



Platinum(II) and palladium(II) complexes with 1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene ligands and molecular structure of *trans*-bis(1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene) diiodo palladium ¹

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Abstract

2-Trimethylsiloxyphenyl isocyanide 1 reacts with $[MCl_2(NCPh)_2]$ (M = Pd, Pt) to yield homoleptic tetraisocyanide complexes $[M(1)_4]Cl_2$. Subsequent hydrolysis of the Si-O bonds leads to intramolecular nucleophilic attack at the isocyanide carbon atom with formation of homoleptic complexes with four 1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene ligands $[M(\overline{CN(H)C_6H_4-2-O})_4]X_2$ $(M = Pt, X = Cl, 2; M = Pt, X = BF_4, 3; M = Pd, X = Cl, 4)$. Double deprotonation of 4 by ammonia yields the neutral complex $[Pd(\overline{CNC_6H_4-2-O})_2(\overline{CN(H)C_6H_4-2-O})_2]$ 5. Under similar conditions, PdI_2 reacts with 1 even in excess to give only the diisocyanide complex trans- $[PdI_2(1)_2]$ 6 which upon Si-O bond cleavage yields the neutral dicarbene complex trans-bis(1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene)diiodo palladium 7. Complex 7 was shown by X-ray crystallography to contain a planar tetracoordinated palladium atom and two carbenoid benzoxazole rings which are rotated by about 80° relative to the palladium coordination plane. © 1997 Elsevier Science S.A.

Keywords: Carbene complexes; Palladium; Platinum; X-ray crystallography

1. Introduction

The addition of *N*- and *O*-nucleophiles to coordinated isocyanides is one of the most efficient synthetic approaches to carbene-rich metal complexes. While the first homoleptic tetracarbene complexes of palladium and platinum where obtained from tetra(methylisocyanide) metal precursors and methylamine [1], it was through intramolecular cyclization of functionalized isocyanides like CN-CH₂CH₂-OH A that numerous new complexes with cyclic diheteroatom-stabilized carbene ligands have been prepared [2-4]. The first octahedral Co(III) and Rh(III) hexacarbene complexes B, for example, were obtained from simple salts such as CoCl₂ and RhCl₃·3H₂O respectively, and either 2-hydroxyethyl isocyanide [5] (Fig. 1) or trimethylsiloxyethyl isocyanide-KF [6] in water-O₂.

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This paper is dedicated to Professor Dr. G. Huttner on the

occasion of his 60th birthday.

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Recently, the reactivity of the closely related aromatic 2-trimethylsiloxyphenyl isocyanide 1 [7] was investigated with various transition metals, showing some unexpected results [8-11]. After Si-O bond cleavage, coordinated 1 undergoes intramolecular cyclization even when coordinated to electron-rich transition metals [8,9] where normally $(d \to \pi^*)\pi$ backbonding from the metal to the isocyanide carbon prevents nucleophilic attack. Thus the open chain form is maintained in [W(CO)₅(CN-CH₂CH₂-OH)] [2], while cleavage of the Si-O bond in [W(CO)₅(1)] does not yield [W(CO)₅(CNC₆H₄-2-OH] but instead the carbene complex $[W(CO)_s(CN(H)C_6H_4-2-O)][8]$. The driving force for the carbene formation observed for complexes of 1 after Si-O bond hydrolysis has been attributed to the aromatic character of the five-membered ring incorporating the carbon earbon atom [8]. The reaction of 1 (even when used in excess) with PdI₂ and CoI₂ has been reported to yield trans- $[PdI_2(1)_2]$ and trans- $[CoI_2(1)_4]$ respectively [12]. In this contribution we report on the carbene complexes obtained after Si-O bond cleavage in palladium(II) and platinum(II) complexes of 1.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Homoleptic carbene complexes of palladium(II) and platinum(II)

Tetra(oxazolidin-2-ylidene) palladium(II) and platinum(II) complexes have been obtained previously by the spontaneous cyclization of 2-hydroxyethyl isocyanide A in the presence of Pd(II) or Pt(II) salts [3]. No tetracarbene species was formed, however, by the analogous reaction with 2-trimethylsiloxyphenyl isocyanide and KF, i.e. under conditions where Si-O cleavage is known to occur readily. These findings may be explained by the fact that 2-hydroxyethyl isocyanide is a relatively stable compound, whereas free 2-hydroxyphenyl isocyanide is completely unstable rapidly forming benzoxazole instead of coordinating to the metal [7.8]. Thus it was clear that in order to circumvent this problem the two processes (i) isocyanide to metal coordination and (ii) desilylation-cyclization had to be carried out separately when 1 was used for carbene complex preparation.

