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Studies of C–S Bond Cleavage Reactions of Re(V) Dithiolates: Synthesis, Reactivity, and Mechanism

Ming Li, Arkady Ellern, and James H. Espenson*

Contribution from the Ames Laboratory and Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011 Received March 25, 2005; E-mail: espenson@iastate.edu

Abstract: A series of rhenium(V) complexes, $[(X)(ReO)(dt)(PPh_3)]$ and $[(o-SC_6H_4PPh_2)(ReO)(mtp)]$, were prepared to explore electronic effects on the C–S cleavage reaction that occurs upon reaction with PAr₃ at ambient temperature [where X = S(C₆H₄-*p*-*Z*) (Z = OMe, Me, H, F, Cl), OPh, Cl, and SC₂H₅, and dt is the chelating dithiolate ligand derived from 2-(mercaptomethyl)thiophenol, 1,2-ethanedithiol, 1,3-propanedithiol, 1,3-butanedithiol, and 2,4-pentanedithiol]. The scope and selectivity of the C–S activation were examined. The C–S bond cleavage to form metallacyclic Re(V) complexes with a Re≡S core occurs only for the complexes with mtp and pdt frameworks and X = SAr and SC₂H₅. The difference in reactivity is due to the different donating abilities of ancillary and dithiolate ligands, especially their π -donating ability, which plays a critical role in C–S activation. The kinetics of the C–S activation process was determined; nucleophilic attack of PPh₃ on the oxo group of the Re^VO core appears to be the rate-controlling step. The reaction is accelerated by electron-poor ArS ligands, but is unaffected by the substituents on phosphines. A detailed mechanistic study is presented. The results represent a rare example of migration of alkanethiolate leading to the formation of alkylthiolato complexes.

Introduction

The chemical reactivities of oxorhenium(V) complexes containing a chelated dithiolate (dt) ligand¹ pose dramatic contrasts depending on whether the "bystander" ligand is PhS or Me.² These chemical equations show the reactions with PPh₃/ PAr₃ that occur readily at ambient temperature, illustrating the sharp distinction between the two.

$$(2)$$



Equations 1 and 2 represent the results of the evidently complex process that is the principal focus of this article. In the course of these reactions, the Re–O bond is broken, a

terminal Re–S bond is made at the expense of C–S–Re bonds, and a C–Re bond is formed. The Me–Re analogue, on the other hand, undergoes only ligand substitution in sequential steps, eq $3.^3$

This article presents new data for the reactions represented by eqs 1 and 2 through variations of the constitution of the rhenium reagents, as shown in the structural formulas for 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 in Chart 1. The kinetics of these reactions was studied to determine the chemical mechanism. Additionally, attention has been devoted to understanding the contrasting behavior of the PhS-Re and Me-Re compounds in light of further findings concerning [XReO(dt)(PPh₃)], 5 and 6, where X = Cl, PhO, and EtS in addition to PhS.

Results

Synthesis of Rhenium(V) Complexes. The most efficient route to monomeric oxorhenium(V) complexes is by reaction of the more readily prepared dimers.⁴ In this study, compounds **1** and **5b** were prepared by converting the recently reported,⁵ brown-colored dimers, {PhSReO(dt)}₂, to the green monomers, [PhSReO(dt)(PPh₃)], by reaction with a *controlled quantity* of PPh₃, namely a 1:2 ratio of dimer to PPh₃. The products were characterized by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy and by elemental analysis. The experimental details for these reactions, shown in Scheme 1, are described in the Experimental Section. These reactions proceed in high yield for dt = mtp and edt

⁽¹⁾ Abbreviations: mtpH₂, 2-(mercaptomethyl)thiophenol; edtH₂, 1,2-ethanedithiol; pdtH₂, 1,3-propanedithiol; pdtMeH₂, 1,3-butanedithiol; pdtMe₂H₂, 2,4-pentanedithiol. Stand-alone formulas for the ligands *in complexes* are written as mtp, edt, etc., without charge being shown.

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Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of 1a with thermal ellipsoids drawn to 50% probability.

C28

Chart 1



S-loop-S = mtp, edt, pdt, pdtMe, and pdtMe₂

because monomerization proceeds much more readily than the C-S bond cleavage reactions. With dt = pdt, pdtMe, and $pdtMe_2$, however, mixtures of monomers were obtained due to stereoisomers and the competing formation of C-S cleavage products; no attempts were made to isolate the monomers.

The structure of **1a** in the solid state was determined by X-ray crystallography. An ORTEP diagram is shown in Figure 1, and selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 1. The structure is very close to that of its analogue, [MeReO(mtp)-(PPh₃)], **9**. The dithiolate ligand in **1a** is bound asymmetrically with Re-S1 = 233.46(10) pm and Re-S2 = 228.44(10) pm; the Re-O distance is 169.3(3) pm. These distances are comparable to those found in **9**, for which the three respective bond distances are 234.0, 227.54, and 169.6 pm.⁶

The monomerization reaction (Scheme 1) was used to prepare the Re^VO complexes with various phosphines. Room-temperature syntheses of [ClReO(dt)(PPh₃)] with dt = edt (**5a**) and mtp (**6a**) were developed. The method proved to be useful for preparing precursors to a variety of complexes with different ancillary ligand environments. Reactions of [Cl₃ReO(PPh₃)₂] and 1.0 equiv of edt or mtp in toluene afford products **5a** and **6a**, respectively.

$$[Cl_3ReO(PPh_3)_2] + dtH_2 \rightarrow [ClReO(dt)(PPh_3)] + PPh_3 + 2HCl (dt = edt, mtp) (4)$$

The ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra and the elemental analyses are consistent with the given formulas. Further evidence comes from the single-crystal X-ray structures. The ORTEP diagrams of the molecular structures are shown in Figure 2. These square-pyramidal molecules resemble **1a**, with Re–Cl distances of 234.29(19) and 232.62(18) pm for **5a** and **6a**, respectively, which are similar to those in related Re(V) dithiolate complexes.⁷ The chloride ion is positioned trans to the benzylic sulfur atom. Attempts to synthesize [ClReO(dt)(PPh₃)] (dtH₂ = pdtH₂, 1,2-benzenedimethanethiol, and 1,4-butanedithiol) by a similar procedure were unsuccessful.

With **5a** and **6a** in hand, substitution reactions with ancillary ligands were examined. Treatment of **6a** with 1.0 equiv of LiSC₆H₄-*p*-X (X = OMe, Me, F, Cl) gave **1a**-**e** as green solids in 51–68% yields (Scheme 2). The ¹H NMR spectra of these complexes display very similar resonance patterns; their ³¹P NMR spectra show a singlet at 18.7 \pm 0.1 ppm.

Treatment of **6a** with 1.0 equiv of the chelating ligand lithium 2-(diphenylphosphino)benzenethiolate in benzene resulted in displacement of PPh₃ and formation of **7** (Scheme 2). Its ³¹P NMR spectrum exhibits a singlet at δ 55.9 ppm. The structure of **7** was confirmed by X-ray diffraction (Figure 3); selected distances and angles are given in Table 1. The coordination geometry about rhenium is square-pyramidal, with a Re–O length of 168.6(5) pm and Re–S bond lengths in the range of 227.89(18)–235.1(2) pm. The aryl ring of the chelating ligand o-SC₆H₄PPh₂ is nearly coplanar with the P1–Re–S3 plane: the dihedral angle is 13.9°. The distances between rhenium and its donor atoms are only slightly affected, as can be seen from a comparison of the structures of **1a** and **7**.

