

Mercuriophosphaalkene-*P* complexes: crystal structure of [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)HgC₅H₄Fe(η-C₅H₅)}Cl₂(CO)(PPh₃)₂]

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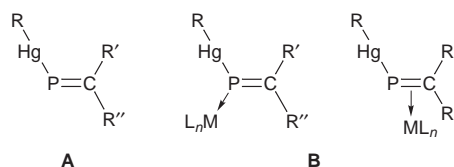
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Stable complexes of mercuriophosphaalkenes have resulted from the addition of organomercury halides to the Ru–P bond of [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)Cl(CA)(PPh₃)₂}] (A = O or S), including the structurally characterised complex [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)HgC₅H₄Fe(η-C₅H₅)}Cl₂(CO)(PPh₃)₂].

Mercury *P*-substituted phosphalkenes (**A**, Scheme 1) are unknown.¹ Whilst not described prior to this work, as with so many other independently unstable molecules, co-ordination to a transition metal (**B**, Scheme 1) might be expected to confer enhanced kinetic and/or thermodynamic stability upon such molecules. The design, synthesis and structural characterisation of such compounds provide the foci for this paper. Herein we report (i) the reactions of the phosphalkenyl complexes [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)Cl(CA)(PPh₃)₂}] (A = O **1a** or S **1b**) with a range of organomercury halides which result in the formation of remarkably stable complexes of mercuriophosphaalkenes: (ii) the structural characterisation of one such complex *viz.* [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)HgC₅H₄Fe(η-C₅H₅)}Cl₂(CO)(PPh₃)₂]. This work follows from our recent observation that complex **1a** forms an adduct with mercury(II) chloride, which was however not structurally characterised.²

We have recently shown that the unusual phosphalkenyl complexes [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)Cl(CA)(PPh₃)₂}] (A = O **1a** or S **1b**),^{2–5} result from the facile hydrotuthenation of P=CBu^t. These formally 16-electron complexes are unique in featuring an effective 1,2-dipole comprising adjacent nucleophilic phosphorus and electrophilic ruthenium centres. This reactivity is demonstrated by the 1,2 addition of ECl (E = H or AuPPh₃) across the ruthenium–phosphorus bond to provide the phosphalkene complexes [Ru{EP(=CHBu^t)Cl₂(CO)(PPh₃)₂}]. It therefore appeared plausible that organomercury halides might enter into a topologically similar reaction, as indeed they do. Treating a solution of **1a** with methylmercury iodide leads to the clean formation of the complex [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)HgCH₃}ClI(CO)(PPh₃)₂] **2a** in high yield. § The formulation of **2a** follows from FAB-MS and spectroscopic data amongst which the ³¹P-¹H} NMR data are immediately the most informative. The spectrum consists of two resonances; one, attributable to the chemically equivalent ruthenium bound phosphines, appears as a doublet [δ 14.9, *J*(PP) = 28.5 Hz] showing no coupling to mercury. The second resonance, in addition to being split into a triplet due to coupling to the phosphine phosphorus nuclei (δ 312.8), also shows mercury satellites [*J*(HgP) = 1358 Hz] indicating that it is to this phosphorus that the mercury is bound. The chemical shift for this resonance compares well with that for [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)AuPPh₃}Cl₂(CO)(PPh₃)₂] (δ 319.4).⁴ The remaining spectroscopic data, whilst diagnostic, are unremarkable.

An analogous reaction ensues between **1a** and phenylmercury chloride to provide [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)HgPh}Cl₂(CO)(PPh₃)₂] **2b**, although this results in a substantially larger ¹*J*(HgP) coupling in the ³¹P NMR spectrum [δ 300.8, *J*(HgCP) = 1767 Hz]. In a similar manner the reaction of **1b** with PhHgCl provides the thiocarbonyl analogue [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)HgPh}Cl₂(CS)(PPh₃)₂] **2c** (Scheme 2). Chloromercurioferrocene also adds cleanly to **1a** and **1b** to provide [Ru{P(=CHBu^t)HgC₅H₄Fe(η-C₅H₅)}Cl₂(CA)(PPh₃)₂] (A = O **2d** or S **2e**). In the case of **2d** crystals suitable for crystallographic analysis were obtained ¶



