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# Photochemical C–H bond activation of diruthenium bridging alkylidene complexes: Interligand H-exchange on $Cp_2Ru_2(\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)(\mu-CHR)(CO)<sub>2</sub> (R = H, Me)

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#### Abstract

Irradiation of a double labeled diruthenium di- $\mu$ -methylene complex, Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)( $\mu$ -\*CD<sub>2</sub>)(CO)<sub>2</sub> (**5**-<sup>13</sup>*C*,*d*<sub>2</sub>) (\*C: <sup>13</sup>C-enriched), caused H–D exchange between the two bridging methylene ligands to give an isomeric mixture of Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CHD)( $\mu$ \*CDH)(CO)<sub>2</sub> and Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CD<sub>2</sub>)( $\mu$ -\*CH<sub>2</sub>)(CO)<sub>2</sub>. In contrast to the photochemical hydrogen migration of **5**-<sup>13</sup>*C*,*d*<sub>2</sub>, irradiation of a deuterated  $\mu$ -methylene- $\mu$ -ethylidene complex, Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CD<sub>2</sub>)( $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>)(CO)<sub>2</sub> (**7**-*d*<sub>2</sub>), resulted in interligand exchange between  $\beta$ -hydrogen atoms of the ethylidene ligand and methylene hydrogen atoms to afford a mixture of Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CHD)( $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>2</sub>D)(CO)<sub>2</sub> and Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)( $\mu$ -CHCHD<sub>2</sub>)(CO)<sub>2</sub>. These exchange reactions can be interpreted in terms of  $\mu$ -methylidyne, CPRu(CO)( $\mu$ -CH)( $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)Ru(H)Cp, and  $\mu$ -alkenyl intermediates, CpRu(CO)( $\mu$ -CH)( $\mu$ -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>)Ru(H)Cp, respectively. These species may be formed photochemical decarbonylation followed by migration of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -hydrogen atoms of the bridging ligands to the coordinatively unsaturated ruthenium center. Subsequent CH<sub>2</sub>–H reductive elimination and free rotation of the resulting Ru–CH<sub>3</sub> bond would cause the interligand H-exchange. Similar processes may be viable on a heterogeneous catalyst surface. © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Photochemical C-H bond activation; Diruthenium bridging alkylidene complexes; Interligand H-exchange

### 1. Introduction

Bridging alkylidene complexes are versatile probes for investigation of structure and properties of surfacebound methylene species [1]. They could reproduce various aspects of functions of catalytic CO hydrogenation and hydrocarbon transformations [2]. In particular, previous studies on bridging alkylidene complexes provided us with information on key elementary steps



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of the catalytic reactions such as interconversion with related hydrocarbyl species and C-C bond formation. We reported intriguing interplay between diruthenium bridging methylene species and hydrosilanes [3]. For example, treatment of the labile diruthenium-µ-methylene complex 1 with hydrosilane affords the hydrido-silyl-µ-methylene complex 2 (Scheme 1) [3f,k,m]. A labeling experiment using deuterosilane reveals that the hydrido hydrogen atom and the methylene hydrogen atom exchange via a methyl intermediate 3. Since complex 1 is obtained via a reaction sequence involving deoxygenative reduction of the carbonyl complex  $Cp_2Ru_2(CO)_4$  (4), the whole reaction sequence 'CO  $(4) \rightarrow CH_2$   $(1) \rightarrow CH_2 - H$   $(2) \rightarrow CH_3$   $(3) \rightarrow CH_4'$  corresponding to a mechanism proposed for methanation has been successfully reproduced on a diruthenium system by using hydrosilanes as a H<sub>2</sub>-equivalent.

During the course of our study we found that irradiation of the diruthenium-di- $\mu$ -methylene complex 5 in the presence of norbornadiene caused insertion of the

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Fig. 1. Change of <sup>1</sup>H-decoupled <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra of  $5^{-13}C_{,d_2}$  ( $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub> region; observed at 100 MHz in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) induced by irradiation.

C=C bond into C-H bonds in the bridging methylene group (Eq. (1)) [3p].



