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14-Electron Disilene Palladium Complex Having Strong *π*-Complex Character

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Much attention has been focused on the structure of transition metal complexes with η^2 -silicon-silicon doubly bonded species as ligands (disilene complexes). In related alkene complexes,¹ the bonding of an alkene to a transition metal center is usually understood in terms of alkene-to-metal σ -donation and metal-toalkene π -back-donation, according to the Dewar-Chatt-Duncanson model.² The structure of an alkene complex is significantly influenced by the relative importance between the σ -donation and the π -back-donation; hence, they are classified into a π -complex having a major contribution of σ -donation and a metallacycle having dominant π -back-donation. The geometry around the alkene ligand in the π -complex is not very much different from that of the free alkene, while that in the metallacycle is significantly distorted and characterized by an elongated $C^{1}-C^{2}$ bond length (r) and a large bent-back angle (θ) defined by the angle between the R¹-C¹-R² (or $R^3-C^2-R^4$) plane and the C^1-C^2 bond.



In contrast to alkene complexes, very few studies have been reported on the synthesis and properties of disilene complexes.^{3–6} All the disilene complexes whose X-ray structures are known, $Cp_2W(Si_2Me_4)$ reported by Berry et al.⁴ and 16-electron disilene platinum and palladium complexes **1–3** reported by us,⁶ are characterized as the metallacylcle on the basis of the above criteria. We report herein the successful synthesis of the first 14-electron disilene palladium complex **4** having strong π -complex character.⁷ Complex **4** is promising as a synthetic reagent for novel organosilicon compounds, in view of the high reactivity of three-coordinate 14-electron complexes having a vacant coordination site.⁸



Disilene complex **4** was obtained as air-sensitve dark-red crystals in 85% yield by the reaction of $(Cy_3P)_2PdCl_2$ **5** with 1,2dilithiodisilane **6**⁹ in THF at room temperature (eq 1).¹⁰ The molecular structure of **4** was determined by ¹H, ¹³C, ²⁹Si, and ³¹P NMR spectroscopies and X-ray crystallography.¹¹ The initial reaction would be the reduction of **5** by **6** giving zerovalent $(Cy_3P)_2Pd$ (7) and free tetrakis(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)disilene (8).¹² Because both 7 and 8 were actually observed during the reaction by NMR spectroscopy, the coupling between 7 and 8 accompanied by the elimination of Cy_3P would give the final 14-electron complex 4. During the reaction of $(Cy_3P)_2PtCl_2$ with 6, $(Cy_3P)_2Pt$ and 8 formed, but no further reaction proceeded even at reflux in THF.

$$(Cy_{3}P)_{2}PdCl_{2} + \begin{array}{c} SiR_{3} \\ \downarrow I = Si - SiR_{3} \\ Li = Si - SiR_{3} \\ 5 \\ SiR_{3} \\ 6 \end{array} \xrightarrow{THF, rt, 24 h} 4 (85\%)$$
(1)

X-ray structural analysis revealed interesting structural characteristics of complex **4** (Figure 1). In the solid state, the central palladium atom was tricoordinated with the coordination of one tricyclohexylphosphine and an η^2 -disilene; Pd–Si1 and Pd–Si2 distances are 2.3610(9) and 2.4168(8) Å. The geometry around the palladium atom was almost planar with the sum of bond angles of 357.60(3)°. Interestingly, tricyclohexylphosphine ligand coordinates unsymmetrically to the cyclopalladadisilane ring; the angles of P–Pd–Si1 and P–Pd–Si2 were 128.94(3)° and 171.83(3)°, respectively. The central Si1–Si2 bond length was 2.274(1) Å, which is longer by 0.072 Å than that of the corresponding free disilene **8** (2.202(1) Å)¹² but considerably shorter than the reported Si–Si single bond (2.335–2.697 Å).