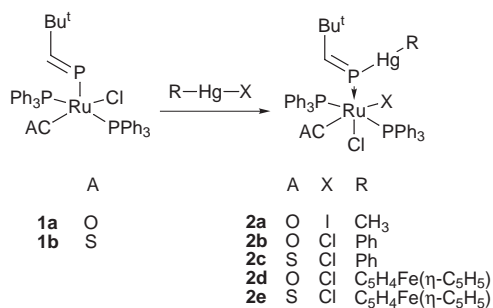
Scheme 1

§ Selected data for new complexes [25 °C, IR (Nujol), NMR (CDCl₃, 25 °C), FAB-MS (nitrobenzyl alcohol)]. Syntheses were carried out in dichloromethane at room temperature, monitoring the reaction progress by FT-IR spectroscopy (typically 1–3 h) using 0.2 mmol of each reagent. **2a**: IR 1965 [ν(CO)] cm⁻¹. NMR: ¹H δ 0.41 [d, 3 H, HgCH₃, *J*(PH) = 4.7], 0.87 (s, 9 H, Bu^t), 7.51 [d, P=CH, *J*(PC) = 5.9 Hz], 7.31, 7.93 [m × 2, 30 H, C₆H₅]; ¹³C-¹H} δ 198.8 (m, RuCO), 180.2 [d, P=CH, *J*(PC) = 14.0], 135.3–127.8 (C₆H₅), 41.1 [d, P=CHC, *J*(PC) = 10.8], 31.3 [d, CCH₃, *J*(PC) = 11.9], 15.2 [d, HgC, *J*(PC) = 56.1 Hz]; ³¹P-¹H} δ 312.8 [t, HgP, *J*(PP₂) 28.5, *J*(HgP) 1358], 14.9 [d, RuPPh₃, *J*(PP) = 28.5 Hz]. FAB-MS: *m/z* 1007 (15) [M – I]⁺, 781 (12) [M – Cl – MeHgP=CHBu^t]⁺, 755 (100%) [M – Cl – CH₃HgI]⁺. **2b**: IR 1976, 1965 (sh) [ν(CO)] cm⁻¹. NMR: ¹H δ 0.90 (s, 9 H, Bu^t), 7.13–7.97 (m × 4, 36 H, P=CH + C₆H₅); ³¹P-¹H} δ 300.8 [t, RuHgP=CH, *J*(PP₂) 28.5, *J*(HgCP) 1767], 19.0 [d, RuPPh₃, *J*(PP₂) = 28.5 Hz]. FAB-MS: *m/z* 1067 (5) [M – Cl]⁺, 1027 (2) [M – Ph]⁺, 755 (11%) [M – Cl – PhHgCl]⁺. **2c**: IR 1289 [ν(CS)] cm⁻¹. NMR: ¹H δ 0.91 (s, 9 H, CH₃), 7.25, 8.00 (m × 2, 35 H, C₆H₅), 7.67 [d, 1 H, P=CH, *J*(PH) = 7.7 Hz]; ³¹P-¹H} δ 292.8 [t, RuHgP=CH, *J*(PP) = 27.7, *J*(HgP) = 1801], 19.9 [RuPPh₃, *J*(PP) = 27.7 Hz]. FAB-MS: *m/z* 1119 (7) [M]⁺, 1084 (10) [M – Cl]⁺, 807 (9) [M – PhHgCl]⁺, 771 (62%) [M – Cl – PhHgCl]⁺. **2d**: IR 1976, 1960 (sh) [ν(CO)] cm⁻¹. NMR: ¹H δ 0.89 [d, 9 H, Bu^t, *J*(PH) = 1.2], 3.86, 4.34 [pseudo-t × 2, 2 H × 2, *J*(HH) = 1.6 Hz], 4.12 (s, 5 H, C₅H₅), 7.37–7.98 [m × 4, 31 H, P=CH + C₆H₅]; ¹³C-¹H} δ 198.5 (m, RuCO), 181.5 [d, P=CH, *J*(PC) = 18.3], 134.8–128.0 (C₆H₅), 98.8 [d, HgC, *J*(PC) = 76.6], 73.9 [d, C^{2,5}(C₅H₄), *J*(PC) = 5.2], 69.6 [d, C^{3,4}(C₅H₄), *J*(PC) = 4.3], 68.3 (C₅H₅), 41.3 [d, P=CHC, *J*(PC) = 11.9], 31.4 [d, CH₃, *J*(PC) = 12.9 Hz]; ³¹P-¹H} δ 300.4 [t, RuHgP=CH, *J*(PP₂) 29.3, *J*(HgCP) 1943], 19.7 [d, RuPPh₃, *J*(PP) = 29.3 Hz]. FAB-MS: *m/z* 1209 (5) [M]⁺, 1173 (8) [M – Cl]⁺, 755 (19%) [M – Cl – CpFeC₅H₄HgCl]⁺.

