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Hydroformylation of olefins catalysed with bimetallic systems: $HRh\{P(OPh)_3\}_4 + cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$ and $HRh(CO)\{P(OPh)_3\}_3 + cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$

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Abstract

The catalytic activity of bimetallic systems containing the rhodium complex $HRh\{P(OPh)_3\}_4$ or $HRh(CO)\{P(OPh)_3\}_3$ and the Zr(IV) complex $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$ was tested in the hydroformylation reaction of 1-hexene and E-,Z-2-hexene. An increase in n/iso ratio (from 2.2 to 3.5 in the case of $HRh\{P(OPh)_3\}_4$ and from 0.4 to 3.7 in the case of $HRh(CO)\{P(OPh)_3\}_3$) was observed in 1-hexene hydroformylation in the presence of $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$.

Keywords: Hydroformylation; Bimetallic system; Rhodium; Zirconium; Olefins

1. Introduction

The increasing interest in bimetallic Rh(I)-Zr(IV) canalytic systems observed in recent years has arisen due to the expected high selectivity of such systems in the homogeneous hydroformylation of olefins. Until now, quite satisfactory results for hydroformylation have been obtained with systems in which not only the Zr(IV) species (considered as a special phosphine ligand) but also other phosphorus ligands were applied [1-5].

Particularly high selectivity (n/iso > 5) was obtained in 1-hexene hydroformylation catalysed by the HRh{P(OPh)}₄ + cp, Zr(CH, PPh,), system [3].

The activity of bimetallic systems with only Zr(IV) 'phosphine' was also studied [6–9].

The complex $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$ itself catalyses the isomerization of 1.5-cyclooctadiene to 1.3cyclooctadiene and 1-hexene to E-.Z-2-hexene, whereas in the presence of dihydrogen it catalyses the hydrogenation of mono- and diolefins to the corresponding saturated species [10,11]. This complex was recently applied by us, together with Rh(acac)(CO)₂, as a catalyst precursor for the hydroformylation of 1-hexene, 1,5-hexadiene and 1,7-octadiene [9].

 $Cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$ reacts with rhodium phosphite complexes $(Rh{P(OC_6H_4)(OPh)_2}{P(OPh)_3}_3, Rh{P(OPh)_3}_4 X (X = ClO_4^-, BPh_4^-))$ and the structure of the products obtained depends strongly on the structure of the initial rhodium complex used [12].

In reaction with the orthometallated Rh{P(OC₆ H₄)(OPh)₂}{P(OPh)₃}₄ complex. HRh{P(OPh)₃}₄ was first obtained, which next resulted in the formation of the substitution reaction product HRh{P(OPh)₃}₃(cp₂ZrH(CH₂PPh₂)) on reaction with a second molecule of cp₂ZrH(CH₂PPh₂). Mechanistic studies of that reaction show that the cp₂ZrH(CH₂PPh₂) is both a H⁺ and a H⁻ donor [12]. With respect to rhodium complexes of formula Rh{P(OPh)₃}₄X (X = ClO₄⁻, BPh₄⁻), The Zr(IV) complex may be considered as a H⁻ donor, and HRh{P(OPh)₃}₄ was formed as a reaction product [12].

In this paper the results of 1-hexene hydroformylation with HRh{P(OPh)_3}_4 and HRh(CO){P(OPh)_3}_4 modified with a Zr(IV) complex of formula $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$ are presented. The main task is to elucidate the catalytic activity of the bimetallic systems in comparison with those found for the HRh{P(OPh)_3}_4 and HRh(CO){P(OPh)_3}_4 species.

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2. Identification of bimetallic complexes

Identification of the bimetallic complexes formed as intermediates in the hydroformylation reaction mixture was succesfully carried out using ¹H and ³¹P NMR methods. In the mixture containing HRh{P(OPh)₃}₄ and $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$, HRh{P(OPh)₃}₃{ cp_2ZrH -(CH₂PPh₂)} was found as the first reaction product. The rate of formation of that complex increased with increasing concentration of $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$. The above bimetallic complex was obtained earlier from reaction of other rhodium-phosphite complexes, e.g. Rh{P(OPh)_3}_4X, with Zr(IV) species [12].

After over 4h of reaction of $HRh\{P(OPh)_3\}_4$ with $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$, additional NMR bands characteristic of the second complex. $HRh\{P(OPh)_3\}_2 - \{cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)\}_2$, were observed. The spectroscopic data for both complexes, pointing out their different symmetry, are collected in Table 1.