Addition of 1.0 equiv of LiSC₂H₅ to **6a** followed by workup afforded **6b** as a green solid. The ¹H NMR spectrum established the presence of an ethyl group in which the CH₃ protons appeared at δ 1.45 and the chemically inequivalent CH₂ protons appeared as doublets of quintets at δ 3.86 and 3.69. A suitable crystal was obtained by vapor diffusion of hexane into a CH₂-Cl₂ solution of the complex. The significant bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 1; an ORTEP diagram is shown in Figure 3. Treatment of **6a** with 1.0 equiv of LiOPh in anaerobic THF led to the desired product (Scheme 2). The salient feature in the ¹H NMR spectrum of **6c** is the appearance of the methylene protons at δ 4.77 and 3.37, upshifted in comparison with **6a**; the ³¹P resonance shifts from δ 23.0 (**6a**) to 32.5 ppm (**6c**). In a similar manner, treatment of **5a** with LiSC₂H₅ at room temperature gave [EtSReO(edt)(PPh₃)], **5c**, after 3 h.

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Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (pm) and Angles (deg)

	1a	5a ^b	6a	6b	7	9 ^c
Re-O	169.3(3)	169.3(5)	167.5(5)	168.8(4)	168.6(5)	169.6(5)
$Re-S_{Ph}^{a}$	233.46(10)	228.8(2)	231.7(2)	233.0(2)	235.1(2)	234.0(2)
$\text{Re}-\text{S}_{\text{Bn}}^{a}$	228.44(10)	225.30(19)	223.73(19)	228.06(18)	227.89(18)	227.54(19)
$Re-X^a$	230.09(10)	234.29(19)	232.62(18)	2.270(2)	230.79(18)	213.1(7)
Re-P	249.81(10)	247.99(17)	248.68(18)	247.86(17)	243.63(18)	244.68(19)
$O-Re-S_{Ph}^{a}$	105.78(10)	108.63(17)	104.95(19)	105.48(17)	106.15 (19)	109.06(19)
O-Re-S _{Bn} ^a	119.21(10)	113.7(2)	114.3(2)	117.9(2)	115.03(18)	116.14(19)
O-Re-P	92.10(10)	99.47(17)	92.87(19)	92.11(17)	98.96(18)	100.13(18)
O-Re-X	113.99(10)	111.9(2)	120.9(2)	115.2(2)	113.68(18)	112.1(3)

^{*a*} S_{Ph} is bound to the phenyl of mtp; S_{Bn} is the benzylic S, bound to the methylene group of mtp; X = Cl for **6a** and **5a**; X = S for **1a**, **6b**, and **7**; and X = C for **9**. ^{*b*} Both S_{Ph} and S_{Bn} refer to the edt ligand. ^{*c*} Data from one of two independent molecules; ref 6.



Figure 2. ORTEP diagrams for **5a** and **6a** with thermal ellipsoids drawn to 50% probability.

Reactions of the mtp Complexes 1a–e with PPh₃. As reported previously, treatment of 1a with excess PPh₃ leads to the metalacyclic Re(V) complex 2a, eq 1. Similarly, C–S bond cleavage reactions also occur for $[XC_6H_4SReO(mtp)(PPh_3)]$ (1b–e, X = OMe, Me, F, Cl). These reactions were confirmed by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra. Products 2b–e show NMR patterns quite similar to that of 2a. The ¹H NMR resonances of the methylene group of the mtp ligand of each product are downshifted in comparison with those of the corresponding reactants; the ³¹P NMR spectra exhibit resonances around δ 35.0.

Treatment of **6b** with excess PPh_3 in benzene at room temperature allowed the isolation of **8** as a red-brown solid in

low yield after column chromatography. Examination of the



entire reaction mixture by ¹H NMR in C₆D₆ revealed that the conversion of **6b** to **8** proceeded quantitatively, although the isolated yield was lower owing to decomposition on the chromatographic column. The ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra of **8** are consistent with the C–S bond rupture at the position trans to the ethanethiolate ligand. In particular, the δ 4.92 doublets of doublets (⁴J_{P-H} = 1.2 and ²J_{H-H} = 12 Hz) and the δ 3.35 doublet (²J_{H-H} = 12 Hz), assigned as the methylene protons of the benzylic moiety in the ¹H NMR spectrum of **6b**, are replaced by δ 6.67 (³J_{P-H} = 3.2 and ²J_{H-H} = 16.6 Hz) and δ 4.09 (³J_{P-H} = 9.6 and ²J_{H-H} = 16.6 Hz) doublets of doublets. Accordingly, the chemical shifts of the ethyl protons are slightly changed, although two sets of multiplets of the methylene protons of the ethyl group are collapsed to one set.

Reactions of **6a**, **6c**, and **7** with PPh₃ were monitored by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra in C_6D_6 . Neither a C–S cleaving reaction nor a triphenylphosphine oxide adduct of rhenium was observed, even upon prolonged reaction time or heating. It should be mentioned that the phosphorus resonance of **6a**, upon addition of excess PPh₃, broadens without changing its chemical shift, presumably due to PPh₃ exchange.

Reactions of pdt Complexes with PPh₃. In reactions of the Re(V) complexes with an mtp ligand, 1a-e, C–S bond cleavage occurred *only* at the benzylic moiety. To learn whether this is intrinsic or due to the mtp ligand, complexes with pdt were prepared. Treatment of **3a** with PPh₃ yields the thoroughly characterized C–S cleavage product **4a**. Its formation does not allow a distinction to be made as to the position of C–S bond scission, owing to the symmetry of the pdt ligand. Thus we



examined the reactions of asymmetric pdt isomers with PPh₃. Reaction of 1,3-butanedithiol (pdtMe) with $\{(\text{ReO})(\text{SPh})_3\}_2^5$ in a ratio of 2:1 should, in principle, afford the three dimeric stereoisomers shown in Chart 2.

Scheme 2

C4

C5



Figure 3. ORTEP diagrams for **6b** and **7** with thermal ellipsoids drawn to 50% probability.

'n

According to the ¹H NMR spectra of the dimers used in the C–S cleaving reaction, the ratio of methyl groups pointing toward the Re \equiv O bond to those pointing away from that bond is 3.37:1. Two well-resolved sets of proton and phosphorus resonances of unequal intensity were observed in the NMR spectra of the C–S cleaved products in C₆D₆. The proton resonances were correlated by a 2D COSY spectrum (Figure S1, Supporting Information); the phosphorus resonances appear at δ 31.8 and 32.3 for **4b** and **4c**, respectively. Integration of



1a X = H 1b X = OMe

1c X = Me 1d X = F 1e X = Cl

Figure 4. ORTEP diagram for **4b** with thermal ellipsoids drawn to 50% probability. Selected distances (pm) and bonding angles (°): Re(1)-S(3), 208.99(10); Re(1)-C(4), 214.6(4); Re(1)-S(1), 226.88(9); Re(1)-S(2), 228.57(9); Re(1)-P(1), 244.00(8); S(3)-Re(1)-C(4), 107.75(11); S(3)-Re(1)-S(1), 117.55(4); C(4)-Re(1)-S(1), 79.43(10); S(3)-Re(1)-S(2), 12.97(4); C(4)-Re(1)-S(2), 88.01(10); S(3)-Re(1)-P(1), 101.75(4); S(4)-Re(1)-P(1), 84.27(3).



the CH₃ resonances affords a ratio of 3.26:1, which is in excellent agreement with that of the reactants. The identities of isomers **4b** (major) and **4c** were assigned on the basis of 2D COSY and HMQC C-H correlation spectra.



