# Synthesis, crystal and molecular structure of $\left[\left\{\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right\}^{+} \mathrm{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right\}_{4}^{-}\right]$, the first example of a structurally characterized primary ferrocenylcarbocation 

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Received 3 June 2000; accepted 3 August 2000


#### Abstract

The synthesis and the first X-ray structural study of a salt of the primary ferrocenylcarbocation $\left[\left\{\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{MC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right\}^{+}\right.$ $\left.\mathrm{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right\}_{4}^{-}\right](\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Fe}, \mathbf{1 a})$ are reported. The $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{Cp}}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$ bond shows considerable inclination relative to the plane of the cyclopentadienyl ring so that the $\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$ atom becomes closer to the metal centre, the inclination angle $\alpha$ being equal to $23.6^{\circ}$. The $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$ distance $(2.567(12) \AA$ ) is still significantly longer than the covalent $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C} \sigma$-bond, which may be considered as an indication that the donor-acceptor interaction of the carbocationic centre with the metal electron pair is substantially weaker than in the earlier studied Ru- and Os-analogues (1b, 1c) wherein the positive charge was mostly localized on the metal centre (metallonium cations). Thus, complex 1a obviously preserves much more of the carbocationic state than its heavier analogues. © 2000 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.


Keywords: Carbocations; Metallonium cations; Iron; Crystal struture; NMR spectra; X-ray study

## 1. Introduction

Earlier we reported the synthesis [1,2] and X-ray structural studies of the salts of permethylated primary cations $\left[\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{MC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)^{+} \mathrm{BPh}_{4}^{-}\right](\mathbf{1 b}, \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Ru}$ [3]; $\mathbf{1 c}, \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Os}[2])$. Structural results showed that $\mathrm{Ru}-$ and Os-containing cations have a rather unusual geometry with the $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$-group significantly displaced from the Cp-ring plane towards the metal atom. The $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{Cp}}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$ bond is inclined to the Cp-ring plane by 40.3 and $41.8^{\circ}$ in the Ru- and Os-complexes respectively, and the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$ distances are equal to $2.270(\mathrm{Ru})$ and $2.224 \AA$ (Os) which are indeed quite close to the lengths of the corresponding $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C} \sigma$-bonds $[4,5]$. These results indicated effective interaction between the carbocationic centre and the lone electron pair (LEP) of the metal atom, which leads to the formation of a donor-acceptor bond and, ultimately, to the complete charge transfer from the carbon atom to the metal centre. This was

[^0]also confirmed by the MO calculation carried out by the extended Hückel method [6]. It is noteworthy that this charge transfer process does not imply oxidation of the metal, but rather results in the increase of its coordination number; the $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}$-ligand coordination may be described as either $\eta^{6}$ or $\sigma, \eta^{5}$. Thus, those cations should in fact be regarded not as carbocations but as true onium compounds, which we named metallonium cations by analogy with corresponding onium organic derivatives [7].

The structure of the Fe-containing cation 1a ( $\mathrm{M}=$ Fe ) remained unknown for a long time because of the difficulties associated with the preparation of X-ray quality single crystals of its salts. It should be emphasized that the structure of permethylated Fe -containing primary carbocation is of substantial interest as a basis for theoretical treatment of the nature of chemical bonding in these ions. All available structural data were limited to systems with the substitution at the carbocationic centre, e.g. $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{CPh}_{2}^{+} \mathrm{BF}_{4}^{-}$[8], $\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CH}^{+} \mathrm{BF}_{4}^{-}$[9], and $\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{Ph}_{2}^{+}$ $\mathrm{BF}_{4}^{-}$[10]. The substituents inevitably cause notable
distortions of the geometry of the cation (vide infra) which made it so important to obtain the data for the primary carbocation. The difficulties with the preparation of the crystals of the salts of the 1a cation were due primarily to the peculiar chemical behaviour of ferrocenylmethyl cations [11], i.e. their involvement in the redox tautomerism [12-14] of the monomer and subsequent dimerization both in solution and in the solid state:

$$
\begin{gather*}
\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{Fe}: \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}^{+} \mathrm{An}^{-}(\mathbf{1 a}) \Leftrightarrow \\
\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{Fe}^{+} \cdot \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{An}^{-}\left(\mathbf{1 \mathbf { a } ^ { \prime }}\right) \\
\quad \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{Fe}^{+} \cdot \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{An}_{2}^{-} \tag{2}
\end{gather*}
$$