In the case of complex HRh{P(OPh)₃}₃(cp₂ZrH- (CH_2PPh_2) , three P(OPh)₃ ligands are coordinated in the basal plane of the trigonal bipyramid, whereas H⁻ and cp₂ZrH(CH₂PPh₂) ligands occupy the remaining sites in trans position to each other. This kind of coordination is proved by the high value of $J_{P_{\mu_{out}}-H} =$ 72 Hz. The spectroscopic parameters of this complex are very close to those obtained for its analog $HRh{P(OPh)_{1}, cp_{2}Zr(CH_{2}PPh_{2})_{2}}$ [3], suggesting a similar structure for both compounds. However, from the 'H NMR spectrum of HRh{P(OPh)}, (cp₂Zr- $H(CH_2PPh_2))_2$, two $J_{P=H}$ values (42 and 6 Hz) were obtained. The larger value is similar to that found for the complex of formula HRh(P(OPh)₃)₄ ($J_{P=H} = 44$ Hz) [13], which may suggest a similar tetrahedral arrangement of ligands around the rhodium center.



Fig. 1. Hydride region of ¹H NMR spectrum measured during the reaction of $HRh(CO){P(OPh)_3}_3 + cp_2ZrH(CH_2F!!:b_2)$ in C_6D_6 . [Zr]:[Rh] = 2. HRh(CO){P(OPh)_3}_3, HRh{P(OPh)_3}_4.

The reaction of HRh(CO){P(OPh)}, with cp_2Zr -H(CH₂PPh₂) is more complicated, and leads to a mixture of HRh{P(OPh)}, cp_2ZrH(CH₂PPh₂) and HRh(CO){P(OPh)}, cp_2ZrH(CH₂PPh₂) complexes, identified by ³¹P and ¹H NMR spectra (Fig. 1). The formation of bimetallic complexes depends on the CO concentration, whereas the effect of H₂ atmosphere on the reaction course was not found (Scheme 1).

Spectroscopic data for HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₂-{cp₂ZrH(CH₂PPh₂)} are comparable with those obtained for the bimetallic complex HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₂(cp₂Zr(CH₂PPh₂)₂] [3]. Both complexes have a trigonal bipyramidal structure with Pligands in one plane and CO/H⁻⁻ in *trans* position. This is proved by the relatively small J_{P-H} and J_{Rh-H} values (Table 1), close to those observed for HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ [14]. The complex HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ [14]. The complex HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ cp₂ZrH-(CH₂PPh₂)} is stable under hydroformylation reaction conditions and, according to spectroscopic studies of the post-reaction mixture, can be postulated as the main catalytically active form

Table 1

¹H and ³¹P NMR data of bimetallic rhodium-zirconium complexes in C. D.

³⁴ P NMR δ ₁ , δ ₂ (ppm) 13	3.3 10		an a	ana ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang	
1 (12-) 31	17	.5 131.2	12.5 14	13.2	
$J_{P_{x}P}(Hz) = 24$ $J_{P_{x}P}(Hz)$	112	.2 200 58	125 2-	19 135 128	
¹ Η NMR δ (ppm)	doublet of pseudo-quint - 9,9	ets triplet of (- 10.3;	multiplets !	pseudo-quartet of doublets - 9,27	
J _{Progenial} i (Hz) J _{Progenia} (Hz) J _{Progeni} (Hz)	72 8 8	42.6 6		5	

 $P = P(OPh)_{\chi}$

ZrH = cp₂.2rH(CH₂PPh₂)



of the bimetallic complex, detected even at small excesses of $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$.

3. Hydroformylation of 1-hexene and E-,Z-2-hexene

The modifying effect of Zr(IV) 'phosphine' on the rhodium catalyst precursor is considered in relation to the results of hydroformylation of 1-hexene and E-,Z-2-hexene catalysed by only the rhodium catalysts HRh{P(OPh)}_4 or HRh(CO){P(OPh)}_3 respectively. The common behavior of both catalysts is high activity in the isomerization of 1-hexene to E-,Z-2-hexene under the reaction conditions optimal for hydroformylation (i.e. 80°C, 10 atm H₂/CO). After 30 min of hydroformylation of 1-hexene with only HRh(CO){P(OPh)}_3, the reaction mixture contained only aldehydes and E-,Z-2-hexene, which is the next substrate of further hydroformylation (Tables 2 and 3).

Separate studies of the hydroformylation of E-,Z-2hexene showed that the main reaction products are branched aldehydes: 2-ethylpentanal and 2-methylhexanal with 16% n-heptanal (Scheme 2) and constant n/iso ratio 0.2.

In the hydroformylation of 1-hexene with $HRh(CO){P(OPh)_3}_3$, the n/iso ratio was first 0.9 (after



30 min) and then decreased to 0.2 (after 160 min).