The structure of **4b** was confirmed by X-ray diffraction; the ORTEP diagram and significant bond lengths and angles are shown in Figure 4. The methyl group lies on the same side of



Figure 5. ³¹P NMR spectra of monomerization of the dimers with pdt (A) and mtp (B) ligands with PPh₃ in CD₂Cl₂.

the molecule as the sulfide-rhenium bond; the Re \equiv O distance is 208.99(10) pm. The Re-C bond distance in **4b** is 214.6(4) pm, comparable to those found in **4a** and other related Re(V)-S complexes.⁸

To learn whether C-S bond scission is regioselective, the monomerization of dimers with mtp, pdt, and pdtMe ligands was monitored in a $1:2^+$ ratio of dimer to PPh₃ by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy in CD₂Cl₂. For the dimer with a pdt ligand, one intensified resonance at 17.7 ppm assignable to **3a** was observed in the ³¹P NMR spectra in Figure 5A, in addition to **4a** at 31.2 ppm, free PPh₃ at -4.8 ppm, and Ph₃PO at 28.1 ppm. Unexpectedly, two monomeric isomers with the mtp ligand were detected as shown in Figure 5B. The resonance due to **1a** appears at 18.6 ppm and that due to **1a'** at 17.0 ppm; moreover, isomer **1a'** was converted rapidly to **1a** by PPh₃ catalysis.³



In monomerization of the dimer with the pdtMe ligand, two pairs of resonances with roughly equal intensity were observed; those at 17.4 and 16.8 ppm were assigned to **3b** and **3b'** and those at 17.1 and 15.6 ppm to **3c** and **3c'**. In contrast to the case with the mtp ligand, no interconversion between **3b** and **3b'**, or between **3c** and **3c'**, was observed, even in a 1:12 ratio of the dimer to PPh₃ (Figure 6). As the reaction proceeded, the



Figure 6. Variation of 31 P NMR spectra with time in CD₂Cl₂ for monomerization of the dimer with the pdtMe ligand (6.5 mM) with PPh₃ (77 mM): 15 min (bottom), 2 h (middle), and 4 h (top).

isomers **3b/3b'** and **3c/3c'** disappeared to form *only* **4b** (δ 30.9 ppm) and **4c** (δ 31.5 ppm), respectively. The results show clearly that the C-S cleavage is not regioselective.



The difference in monomerization with asymmetric mtp and pdtMe can perhaps be attributed to the coordination abilities of the thiolato donors. In mtp, the sulfur atom directly connected to the phenyl ring coordinates to the rhenium center less strongly than the sulfur atom connected to the methylene group. This favors formation of the thermodynamic isomer **1a**. Both sulfur atoms in pdt have the same coordination abilities, and this system lacks a driving force for isomer interconversion.

Reactions of edt Complexes with PPh₃. C–S bond activation occurs selectively at the six-membered rings with the mtp and pdt ligands as shown above, which results in the formation of stable five-membered rings. To extend the reactions further and to examine their selectivity, the geometrically constrained complex [EtSReO(edt)(PPh₃)], **5c**, was used for reaction with PPh₃. The process was investigated by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy. As it happens, no reaction was observed.



Kinetics of the C–S Cleavage Reactions. These reactions were monitored by their UV–visible spectroscopic changes. The

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Figure 7. (Top) Changes in the UV-visible spectrum observed during the reaction of 1a with PPh3. The respective initial concentrations of 1a and PPh₃ were 1.26×10^{-4} and 0.329 mol L⁻¹. The spectra were recorded at 25 °C at 10.0 min intervals. (Bottom) Plot of kobs against the concentration of PPh₃.

time course of the reaction between 1a and PPh₃ is depicted in Figure 7; the tight isosbestic points show that the reaction progresses to the product without intermediates building up to concentrations that contribute appreciably to the spectral changes. The final spectrum is identical with that of 2a measured separately. Global fitting of the spectra (350-650 nm) with SpecFit⁹ establishes that the reaction follows pseudo-first-order kinetics at all of these wavelengths under these conditions. Values of the first-order rate constants proved to be independent of the initial concentration of the Re(V) complexes, with k_{obs} linearly dependent on [PAr₃] (Figure 7 and Supporting Information). All reactions adhere to the second-order rate law,

$$-\frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{Re}(\mathrm{V})]}{\mathrm{d}t} = k_2[\mathrm{Re}(\mathrm{V})][\mathrm{PAr}_3]$$

Rate constants are listed in Table 2. To explore the independent effects of the phosphine coordinated to 1a and of the external phosphine that attacks it, several variations were carried out. The reaction between **1a** and $P(C_6H_4-p-OMe)_3$ gave $k_2 =$ $2.37(4) \times 10^{-4} \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, whereas that between an analogue of 1a, [PhSReO(mtp)P($C_6H_4-\rho$ -OMe)₃], and P(C_6H_4-p -OMe)₃ has $k_2 = 2.23(3) \times 10^{-4} \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Furthermore, the reaction between **1a** and P(C₆H₄-*p*-CF₃)₃ has $k_2 = 2.78(6) \times 10^{-4}$ L $mol^{-1} s^{-1}$, comparable to that between **1a** and PPh₃. These data demonstrate that the rate constants are insensitive to the substituents (Y) in P(Ph-p-Y)₃ (Y = H, MeO, CF₃).

On the other hand, the reactions between $[(C_6H_4-p-X)SReO (mtp)(PPh_3)$] (X = MeO, Me, H, F, Cl) and PPh₃ are accelerated by an electron-withdrawing group, whereas an electron-donating group has the opposite effect. A plot of $\log k_2$ vs the Hammett substituent constant (σ) is presented in Figure 8; analysis of the data, excluding the point for MeO, gives a slope $\rho = 0.66$. Clearly, the point for X = MeO lies off the line. This substituent is the most strongly electron-withdrawing. Aside from noting the fact, however, we offer no explanation for the unusual behavior.

The rate constants also vary with changes of dithiolate ligands. In a series of complexes with various pdt ligands, the rates decrease with increasing numbers of methyl groups on the pdt framework. A plot of $\log k_2$ vs numbers of the methyl group exhibits a good linear correlation (R = 0.97, Figure S8, Supporting Information).

Infrared Spectra and Electrochemistry. The infrared spectra of the complexes (KBr disk) show the characteristic of Re≡O band, ranging from 978 to 947 cm⁻¹. These values are within the range for the Re≡O stretching frequencies reported in the literature.^{7,10}

Cyclic voltammetry was used to investigate the electrochemical behavior of the complexes, with results as summarized in Table 3. Compound 7 exhibited a reversible one-electron reduction; the others displayed quasi-reversible or irreversible voltammograms (see Supporting Information). Comparison of the reduction potentials in a series of mtp complexes indicates that the potentials increase in the order OPh < Me < PhS \approx EtS \approx Cl \approx chelating ligand, *o*-SC₆H₄PPh₂. This trend shows that the potentials are sensitive to the nature of the ancillary ligand. Compound **5b**, with a five-membered ring, is difficult to reduce.