¶ Crystal data for **2d**: C₅₂H₄₉Cl₂FeHgOP₃Ru, *M* = 1211.1, monoclinic, space group *P2₁/c* (no. 14), *a* = 20.889(2), *b* = 11.893(1), *c* = 19.544(3) Å, β = 99.40(1)°, *U* = 4790.3(9) Å³, *Z* = 4, μ(Mo-Kα) = 40.6 cm⁻¹. 8346 Independent reflections were measured to give *R*1 = 0.070, and *wR*2 = 0.132 [4513 observed reflections [*I*_o] > 4σ(*I*_o)], 2θ ≤ 50° and 478 parameters. CCDC reference number 186/937. <http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/dt/1998/1419/> for crystallographic files in .cit format.

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Scheme 2

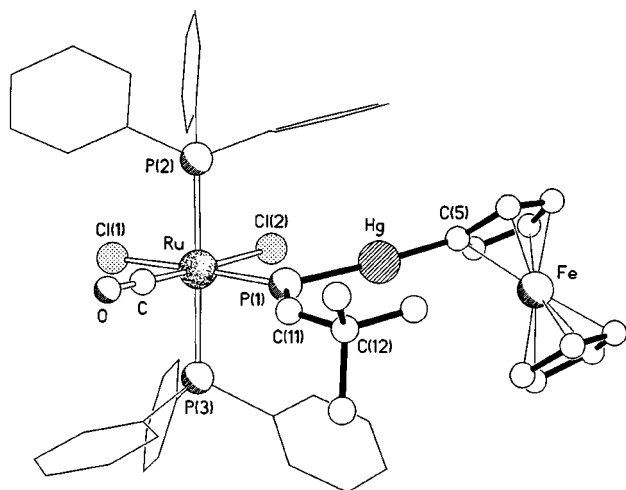


Fig. 1 Molecular structure of complex **2d**. Hydrogen atoms omitted and phenyl groups simplified

and were established to have the *cis*-RuCl₂ structure depicted in Fig. 1.

The geometry at ruthenium is distorted octahedral with *cis* inter-ligand angles in the range 84.10(14)–93.9(2)°. The two *cis* Ru–Cl bonds at 2.454(4) and 2.469(4) Å are of identical length indicating comparable *trans* influences for the carbonyl and phosphalkene ligands. The plane defined by the atoms Hg, P(1), C(11) and C(12) of the phosphalkene ligand is twisted by only 7° from the equatorial co-ordination plane. The key geometrical features of the phosphalkene include: (i) a dramatically shortened (32σ) Ru–P(1) bond length of 2.277(4) Å relative to the ruthenium phosphine bond lengths of Ru–P(2) [2.405(4)] and Ru–P(3) [2.416(4) Å]; (ii) trigonal co-ordination at P(1)

[angle sum 360.0°]; (iii) a short P(1)–C(11) bond length of 1.69(2) Å reflecting marked multiple bond character; and (iv) a short P(1)–Hg bond length of 2.377(4) Å. Being the first structurally characterised Hg–P(sp²) bond length, no precedent for comparison exists, however it is clearly short relative to the very few examples reported for bonds between mercury and three-coordinate pyramidal phosphorus, *e.g.* 2.402(1) in [Hg₂{μ-P(SiMe₃)₂}{PSiMe₃}]₂⁶ and 2.442(3)/2.451(3) Å for [Hg(PBu^t)₂].⁷ It is notable that the non-bonded Hg–Cl(2) distance is relatively short, being less than the sum of the van der Waals radii and is accompanied by a contraction in both the P(1)–Ru–Cl(2) (84°) and Hg–P(1)–Ru (115°) angles.

The results described above illustrate the utility of terminal phosphalkenyl ligands as precursors for complexes of metalated phosphalkenes. The complexes **2a–2d** are indefinitely stable under ambient conditions, however **2e** slowly extrudes elemental mercury in solution, and the nature of this curious product is currently under investigation.

Acknowledgements

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