). A capped octahedral geometry is proposed in which there is a Mo-Sn bond bridged by a chlorine. The complexes decompose in solution to produce [Mo(CO)₆]. When donor solvents are used, the decomposition occurs through intermediate species produced by substitution of CH₃CN by solvent molecules. [Mo(SnC₆H₅Cl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl] (**1**) is more stable in solution than Mo(SnCH₃Cl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl (**2**). The IR and Mössbauer spectra of **1** and **2** reflect the different natures of CH₃ and C₆H₅.

Experimental details

All reactions were carried out under dinitrogen by standard Schlenk line techniques. Elemental analyses for carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen were carried out by the Microanalytical Service, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 5DX FT-IR spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C spectra were recorded on a Varian XL-300 spectrometer (shifts are relative to internal tetramethylsilane). Electronic spectra were recorded on a Milton Roy Spectronic 3000 Array spectrophotometer. 119-Tin Mössbauer spectra were obtained with a constant-acceleration Mössbauer spectrometer [22]. A standard source of Ca¹¹⁹SnO₃ was used at room temperature in transmission geometry, and the polycrystalline samples were cooled to 77 K in a liquid nitrogen cryostat. Isomer shifts are relative to β -SnO₃ at room temperature, and the estimated error is ± 0.05 mm s⁻¹.

4.1. Synthesis of [Mo(SnC₆H₅Cl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl] (**1**)

A suspension of [Mo(CO)₆] (2.5 g, 94 mmol) in degassed acetonitrile (75 ml) was heated under reflux under dinitrogen for 14 h to give a yellow solution of Mo(CH₃CN)₃(CO)₃ [23]. Addition of SnC₆H₅Cl₃ (2.86 g, 94 mmol) and stirring at room temperature for 2 h gave an orange-red solution. After removal of the solvent, the residue was recrystallized from CH₃CN/Et₂O to afford yellow powder (**1**) (4.54 g, 85%). Anal. Found: C, 27.29; H, 1.90; N, 4.90. C₁₃H₁₁

Cl₃MoN₂O₃Sn calc.: C, 27.67; H, 1.96; N, 4.96% IR (Nujol): 1998vs; 1925sh; 1904vs [ν (CO)] cm⁻¹. Mössbauer (77 K): i.s. = 1.44, q.s. = 2.08 mm s⁻¹.

Complex **2** was prepared similarly. [Mo(SnCH₃Cl₂)(CH₃CN)₂(CO)₃Cl] (**2**): yellow powder (77%). Anal. Found: C, 19.00; H, 1.79; N, 5.68. C₈H₉Cl₃MoN₂O₃Sn calc.: C, 19.13; H, 1.81; N, 5.58%. IR (Nujol): 2006vs; 1919sh; 1898vs [ν (CO)] cm⁻¹. Mössbauer (77 K): i.s. = 1.41, q.s. = 2.04 mm s⁻¹.

Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. D. Tudela for his help in the interpretation of Mössbauer spectra. Financial support for this work from the Comisión Asesora de Investigación Científica y Técnica (CAICYT) is gratefully acknowledged (Projects No. 367/84 and PB87-0125).

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