Both olefins (1-hexene and E-,Z-2-hexene) undergo 100% conversion after 3 h with almost identical selectivity. One may conclude that during 1-hexene hydroformylation the parallel isomerization reaction is much faster, and as a consequence diminishes the selectivity of 1-hexene hydroformylation. A slightly higher selectivity of 1-hexene hydroformylation (n/iso ca. 2) is obtained with the HRh{P(OPh)_3}_4 catalyst, which is much less active in the isomerization of 1-hexene to E-,Z-2-hexene, finally allowing a relatively high yield of n-heptanal to be obtained.

The application of Zr(IV) 'phosphine' as a modifying ligand for HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ and HRh{P(OPh)₃}₄ catalysts causes an increase of selectivity in both cases (for the reaction catalysed with HRh{P(OPh)₃}₄ at [Zr]:[Rh] = 1, n/iso = 3.4 was obtained, whereas for the reaction catalysed with HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ higher selectivity was achieved at [Zr]:[Rh] = 1.0).

The presence of Zr(IV) 'phosphine' in both systems led to a decrease of 2-ethylpentanal yield up to total decay. The absence of 2-ethylpentanal manifests the lack of E-,Z-2-hexene hydroformylation [15], as a consequence of small or neglected isomerization of 1hexene to E-,Z-2-hexene or a very slow rate of hydroformylation of E-,Z-2-hexene. The isomerization is significantly slowed down in the presence of Zr(IV) 'phosphine'. The conversion of 1-hexene after 30min of hydroformylation with HRh(CO){P(OPh)_3}_3 was total, whereas after the application of a modifying Zr(IV)

Table 2

Hydroformylation of 1-hexene catalysed by the system $HRh(P(OPh)_3)_4 + cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$

[Zr] (× 10 ⁻⁵ mol)	[Zr]:[Rh]	Products (n	nol%)	Time (min)	n/iso				
		Aldehydes			E-,Z-2-hexene	1-Hexene			
		2-Ethyl pentanal	2-Methyl hexanal	Heptanal					
0	0	6	16	34	36		110	1.6	
Ő	0	8	19	58	26	-	160	2.2	
1.3	1.0	1	8	32	45	and and a second se	95	3.4	
2.5	2.0	-	16	55	35	APOCHEN	345	3.5	
5.4	4.0		12	33	35	anny to re-	280	2.9	
63	5.0	-	12	34	44	2	290	2.9	
10.0	8.0	weige	6	12		53	515	2.1	

Reaction conditions: 80 °C, 10 atm, $H_2/CO = 1$, [1-hexene]:[Rh] = 520, [Rh] = 1.25×10^{-5} mol.

[Zr] (× 10 ⁻⁵ mol)	[Zr]:[Rh]	Products (n	nol%)	Time (min)	n/iso			
		Aldehydes			E-,Z-2-hexene	1-Hexene		
		2-Ethyl pentanal	2-Methyl hexanal	Heptanal				
0	0	13	29	22	30		60	0.5
0	0	24	46	25	4		135	0.4
1.5	1.0	2	14	59	28		200	3.7
2.5	1.7		14	45	17	3	100	3.3
3.2	2.6	3	14	51	32		145	3.1
3.8	3.0		14	44	44		235	3.2
5.8	4.6	*****	13	36	50		220	2.9
11.4	9.2		5	10	43	34	505	2.0

Table 3 Hydroformylation of 1-hexene catalysed by the system $HRh(CO){P(OPh)_3}_1 + cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$

Reaction conditions: 80°C, 10 atm, $H_2/CO = 1$, [1-hexene]:[Rh] = 520, [Rh] = 1.25×10^{-5} mol.

complex 13% of 1-hexene in the reaction mixture was still found after 60 min.

With an increase of Zr(IV) 'phosphine' concentration, a decrease of reaction rate as well as n/iso ratio was observed. The average content of E-,Z-2-hexene in the reaction products was equal to 30%. The highest selectivity was obtained at a small excess of Zr(IV)'phosphine' ([Zr];[Rh] = 1 to 3).

Some experiments on E-,Z-2-hexene hydroformylation catalysed with the system containing HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ and cp₂ZrH(CH₂PPh₂) have been carried out, and almost solely iso-aldehydes were obtained (n/iso ≤ 0.1 , nearly two times smaller than with HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ alone used as a catalyst) (Table 4). The reaction product content suggests that the modification of Rh catalysts with Zr(IV) 'phosphine' restrains almost totally the isomerization of E-,Z-2-hexene to 1-hexene, leading to a decrease of n-heptanal yield.

