

## Preliminary communication

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### Transition metal derivatives of aryldiazonium ions

#### IV. Oxidative addition of nitrosyl chloride to arylazo-molybdenum and -tungsten complexes

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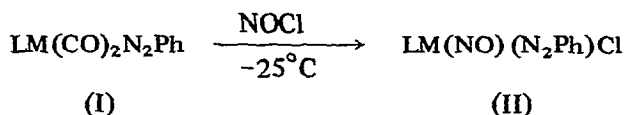
(Received July 19th, 1973)

#### SUMMARY

Oxidative addition of nitrosyl chloride to several arylazo complexes of molybdenum or tungsten yields novel remarkably stable arylazonitrosyl complexes.

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Despite considerable current interest in arylazo derivatives of the transition metals there have been few reports of the subsequent derivative chemistry of this new class of complexes. We now describe the synthesis of novel mixed arylazonitrosyl complexes via the oxidative addition of nitrosyl chloride to arylazo derivatives of molybdenum and tungsten.



(a, L = HBPz<sub>3</sub>, M = Mo; b, L = HBPz<sub>3</sub>, M = W; c, L = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, M = Mo).

Tris-1-pyrazolylborate, (HBPz<sub>3</sub>)<sup>1</sup> or cyclopentadienyl<sup>2</sup> arylazo dicarbonyl derivatives of molybdenum or tris-1-pyrazolylborate derivatives of tungsten<sup>1</sup> (Ia–Ic), react cleanly with one equivalent of nitrosyl chloride in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at –25°C to give the arylazonitrosyl complexes (IIa–IIc) in excellent yield. Formation of compounds (IIa–IIc) parallels the preparation of (HBPz<sub>3</sub>)Mo(NO)<sub>2</sub>Cl by oxidative addition of NOCl to (HBPz<sub>3</sub>)Mo(CO)<sub>2</sub>NO<sup>1</sup> and is the first authenticated example of oxidative addition to an arylazo complex. The orange crystalline complexes are indefinitely stable both in the air and in solution. All complexes give well-resolved NMR spectra, indicative of diamagnetism.

In the NMR spectrum of complex (IIa) the H(3) atoms of the tris-1-pyrazolylborate ligand appear as three distinct well-separated triplets<sup>3</sup> of relative area 1/1/1. This indicates a rigid octahedral coordination sphere around Mo with no rotation of the HBPz<sub>3</sub> ligand. The IR spectrum of (IIa) shows  $\nu(\text{BH})$  at 2500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and two intense absorptions at 1710 and 1642  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Repetition of the synthetic procedure with complex (Ia) in which the Mo-bound N-atom of the PhN<sub>2</sub> group had been labelled with <sup>15</sup>N caused a shift of ca. 15  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to lower wavenumber in the 1642  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  band which is thus identified as  $\nu(\text{NN})$ . The  $\nu(\text{NO})$  band at 1710 undergoes a slight shift to lower wavenumber (<ca. 5  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) under these conditions suggesting slight coupling of the two absorptions.

An extensive substitution chemistry of complexes (IIa–IIc) was expected on the basis of the known lability of the closely related C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Cr(NO)<sub>2</sub>Cl (*cf.* ref. 1 and references therein). Disappointingly this expectation was not realised. Both complexes (IIa) and (IIc) were unaffected by C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>TI in refluxing acetone while (IIa) was similarly unreactive towards PPh<sub>3</sub> or KCN under similar conditions. Complex (IIa) was also recovered quantitatively after treatment with MeMgI in boiling Et<sub>2</sub>O or, under more drastic conditions, from MeCN/AlCl<sub>3</sub> in boiling benzene. The lack of reactivity of the complexes (IIa–IIc) is surprising. For the tris-1-pyrazolylborate derivative (IIa) an explanation may lie in a shielding of the metal atom by the bulky<sup>4</sup> pyrazolylborate ligand. No such explanation is applicable to complex (IIc) however. The properties of these novel complexes are currently receiving further study.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This work was carried out during the tenure by one of us (M.D.) of a Department of Education maintenance grant for research.

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