In the kinetic studies of the two-stage dimerization process we have shown that (a) the rate of the tautomerism and dimerization depends on the nature of the anion and decreases with the increasing bulk of the anion in the $\mathrm{BF}_{4}^{-}>\mathrm{PF}_{6}^{-}>\mathrm{AlBr}_{4}^{-}$series, and (b) the limiting stage of the process is the migration of the anion accompanied by the rearrangement of the crystal lattice [14]. The nature of the anion was found to play a significant role in the determination of the dimerization rate even in the solution. These data suggested that the stability of the salts $\mathbf{1 a}$ increases in going to the bulkier anions characterized by lower migration rates.

## 2. Results and discussion

In contrast to tetraphenylborate $\left(\mathrm{BPh}_{4}\right)$, the te-trakis(3,5-bis(trifluromethyl)phenyl)borate anion which has eight trifluoromethyl substitutents ( $\left[\mathrm{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right.\right.$ $\left.3,5\}_{4}\right]$ ), has only recently become an anion of choice for the preparation of a wide range of cationic complexes [15-19]. Its salts normally show better solubility in


Fig. 1. Molecular structure of cation $\left[\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right]^{+}$(1a). Methyl H atoms are omitted for clarity.
common organic solvents and higher stability even in strong acidic solutions than their tetraphenylborate analogues [15-19]. In the present work we prepared the salts of 1a with both anions from $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4^{-}}$ $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH}(3)$ according to the following reaction scheme:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH}(3)+\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H} \rightarrow \\
& {\left[\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}^{+}\right) \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{CF}_{3}^{-}\right]} \\
& {\left[\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}^{+}\right) \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{CF}_{3}^{-}\right]+\mathrm{NaAn} \rightarrow} \\
& {\left[\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)+\mathrm{An}^{-}\right]} \\
& \mathrm{An}=\mathrm{BPh}_{4}, \mathrm{~B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}
\end{aligned}
$$

The $\mathrm{BPh}_{4}$ salt was obtained by the treatment of the alcohol 3 with the acetic acid doped by less than $5 \%$ of $\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}$ and subsequent addition of the $\mathrm{NaBPh}_{4}$ solution in AcOH . The $\mathrm{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$ salt was synthesized by protonation of 3 with $\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and subsequent treatment by the solution of $\mathrm{NaB}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$. The structure and composition of the $\mathbf{1 a} \cdot \mathrm{BPh}_{4}$ salt were confirmed by elemental analysis and the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ spectra (see Section 4). It was impossible to grow single crystals of this salt because of the dimerization process, even though this process is indeed much slower than in case of the salts with smaller anions like $\mathrm{BF}_{4}, \mathrm{PF}_{6}$, and $\mathrm{AlBr}_{4}$. At the same time, we succeeded in growing the crystals of $\mathbf{1 a} \cdot \mathrm{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$ suitable for the X-ray experiment. The orange crystals were obtained from the $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{NO}_{2}-\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ mixture at $-12^{\circ}$ (in the freezer). It is important to mention that upon prolonged storage (more than 3 weeks at $-12^{\circ}$ ) the dimerization process does occur even in case of the $\mathbf{1 a} \cdot \mathbf{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$ salt. This process causes both the crystals and the mother liquor to change colour from orange to green, which gives a clear indication of the above mentioned redox process and eventual formation of dimerization product 2. The structure of $\mathbf{2}$ was assigned unambiguously on the basis of ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C},{ }^{11} \mathrm{~B}$ and ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$-NMR spectra (see Section 4). It is also noteworthy that even at $-12^{\circ}$ after 6 days (the time and conditions of the X-ray diffraction experiment) the crystals show definite signs of formation of 2. It may be this dynamic process which accounts for the limited accuracy of the final X-ray structural results. The structure of cation 1a in the crystals of its $\mathrm{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$ salt is shown in Fig. 1, bond lengths and main bond angles are listed in Table 1.