The presence of $cp_2ZrH(CH_2PPh_2)$ inhibits quite effectively the hydroformylation of E-.Z-2-hexene, and the inhibiting effect is stronger at higher concentrations

(Table 4). The total conversion of E-,Z-2-hexene in the presence of HRh{P(OPh)₃}₄ or HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ was achieved after 4 h, whereas with Zr(IV) 'phosphine' ([Zr]:[Rh] = 2.7) after 8 h 48% of unreacted E-,Z-2-hexene was still found in the reaction mixture.

4. Conclusions

(1) The selectivity of the hydroformylation reaction catalysed with bimetallic Rh–Zr catalysts is higher than that in the reaction catalysed with rhodium only precursors $HRh\{P(OPh)_{3}\}_{3}$ or $HRh(CO)\{P(OPh)_{3}\}_{3}$.

(2) The selectivity increase is caused by the inhibiting effect of the bimetallic Rh–Zr catalyst on 1-hexene to E-,Z-2-hexene isomerization and E-,Z-2-hexene hydroformylation, whereas the Rh complexes alone are rather effective catalysts in both the isomerization and hydroformylation of E-,Z-2-hexene.

(3) It is worthwhile noting that under the applied reaction conditions the bimetallic system is much less

Table 4

Hydroformylation of E-Z-2-hexene catalysed by HRh[P(OPh)], HRh(CO)[E(OPh)], and HRh(CO)[P(OPh)], + cp. ZrH(CH, PPh,)

[Zr] (×10 ⁻⁵ mol)	[Zr];[Rh]	Products (m	ol4)	Time (min)	n/iso		
		Aldehydes					
		2-Ethyl pentanal	2-Methyl hexanal	Hepanal	E-,Z-2- hexene		
HRh(P(OPh),),				alle sund on a management of the second s	iyyaaniyoo iyaala dahayaa aadada haraa	annon an	
0	0	27	33	11	н	105	0.2
0	0	34	48	13	~ 502004	260	0.2
HRMCOMP(OPh).}.							
0	0	16	26	10	26	120	0.2
0	0	32	53	16	3	220	0.2
HRh(CO){P(OPh),}, +	· cp,ZrH(CH,PF	₽h,)			•		
1.5	1.2	4 3	51	10	3	180	0.1
3.5	2.7	17	17	3	48	480	0.1

Reaction conditions: 80°C, 10 atm, $H_2/CO = 1$, [E-,Z-2-hexene];[Rh] = 520, [Rh] = 1.25 × 10⁻⁵ mol.

active in isomerization than the Zr(IV) complex alone [10,11]

(c) 2-Ethylpentanal. 114 (M⁺, 1); 85 (4); 72 (45); 57 (49); 43 (100); 41(32); 39 (13).

5. Experimental

Rhodium and zirconium complexes were prepared according to the literature methods: $HRh\{P(OPh)_{3}\}_{4}$ [13], HRh(CO){P(OPh)₃}₃ [14], cp₂ZrH(CH, PPh₂) [16]. Solvents (toluene, benzene) and olefins were distilled before use. The hydroformylation reaction was carried out in a thermostated steel autoclave (40 cm³) with magnetic stirrer. Samples of HRh{P(OPh)₃}₄ (0.017 g, 1.25 $\times 10^{-5}$ mol) or HRh(CO){P(OPh)}, (0.013 g, 1.25 \times 10^{-5} mol) and the zirconium complex (0.005 to 0.05 g, 1.3×10^{-5} to 1.3×10^{-4} mol) were introduced into the autoclave in nitrogen atmosphere. Next, toluene (1.5 cm^3) and 1-hexene (0.8 cm^3) were added. Finally, the autoclave was filled up with a $H_2/CO = 1$ mixture at 10 atm. Reaction products were identified after vacuum distillation by GC-MS (Hewlett-Packard) using xylene as internal standard. In all analyses the separate signals of Z- and E-hexene-2 have been found in GC. A HP column $5 \text{ m} \times 25 \text{ m} \times 0.2 \text{ mm} \times 0.33 \mu \text{m}$ (film thickness) was used for product analysis. IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet Impact 400 and NMR spectra on a Bruker 300 MHz (121.5 MHz for ³¹P NMR).

MS data of reaction products:

(a) n-Heptanal. 114 (M⁺, 1); 96 (7); 95 (1); 86 (10); 81 (15); 71 (21); 70(61); 68 (13); 57 (48); 55 (50); 45 (20); 44 (100); 43 (74); 42 (57); 41 (74); 39 (28).

(b) 2-Methylhexanal. 114 (M⁺, 1); 96 (1); 91 (1); 85 (2); 81 (1); 72 (7); 71 (4); 58 (100); 57 (20); 53 (2); 43 (70); 41 (25).

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