Discussion

Electronic Factors. It has been well-documented that the Re^VO moiety undergoes oxygen atom transfer upon reduction of Re(V) to Re(III), the transfer process being initiated by nucleophilic substrate attack on the π^* ReO orbital.^{11,12} A difference in the electron-donating abilities of the ligands is expected to influence the reactivity dramatically. Electronwithdrawing ArS ligands facilitate nucleophilic attack, opposite to the effect of electron-rich ligands. For the reactions between **1a** and a series of para-substituted phosphines, $P(Ph-p-Y)_3$ (Y = H, MeO, CF₃), the rate reaction constants are nearly but not precisely the same (Table 3).

The kinetic data raise two issues. First, note the identity (within three standard deviations) of the values of k_2 for reactions when $P(C_6H_4-p-OMe)_3$ is the attacking phosphine. Phosphine exchange between 1a and free phosphine occurs³ prior to C-Sbond cleavage, as evidenced by the ³¹P NMR spectra. The C-S cleavage step with PAr₃ is thus a single reaction between $[PhSReO(mtp)P(C_6H_4-p-OMe)_3]$ and $P(C_6H_4-p-OMe)_3$.

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Table 2. Summary of the Rate Constants for Reactions between Oxorhenium(V) Dithiolates and Triarylphosphines in C₆H₆ at 25 °C

[PhSReO(mtp)(PPh ₃)] + P(Ar-p-Y) ₃		[(Ar-p-X)SReO(mtp)(PPh ₃)] + PPh ₃		[PhSReO(dt)(PPh ₃)] + PPh ₃	
Y	k ₂ (L mol ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	Х	k ₂ (L mol ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	dt	k ₂ (L mol ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)
H MeO CF ₃	$\begin{array}{c} 2.77(4) \times 10^{-4} \\ 2.37(4) \times 10^{-4} \\ 2.78(6) \times 10^{-4} \\ 2.23(3) \times 10^{-4 a} \\ 2.69(7) \times 10^{-4 \ b} \end{array}$	MeO Me H F Cl	$\begin{array}{c} 2.70(7)\times 10^{-4}\\ 2.18(4)\times 10^{-4}\\ 2.77(4)\times 10^{-4}\\ 3.31(7)\times 10^{-4}\\ 3.96(6)\times 10^{-4} \end{array}$	pdt pdtMe pdtMe ₂	$\begin{array}{l} 3.61(2)\times 10^{-3}\\ 2.27(4)\times 10^{-3}\\ 7.7(5)\times 10^{-4} \end{array}$

^{*a*} For [PhSReO(mtp)P(C₆H₄-*p*-OMe)₃] and P(C₆H₄-*p*-OMe)₃. ^{*b*} For [EtSReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] and PPh₃.



Figure 8. Plot of log k_2 against the Hammett constant σ for reactions between [(C₆H₄-*p*-XS)ReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] and PPh₃.

Table 3. Electrochemical Data for Reduction of the Oxorhenium(V) Complexes^a

complex	$E_{\rm p,c}$ (V)	complex	$E_{\rm p,c}$ (V)
6a	-0.84	3a	$-1.10 \\ -1.23 \\ (-1.25)^b \\ (-1.49)^b$
7	-0.90	9	
1a	-0.95	5b	
6b	-1.04	6c	

^a Potentials in CH₂Cl₂ referenced vs SCE. ^b Irreversible.

The second issue is more troubling. The inductive effects of the two phosphines in the transition state appear nearly to cancel one another. It is reasonable to assert that a key step is the attack of phosphine at the oxo group of **1a**. Studies have amply verified this mode of attack on metal-oxo groups.¹³ Given that, the phosphine attacking **1a** acts as a nucleophile, and for it the rate constants for P(C₆H₄X)₃ can reasonably be expected to follow the sequence $X = MeO > H > CF_3$. Indeed, a strong inductive effect can be expected, because of data pertaining to reaction 1, for which a Hammett correlation gave the reaction constant $\rho = -0.70$.¹⁴¹⁴

 $[MeRe^{VII}O_2(mtp)] + PAr_3 \rightarrow [MeRe^{V}O(mtp)(OPAr_3)]$ (5)

On the other hand, the ring substituent on the phosphine already coordinated to the rhenium atom should exert just the opposite inductive effect. It appears that the opposing inductive effects nearly cancel one another; compare these values of $k_2/10^{-4}$ L mol⁻¹ s⁻¹: 2.37 (MeO), 2.77 (H), and 2.78 (CF₃). This is not unreasonable, given that the two phosphines exert their opposite inductive effects in the same transition state.

Mechanism. To probe the mechanistic features of the C-S bond-cleaving process, the reaction between 1a and PPh3 was examined in detail by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra in C₆D₆ on the basis of its simplified ¹H NMR spectroscopy in the aliphatic region. The variable spectra with time are shown in Figure 9. Three well-resolved pairs of resonances are observed in ¹H NMR spectrum; their correlation is evident in the 2D COSY spectrum. The protons (H_s and H_s') are present as the doublet peaks at δ 4.70 and 3.43 of 1a, which then disappeared as the reaction progressed. The δ 6.29 and 4.11 (H_p and H_p') resonances were assigned to 2a, which builds up at the expense of 1a. The phosphorus signals are found at δ 19.0 for **1a** and at δ 34.8 for **2a**; a singlet at δ 25.9 ppm is due to Ph₃PO, as confirmed by an authentic sample. Two doublets in the ¹H spectrum at δ 4.95 and 3.71 (H_I and H_I') were assigned to an intermediate, which increased and then disappeared. At most it amounted to ca.12%. No obvious Re-31P resonance appeared in the 31P spectra, although a minor transient resonance near δ 35 (the Re-³¹P resonance of the product) cannot be discounted.

Therefore, four possible intermediates have to be considered. A three-coordinate species A can be ruled out due to a splitting $(\Delta \delta = 1.3)$ in chemical shifts of the methylene protons. It is possible but unreasonable that dimeric isomers B and C are present in solution. An analogue, $\{\text{ReO}(\text{bdt})(\text{SPh})\}_2$ (bdt = o-benzenedithiol), reacted with PPh₃ very rapidly,⁵ suggesting that, in the presence of excess PPh₃, it would be impossible to detect the dimers **B** and **C** by ¹H NMR. It is also expected that the extent of dimer formation would be very small with phosphine present in such large excess. On the basis of the observed inequivalent protons of the methylene group due to the anisotropic effect of the Re=S core,15 and the absence of H–P coupling, the coordinatively unsaturated intermediate D'is being proposed. The chemical conclusions are, however, considerably more consistent with earlier studies of Re(V) chemistry if structure **D**, and not **D'**, is assigned to the intermediate, as shown in Chart 3.