In fact, the preparation of the homoleptic carbene complexes 2-4 in good yields was achieved by reaction of 4 equiv. of the *O*-silylated isocyanide 1 with [PdCl₂(NCPh)₂] or [PtCl₂(NCPh)₂] in THF with subsequent cleavage of the O-Si bonds with trace amounts of tetrabutylammonium fluoride (Scheme 1).

In the high frequency region, the IR spectra of 2-4 show the intense and structured $\nu(NH)$ and $\nu(CH)$ bands in the range $3500-2700\,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$. Strong absorptions at about $1440\,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ were assigned to the asymmetric N-C-O stretching vibration.

The 1 H NMR spectra also confirm the presence of 1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene ligands in 2–4. Broad signals at about $\delta=15\,\mathrm{ppm}$, which disappear upon addition of D_2O , confirm the presence of the exchangeable NH protons [8–11]. The ^{13}C NMR chemical shift of the carbene carbon atom in complex 2 (188.5 ppm) appears at higher field than in the related aliphatic carbene ligands (196–204 ppm) [3]. The low solubility of complexes 3 and 4 prevented the recording of their ^{13}C NMR spectra.

In the FAB MS spectra (positive ions) of 2-4 the strongest peaks correspond to the molecular ions [ML₄ – H]⁺ (L = 1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene). Further

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Fig. 1. Functionalized isocyanides and intramolecular cyclization of **A** giving complex **B**.

Scheme 1. Reactions of 1 with complexes $[MCl_2(NCPh)_2]$ (M = Pt, Pd)

peaks result from the successive loss of neutral carbene ligands L.

2.2. Reaction of the tetracarbene complex 4 with NH,

Addition of an aqueous solution of NH₃ to a solution of tetra(1,2-oxazolidin-2-yliden)dichloro palladium(II) in water or methanol resulted in a white solid which was spectroscopically analyzed as the neutral [Pt(CNCH₂CH₂O)₂(CN(H)CH₂CH₂O)₂][13]. Transformation of this reaction to the new unsaturated tetracarbene complex 4 gives an analogous result. Two of the four ligands can be deprotonated with ammonia and the resulting insoluble w hite solid $[Pd(CNC_6H_4-2-O)_2(CN(H)C_6H_4-2-O)_2]$ 5 precipitates from the reaction solution (Scheme 2). After deprotonation, all four ligands remain coordinated via carbon atoms. Complex 5 can be reprotonated with mineral acids, giving back the starting compound 4. The coexistence of protonated and deprotonated 1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene species in the same ligand sphere has been demonstrated previously for an iron complex [11].

The removal of two protons causes a change in the IR spectrum of 5 when compared to 4. It can be assumed, that hydrogen bridges of the type N-H...Cl exist in 4 as reported for the palladium complex with four oxazolin-2-ylidene ligands [3]. No anions are present in 5, which rules out the possibility of this type of a hydrogen bond. As a consequence, in the IR spectrum of 5 the ν (NH) and ν (CH) band pattern of 4 ranging

Scheme 2. Deprotonation of complex 4 (the trans geometry was assumed for 5 but has not yet been confirmed experimentally).

from 2700 to 3500 cm⁻¹ is absent. Instead, strong hydrogen bonds between the NH and O groups of the five-membered rings are possible. These can be of intermolecular or, in case of coplanarity of the carbene ligands with the Pd coordination plane, of intramolecular nature [14]. Weak but broad bands, centered at about 2550 cm⁻¹, are assigned to intra- and intermolecular hydrogen bonds of the remaining NH groups with nitrogen or oxygen atoms of the benzoxazol-2-yl ligands. The strong absorption for the asymmetric N-C-O stretching vibration appears around 1440 cm⁻¹ as a split band due to the presence of two different five-membered ring systems. Low energy $\nu(\text{NH})$ absorptions have been observed in the IR spectra for NH groups engaged in strong hydrogen bonds [15].