The formation of the product **6** suggests that C-H bond activation may take place even in the absence of norbornadiene. Herein we disclose detailed results of labeling experiments, which were carried out to examine the possibility of C-H activation on the bridging alkylidene ligands.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2. Results and discussion

# 2.1. Photochemical H-exchange on the diruthenium-di- $\mu$ -methylene complex 5

In order to examine H-exchange between the two bridging methylene groups a double labeling experiment using  $Cp_2Ru_2(\mu-CH_2)(\mu-*CD_2)(*CO)_2$  (5-<sup>13</sup>*C*,*d*<sub>2</sub>) (\*C: <sup>13</sup>C-enriched) was carried out. If the expected process occurs, the exchange may be readily detected by the change of the coupling pattern of the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR signal for the \*C atom (Scheme 2).

The desired isotopomer of **5**-<sup>13</sup>*C*,*d*<sub>2</sub> was prepared in a specific manner according to Scheme 3, which involved deoxygenative CO-reduction developed by our group [3j]. Treatment of the labile MeCN derivative **4** [5] with <sup>13</sup>CO resulted in not only replacement of the MeCN ligand but also subsequent intramolecular scrambling of the carbonyl ligands. Thermolysis of the resultant mono- $\mu$ -methylene complex, Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)(\*CO)<sub>3</sub>, in the presence of D<sub>2</sub>SiEt<sub>2</sub> afforded a <sup>13</sup>C,D-double labeled sample **5**-<sup>13</sup>C,*d*<sub>2</sub>, in which the \*CD<sub>2</sub> part was > 95% D- and ca. 30% <sup>13</sup>C-enriched as revealed by <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR analyses (see also Fig. 1).

A C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution of  $5^{-13}C_{,d_2}$  sealed in an NMR tube was irradiated by a high-pressure mercury lamp and the change was monitored by <sup>13</sup>C-NMR. Spectra before and after irradiation for 40 h are compared in Fig. 1. Synthesis of the di-µ-methylene complex 5 following Scheme 3 gave an almost equimolar mixture of the trans- and cis-isomers originating from the different arrangements of the two Cp rings with respect to the central  $Ru_2(\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> square, as we reported previously [3]. Thus in the initial spectrum (Fig. 1(a)) the two methylene carbon signals corresponding to each isomer were observed as two quintets due to coupling with two deuterium nuclei with I = 1 attached to the bridging methylene carbon atom. The most apparent change induced by the irradiation was trans-to-cis isomerization, which has been observed for related Cp2M2(µ- $X(\mu-Y)(L)_{\mu}$ -type dinuclear complex (X, Y = CO, CR<sub>2</sub>, SiR<sub>2</sub>, etc.) [6]. The isomerization attained an equilibrium after irradiation for 30 min. The most significant change induced by the irradiation was the coupling pattern of the *cis*-isomer. As irradiation of the sample was continued, the triplet and singlet signals appeared successively in slightly lower field with consumption of the quintet  $CD_2$  signal. The triplet and singlet signals were assigned to the \*CDH moiety in 5'-<sup>13</sup>C, $d_2$  and the \*CH<sub>2</sub> moiety in 5''-<sup>13</sup>C,d<sub>2</sub>, respectively. These spectral changes revealed that isotropic \*CHD and \*CH<sub>2</sub> groups were generated by irradiation of  $5^{-13}C_{,d_2}$  containing <sup>12</sup>CH<sub>2</sub> and \*CD<sub>2</sub> groups and suggested that the methylene hydrogen atoms exchanged between the two methylene groups. The isomerization processes could be also followed by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR. Appearance of new peaks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>A part of the results was already reported as a preliminary communication [3p].

assignable to 5'-<sup>13</sup>C, $d_2$  and 5''-<sup>13</sup>C, $d_2$  and changes of peak shapes could be observed. But it was difficult to get definite conclusion, because peak separations were not always sufficient and the incomplete <sup>13</sup>C-enrichment (ca. 30%) caused complicated peak appearance of some of the signals. For example, one of the methylene hydrogen atom of the starting complex  $5^{-13}C$ , $d_2$  ( $\delta \sim 7.4$ ) was observed as an apparent triplet due to overlap of a doublet signal [<sup>3</sup> $J_{CH}$  due to the <sup>13</sup>C nucleus in the opposite <sup>13</sup>CD<sub>2</sub> ligand (ca. 30%)] and a singlet signal [no coupling with the opposite <sup>12</sup>CD<sub>2</sub> ligand (ca. 70%)].