The data from this study and from earlier work allow us to assign a plausible multistep mechanism. As demonstrated experimentally, phosphine exchange occurs prior to the main reaction. Studies of [MeReO(dt)PR₃] systems show that exchange occurs sequentially, via double turnstile rotation processes as shown in Scheme 3. Note that intermediate I increases to a concentration where it can easily be detected.³

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Figure 9. Variation of ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra with time in C_6D_6 for reaction of 1a (9.4 mM) and PPh₃ (0.16 mol L⁻¹) at 25 °C.





Scheme 3



Scheme 4. Suggested Mechanism of C-S Cleavage



The suggested route to C–S cleavage is presented in Scheme 4. Following phosphine exchange, PAr_3 attacks nucleophilically at the oxygen atom of Re^VO in the rate-controlling step, which

affords a phosphine oxide complex of Re(III). In the transition state, a [1,2] migration of an alkyl group to rhenium is proposed. Events following formation of the transition state are speculative, of course, but we suggest that weakly coordinating Ar_3PO is lost first, yielding **D**. Finally, **D** isomerizes to the final product **2**. This, too, occurs by a turnstile rotation sequence analogous to that in Scheme 3.

Recently, Mayer and co-workers have reported the rhenium-(V) complexes (HBpz₃)ReO(R)Cl (HBpz₃ = hydrotris(1-pyrazolyl)borate, R = aryl, ethyl) undergo photochemical metalto-oxo migrations to form rhenium(III) alkoxides.¹⁶ Analogous migrations to terminal imido or sulfide complexes have also been proposed.¹⁷

$$_{\rm R-Re^V}^{\rm OR} \longrightarrow _{\rm Re^{II}}^{\rm OR}$$

However, the reverse reaction, rearrangement of an alkoxide to an oxo-alkyl, is rare.¹⁸ In the present cases, migration of alkanethiolate to form the alkylthiolato complex, to our knowl-edge, is unprecedented.

Reactivity. The complexes with the Re \equiv O core exhibit a wide range of reactivity toward PPh₃. The compounds [XReO-(dt)(PPh₃)] (X = SPh or SEt; dt = mtp or pdt) react with PPh₃ to induce C–S activation. At other end of the spectrum are the complexes which show no analogous reaction. These include [XReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] (X = OPh, Me, Cl, and *o*-SC₆H₄PPh₂) and [YReO(edt)(PPh₃)] (Y = SPh and SEt). A few examples of Re^VO and Tc^VO complexes possessing a sulfur donor set can be reduced by PPh₃ to form deoxygenated, stable Re(III) and Tc(III) phosphine adducts instead.¹⁹

The electrophilicity of the multiply bonded ligand is in large part controlled by the energy and character of the LUMO.^{12,20} The E_{pc} values, lying between -0.84 and -1.49 V (Table 3),

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Table 4. Summary of Crystal Data for Complexes 1a, 5a, 6a, 6b, and 4b

	1a	6a	5a	6b	7	4b
formula	C31H26OPReS3.0.5C7H8	C ₂₅ H ₂₁ OPClReS ₂ ·1.5C ₆ H ₆	C20H19OPClReS2	C27H26OPReS3	C25H20OPReS3	C28H28PReS3
fw, g	774.0	771.32	592.09	679.83	649.76	677.85
cryst syst	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
space group	C2/c	P2(1)/c	C2/c	$P\overline{1}$	P2(1)/n	P2(1)/n
<i>a</i> , Å	33.844(6)	10.247(2)	17.345(4)	9.272(3)	10.870(3)	8.2037(14)
b, Å	9.5051(16)	30.973(6)	10.982(2)	11.444(3)	18.284(5)	19.187(3)
<i>c</i> , Å	22.643(4)	10.280(2)	23.929(5)	12.909(4)	12.674(3)	17.022(3)
α, deg	90	90	90	82.415(5)	90	90
β , deg	121.374(3)	100.432(3)	110.753(3)	80.987(4)	110.978(5)	95.461(3)
γ, deg	90	90	90	76.334(5)	90	90
<i>V</i> , Å ³	6219.1(18)	2181.6(5)	4262.4(16)	1308.1(6)	2351.9(6)	2667.2(8)
Ζ	8	4	8	2	4	4
$D(\text{calcd}), \text{Mg/m}^3$	1.652	1.596	1.845	1.726	1.835	1.688
abs coeff, mm ⁻¹	4.188	4.076	6.105	4.964	5.517	4.866
GOF	1.035	1.123	1.079	0.953	1.090	1.028
$R1,^a wR2^b$	0.0299, 0.0692	0.0502, 0.1062	0.0447, 0.0960	0.0364, 0.0893	0.0405, 0.1092	0.0264, 0.0596
$[I > 2\sigma(I)]$						

 ${}^{a}R1 = \sum ||F_{o}| - |F_{c}|| / \sum |F_{o}|. {}^{b}wR2 = \{\sum [w(F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2})^{2}] / \sum [w(F_{o}^{2})^{2}] \}^{1/2}.$

provide a relative measure of the electrophilicity of the complexes.²¹ The trend illustrates the influence of ligand variation on electron density at Re≡O. The methyl ligand is a much better σ donor, and phenoxide is both a good σ donor and a much stronger π donor,²² as compared with PhS. The effect is to leave more electron density on Re, raising the LUMO energy and reducing the contribution of the 2p orbital of the oxygen atom to the LUMO. These factors are consistent with the observed lower electrophilic reactivity of those complexes. Replacement of the mtp ligand by an edt ligand makes complex 5b more electron rich and thus decreases its reactivity compared to that of **1a**. This point needs to be emphasized. Reactivity is determined in the initial step, in which nucleophilic phosphine attacks the oxo group of [PhSReO(dt)(PPh₃)]. It is not sufficient to argue that the *ultimate* product from the edt complex, with a four-membered chelate ring, will be less stable than that from mtp or pdt, with five-membered rings. That argument may well apply to the subsequent steps, but not to the rate-controlling step. This is the reason for emphasizing the first step.

The issues surrounding the failure of [PhSReO(edt)PPh₃], **5b**, and [EtSReO(edt)PPh₃], 5c, to react need to be addressed further. It is too facile simply to comment that the products, with fourmembered chelate rings, would be too unstable. Single-electron reduction of [PhSReO(pdt)PPh3], 3a, is only marginally easier than that of **5b**. Further, the usage of single-electron E_{pc} values in describing atom transfer chemistry may not be on secure grounds, although others have made use of it.²¹

The best comparison can be made between 3a and 5b because they both contain alkanedithiolato ligands. It seems probable, therefore, that the initial PPh3 attack leads to an intermediate that more resembles $Re=O\cdots PPh_3$ than $Re^{III} \leftarrow OPPh_3$. The edt complex cannot pass through the transition state, however, because of ring strain. Thus, PPh3 is released and no net reaction occurs.

The values of $-E_{pc}$ for [XReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] (X = SPh, SEt, Cl, and o-SC₆H₄P(Ph)₂) fall into a small range, 0.84–1.04 V.

