

early-transition-metal thiolates.<sup>9</sup> Our finding provides useful information relevant to the mechanism of industrially important hydrodesulfurization processes promoted by, e.g., commercial  $Co-Mo/Al_2O_3$  catalysts.<sup>10</sup> The mechanism of reaction 1 and reactivity of 2b,c are under investigation.

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Supplementary Material Available: Positional and thermal parameters, bond distances, and bond angles for 2b (5 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

## First Photochemical Envelope Isomerization of a Late-Transition-Metal 1,3-Butadiene Complex: A **Triple Stereochemical Labeling Experiment**

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Several reports have appeared1 concerning a fundamentally new thermal isomerization reaction of early-transition-metal  $\eta^4$ -butadiene complexes in which exo and endo substituents at C-1 and/or C-4 exchange positions (e.g.,  $1 \rightleftharpoons 3$ , Scheme I). common intermediate that has been proposed in these transformations is the metallacyclopent-3-ene 2 characteristic of a so-called "envelope flip" process. However, mechanistic evidence for this rare species has been scarce and stepwise pathways, such as those





involving (perhaps concerted) reversible butadiene-cyclobutene closures<sup>2</sup> and others,<sup>3</sup> have not been ruled out. We report here the first photochemical isomerization of this type, the first to be observed for a late transition metal (e.g., cobalt), and a stereochemical experiment clearly linking simultaneous double exo-endo exchange with a switch of the metal from one  $\pi$  face of the ligand to the other (inversion at the metal) as required by Scheme I.

Our experiment took its motivation from the observation that while the  $n^5$ -CpCo complex of 1.4-*cis.cis*-dideuteriobutadiene (1)  $(M = CpCo, \hat{R}^1 = H, \hat{R}^2 = D)$  underwent stereorandomization at temperatures above 140 °C, irradiation at -96 °C with a krypton ion laser (406, 413, 415 nm) led to rapid and stereospecific equilibration with  $(n^{4}-1, 4-trans, trans-dideuteriobutadiene)$  cyclopentadienylcobalt (3) (M = CpCo,  $R^1 = H$ ,  $R^2 = D$ ), none of the cis,trans isomer being detectable.<sup>3,4</sup> The stereochemistry of both reactions was ascertained by oxidative demetalation (Fe<sup>3</sup> which was shown to be stereospecific, and Raman analysis of the free ligand.5 While this experiment was consistent with an envelope flip, which necessitates such a double exchange, the unique feature of inversion with respect to the ligand  $\pi$  system had to be proven by an additional experiment. For this purpose, we chose to prepare the two diastereomers 4 and 5 bearing three stereochemical labels. Scheme I requires diastereoisomerization with concomitant deuterioisomerization, e.g.,  $4 \approx 6$  and  $5 \approx 7$ , whereas any pathway involving retention at the metal would lead to equilibrations  $4 \rightleftharpoons 7$  and  $5 \rightleftharpoons 6$ .

The required chiral and stereospecifically labeled ligand was made as shown in Scheme II. The crucial features of the sequence are benzylation of 1-(trimethylsilyl)butyne<sup>6</sup> via its anion,<sup>7</sup> regioand stereoselective hydrosilylation-deuteriodesilylation,8 stereospecific bromination<sup>9</sup> of a 2-deuterio-1-alkyl-1-silylethene, stereospecific palladium-catalyzed coupling<sup>10</sup> of a deuterated vinyl bromide with trans-1-(tributylstannyl)-2-(trimethylsilyl)ethene,<sup>11</sup> and the stereospecific deuteriodesilylation of a 1,3-diene to give the target structure.<sup>12</sup> Its stereochemistry was unambiguously confirmed by complexation to cobalt [CpCo(CH<sub>2</sub>=CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>,<sup>13</sup> pentane, 25°C, 4h] to give 4 and 5 (1:1, 75%, the stereochemical

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Scheme II<sup>4</sup>



<sup>a</sup> (a) (1) CH<sub>3</sub>MgBr, THF, 25 °C, 10 h; (2) (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SiCl, 25 °C, 4 h; (b) (1) (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CLi, THF, -70 °C, 5 h; (2) C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Cl, -50 °C, 45 min; (c) (1) H<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>6</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>SiH, 25 °C, 12 h, 60 °C, 2 h; (2) CH<sub>3</sub>MgBr, ether, 25 °C, 18 h,  $\Delta$ , 5 h; (d) CF<sub>3</sub>COOD, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, 1 h; (e) (1) Br<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -78 °C, 20 min; (2) CH<sub>3</sub>ONa, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -10-25 °C, 3 h; (f) *trans*-1-(tributylstannyl)-2-(trimethylsilyl)ethene, Pd[P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>4</sub>, THF,  $\Delta$ , 40 h; (g) CF<sub>3</sub>COOD, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -10 to -5 °C, 1 h.

Table I. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ ) Chemical Shifts of Complexes 4-7 in  $\delta$  and J (Hz)



assignment with respect to the metal center is arbitrary), partially separable by HPLC (alumina) and exhibiting highly diagnostic chemical shifts for the complexed diene hydrogens (Table I).<sup>14</sup>

Irradiation (GE-ELH, 300 W, two lamps, 6 h, or krypton ion laser, 2 W, 30 min) of a 1:5 mixture of 4 and 5 in  $C_6D_6$  gave complete diastereoisomerization (e.g.,  $4 \Rightarrow 6$ ;  $5 \Rightarrow 7$ ; 1:1) as evidenced by the equilibration of the peaks for 4 and 5 to equal intensity, except for H<sup>1</sup> and H<sup>3</sup> for which new peaks emerged characteristic of 6 and 7 in a 1:5 ratio. Concomitant with their appearance, the intensity of the peaks for H<sup>1</sup> and H<sup>3</sup> of 4 and 5 decreased by 50%. Because  $J_{\text{trans}} \sim J_{\text{cis}}$  in these complexes,<sup>14</sup> the resonances for H<sub>2</sub> only broaden ( $J_{\text{trans}} = 8.6$  Hz,  $J_{\text{cis}} = 7.5$  Hz, Table I). The results clearly show that isotopomerization occurs synchronous with diastereoisomerization and without ligand crossover.

We believe that this experiment provides the so far most conclusive evidence for the occurrence of the envelope inversion mechanism in the fluxional behavior of  $\eta^4$ -diene complexes. The

utility of stoichiometric thermal intermediates of the type 2 in synthetic organic chemistry<sup>1b,15</sup> has been demonstrated, and our examples suggest that it may be catalytically exploitable in the extensive photochemistry of metal dienes.<sup>16</sup>

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Supplementary Material Available: Spectral data of all new compounds reported (2 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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