2.3. Reaction of 1 with palladium diiodide

Even when applied in excess, 1 reacts with PdI_2 in acetonitrile to give only the diisocyanide complex trans-[$PdI_2(1)_2$] 6 [12]. If this reaction is carried out in THF followed by addition of n-Bu₄NF i.e. under conditions which favor Si-O bond cleavage, complex 6 cannot be isolated and the reaction product is the neutral carbene complex trans-bis(1,2-dihydro-benzoxazol-2-ylidene)diiodo palladium(II) 7 (Scheme 3). This complex crystallizes from DMF as $7 \cdot 4$ DMF. Its molecular structure has been established by X-ray diffraction. Fig. 2 shows an ORTEP drawing of one molecule of 7.

Complex 7 is a trans configured dicarbene complex. The palladium atom resides on a crystallographic inversion center. This causes the C1-Pd-C1* and I-Pd-I* angles to be 180°, while the C1-Pd-I angle (80.86(8)°) differs significantly from 90°, indicating the distortion of the square planar coordination geometry. The ylidene ligands themselves are almost planar with a maximum deviation from the least-squares plane of 0.03 Å, but are rotated by 80.22(8)° against the Pd-I-C1 plane. The Pd-C distance of 2.173(3) Å is significantly longer than in the tetracarbene complex [Pd(CN(H)CH₂CH₂O)₄]Cl₂ (2.022(2) Å and 2.018(2) Å

Scheme 3. Synthesis of complexes 6 and 7.

Fig. 2. Molecular structure of 7 in 7.4DMF (hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity). Atom Pd resides on a crystallographic inversion center. Starred atoms represent transformed coordinated of the type (-x,1-y,-z). Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (deg): Pd–I 2.8106(2), Pd–C1 2.173(3), O1–C1 1.256(3), O1–C3 1.497(4), N1–C1 1.279(4), N1–C2 1.493(4), C2–C3 1.195(4), I–Pd–C1 80.86(8), C1–O1–C3 116.6(2), C1–N1–C2 119.8(2), Pd–C1–O1 127.4(2), Pd–C1–N1 136.0(2), O1–C1–N1 96.6(3), N1–C2–C3 100.5(3), O1–C3–C2 106.5(3).

[3]) and is best described as a single bond. It is also longer than the Pd-C separation found in complexes with N, N-substituted carbene ligands [16,17]. At first glance this is surprising as it has been shown that the W-C_(carbene) separation in pentacarbonyl(1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene) tungsten is shorter than in the corresponding imidazol-2-ylidene complex [18]. The Pd - Cdistance [PdI₂(CN(CH₃)CH₂CH₂N(CH₃)₂] [17] can, however, be explained with the weak trans influence of the halogen atoms trans to the N, N-substituted carbene ligands, while in 7.4DMF the carbene ligands are oriented trans to each other. A comparison of the Pd- $C_{\text{(carbene)}}$ distance in $7 \cdot 4DMF$ with the Pd- $C_{\text{(isocyanide)}}$ distance (1.968(11) Å) in 6 [12] confirms the weak ability of the 1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene ligand to act as a π -acceptor.

The most important structural feature of $7 \cdot 4DMF$ is the lack of aromaticity in the metal-coordinated heterocycle. In complexes of the type $[M(CO)_s(CN(H)C_6H_4-2-O)]$ (M = W, Fe) [8-11], practically identical bond lengths (around 1.365(5) Å) [8-11] within the carbenoid five-membered ring indicate a strong contribution from the mesomeric structure III (Scheme 4). This uniformity of bond lengths cannot be detected in the five-membered rings of $7 \cdot 4DMF$. Quite contrarily, the bond parameters clearly show a break-up of the 6π electron system of the five-membered ring

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Scheme 4. Resonance structures for (1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene)metal complexes.

into two sections. The MC(O)N carbene moiety (O1–C1 1.256(3) Å, N1–C1 1.279(4) Å) is separated by two significantly longer O–C and N–C single bonds (O1–C3 1.497(4) Å, N1–C2 1.493(4) Å) from the benzene ring. This structural feature has earlier been found in N,N-heterocyclic carbene ligands [19].