Earlier, in [7] we predicted the approximate $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$ distance and the $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{Cp}}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$-bond/ Cp -plane inclination angle in the primary ferrocenylcarbocation and came up with the values of $2.5 \AA$ and $25-30^{\circ}$ respectively. The X-ray structural study gave the results of $2.567(12) \AA$ for the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(11)$ distance and $23.6^{\circ}$ for the inclination angle which thus shows a fairly good agreement with

Table 1
Bond lengths $(\AA)$ and selected bond angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ in 1a

| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1.97(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $1.46(1)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $2.05(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $1.53(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $2.12(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $1.42(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $2.14(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $1.47(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $2.05(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $1.51(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $2.09(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | $1.43(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | $2.10(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | $1.43(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | $2.06(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $1.51(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | $2.01(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | $1.37(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | $2.12(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | $1.51(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $2.57(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | $1.40(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1.45(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(18)$ | $1.54(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $1.42(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | $1.41(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $1.37(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(19)$ | $1.49(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $1.38(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(20)$ | $1.47(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $1.51(1)$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $122.3(10)$ | $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $125.4(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $122.6(11)$ | $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $124.8(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $108.9(9)$ | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $130.7(8)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $98.9(11)$ | $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $108.2(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $107.1(9)$ | $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | $122.8(12)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $127.9(10)$ | $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | $129.0(12)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $124.9(10)$ | $\mathrm{C}(17)-\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $129.1(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $128.7(8)$ | $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | $107.1(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $109.4(9)$ | $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(18)$ | $127.3(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $126.3(9)$ | $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(18)$ | $125.5(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $124.1(10)$ | $\mathrm{C}(18)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $125.9(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $130.8(8)$ | $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | $112.2(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $106.9(9)$ | $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(19)$ | $126.9(13)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $127.9(10)$ | $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(19)$ | $120.6(13)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $125.2(10)$ | $\mathrm{C}(19)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $126.1(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $129.9(9)$ | $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $103.1(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $107.6(9)$ | $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(20)$ | $131.7(12)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $125.2(10)$ | $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(20)$ | $125.1(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $127.0(10)$ | $\mathrm{C}(20)-\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $127.3(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $129.7(8)$ | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{Fe}(1)$ | $49.2(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | $109.3(10)$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

the values predicted in [7]. It turns out that the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$ distance in the Fe -containing cation 1a is considerably longer and the inclination angle $\alpha$ substantially smaller than in its Ru - (1b) and Os-analogues (1c). The $\mathrm{Fe}-$ $\mathrm{C}(11)$ distance in 1a is also much longer than all other distances between the Fe atom and the carbon atoms of both Cp-rings (1.97(1)-2.14(1) $\AA$ ), whereas the bond lengths $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}(11)$ in $\mathbf{1 b}$ and $\mathbf{1 c}$ are quite close to the range of distances found for $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}(i)(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Ru}$, Os ; $i=2-5$ ). This leads to the conclusion that the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}^{+}$ interaction in $\mathbf{1 a}$ is substantially weaker than that in its Ru - and Os -analogues ( $\mathbf{1 b}, \mathbf{1 c}$ ). At the same time the donor-acceptor $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}^{+}$interaction in $\mathbf{1 a}$ is undoubtedly stronger than in the tertiary cation salt $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{CPh}_{2}^{+} \mathrm{BF}_{4}^{-}$. The $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}(11)$ distance in the latter is equal to $2.715 \AA$ [8]. Analogous relationships were also observed within the groups of Ru- and Oscontaining compounds where the tertiary cation salts $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{MC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{CPh}_{2}^{+} \mathrm{PF}_{6}^{-}(\mathbf{4 b}, \mathbf{4 c})(\mathbf{b} \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Ru}, \mathbf{c} \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Os})$ show longer $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}_{\alpha}$ bonds and smaller inclination an-
gles than corresponding salts of primary cations (2.482 and $2.387 \AA, 34.0$ and $38.4^{\circ}$ for $\mathbf{4 b}$ and $\mathbf{4 c}$ respectively [20,21]). Geometrical parameters of cations $\mathbf{1 a}$ and $\mathbf{4 a}$ may be compared with those found in [22,23] for neutral chromium complexes $(\mathrm{CO})_{3} \mathrm{CrC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ and $(\mathrm{CO})_{3} \mathrm{CrC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{CPh}_{2}$. The $\mathrm{Cr}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{Cr}-\mathrm{CPh}_{2}$ distances in these complexes are equal to 2.352 and 2.548 $\AA$, the inclination angles $\alpha$ are equal to 35 and $31^{\circ}$ respectively.

