Journal of Organometallic Chemistry, 76 (1974) 105-115 © Elsevier Sequoia S.A., Lausanne - Printed in The Netherlands

# REACTION OF BIS(SUBSTITUTED-SILYL)BIPYRIDYLNICKEL(II) WITH **ACETYLENES**

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#### STEREOCHEMISTRY OF DISILYLATION\*

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#### Summary

A violet complex,  $[trans\text{-}\alpha,\alpha']$  bis(trichlorosilyl)stilbene]bipyridylnickel(0) (II), was obtained from the reaction of  $Ni(bipy)(SiCl<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>$  (Ia) with diphenylacetylene. Treatment of II with methylmagnesium bromide, followed by hydrolysis, produced free trans-α,α'-bis(trimethylsilyl)stilbene. The same trans-stilbene was formed as the sole product of the reaction of  $Ni(bipy)(SiMeCl<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>$  with diphenylacetylene followed by methylation, although here the nickel(0) complex analogous to II could only be isolated in an impure state. The reaction of both Ia and Ib with other acetylenes such as PhC=CH, PhC=CMe and n-BuC=C-n-Bu, in general gave after similar treatment a mixture of cis- and trans-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl) olefins. The *cis/trans* isomer ratio decreased in the order:  $PhC \equiv CMe$  $PhC \equiv CH$  > Ph $C \equiv CPh$ . A study of solvent effects on the reaction of Ia with PhC=CH showed that the cis/trans isomer ratio decreased as follows: benzene  $>$ diethyl ether  $>$  tetrahydrofuran.

#### **Introduction**

The reactions of transition metal hydrides [2] and alkyls [3] with acetylenic compounds have been investigated extensively, and in general they give rise either to  $\sigma$ -alkenyl— or to acetylene—transition metal complexes. Few reactions leading to the formation of  $\pi$ -olefin-transition metal complexes are known [2d].

Addition of metal hydrides across the triple bond occurs in general in a cisfashion [2] although *trans* addition has been reported in several examples [2d, 4] involving acetylenic compounds substituted by electron-accepting groups such as  $CF<sub>3</sub>$  and  $COOCH<sub>3</sub>$ . To our knowledge, only cis stereochemistry has been observed in the reaction of metal alkyls with acetylenic compounds [3].

\* For a preliminary communication see ref. 1.

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**Compounds containing covalent silicon-transition metal bonds have been .studied extensively in recent years [ 5] . While many studies have been carried out on the** *cleavage* **of such bonds.[6], the addition reaction across a triple bond has been less extensively investigated. Only a few reactions under UV irradiation conditions have been reported by Clark and coworkers [7], who observed that**  while *cis* addition occurs in the reaction of  $Me<sub>3</sub>SiFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>(\pi-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)$  with  $CF<sub>3</sub>C\equiv$ CH, *trans* addition takes place in the reaction of  $Me<sub>3</sub>Simn(CO)<sub>5</sub>$  with  $CF<sub>3</sub>CECF<sub>3</sub>$ **and CF3C=CH. Mechanistic details have not been described.** 

**In the preceding paper [S] we reported the preparation and** *some reactions*  of Ni(bipy)(SiX<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Ia X<sub>3</sub> = Cl<sub>3</sub>, Ib X<sub>3</sub> = MeCl<sub>2</sub>; bipy = bipyridyl). During **further investigations on the reactivity of these covalent silicon-nickel complexes we found that compounds Ia and lb react with various substituted acetylenes**  very easily at or below room temperature to give, after methylation, 1,2-bis(tri**methylsilyl)olefins, generally as a** *cis/trans* **isomer mixture. Furthermore, from**  the reaction of Ia and diphenylacetylene, we have succeeded in isolating [*trans***a,&'-bis(trichlorosilyl)stilbene] bipyridylnickel(0) (II) as an interesting intermediate. This paper deals with these new reactions.** 

#### **Results and discussion**

#### *Reaction of Ni(bipy)(S~X~)~ with dipphenylacetylene*

Bis(trichlorosilyl)bipyridylnickel(II) (Ia) reacted very easily with diphenyl**acetylene in benzene at room temperature with a color change from brown to purple to give a violet colored powdery product (II) (65% yield). The IR spectrum (KBr) showed no peaks** *over* **the range of 1500-1650 cm-' other than those displayed by the starting material Ia.** 

**Although an alternative** *structure II'* **would be possible, the chemical behavior of this product supports the proposed structure.** 



**First, treatment of the above reaction product with methylmagnesium bromide, followed by hydrolysis with dilute hydrochloric acid, gave the known trans-crp'-bis(trimethylsilyl)stilbene (III) [9] as the sole product (55% yield). No** *cis* **isomer [IO] was detected at all. This is consistent with the** *trans* **configu**ration of the olefin ligand bonded to the nickel atom (eqn. 2).