Because 1a and 6b react with PPh₃ to promote C-S bond cleavage, it can expected that 6a and 7 would undergo the same reaction, given that their similar $E_{\rm pc}$ values are slightly more anodic than those for 1a and 6b. This not the case. The difference in reactivity is most likely due to the different π -donating ability of ancillary ligands X. The chloro ligand is a poor π -donor and is expected to interact weakly with Re d $-\pi$ orbitals. Chelation in 7 inhibits rotation about the Re-S bond, thus significantly weakening the S \rightarrow Re π -donation because the thiolate-metal interaction depends on the Re-S-C(X) angle and the $Re-S-C^{1-C2}(X)$ dihedral angle.²³ The Re-S bonds in 1a and 6b rotate, which enhances the interaction that induces C-S cleavage. It is the S-Re π -donation and the formation of stable five-membered rings that provide the driving force for C-S activation.

Conclusions

The preparation and thorough characterization of a series of oxorhenium(V) complexes that possess various types of ancillary ligands, chelate ligands, and dithiolates have allowed us to probe the influences of each of these variables on C-S activation. In particular, it has proved possible to focus on the nature of ligand \rightarrow Re π -interactions. Spectroscopic, electrochemical, structural, and kinetic data reveal the critical role played by ligand \rightarrow Re π -interactions in regioselective C-S bond cleavage reactions.

Experimental Section

All operations were carried out under an atmosphere of argon or nitrogen using standard Schlenk techniques unless other stated. Benzene, toluene, diethyl ether, THF, and hexane were distilled from sodium; dichloromethane was distilled from calcium hydride. Other reagents were used as received unless otherwise noted. Preparation of the dimers, {ReO(dt)(SPh)}₂, where H₂dt represents 2-(mercaptomethyl)thiophenol, 1,2-ethanedithiol, 1,3-propanedithiol, and 1,3-butanedithiol, has been reported elsewhere.⁵ 2-(Diphenylphosphino)benzenethiol,²⁴ [Cl₃ReO-

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 $(PPh_3)_2]$,²⁵ and 2,4-pentanedithiol $(H_2pdtMe_2)^{26}$ were synthesized according literature procedures.

Infrared spectra were collected with a Bruker IFS66V FT-IR spectrometer as KBr pellets. NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker DRX-400 at 298 K, with ¹H NMR chemical shifts referenced internally to the C₆D₆ solvent peak at δ 7.16 and the CD₂Cl₂ solvent peaks at δ 5.32; the ³¹P NMR chemical shifts are referenced externally to 85% aqueous H₃PO₄. UV-visible spectra were recorded on benzene solutions at 298 K in quartz cuvettes using a Shimadzu UV-3101PC spectrophotometer with a temperature-controlled unit. Elemental analyses were performed at Iowa State University's Analysis Center with a Perkin-Elmer CHN/S analyzer, model 2400-II.

Cyclic voltammograms were measured with a BAS-100 potentiostat using a three-compartment cell with an Ag/AgNO₃ (0.1 mol L⁻¹ in CH₃CN) reference electrode, a platinum-disk working electrode, and a platinum-wire auxiliary electrode. The electrolyte solution was 0.1 mol L⁻¹ tetra-*n*-butylammonium tetrafluoroborate in CH₂Cl₂. The solution in the working compartment was kept anaerobic under an atmosphere of N₂. Potentials are reported relative to the SCE.

[PhSReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] (1a). A glass flask was charged with the dimer {PhSReO(mtp)}₂ (187 mg, 0.20 mmol), toluene (40 mL), and PPh₃ (105.7 mg, 0.40 mmol). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 2 h, yielding a green solution which was then evaporated to dryness in vacuo. The residue was washed with diethyl ether to give pure **1a**, 230 mg, 80%. Dark green crystals were obtained from CH₂-Cl₂—hexanes. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.79–7.73 (m, 6H), 7.56–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 9H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.18–7.14 (m, 2H), 4.95 (dd, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 18.6. IR (KBr pellet): 946 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=O}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): λ_{max}/nm (log ϵ), 580 (2.70), 427(3.46), 369 (3.64). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₃₁H₂₆S₃PORe•0.5C₇H₈: C, 53.39 (53.54); H, 3.62 (3.91); S, 11.66 (12.43); P, 3.41 (4.00).

[PhSReO(edt)(PPh₃)] (5b). Yield: 69%. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.80–7.75 (m, 6H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 9H), 7.47–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 1H), 3.79–3.68 (m, 2H), 2.62–2.51 (m, 2H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 21.7. IR (KBr pellet): 949 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re\equiv0}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): λ_{max} /nm (log ϵ), 620 (1.72), 531 (2.45), 411 (3.55), 327(sh) (3.62). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₆H₂₄S₃PORe: C, 46.40 (46.90); H, 3.47 (3.63); S, 13.98 (14.45).

[PhSReO(pdt)(PPh₃)] (3a). In an NMR tube, the dimer {PhSReO(pdt)}₂ (6.68 mg, 8.0 μ mol) and PPh₃ (4.31 mg, 16 μ mol) were mixed in CD₂Cl₂. After about 30 min, the solution color changed from brown to green. NMR: ¹H, δ 7.84–7.79 (m, 6H), 7.59–7.46 (m, 9H), 7.40–7.28 (m, 4H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 1H), 3.43–3.39 (m, 1H), 3.33–3.24 (m, 1H), 3.13–3.10 (m, 1H), 3.03–2.96 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.46 (m, 1H), 2.40–2.31 (m, 1H); ³¹P, δ 17.7.

[CIReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] (6a). The reaction was conducted in air. 2-(Mercaptomethyl)thiophenol (mtpH₂, 187.6 mg, 1.2 mmol) in 20 mL of toluene was added dropwise to a yellow suspension of [Cl₃ReO-(PPh₃)₂] (1.0 g, 1.2 mmol) in 280 mL of toluene, generating a clear green solution after several minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 30 min and then filtered. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation to afford a solid, which was washed with diethyl ether to give the pure green product (675 mg, 97%). NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.70–7.65 (m, 6H), 7.58–7.43 (m, 9H), 7.34–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.23–7.19 (t, 1H), 5.14 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 23.0. IR (KBr pellet): 975 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=O}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): λ_{max} /nm (log ϵ), 649 (1.77), 437 (2.94), 362 (3.37). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₅H₂₁S₃RePCl·0.5C₄H₁₀O: C, 46.81 (46.91); H, 3.77 (3.79); S, 8.59 (9.27).

 $[X-p-C_6H_4SReO(mtp)(PPh_3)]$ (X = OMe, Me, F, Cl). A solution of **6a** (98 mg, 0.15 mmol) in 60 mL of benzene was transferred by cannula to a white suspension of LiSC₆H₄-*p*-X (from HSC₆H₄-*p*-X and BuLi) in a 1:1 mmol ratio. The resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h and then filtered. The solvent was evaporated to yield the solid products. Pure products were obtained after the solids were washed with diethyl ether.

X = **OMe** (**1b**). Yield: 66%. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.78–7.73 (m, 6H), 7.58–7.45 (m, 9H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.14–7.10 (m, 1H), 6.93–6.90 (m, 1H), 4.93 (dd, Hz, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.29 (d, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, 1H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 18.8. IR (KBr pellet): 947 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=0}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): $\lambda_{max}/$ nm (log ϵ), 584 (2.72), 428 (3.43), 370 (3.59). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₃₂H₂₈S₃PO₂Re: C, 51.16 (50.71); H, 4.32 (3.72); S, 12.07 (12.69).