It seems worthwhile to consider also some other details of the structure and geometry of cation 1a and its analogues 1b, 1c. In particular, the $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ bond length in $\mathbf{1 a}$ is equal to $1.37(2) \AA$, whereas in $\mathbf{1 b}$ [3] and 1c [2] the corresponding bond length is equal to 1.401 and $1.426 \AA$, i.e. the certain lengthening of this bond accompanies the shortnening of the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}(11)$ distance in the $\mathrm{Fe} \rightarrow \mathrm{Ru} \rightarrow$ Os series. This observation is in agreement with the calculated decrease in Mulliken bond orders for $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ bonds $(1.14,1.11$ and 1.09$)$ and the increase in bond orders for $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}(11)$ bonds ( 0.01 , 0.16 and 0.22 ) from $\mathbf{1 a}$ to $\mathbf{1 b}$ and $\mathbf{1 c}$ respectively (see [6]).

Complex 1a is characterized by the small dihedral angle between the Cp -ring planes $\left(4.7^{\circ}\right)$; the corresponding dihedral angles in $\mathbf{1 b}$ and $\mathbf{1 c}$ are equal to 6.8 and $6.9^{\circ}$ respectively. The $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4}$ moiety of the $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ligand is essentially planar, the displacement of the $\mathrm{C}(1)$ atom from the $\mathrm{C}(2) \mathrm{C}(3) \mathrm{C}(4) \mathrm{C}(5)$ plane ( 0.02 $\AA$ ) is within experimental error, the folding angle along the $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ line is equal to $1.4^{\circ}$.
A common structural feature for all cations $\mathbf{1 a} \mathbf{- 1 c}$ is a non-symmetrical position of the metal atom relative to the carbon atoms of the Cp-ring of the $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ligand. Thus, the Fe atom in 1a is shifted from the centre of the Cp -ring of the $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4}$ ligand by $0.14 \AA$ (this shift is measured as a distance between the projection of the metal atom onto the Cp-ring plane and the geometrical centre of the ring); the corresponding shifts for Ru (in 1b) and Os (in 1c) are equal to $0.20 \AA$. The shift of the Fe atom towards the $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ bond and the displacement of $\mathrm{C}(11)$ from the Cp-ring plane in the direction of the metal atom show correlation with the noticeable variations in the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{Cp}}$ distances. Thus, the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(1)$ distance ( $1.97(1) \AA$ ) is considerably shorter, the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(2)$ and $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(5)$ distances (both $2.05(1) \AA$ ) are approximately equal, and the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(3)$ and $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}(4)$ bonds are longer than the average bond length for the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C}$ bonds involving the carbon atoms of the $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5}$ ligand.

The Cp-rings in cation 1a are in the staggered conformation, the torsion angle $\mathrm{C}(1) \mathrm{X}(1) \mathrm{X}(2) \mathrm{C}(9)(\mathrm{X}(1)$ and $\mathrm{X}(2)$ refer to the centroids of the $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ and $\mathrm{C}(6)-$ $\mathrm{C}(10)$ rings respectively) is equal to $180^{\circ}$. Similar conformation was observed in 1b and 1c [2,3]. However, the tertiary cation $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{CPh}_{2}^{+}$(4a) with nonmethylated Cp-rings has an almost eclipsed conformation (the corresponding torsion angle is equal to $153^{\circ}$ ).

The crystal structure of $\mathbf{1 a} \cdot \mathbf{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$ is built of alternating cationic and anionic layers which are parallel to the crystalographic plane (010) (Fig. 2). All interionic distances in both layers correspond to the normal van der Waals contacts.

## 3. Conclusion

Summing up the obtained data one may conclude that the geometry of the Fe-containing cation differs considerably from the geometry of the Ru- and Os-analogues. In particular, in going from Ru and Os derivatives to the Fe complex the inclination angle of the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ bond relative to the Cp-ring becomes smaller and the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ bond becomes longer, so that the observed $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ distance in $\mathbf{1 a}$ is almost $0.5 \AA$ longer than the typical $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{C} \sigma$-bond length (for example, $2.131 \AA$ in $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{R}$, where $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{sp} 2}$ [24]). This means that the Fe atom is involved in a relatively weak interaction with the carbocationic centre; according to the extended Huckel MO calculations the charge transfer from the carbocation to the metal centre does not exceed $10 \%$ [6]. Therefore, one may assume that this cation preserves its carbocationic nature to a far greater extent than its Ru and Os analogues. This is also confirmed in the chemical behaviour of the ferrocenylmethyl cation which, in contrast to the Ru- and Osanalogues, shows the ability for electron transfer from the metal atom to the carbocationic centre (redox process) with the formation of a cation-biradical species capable of dimerization (vide supra). Thus, results obtained show that the structure of primary Fe-containing cation may be interpreted in terms of the resonance hybrid $\mathbf{A}$ with greater contribution of carbocation form $\mathbf{A}^{\prime}$, than that of metallonium structure $\mathbf{A}^{\prime \prime}$, which is caracteristic for $\mathrm{Ru}-$ and Os-containing cations:
$\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{C}^{+} \mathrm{H}_{2}\left(\mathbf{A}^{\prime}\right) \leftrightarrow \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{Fe}^{+} \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{CH}_{2}\left(\mathbf{A}^{\prime \prime}\right)$ A