**Second, the action of dry hydrogen chloride on the product of reaction 1 gave, after filtration of the reaction mixture, dichloro(bipyridyl)nickel(II) in quantitative yield. Careful examination of the filtrate by IR spectroscopy revealed the complete absence of trichlorosilane which is expected to be formed from structure II'. Methylation of the filtrate afforded 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)-1,2 diphenylethane [9] (18% yield). No traces of ac-trimethylsilylstilbene which would arise from structure II' were produced.** 

# $II + 2HCl \rightarrow Ni(bipy)Cl<sub>2</sub> + (Cl<sub>3</sub>Si)PhHC–CHPh(SiCl<sub>3</sub>)$  $\text{(Cl}_3\text{Si})\text{PhHC}-\text{CHPh}(\text{SiCl}_3) + \text{6MeMgBr} \rightarrow (\text{Me}_3\text{Si})\text{PhHC}-\text{CHPh}(\text{SiMe}_3)$  (3)

**The olefin-nickel complex II is slightly soluble in benzene but insoluble in ether; it is air-sensitive, especially in solution. II is almost inert to the action of excess triphenylphosphine or trichlorosilane in ether or benzene even under reflux conditions. Such a strong nickel-olefin bond may be attributed to the presence of the electron-accepting trichlorosilyl groups and phenyi groups on both the olefinic carbons.** 

**An analogous reaction between bis(methyldichlorosilyl)bipyridylnickel(II)**   $(1b)$  and PhC $\equiv$ CPh occurred in benzene solution at room temperature within 1 **min, as evidenced by a color change from violet-brown to blue. Although**  attempts to isolate the nickel complex resulted in decomposition,  $\alpha, \alpha'$ -bis(tri**methylsilyl)stilbene (III) could again be obtained in 52% yield by methylation of the product of reaction of equal amounts of Ib and PhC%CPh in benzene at room temperature. In an effort to isolate the nickel-olefin complex, we treated Ib with PhC** $\equiv$ CPh in toluene at a lower temperature ( $-25$  to  $-10^{\circ}$ ) for 3 h. Filtration of the reaction mixture at  $-40^{\circ}$  gave a blue-green precipitate. This is believed to be (bipy)Ni[ticzns-Ph(MeCl,Si)C=C(SiMeClz)Ph] , **although the complex did not show satisfactory analytical data. Methylation of this nickel complex gave III in 14% yield.** 

#### *Reaction of Ni(bipy)(SiX,), (I) with other acetylenes*

**Reactions of I with three other substituted acetylenes, PhC=CH, PhC=CMe and n-BuC=C-n-Bu, in benzene were examined. After a given reaction time the mixture was treated directly with methylmagnesium bromide and then hydrolyzed. GLC analysis of the hydrolyzate showed that disilylation of acetylenes had occurred in all cases, and monosilylation had taken place to a lesser extent (eqn. 4). The results are summarized in Table 1. This table also contains the results of similar reactions with PhC=CPh.** 



**In marked contrast to the case where PhC=CPh was used, the reactions with at least two other acetylenes, (PhCECH and PhC=CMe) gave** *cis* **isomers as main products. Determination of.the stereochemistry of these products was based** 



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<sup>a</sup> Determined by GLC unless otherwise indicated, <sup>b</sup> Determined by NMR. <sup>C</sup> Not determined,

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 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i!} \left( \frac{1}{i!} \right)^i \left( \frac{1}{i!} \right)^i$ 

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IR, <sup>1</sup> H NMR AND ANALYTICAL DATA FOR DISILYLOLEFINS IR, 'II NMR AND ANALYTICAL DATA FOR DISILYLOLEFINS

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TABLE 2

**TABLE 2** 



a Nent. v sh Shoulder. Carbon tetrachloride solution containing cyclohexane as an internal standard (60 MHz) unless otherwise indicated. a See ref. 9. c Ref.

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10, on a 100-MHz NMR spectrometer. <sup>g</sup> Benzene was used as an internal standard for NMR. <sup>fr</sup> 0.91 (t. CH3). 1.28 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>). 2.18 (m, =C-CH<sub>2</sub>). 2.18

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Fig. 1. Shielding of the protons of one of the trimethylsilyl groups in trans-IVa and trans-IVb.

mainly on <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (Table 2). The signal for one of the trimethylsilyl groups for each of trans-IVa and trans-IVb occurs at a higher field than that for the other because of the anisotropic effect of the benzene ring (see Fig. 1). No such effect will be expected for the cis isomers.