In order to discriminate intra- and intermolecular mechanisms another labeling experiment was carried out (Eq. (2)).



When a  $C_6D_6$  solution of a mixture of 5 and 5(Cp')d<sub>4</sub> bearing  $\eta^5$ -C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me ligands and CD<sub>2</sub> bridges was irradiated for 40 h, no apparent <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral change except the *trans*-to-*cis* isomerization was noted establishing an intramolecular mechanism for the present H-exchange reaction. This experiment also confirmed that H-D exchange process was localized on the  $Ru_2(\mu-CH_2)_2$  moiety in **5**.

The results described above reveal that irradiation of **5** induces intramolecular H-exchange between the two methylene bridges. The exchange did not occur under thermal conditions (150°C).

# 2.2. Photochemical H-exchange on the diruthenium- $\mu$ -methylene- $\mu$ -ethylidene complex 7

Possibility of occurrence of an analogous process on a related compound was examined using the  $\mu$ -methylene- $\mu$ -ethylidene complex 7, Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)( $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>)(CO)<sub>2</sub>. A deuterated sample, Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CD<sub>2</sub>)-( $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>)(CO)<sub>2</sub> (7- $d_2$ ), was also prepared by deoxygenative reduction of the  $\mu$ -ethylidene complex, Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>)( $\mu$ -CO)(CO)<sub>2</sub>, with D<sub>2</sub>SiEt<sub>2</sub> as described in our previous paper [3j]. Irradiation of 7- $d_2$ also caused a change of the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR pattern of the bridging alkylidene signals.

Fig. 2(a) shows a <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of  $7-d_2$  before irradiation. Although three stereoisomers, *trans*-7, *cis*-



Fig. 2. Change of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of 7- $d_2$  (observed at 200 MHz in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) induced by irradiation. Full spectra before (a) and after irradiation for 21 h (b) and their expanded views (c) and (d). Peaks indicated by asterisks in (b) are due to *cis*-7b and *trans*-7 isomers.

7a and *cis*-7b, are possible for 7 (Chart 1), only one isomer is present in the solution as is also evident from the expanded charts (Fig. 2(c)).

H-exchange. As for the  $\mu$ -CH signal, its intensity did not change for initial 12 h within the range of experi-



Because the two Cp rings are equivalent, *trans*-7 can be eliminated. Of the two *cis*-isomers 7a,b, the species in the solution was assigned to *cis*-7a taking into account steric repulsion between the Cp rings and the methyl group in the ethylidene bridge. In the starting complex *cis*-7a, no deuterium atom was incorporated into the ethylidene group, which appeared as the quartet ( $\delta$  9.56, CH) and doublet signals ( $\delta$  3.08, CH<sub>3</sub>), as can be seen from Fig. 2(c). On the basis of the residual CHD signals at  $\delta$  7.45 and 8.07, the extent of deuteration of the bridging methylene hydrogen atoms was estimated to be about 95%.

Fig. 2(b) shows a <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum recorded after irradiation for 21 h and Fig. 2(d) is its expanded views. The most remarkable change is an increase of intensity of the  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub> signals in the range of  $\delta$  7.4–8.1 indicating replacements of the  $\mu$ -CD<sub>2</sub>-deuterium atoms with hydrogen atoms. In this case, too, photochemical isomerization led to the formation of a mixture of the three possible isomers *cis*-7a,b and *trans*-7 (75:16:9) which were assigned by comparison with authentic samples as shown in Fig. 2(d). In every case, signals for D-containing ligands appear in slightly higher field and their shapes become complicated due to overlap and coupling with D. In addition, because all peaks could be assigned to isomers shown in Chart 1, it was concluded that photochemical deterioration was negligible. In Fig. 3 the intensities of the  $\mu$ -CH ( $\delta \sim 9.56$ ),  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub> ( $\delta$  7.4–8.1), and CH<sub>3</sub> signals ( $\delta \sim 3.08$ ) were plotted against the irradiation time in order to check distribution of deuterium atoms. The intensities of the signals were calculated with respect to the deuterated solvent residue ( $C_6D_5H$ ). During the irradiation over 24 h the intensity of the CH<sub>3</sub> signal monotonically decreased, whereas that of the  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub> signals increased. Because sum of the intensities of the CH<sub>3</sub> and µ-CH<sub>2</sub> signals did not change significantly, the  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub> signal increased with the consumption of the CH<sub>3</sub> signal suggesting mental errors indicating that the  $\mu$ -CH moiety did not take part in the present H–D exchange at an early stage of the reaction. Prolonged irradiation (>21 h), however, caused a slight decrease of the intensity of the  $\mu$ -CH signal (~0.88 H) suggesting occurrence of slow H-exchange analogous to the exchange observed for 5.