In summary, the strong tendency of the aromatic isocyanide ligand 1 to form ylidene complexes by intramolecular cyclization after Si-O bond cleavage when attached to Pd(II) or Pt(II) has been demonstrated. The driving force for the generation of even homoleptic tetracarbene complexes is a consequence of the activation of the coordinated isocyanide carbon atom by the metal center towards nucleophilic attack of the oxygen atom in ortho position. Aromatization of the resulting ylidene ligands, which was observed with electron-rich transition metal fragments, is not necessary for the stabilization of the coordinated 1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidenes.

3. Experimental

3.1. Preparation of tetra(1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene)dichloro platinum(II) 2

To a solution of 1.0 g (2.15 mmol) of $[PtCl_2(NCPh)_2]$ [20] in 25 ml of THF was added 4.1 g (21.0 mmol) of 2-trimethylsiloxyphenyl isocyanide 1 [7] at 0°C. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After the addition of 2 ml of an aqueous THF solution containing 0.020 g of *n*-tetrabutylammonium fluoride and stirring at room temperature for several hours a colorless solid had precipitated. The precipitate was separated by filtration, washed with small amounts of THF and diethyl ether and dried in vacuo to give 1.14 g (72%) of 2. M.p. 250°C (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $C_{28}H_{20}Cl_2N_4O_4Pt$ (M = 741.05): C, 45.34; H, 2.72; N, 7.56. Found: C, 45.08; H, 2.85; N, 7.78. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.80–7.40 (m, 4 H, Ar-H). 13 C(¹H) NMR (62.9 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 188.5 (carbene-C); 152.9, 131.2, 128.0, 114.9, 112.9 (Ar-C). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν 3410 (s, br, NH); 2800 (vs, br, CH); 1438 (vs, N-C-O). MS (FAB, positive ions): m/z 670 ([PtL₄ -H]⁺, 100%); 551 ([PtL₃ - H]⁺, 38); 433 ([PtL₂ - H]⁺, 38); $314 ([PtL - H]^+, 36)$.

3.2. Preparation of tetra(1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene) platinum(II)bis(tetrafluorborate) 3

Addition of 5 equiv. of a saturated solution of NaBF₄ in water-methanol (1:1) to a solution of **2** in methanol resulted in a colorless precipitate which was separated by filtration and dried in vacuo to give **3**. M.p. 209 °C (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $C_{28}H_{20}B_2F_8N_4O_4Pt$ (M = 845.06): C, 39.79; H, 2.38; N, 6.63. Found: C, 38.32;

H, 2.84; N, 6.60. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 7.80–7.25 (m, 4 H, Ar-H); 15.00 (s, 1 H, NH). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν 3300 (s, br, NH); 2850 (s, br, CH); 1438 (vs, N–C–O); 1150, 1000 (vs, BF₄). MS (FAB, positive ions): m/z 758 ([PtL₄ – BF₄]⁺, 7%); 670 ([PtL₄ – H]⁺, 100); 551 ([PtL₃ – H]⁺, 47); 433 ([PtL₂ – H]⁺, 52); 314 ([PtL – H]⁺, 62).

3.3. Preparation of tetra(1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene) palladium(II)dichloride 4

Compound **4** was synthesized in analogy to the procedure described for **2** with an isolated yield of 75% by starting from 1.0 g (2.60 mmol) of $[PdCl_2(NCPh)_2]$ [20] in 25 ml of THF and 5.0 g (26.0 mmol) of 2-trimethylsiloxyphenyl isocyanide. M.p. 245 °C (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $C_{28}H_{20}Cl_2N_4O_4Pd$ (M = 651.98): C, 51.56; H, 3.09; N, 8.59. Found: C, 51.17; H, 2.88; N, 8.33. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 7.95–7.20 (m, 4 H, Ar-H), 15.15 (s, 1 H, NH). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν 3300 (s, br, NH); 2950 (s, br, CH); 1441 (vs, N–C–O).