In ¹H, ¹³C, and ²⁹Si NMR spectra of **4** in benzene- d_6 at room temperature, four *t*-BuMe₂Si groups were equivalent, and the ²⁹Si resonance of disilene silicon nuclei was observed as a doublet at 65.3 ppm [$J(^{29}\text{Si}-^{31}\text{P}) = 19$ Hz]. The doublet signal was unchanged even at -80 °C. Facile flipping of the Cy₃P group shown in eq 2 would be responsible for the highly symmetric NMR patterns of **4** (vide infra).

$$\begin{array}{c} Cy_{3}P_{} \\ Pd \xleftarrow{} | \\ Si(SiR_{3})_{2} \\ Si(SiR_{3})_{2} \end{array} \xrightarrow{} Pd \xleftarrow{} | \\ Cy_{2}P' \\ Si(SiR_{3})_{2} \end{array}$$
(2)

The ²⁹Si NMR resonance at +65.3 ppm is considerably downfield-shifted compared to the corresponding resonances of complexes **2** (-46.5 ppm), **3** (-51.9 ppm), and hexakis(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)cyclotrisilane (-156.5 ppm)¹³ but still upfield from that of free disilene **8** (+142.1 ppm).¹² The tendency may be related to the difference in the π -complex character among these disilametallacycles.

The bent-back angle θ and bond elongation $\Delta r/r_0$ ($\Delta r = r-r_0$, where r_0 is the Si1–Si2 bond length in the corresponding free disilene) for Cp₂W(Si₂Me₄),¹⁴ **1**, **2**, and **3** are estimated to be 30.2° and 3.7%, 29.3° and 5.4%, 27.5° and 4.6%, and 26.0° and 5.3%, respectively. Theoretical calculations for (H₃P)₂Pt(Si₂H₄) and (H₃P)₂-Pd(Si₂H₄) showed the metallacycle character of these complexes, whose θ and $\Delta r/r_0$ are 25° and 5.6% for the platinum complex and 24° and 5.3% for the palladium complex.¹⁵ The bent-back angle θ around the central Si atoms of **4** were 4.41° for Si1 and 9.65° for



Figure 1. Molecular structure of complex 4. In the single crystal of 4, toluene molecules were included with the 4:toluene ratio of 1:1. Hydrogen atoms and the toluene molecule were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Pd-Si1 2.3610(9), Pd-Si2 2.4168(8), Pd-P 2.3919(8), Si1-Si2 2.2740(11), Pd-Si1-Si2 62.82(3), Pd-Si2-Si1 60.35(3), Si1-Pd-Si2 56.83(3), P-Pd-Si1 128.94(3), P-Pd-Si2 171.83(3).

Si2, respectively. The $\Delta r/r_0$ value for **4** was 3.2%. On the basis of the considerably smaller θ and $\Delta r/r_0$ values for 4 than those for 1-3, 4 is regarded as the complex having the strongest π -complex character among the known disilene complexes, due to the intrinsic electron-deficient nature of the central metal of 14-electron complex.

DFT calculations¹⁶ for a model 14-electron complex [9, $(Me_3P)Pd\{(H_3Si)_2Si=Si(SiH_3)_2\}$ revealed that as shown in the following chart, the unsymmetrical (T-type)¹⁷ structure observed for 4 was well reproduced by the optimized structure (9U), while the P-Pd-Si¹ angle for 9U was much smaller than that observed for 4 (128.9°) probably due to the steric effects of bulky trialkylsilyl substituents in 4. Unsymmetrical complex 9U was 2.9 kcal/mol more stable than symmetrical $(Y-type)^{17}$ complex $9S^{\ddagger}$, which was found to be a transition state for the inversion process shown in eq 2. The calculated very low barrier for the inversion is compatible with the symmetric NMR spectra of 4 at even low temperatures.¹⁸



The planarity around the Si=Si bond increased in the order $[(Me_3P)_2Pd\{(H_3Si)_2Si=Si(SiH_3)_2\}]$ (10) < 9U < 9S[‡]; the θ and $\Delta r/r_0$ values were 28.2° and 4.3%, 21.5° (av) and 3.9%, and 14.2° and 2.7%, for 10, 9U, and 9S[‡], respectively. The order would be understood by the effective π -back-donation, depending on the overlap between the lone-pair orbital of a phosphine ligand and a d orbital responsible for the π -back-donation.¹⁹ Since the π -backdonation in a three-coordinate 14-electron complex is expected to decrease with increasing P-Pd-Si¹ angle, the higher planarity around the Si=Si bond in 4 than that in 9U may be attributed in part to the larger P-Pd-Si1 angle in 4.