Pure trans-IVa was prepared independently by the reaction of PhC=CMe, Mg, and Me<sub>3</sub>SiCl in hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA) (eqn. 5) [9]. The NMR spectrum of trans-IVa, obtained from reaction 4, showed that it contained some monosilylated olefins  $\delta$  -0.07, (s, SiCH<sub>3</sub>), -0.01 (s, SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.59 (m, =CH), 5.85 ppm  $(m, =CH)$ .



Reaction of Ia with n-BuC≡C-n-Bu gave only one isomer of the disilylolefin. GLC analysis in a column packed with Apiezon-L (30% on Celite) or Silicone DC 550 (30% on Celite) showed only one peak and the NMR spectrum (100 MHz) showed only one singlet peak due to the trimethylsilyl group ( $\delta$  0.15 ppm). At present, we cannot determine the geometrical configuration of the product,  $n-Bu(Me_3Si)C=C(SiMe_3)$  n-Bu.

Reactions of Ib with PhC≡CH, PhC≡CMe, and n-BuC≡C-n-Bu were very similar to those of Ia. Ia reacted neither with hexafluoro-2-butyne in toluene nor with acetylene itself in benzene.

We confirmed the absence of cis/trans isomerization in the course of methylation by observing that treatment of pure cis-IVa, b or a mixture of cis- and trans-Iva, b with methylmagnesium bromide followed by hydrolysis with dilute hydrochloric acid gave no change in the isomer ratios.

## Mechanisms for cis and trans addition of silyl groups on I to acetylenic compounds

In general, a mixture of cis- and trans-disilylolefins is formed from the reaction of I with acetylenes as described above and the stereochemistry of the products is dependent upon the nature of the acetylenes used. As shown in Table 1, the ratios of cis to trans addition decrease in the order:  $PhC=CMe > PhC=CH>$ PhC=CPh. This sequence may suggest that an electronic rather than a steric effect of the substituents governs the stereochemistry of the reaction; electrondonating substituents favor cis addition.

On the other hand, it is unlikely that the stereochemistry of the products is

**dependent upon the nature of silyl groups of I since almost the same ratios of the disiiylolefin isomers are observed for Ia and Ib.** 

**The reactivity of the acetylenes toward Ia, examined by a competitive reac**tion method, decreased in the order:  $PhC=CH \ge PhC=CMe \sim n-BuC=Cr-Bu$ **PhC** $\equiv$ CPh. It should be noted that there is a possibility that the reactivity sequence **obtained for various acetylenes by competition experiments is different from that determined in separated experiments because a less reactive acetylene can, by being more strongly complexed, exclude the more reactive from the nickel complex. This situation has been observed in the catalytic hydrogenation of olefins**  over the platinum black, and other catalytic reactions [11, 12]. Therefore, we **are not in a position at presetit to interpret the differences in reactivity of ace**tylenic compounds satisfactorily. However, in view of the inertness of  $CF<sub>3</sub>$  $C<sub>\equiv</sub>$ **CF3, it seems likely that the coordination of an acetylene to nickel is rate**determining. Perfluoroacetylene is known to be a strong  $\pi$  acceptor, but the  $\pi$ **back bonding character of the nickel atom in complex I would be expected to be weak. The differences in reactivity among PhC=CH, PhC=CMe, n-BuC=** C-n-Bu, and PhC≡CPh may be attributed to steric effects.

**Although no simple correlation between the stereochemistry of the reaction and the reactivity of acetylenes was observed, significant information about factors influencing the stereochemistry was obtained from studies on solvent**  and concentration effects. The reaction of Ia with PhC=CH in three different **solvents (benzene, diethyl ether, and tetrahydrofuran) was examined\_ The restilts are summarized in Table 3. The** *cishzns* **ratios varied significantly with the nature of solvent, decreasing in the order: benzene > diethyl ether > THE'. Thus, polar solvents tend to favor** *trans* **addition. Concentrations of the reaction mixture also**  influenced the *cis/trans* ratios as shown by runs 2–4 of Table 3. A higher concen**tration favors the formation of the** *trans* **isomer.** 

**The** *cis* **addition can be best understood in terms of a mechanism involving**  the insertion of an initially coordinated acetylene into the nickel-silicon bond **followed by simultaneous occurrence of reductive elimination and coordination of the now-formed disilylolefin. Similar** *cis* **addition mechanisms have been postulated in many reactions of metal alkyls and hydrides with acetylenic compounds c2,31-** 

**On the other hand, a mechanism whereby tne** *trans* **addition occurred is not fully understood at the moment. However, in the light of the observed effects of substituents, solvents and concentrations on the ratio of** *ci.s/trans* **addition, it seems likely that trans addition would proceed through the initial formation** 







**a Ph(MegSi)C=C<SiMq)H. b** *Determined I-Y* **GLC.** 

**of a (trans-alkenyl)nickel species such as structure II' by a polar, and possibly**  higher than unimolecular, mechanism. To explain the *trans* addition of transition **metal complexes to acetylenes (mostly electronegatively-substituted). pathways involving initial attack of organometallic nucleophiles on acetylenes have often**  been postulated  $[4g, 13]$ .