From these <sup>1</sup>H-NMR changes it was concluded that irradiation of 7 caused H-exchange between methylene hydrogen atoms of the  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub> group and methyl hydrogen atoms ( $\beta$ -hydrogen atoms) of the other bridging  $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub> group. This exchange reaction also did not proceed under thermal conditions. It is notable that exchange with the  $\beta$ -hydrogen atoms of the ethylidene group takes place in preference to that with the  $\alpha$ -hydrogen atom, presumably because  $\beta$ -hydride elimination is more facile than  $\alpha$ -hydride elimination as usually observed for mononuclear alkyl complexes [4].



Fig. 3. Plots of intensities of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR signals for the bridging alkylidene ligands in 7- $d_2$  against irradiation time (observed at 200 MHz in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>).

### 2.3. H-D exchange mechanisms

The observations presented in this paper can be explained in terms of mechanisms summarized in Scheme 4. In both systems the H–D exchange reactions should be initiated by photochemical decarbonylation. In the presence of a coordinating substrate, the resulting coordinatively unsaturated species I could be trapped. As we reported previously, photolysis of a MeCN solution of 5 gave the adduct  $Cp_2Ru_2(\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CO)(MeCN) via I [3m]. But in the absence of such a donor a methylene hydrogen atom may migrate to the coordinatively unsaturated site ( $\alpha$ -hydride migration) to form the coordinatively saturated hydrido-µmethylidyne species II [7], which is supported by the structure of the photolysis product in the presence of norbornadiene (Eq. (1)). Because the resultant species contains the  $Ru(\mu-CH_2)Ru-H$  moiety similar to that in 2 (Scheme 3), C-H reductive elimination would give the coordinatively unsaturated methyl species III [8]. Free rotation of the CH<sub>3</sub>-Ru bond followed by C-H oxidative addition results in H-D scrambling. Subsequent reversed H-migration and carbonylation would furnish 5- $^{13}C, d_2$ -\*CHD and further reaction would lead to  $5^{-13}C_{,d_2}$ -\*CH<sub>2</sub>. Thus the H–D exchange on 5 can be explained on the basis of the equilibrium between the hydrido- $\mu$ -methylidyne species (II, II') and the methyl species (III). Coupling reaction with norbornadiene (Eq. (1)) may also be explained in terms of the methylidyne intermediate **II**. The methylidyne carbon atom may be electrophilic enough to react with a strained olefinic substrate [7], although further study is needed to clarify the coupling reaction mechanism.

A reaction scheme analogous to the above-discussed mechanisms can be depicted for the µ-ethylidene-µmethylene complex 7. In this case, however, the coordinatively unsaturated species IV resulting from photochemical decarbonylation undergoes β-hydride migration rather than  $\alpha$ -hydride migration to give the µ-alkenyl-hydride intermediate V. H–D scrambling should occur also at the stage of the coordinatively unsaturated methyl species VI formed by C-H reductive elimination of V. For the di- $\mu$ -methylene complex 5 it required more than 24 h to attain an equilibrium, whereas the H-exchange between the  $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub> and  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub> moieties in 7 reached an equilibrium within 12 h. In addition, the exchange process involving the  $\alpha$ -hydrogen atom ( $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>) in 7 also occurred but the exchange rate was much slower than that of  $\beta$ -hydrogen atom, as mentioned above.

## 3. Conclusion

The present study reveals interconversion of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  species on a diruthenium system. Hydride migration



Scheme 4.