## 4. Experimental

The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ and ${ }^{11} \mathrm{~B}-\mathrm{NMR}$ spectra were recorded with the Bruker AMX-400 instrument at 400.13 MHz , with $\mathrm{BF}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ as an external standard. The ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$-NMR spectra were recorded using Bruker WP-200SY (188.31 MHz ) with $\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}$ as an external standard. The $\mathrm{NaB}\left[\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]_{4}$ salt was obtained from the corresponding arylbromide according to [18]. The synthesis of $\mathbf{3}$ was reported earlier [14].

### 4.1. Salt 1a•B\{$\left\{_{6} H_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$

The solution of $266 \mathrm{mg} \quad(0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathrm{NaB}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$ in 30 ml of $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ was added on stirring to the solution of $85 \mathrm{mg}(0.25 \mathrm{mmol})$ of alcohol 3 in 30 ml of $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ containing 0.3 ml of $\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}$. The mixture was stirred for 15 min and then evaporated to the minimum volume (approximately 5 ml ). The addition of approximately 30 ml of pentane precipitated $230 \mathrm{mg}(0.2 \mathrm{mmol})$ of the product (yield $86 \%$ ). The orange-pink salt was dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{NO}_{2}$, treated with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and placed in the freezer. The crystals precipitated after about 24 h proved to be of sufficiently good quality for X-ray diffraction experiment. In about 3 weeks the crystals stored at $-12^{\circ}$ turned green which indicated the formation of dimer $\mathbf{2}$. The dimer was characterized by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C},{ }^{11} \mathrm{~B}$ and ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$ NMR spectra (vide supra) and elemental analysis. Found: C 50.87; H, 3.54; F, 38.57. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{104} \mathrm{H}_{82} \mathrm{~B}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{48} \mathrm{Fe}_{2}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}\right): \mathrm{C}, 51.11 ; \mathrm{H}, 3.36$; F, $38.86 \%$. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR spectra of this paramagnetic species show both cation ( $-39.05 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=32 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5}\right.$,


Fig. 2. Fragment of crystal packing of $\mathbf{1 a} \cdot \mathbf{B}\left\{\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4}$ projection onto the (010) crystallographic plane.
$15 \mathrm{H}),-33.90 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=51 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4}, 12 \mathrm{H}\right),-$ $26.10 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=32 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right)$, and -4.8 $\left.\operatorname{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=21 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right)\right)$ and anion $(+7.62$ $\operatorname{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=13 \mathrm{~Hz}, o-\mathrm{H}, 8 \mathrm{H}\right),+7.67 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=13\right.$ $\mathrm{Hz}, \quad p-\mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{H})$ ) signals. The non-equivalence of diastereotopic protons of the $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ link is obviously due to the specific rotation of two $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{5} \mathrm{FeC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4}$-substituents about the $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{CH} 2}-\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{CH} 2}$ bond. The ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}$ spectra feature the cation (at $-27.51 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=37\right.$ $\mathrm{Hz}),-14.71 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=53 \mathrm{~Hz}\right),+29.25 \mathrm{ppm}$ $\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=27 \mathrm{~Hz}\right), \quad+161.32 \mathrm{ppm} \quad\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=20 \mathrm{~Hz}\right)$, $+252.19 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=33 \mathrm{~Hz}\right),+277.08 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=\right.$ $53 \mathrm{~Hz})$ ) and anion ( $117.40 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, p-\mathrm{C}), 124.42 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{q}$, $C \mathrm{~F}_{3}, J_{19 \mathrm{~F}-13 \mathrm{C}} 271.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), $128.83 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\mathrm{q}, C^{2} \mathrm{CF}_{3}, J_{19 \mathrm{~F}-13 \mathrm{C}}\right.$ 30.5 Hz ), $134.57 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, o-\mathrm{C}), 161.51 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\mathrm{q}, \mathrm{CCF}_{3}\right.$, $\left.J_{11,10 \mathrm{~B}-13 \mathrm{C}} 49.9 \mathrm{~Hz}\right)$ ) signals. In the ${ }^{11} \mathrm{~B}$ and ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{NMR}$ spectra singlets at $-6.727\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=1.7 \mathrm{~Hz}\right)$ and $+14.862 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\Delta v_{1 / 2}=22 \mathrm{~Hz}\right)$ respectively are observed.