### **Experimental**

**All stoichiometric reactions were carried** *out in dry, oxygen-free* **nitrogen.**  A Varian Aerograph Model 90P, equipped with a 20-ft column packed with **Apiezon-L (30% on Celite) or Silicone DC 550 (30% on Celite), was used for isolation and purification of volatile products. Microanalyses were carried out in the Microanalytical Center of Pharmaceutical Department of Kyoto University. IR spectra were measured on** *a* **I-Jitachi EPI G3 grating spectrophotometer. NMR**  spectra were obtained on a Varian EM 360 and a Varian HA-100 spectrometer.

**All solvents were dried over metallic sodium and LiAlH, and distilled under**  nitrogen. Trichlorosilane and methyldichlorosilane were distilled from quinoline under nitrogen before use. The complexes Ni(bipy)(SiCl<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and Ni(bipy)(SiMe- $Cl<sub>2</sub>$ )<sub>2</sub> were prepared according to the preceding paper [8]. PhC=CMe and **n-BuC=C-n-&z, were prepared according to the** *literature* **[14].** 

### *[trans-a,a'-B~(trichiorosiZyl)sfiiBene]b~yridylnickel(O) (Ir)*

*1x1* **a 50 ml two-necked flask, equipped with** *a* **three-way tap, were placed Ia (0.80 g, 1.65 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.70 g, 3.9 mmol). To the mixture was added dry benzene (10 ml) with stirring at room temperature. The** \_ **color of the reaction mixture changed from brown to purple. After stirring at room temperature for 3 h, the reaction mixture was filtered, and the solid product was washed with 5 ml of dry benzene and dried in vacua to give 0.705 g (65% yield) of a violet powder (II), m.p. 194-196" (dec. in an evacuated sealed**  tube). (Found: C, 42.78; H, 2.85. C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Cl<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NiSi<sub>2</sub> calcd.: C, 43.54; H, 2.74%)

#### *Reaction of I.. with methylmagnesium bromide*

**To II (0.257 g, 0.388 mmol) in 6 ml of ether was added 25 mmol of methylmagnesium bromide in ether. After refluxing for 3. h, the reaction mixture was hydrolyzed with dilute hydrochloric acid. GLC analysis of the organic layer showed the formation of frans-a:,a'-bis(trimethylsilyl)stilbene (IH) (55%**  yield), which was isolated by preparative GLC and recrystallized from ethanol, **m.p. 115-116". Its IR and NMR spectra were identical with those of an authentic sample prepared as reported 191.** 

#### *Reaction of 11 with dry hydrogen chloride*

**To II CO.132 g, 0.196 mmof) in 10 ml of ether was added a solution of dry hydrogen chloride (4.2 mmol) in benzene (7 ml) at room temperature with stirring. The color of the reaction mixture changed gradually from purple to light green. After stirring at the same temperature for 2 h, the mixture was filtered. Washing the solid product with benzene, and drying it in vacua gave . 0.0669 g (100% yield) of Ni(bipy)Cl<sub>2</sub>, which was identified by comparison of its IR spectrum with that of an authentic sample [15]. The IR spectrum of the** 

**filtrate in a solution cell showed no .formation of trichlorosilane. The filtrate**  was methylated and hydrolyzed. GLC analysis showed the formation of 1,2-bis-(trimethylsilyl)-1,2-diphenylethane (18% yield), which was separated and identified by comparison of its m.p. (152-153.5<sup>o</sup>) and IR spectrum with those of an **authentic sample 193.** 

# *Attempted reaction of II with trichlorosilane and triphenylphosphine*

**A mixture of II (0.21X g,** *0.319* **mmol) and trichlorosilane** *(2.6* **ml) in 10 ml of ether was sitrred at room temperature for 1 h and refluxed for 30 min. No**  change of color of the reaction mixture was observed. Also, no reaction was ob**served between II (0.296 g, 0.448 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (0.353 g, 1.35 mmol) in 7.5 ml of benzene under similar conditions.** 