3.4. Preparation of di(benzoxazol-2-yl)-bis(1,2-dihydro-benzoxazol-2-ylidene) palladium(II) 5

To a solution of 5 ml of NH₃ in water was added 20 ml of a solution of **4** (ca. 1.0 g) in methanol. The white solid which precipitated spontaneously was collected and washed with small amounts of water, ethanol and diethyl ether and dried in vacuo. M.p. 280 °C (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $C_{28}H_{18}N_4O_4Pd$ (M=580.03): C, 57.93; H, 3.13; N, 9.66. Found: C, 56.62; H, 3.26; N, 9.23. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν 3056 (vw, CH); 2550 (w, NH); 1428, 1443 (s, N-C-O). MS (FAB, positive ions): m/z 581 ([PdL₂L'₂+H]⁺, 0.5%); 461 ([PdL₂L']⁺, 0.7); 344 ([PdLL']⁺, 1.7); L = 1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene, L' = benzoxazol-2-yl ligand.

3.5. Preparation of trans-bis(1,2-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-ylidene)diiodo palladium(II) 7

To a suspension of $1.0\,\mathrm{g}$ ($2.8\,\mathrm{mmol}$) of PdI_2 in $25\,\mathrm{ml}$ of THF was added $4.0\,\mathrm{g}$ ($24.0\,\mathrm{mmol}$) of 2-trimethylsiloxyphenyl isocyanide at $0\,^\circ\mathrm{C}$. The mixture rapidly turned into a clear orange solution. Then $2\,\mathrm{ml}$ of an aqueous THF solution containing $20\,\mathrm{mg}$ of n-tetrabutylammonium fluoride was added. After stirring at room temperature for several hours a yellow solid had precipitated, which was filtered off and washed with small amounts of THF and diethyl ether. The resulting light yellow solid was recrystallized from acetone to give $1.08\,\mathrm{g}$ (65%) of 7. M.p. $153\,^\circ\mathrm{C}$ (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{14}\mathrm{H}_{10}\mathrm{I}_2\mathrm{N}_2\mathrm{O}_2\mathrm{Pd}$ (M=597.78): C, 28.10; H, 1.69; N, 4.68. Found: C, 28.71; H, 2.08; N, 4.75. H NMR ($250\,\mathrm{MHz}$, DMSO - d_6): δ 8.05-7.35 (m, $4\,\mathrm{H}$, Ar-H); 15.15 (s, $1\,\mathrm{H}$, NH). IR (KBr, cm $^{-1}$): ν 3265 (vs, NH);

3000 (s, br, CH) 1419 (vs, N-C-O). MS (FAB, positive ions): m/z 471 ([PdL₂I]⁺, 4%); 344 ([PdL₂]⁺, 2).

3.6. X-ray structure determination ³

Crystals of 7 · 4DMF were grown from a DMF solution at -10 °C. Selected crystallographic details: size of data crystal $0.32 \times 0.25 \times 0.18 \text{ mm}^3$, formula $C_{26}H_{38}I_2N_6O_6Pd$, M = 890.84 amu, triclinic, space group 1, a = 8.946(4), b = 9.886(2), c = 9.894(2) Å, $\alpha = 80.21(2), \quad \beta = 72.82(3), \quad \gamma = 83.52(3)^{\circ}, \quad V = 822(1) \text{ Å}^3, \quad ^2 = 1, \quad \rho_{\text{exp}} = 1.81, \quad \rho_{\text{calc}} = 1.800 \text{ g cm}^{-3}, \quad \text{Mo K} \alpha \quad \text{radiation} \quad (\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ Å}, \quad \text{graphite monochro-}$ mator), $\mu(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 24.59 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. 3248 symmetry-independent diffraction data were measured at -100(2) °C in the 2Θ range 2-50°. Structure solution with Patterson and refinement with Fourier methods, refinement of positional parameters of all non-hydrogen atoms with anisotropic thermal parameters. Hydrogen atoms on calculated positions (d(C-H) = 0.95 Å, d(N-H) = 0.87 Å)[21]) with $B_{\text{eq(H)}} = 1.3 B_{\text{eq(C)}}$. R = 0.037, $R_w = 0.062$ for 3093 absorption corrected (7 ψ -scans) structure factors $F_0^2 \ge 3\sigma(F_0^2)$ and 188 refined parameters. Neutral atomic scattering factors were used and all scattering factors were corrected for anomalous dispersion [22]. All calculations were carried out with the MOLEN program package [23].

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³ Further details of the crystal structure investigation may be obtained from the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, D-76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen (Germany) on quoting the depository number CSD-59365 and the journal citation.