Further works on the unique reactions of complex 4 are in progress.

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Supporting Information Available: Details for the synthesis of 4 and the X-ray structure determination of 4 (toluene), theoretical results for model compounds 9 and 10. The X-ray crystallographic data are also available in CIF format. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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- (10) For experimental details, see the Supporting Information. 4: air-sensitive dark-red crystals; mp 190 °C dec; ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, δ) 0.55 (s, 12 H, Me), 0.69 (s, 12 H, Me), 1.26 (s, 36 H, *t*-Bu), 1.43–1.93 (m, 33 H, cyclohexyl); ¹³C NMR (C₆D₆, δ) 2.3 (SiCH₃), 3.8 (SiCH₃), 20.0 (C(CH₃)₃), 26.5 (PCHCH₂CH₂CH₂), 27.9 (d, ¹/(P-C) = 11 Hz, PCH), 30.3 (C(CH₃)₃), 26.5 (PCHCH₂CH₂CH₂), 27.9 (d, ¹/(P-C) = 11 Hz, PCH), 30.3 (C(CH₃)₃), 31.6 (d, ³/(P-C) = 6 Hz, PCHCH₂CH₂), 34.4 (\overline{d} , ²/(P-C) = 7 Hz, PCHCH₂); ²⁹Si NMR (79 MHz, C₆D₆, $\overline{\delta}$) 3.9 (SiMe₂Bu-*t*), 65.3 (d, ²/(P-Si) = 19 Hz); ³¹P NMR (161 MHz, C₆D₆, δ) 17.5; UV-vis (hexane) λ_{max}/nm (ϵ) 362 (3800), 433 (2200), 472 (3000). Anal. Calcd for C₄₂H₉₃-PPdSi₆: C, 55.80; H, 10.37. Found: C, 55.90; H, 10.20.
- (11) Crystal data for 4 (150 K): C₄₂H₉₃PdSi₆·(C₇H₈); FW. 995.23; triclinic; P1 (No. 2); a = 12.0473(2) Å; b = 12.7355(4) Å; c = 20.3952 (1) Å; $\alpha = 76.653(8)^{\circ}$; $\beta = 71.024(7)^{\circ}$; $\gamma = 85.812(9)^{\circ}$; $D_{calc} = 1.140$ g/cm³; Z = 2; R1 = 0.0463 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$); wR2 = 0.0962 (all data); GOF = 1.070.
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- (16) All calculations were carried out at the B3LYP level using a Gaussian 98 program, revision A.11.4; Gaussian, Inc.: Pittsburgh, PA, 2001. The basis sets were 6-31G* for H, C, Si, P and Lanl2dz for Pd. See the Supporting Information for the details of the calculations.
- (17) See ref 8 for the terminology of T- and Y-types.
- (18) Similar T-type structures have been found for other three-coordinate 14 electron complexes.^{7,8} Because the energy difference between 9U and 9S[#] is very small, the possibility that 4 having bulky trialkylsilyl substituents adopts a symmetric structure similar to that of $9S^{\pm}$ in solution may not be ruled out. It is an interesting issue to explain why unsymmetric complex $9\mathbf{U}$ is more stable than symmetric complex $9\mathbf{S}^{\sharp}$ in this particular case. More detailed MO analysis of these and related complexes is currently in progress
- (19) If we take x and y axes to be parallel and perpendicular to the Si=Si bond, respectively, through the Pd metal in the three-membered ring plane, the d_{xy} orbital should be responsible for the π -back-donation. The electron donation from d_{xy} to Si=Si π^* orbital will increase with increasing the overlap between phosphine n and d_{xy} orbitals. The overlap in 10 is approximately twice of that in 9U, and no such overlap is expected in The natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis indicates that, while σ -donation is similar among 9U, 9S⁺, and 10, the extent of π -back-donation decreases in the order 10 > 9U > 9S⁺, being in accord with the order of the planarity around the Si=Si bond.¹⁶ The θ values at Si¹ and Si² of 9U are significantly different from each other, suggesting strong trans influence of the phosphine ligand.

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