### 4.2. Salt $\mathbf{1 a} \cdot B P h_{4}$

The solution of $0.206 \mathrm{~g}(0.6 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathrm{NaBPh}_{4}$ in 30 ml of AcOH was added on stirring to the solution of $0.17 \mathrm{~g}(0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ of alcohol 3 in 30 ml of AcOH containing 0.5 ml of $\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}$. The precipitate was filtered, washed first with 5 ml of AcOH , and then three times with 10 ml of dry $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and purified by precipitating with ether from $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} .0 .138 \mathrm{~g}(0.43 \mathrm{mmol})$ was obtained (yield $86 \%$ ). Found: C, 81.39 ; H, 7.65. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{49} \mathrm{BFe}$ : C, 81.99; $\mathrm{H}, 7.66 \%$. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR spectrum ( $\delta$ ): 1.28 ( $\mathrm{s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \alpha-\mathrm{Me}), 1.55(\mathrm{~s}, 15 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Me}), 1.92(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}$, $\beta-\mathrm{Me}), 5.29\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}^{+}\right), 7.2-7.5\left(\mathrm{~m}, 20 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)$.

## 4.3. $X$-ray diffraction study

Crystals of 1a•B\{ $\left.\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5\right\}_{4} \quad\left(\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{C}_{32}{ }^{-}\right.\right.$ $\mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{BF}_{24}$ ) are triclinic, space group $P \overline{1}$, at $153 \mathrm{~K} . a=$ 11.929 (7), $b=13.049(5), c=17.756(10) \AA, \alpha=86.47(4)$, $\beta=78.97(5), \quad \gamma=80.08(4)^{\circ}, \quad V=2671(3) \AA^{3}, \quad Z=2$, $D_{\text {calc }}=1.522 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}, \mu=4.04 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Intensities of 8427 independent reflections ( $R_{\text {int }}=0.042$ ) and cell parameters were measured at 153 K with a Siemens P3/PC diffractometer (graphite-monochromated Mo$\mathrm{K}_{\alpha}$ radiation, $\lambda=0.71073 \AA, \theta-2 \theta$ scan technique, $\theta_{\text {max }}=24^{\circ}$ ). The structure was solved by direct method. With the exception of the carbon atoms in the anion, all non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic temperature factors. Two H atoms bonded to the $\mathrm{C}(11)$ atom were located in the difference Fourier synthesis and were included in the refinement with fixed positional and thermal parameters; all other H atoms were included in the least-squares refinement in the riding model approximation. Six peaks located in the difference Fourier synthesis most probably correspond to a disordered solvent molecule. We were not able to determine the exact formula of this solvent, however popula-
tion of these positions with carbon atoms with s.o.f.s equal to 0.5 produced significant improvement both in the $R$-factor value and the overall accuracy of the structure. The final refinement of 568 parameters converged to $R_{1}=0.1132$ (on $F$ for 3304 observed reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$ ) and $w R_{2}=0.3067$ (on $F^{2}$ for all independent reflections), the weight scheme used was $w^{-1}=\sigma^{2}\left(F_{\mathrm{o}}^{2}\right)+(a P)^{2}+b P$, where $P=\left(F_{\mathrm{o}}^{2}+F_{\mathrm{c}}^{2}\right) / 3, a=$ $0.060, b=5.000$. All calculations were performed on an IBM PC using the shelxtl plus 5 program package [25].

## 5. Supplementary material

Crystallographic data for the structural analysis have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC no. 144753. Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12, Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (Fax: + 44-1223-336033; e-mail: deposit@ ccdc.cam.ac.uk or http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (project nos. 00-03-32894, 00-0332807). The authors are grateful to Dr Erkke Kolehmainen, Yuvyaskyulya University, Finland for the gift of $\mathrm{BrC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}-3,5$.

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