X = **Me** (1c). Yield: 65%. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.78–7.73 (m, 6H), 7.57–7.46 (m, 9H), 7.37–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.21–7.19 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.10 (m, 1H), 4.94 (dd, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.29 (d, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ³¹P NMR (CD₂Cl₂), δ 18.6. IR (KBr pellet): 950 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=0}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): $\lambda_{max}/$ nm (log ϵ), 581 (2.58), 428 (3.37), 370 (3.52). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₃₂H₂₈S₃PORe: C, 51.67 (51.80); H, 4.26 (3.80); S, 12.36 (12.97).

X = **F** (**1d**). Yield: 68%. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.77–7.73 (m, 6H), 7.57–7.45 (m, 9H), 7.37–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.25 (m, 3H), 7.15–7.10 (m, 1H), 7.09–7.06 (m, 2H), 4.96 (dd, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, 1H); ³¹P NMR (CD₂Cl₂), δ 18.8. IR (KBr pellet): 953 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=0}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): $\lambda_{max}/nm (\log \epsilon)$, 578 (2.75), 430 (3.43), 370 (3.63). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₃₁H₂₅S₃-POFRe: C, 50.58 (49.92); H, 4.02 (3.38); S, 11.70 (12.90).

X = **Cl** (1e). Yield: 51%. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.77–7.72 (m, 6H), 7.57–7.46 (m, 9H), 7.45–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28– 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.15–7.12 (m, 1H), 4.96 (dd, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, 1H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 18.8. IR (KBr pellet): 955 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=0}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): λ_{max}/m (log ϵ), 579 (2.65), 428 (3.39), 370 (3.58). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₃₁H₂₅S₃POCIRe: C, 48.97 (48.84); H, 3.91 (3.31); S, 11.85 (12.62).

[C₂H₅SReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] (6b). This compound was prepared in 48% yield by the reaction of 6a and 1.0 equiv of LiSC₂H₅ (obtained as a green solid from C₂H₅SH and BuLi) in a procedure analogous to the method for [X-*p*-C₆H₄SReO(mtp)(PPh₃)]. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.74–7.69 (m, 6H), 7.54–7.44 (m, 9H), 7.42–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.30–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.16 (m, 1H), 4.92 (dd, $J_2 = 12$ Hz, $J_1 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.89–3.82 (m, 1H), 3.73–3.64 (m, 1H), 3.35 (d, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, 1H), 1.45 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 18.5. IR (KBr pellet): 950 cm⁻¹ (s, ν_{Re=0}). UV–visible (C₆H₆): $\lambda_{max}/mm (\log \epsilon)$, 595 (2.57), 426(sh) (3.40), 392 (3.48), 350 (3.51). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₇H₂6S₃PORe: C, 48.64 (47.70); H, 4.30 (3.85); S, 13.60 (14.15).

[*o*-Ph₂PC₆H₄SReO(mtp)] (7). This compound was prepared in 82% yield with Li[*o*-SC₆H₄P(Ph)₂] in a procedure analogous to the method for [C₂H₅SReO(mtp)(PPh₃)]. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 8.01–7.99 (m, 1H), 7.89–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.47 (m, 7H), 7.43–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.17 (m, 4H), 5.07 (dd, $J_1 = 1.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 12$ Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, $J_1 = 12$ Hz, 1H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 55.9. IR (KBr pellet): 966 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=0}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): λ_{max} /nm (log ϵ), 565 (2.54), 448 (sh) (3.04), 380 (2.53), 344 (3.92). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₅H₂₀S₃PORe•0.5C₄H₁₀O: C, 48.18 (47.21); H, 3.57 (3.69); S, 13.75 (14.00).

[PhOReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] (6c). A solution of **6a** (222 mg, 0.34 mmol) in THF (60 mL) was dropwise added to a solution of LiOPh (0.34 mmol) (from PhOH and BuLi), the resulting solution was stirred overnight, and then the solvents were removed in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in benzene (50 mL) and then filtered. The filtration was reduced to dryness and the obtained solid washed with diethyl ether to give the product (61 mg, 25%). NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.56–7.48 (m, 8H), 7.40–7.33 (m, 10H), 7.25–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.12–7.08 (m, 2H), 7.06–7.02 (m, 2H), 4.77 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 32.5. IR (KBr pellet): 949 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=0}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): $\lambda_{max}/mm (\log \epsilon)$, 557 (2.74), 458 (3.07), 352 (3.62). Analytically pure solids could not be isolated by column chromatography due to decomposition.

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[CIReO(edt)(PPh₃)] (5a). The procedure was as described for **6a**: 1.0 g of [Cl₃ReO(PPh₃)₂] (1.2 mmol) and 101 μ L of 1,2-ethanedithiol (H₂edt, 1.2 mmol) gave, after being stirred for 30 min and worked up similarly, 632 mg of a green solid (89%). NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.71– 7.66 (m, 6H), 7.55–7.46 (m, 9H), 3.87–3.79 (m, 2H), 3.03–2.97 (m, 1H), 2.78–2.69 (m, 1H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 27.3. IR (KBr pellet): 978 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=0}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): λ_{max}/nm (log ϵ), 581 (1.97), 415 (3.42), 328 (3.48). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₀H₁₉S₂POCIRe: C, 40.10 (40.57); H, 3.33 (3.23); S, 10.02 (10.83).

[C₂H₅SReO(edt)(PPh₃)] (5c). A similar procedure was employed to obtain this product in 66% yield as described for [C₂H₅SReO(mtp)-(PPh₃)]. NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.75−7.71 (m, 6H), 7.54−7.44 (m, 9H), 3.94−3.92 (m, 1H), 3.82−3.73 (m, 1H), 3.65 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.64−2.50 (m, 2H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ³¹P (CD₂Cl₂), δ 20.8. IR (KBr pellet): 952 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=O}$). UV−visible (C₆H₆): $\lambda_{max}/$ nm (log ϵ), 642 (1.61), 524 (2.44), 396 (3.60). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₂H₂₄S₃PORe•0.5H₂O: C, 41.75 (42.15); H, 4.23 (4.02); S, 15.44 (15.35).

[ReS(SC₆H₄CH₂)(SC₆H₄-*p*-X))(PPh₃)] (X = OMe, Me, F, Cl) (2be). These complexes were all generated in procedures analogous to that described for 2a. We had no attempt to isolate the products to be fully characterized in pure form. The¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra of the products are quite similar to those observed for 2a.²

[**ReS**(SC₆H₄CH₂)(SC₂H₅)(**PPh₃**)] (8). A glass flask was charged with [C₂H₅SReO(mtp)(PPh₃)] (147 mg, 0.22 mmol), benzene (100 mL), and PPh₃ (284 mg, 1.08 mmol). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 5 days as the brown solution developed gradually. The solvent was reduced to dryness, and the residue was dissolved in a minimal volume of diethyl ether, loaded on a silica gel column, and eluted with hexanes-ether. The red-brown band was collected, and upon removal of the solvents a brown solid was obtained (20 mg, 14%). NMR: ¹H (CD₂Cl₂), δ 7.79 (br, 6H), 7.61 (br, 2H), 7.52–7.45 (m, 9H), 7.12 (br, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.4 Hz, *J*₂ = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.55 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ³¹P NMR (CD₂Cl₂), δ 35.1. IR (KBr pellet): 521 cm⁻¹ (s, ν_{Re=S}). UV-visible (C₆H₆): λ_{max}/nm (log *ε*), 611 (1.68), 488 (3.16), 371 (4.04), 320 (3.93). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₇H₂₆S₃PRe: C, 48.21 (48.85); H, 4.60 (3.95); S, 13.62 (14.49).