Scheme 5.

form bridging methylene ( $\alpha$ -migration) and ethylidene ligands ( $\beta$ -migration) forms the methylidyne and vinyl species, respectively, together with hydride intermediate, which couples with the remaining methylene moiety to give a methyl group. H–D exchange proceeds repeating these reversible H-migrations.

Analogous H-migration has been reported for cluster systems [8] and may be possible on a heterogeneous catalyst surface (Scheme 5), i.e. (i) interconversion of  $CH_x$  species via H-migration, i.e. hydrogenation of methylidyne species to methylene and methyl species, and (ii) formation of a vinyl species, which was recently proposed as an effective initiator in the chain propagation step of catalytic CO hydrogenation [9].

#### 4. Experimental

#### 4.1. General methods

All manipulations were carried out under an inert atmosphere by using standard Schlenk techniques. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was dried over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub>, distilled, and stored under argon. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR were recorded on Bruker AC-200 (<sup>1</sup>H: 200 MHz) and JEOL EX-400 spectrometers (<sup>13</sup>C: 100 MHz), respectively. Complexes 4 and 7- $d_2$  were prepared according to the established methods [3j]. Benzene- $d_6$  for NMR measurements were dried over molecular sieves, distilled under reduced pressure and kept under argon atmosphere. D<sub>2</sub>SiEt<sub>2</sub> was prepared by reduction of Cl<sub>2</sub>SiEt<sub>2</sub> by LiAlD<sub>4</sub> in dibutyl ether or diglyme.

#### 4.2. Preparation of $5^{-13}C, d_2$

Cp<sub>2</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>)(\*CO)<sub>3</sub> was prepared by treatment of a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of **4** with <sup>13</sup>CO (>95% <sup>13</sup>C-enriched; 2 atm) in a glass autoclave. Subsequent deoxygenative reduction with D<sub>2</sub>SiEt<sub>2</sub> following Ref. [3j] gave **5**-<sup>13</sup>*C*,*d*<sub>2</sub>. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data for the  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub> moieties in **5**-<sup>13</sup>*C*,*d*<sub>2</sub> (in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): 107.7 (*J*<sub>C-D</sub> = 22 Hz: *cis*-isomer), 109.0 (*J*<sub>C-D</sub> = 22 Hz: *trans*-isomer).

# 4.3. Photochemical reaction of $5^{-13}C_{,d_2}$ and $7^{-d_2}$

Complex 5-<sup>13</sup>*C*, $d_2$  or 7- $d_2$  (ca. 20 mg) was weighed in an NMR tube, which was evacuated and filled with argon. C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> (ca. 0.4 ml) was added to the tube, which was sealed by a torch. The C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution was then irradiated by a high-pressure mercury lamp (Ushio UM-452) and the reaction was monitored by <sup>1</sup>H- or <sup>13</sup>C-NMR.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR data for 7 (in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) *cis*-**7a**: 9.56 (1H, q, J = 7.0 Hz,  $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 8.07, 7.45 (1H × 2, s × 2,  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.58 (10H, s, Cp × 2), 3.08 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz,  $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>); *cis*-**7b**: 9.50 (1H, q, J = 7.6 Hz,  $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 8.02 (1H, s,  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>; the other H-atom overlaps with the C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>H signal, 4.61 (10H, s, Cp × 2), 2.61 (3H, d, J = 7.6 Hz,  $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>); *trans*-7: 9.51 (1H, q, J = 7.2 Hz,  $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.94, 7.83 (1H × 2, s × 2,  $\mu$ -CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.86, 4.82 (5H × 2, s × 2, Cp × 2), 2.85 (3H, d, J = 7.2 Hz,  $\mu$ -CHCH<sub>3</sub>).

### 4.4. Labeling experiment (Eq. (2))

Each 0.025 mmol amount of **5** and **5**(Cp')- $d_4$  was weighed in an NMR tube. After Ar-replacement C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> (0.5 ml) was added and sealed by a torch. Irradiation with a high pressure Hg lamp caused *trans*-to-*cis* isomerization but no increase of the intensity of the residual  $\mu$ -CHD signals was observed at all after irradiation for 40 h.

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