# *Reaction of Ib with diphenylacetylene followed by methylation*

**To Ib (0.492 g, 1.11 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.198 g, 1.11 mmol) was added benzene (10 ml) with stirring at room temperature. The color of the reaction mixture changed from brown to blue within I min. After stirring at**  room temperature for 25 min, the reaction mixture was treated with methylmag**nesium bromide (7.0 mmol) and hydrolyzed with dilute hydrochloric acid. GLC analysis of the organic layer showed the production of III in 52% yield. No** *cis*  **isomer was observed in its NMR spectrum.** 

#### *Attempts to isolate Ni(bipy)[trans-Ph(MeCl<sub>2</sub>Si)C=C(SiMeCl<sub>2</sub>)Ph]*

**To Ib** *(0.116 g, 1.39* **mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.495 g, 2.78 mmol) was added benzene (15 ml) with stirring at room temperature. After** *20* **min, the reaction mixture was filtered and dried in vacua to give a gray nickel complex of unknown structure.** 

**To II** *(0.367 g, 0.828* **mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.148 g,** *0.828* **mmol)**  was added toluene (10 ml) with stirring  $\cdot$   $-25^{\circ}$ . The color of the reaction mixture changed gradually from brown to blue. After  $3 h$  at  $-10^{\circ}$  the reaction mixture was filtrated at  $-40^{\circ}$ , and the solid product was washed with 4 ml of toluene and **dried in vacua to give 0.230 g of blue-gray powder, m.p. 135-137" (dec. in an**  evacuated sealed tube). (Found: C,  $46.67$ ; H,  $4.09$ .  $C_{26}H_{24}Cl_4N_2NiSi_2$  calcd.: **C, 50.27 ; H, 3.89%) Metbylation of thii nickel complex gave 111 in 14% yield.** 

#### *Reaction of I with PhC≡CH, PhC≡CMe, and n-BuC≡C-n-Bu*

**A typical experiment was asfollows. To fa (0.296 g, 0.611 mmol) in ben**zene  $(5 \text{ ml})$  was added PhC $\approx$ CH  $(0.145 \text{ g}, 1.423 \text{ mmol})$  with stirring at room tem**perature. The color of the reaction mixture changed from brown to purple within 1 min. After stirring** *at room* **temperature for 1 h, the reaction mixture was treated with methylmagnesium bromide (I1 mmol) and then hydrolyzed with dilute hydrochloric acid. GLC analy\$is of the organic layer showed the formation of cis- and trans-Ph(Me3Si)C=C(SiMe3)H** *(cis/trans* **73/27) in 47% yield. The products were isolated by preparative GLC. See Table 2.** 

#### *Preparation of trans-Ph(Me<sub>3</sub>Si)C=C(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)Me*

**A mixture of trimethykhlorosilane (5.6 g, 52 mmol) and magnesium (0.46 g, 19 mmol) in HMPA (15 ml) was heated at 3.20". Phenylmethylacetylene was** 

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added dropwise to the mixture with stirring. After heating at 120<sup>-150°</sup> for 10 h, the reaction mixture was hydrolyzed, and the organic layer was extracted with **n-hexane. GLC analysis showed the formation of trans-Ph(Me<sub>3</sub>Si)C=C(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)Me (1% yield) which was isolated by preparative GLC.** 

# *Attempted reaction of Ia with*  $CF<sub>3</sub>C=CCF<sub>3</sub>$  *and HC=CH*

To Ia  $(0.513 \text{ g}, 1.06 \text{ mmol})$  in toluene  $(20 \text{ ml})$  was added  $CF_3C=CCF_3$  $(2 \text{ ml})$  with stirring at  $-35^{\circ}$ . Additional stirring at  $-35$  to  $-30^{\circ}$  for 2.5 h and **then at 30" for 2 days gave no change of the reaction mixture.** 

Into Ia (0.135 g, 0.280 mmol) in benzene (10 ml) was bubbled acetylene **with stirring at room temperature for 20 min. No change of color of the reaction mixture was observed.** 

# *Competitive reactions of Ia with acetylenes*

*The* **following was a typical'pzocedure. To Ia (0.306 g, 0.633 mmol) in benzene (7 ml) was added a mixture of PhC=CMe (0.366 g, 3.15 mmol) and n-BuC=**  C-n-Bu  $(0.432 g, 3.13 mmol)$  with stirring at room temperature. After 1 h, the **reaction mixture was methylated and then hydrolyzed\_ The organic layer was analyzed by GLC.** 

# **Acknowledgements**

**The authors thank Toshiba Silicone Co., Ltd. and Nitto Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. for support of this work.** 

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