[PhSReS(-SCHMeCH₂CH₂-)(PPh₃)] (4b) and [PhSReS(-SCH₂CH₂CHMe-)(PPh₃)] (4c). A mixture of {PhSReO(pdtMe)}₂ (241.7 mg, 0.28 mmol) and PPh₃ (347 mg, 1.32 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (70 mL). The color of the solution rapidly changed from brown to yellowish as the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 5 days and then filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to give a residue, which was dissolved in a minimal volume of diethyl ether. Column chromatography afforded a yellowish band, which was collected by eluting with ether—hexane; following that, the solvents were removed to give a solid. The pure product was obtained by washing with cool ether (yield 266 mg, 70%). IR (KBr pellet): 524 cm⁻¹ (s, $\nu_{Re=S}$). UV–visible (C₆H₆): λ_{max}/mn (log ϵ), 594 (1.59), 458 (2.86), 386 (sh, 3.48), 337 (sh, 3.97). 324 (3.99). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₈H₂₈S₃PRe: C, 49.63 (49.61); H, 4.60 (4.16); S, 14.08 (14.19).

4b. NMR: ¹H (C₆D₆), δ 8.05 (br, 6H), 7.89–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.14 (m, 2H), 7.06–6.96 (m, 10H), 5.68 (br, d, J = 14 Hz, 1H_a), 3.42–3.31 (m, 1H_b), 3.22–3.17 (m, 1H_c), 2.79–2.71(m, 1H_e), 1.79–1.68 (m, 1H_d), 1.55 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, CH₃); ¹³C (C₆D₆), δ 151.63, 151.52, 135.70, 135.60, 135.01, 134.49, 133.73, 133.69, 131.22, 131.20, 129.06, 128.94, 128.84, 127.32, 59.43 (d, CH_e), 58.72 (d, CH_aH_b), 50.38 (CH_cH_d), 21.78 (CH₃); ³¹P (C₆D₆), δ 31.8.



4c. NMR: ¹H (C₆D₆), δ 8.05 (br, 6H), 7.89–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.14 (m, 2H), 7.06–6.96 (m, 10H), 5.62 (br d, 1H_a), 3.87–3.77 (m, 1H_b), 3.74–3.67 (m, 1H_e), 2.79–2.71 (m, 1H_c), 2.31–2.20 (m, 1H_d), 0.96 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, CH_3); ¹³C, δ 151.52, 151.39, 135.70, 135.60, 134.78, 134.27, 133.73, 133.69, 131.22, 131.20, 129.10, 128.89, 128.78, 127.27, 59.63 (d, CH_e), 57.56 (d, CH_aH_b), 48.50 (CH_cH_d), 20.60 (CH_3); ³¹P (C₆D₆), δ 32.3.



{**PhS(ReO)(pdtMe**₂)}₂. 2,4-Pentanedithiol (103.2 mg, 0.76 mmol) was added by syringe to a suspension of {(ReO)(SPh)₃}₂ (401 mg, 0.0.38 mmol) in toluene (90 mL), and the mixture was stirred overnight under N₂ and then filtered. The red-brown filtrate was evaporated to dryness and dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (~2 mL), which was loaded on silica gel. The first brown band was collected. Upon removal of the solvent, the obtained solid was washed with ether and vacuum-dried. Yield: 70 mg, 20%. ¹H NMR (complicated owing to diastereomers) (CD₂-Cl₂): δ 7.48–7.33 (m, 8H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 2H), 4.40–4.38 (m, 1H), 4.15–4.07 (m, 1H), 3.59–3.46 (m, 1H), 3.33–3.26 (m, 1H), 3.13–3.08 (m, 1H), 2.99–2.83 (m, 1H), 1.81–1.77 (m, 6H), 1.42–1.34 (m, 3H), 1.22–1.20, 1.21 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). Anal. Found (calcd) for C₂₂H₃₀O₂S₆Re₂: C, 29.77 (29.65); H, 3.58 (3.39); S, 20.83 (21.59).

[ReS(-SCHMeCH₂CHMe-)(SPh)(PPh₃)] (4d). Reaction of {PhS-(ReO)(pdtMe₂)}₂ with excess PPh₃ in C₆D₆ (~0.8 mL) was monitored by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy at 25 °C. NMR: ¹H (C₆D₆) (aryl region, overlapping with PPh₃ and OPPh₃), δ 6.11–6.05 (m, 1H), 3.97–3.93 (m, 1H), 2.61–2.54 (m, 1H), 2.40–2.33 (m, 1H), 2.41 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ³¹P (C₆D₆), δ 24.9.

Kinetics Measurements. Reactions of the monomers with the phosphines were monitored by UV–visible spectra with an Agilent 8453 spectrophotometer with a pseudo-first-order excess of phosphine in benzene solution at 25.0 ± 0.2 °C. Initial monomeric Re(V) complex concentrations were $[\text{Re(V)}]_0 = 0.08-0.23$ mmol L⁻¹ in systems containing 10–8000 equiv of phosphine. As the reactions proceeded, the solution color changed from green to red-brown in the mtp series, or from green to yellowish in the pdt series. Data analysis is described in the Results.

X-ray Structure Determinations. The structures of the complexes in Table 4 were determined by X-ray crystallography. Selected crystals were mounted on a Siemens (Bruker) SMART 1000 CCD diffractometer equipped with a low-temperature apparatus. Mo K α radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å) was used for data collection. Data were collected using the full sphere routine with 0.3° scans in ω with an exposure time 10–30 s/frame. Final cell parameters were retrieved by using SMART software and refined by using SAINT software, which corrects for Lorentz polarization and decay; absorption corrections were applied with SADABS.²⁷ The space groups for all the complexes were assigned unambiguously by analysis of symmetry and systematic absences determined by the program XPREP.

The structures were solved by direct or Patterson methods. The positions of the heavy atoms were found directly by both methods; the remaining atoms were located in an alternating series of least-squares cycles and difference Fourier maps. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined in full-matrix anisotropic approximation; all hydrogen atoms were placed in the structure factor calculation at idealized positions and were allowed to ride on the neighboring atoms with relative isotropic displacement coefficients.

⁽²⁷⁾ All software and sources of the scattering factors are contained in the SHELXTL (version 5.1) program library (Sheldrick, G. M., Bruker Analytical X-ray Systems, Madison, WI).

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Supporting Information Available: 2D COSY spectrum and ¹H NMR spectra of the isomers 4b and 4c in C_6D_6 at 25 °C

(Figures S1 and S2); linear correlations of k_{obs} vs triarylphosphines concentration (Figures S3–S7); plot of log k_2 vs numbers of the methyl groups on the pdt framework (Figure S8); cyclic voltammograms of the complexes with Re^VO core (Figures S9–S15) (PDF); complete crystallographic data for **1a**, **5a**, **6a**, **6b**, **7**, and **4b** (CIF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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