# Preparation and reactions of rhenium(VII) trioxo hydrogendiolato complexes and rhenium(VI) oxo bis(diolato) complexes

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The compound  $\text{Re}_2\text{O}_7$ ,  $\text{Re}_2\text{O}_7$ ,  $2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  or  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{OSiMe}_3)]$  reacted with  $\text{H}_2$ diol to form complexes having the general formula  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{Hdiol})]$  where  $\text{H}_2$ diol = 2,3-dimethylbutane-2,3-diol ( $\text{H}_2\text{pin}$ ) or 1,1'-bicyclohexane-1,1'-diol ( $\text{H}_2\text{picy}$ ). In the case of  $\text{H}_2\text{pin}$  the complex  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{Hpin})]$ · $\text{H}_2\text{pin}$  is formed initially in the reaction of rhenium(VII) oxides with an excess of pinacol. The hydrogen bonded free pinacol molecule can be removed by sublimation. The monomethyl derivative of pinacol, HMepin, reacts in a similar way to form the complex  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{Mepin})]$ . In the rhenium(VII) compounds the Re atom has a distorted trigonal bipyramidal co-ordination geometry. Pale yellow solutions of  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{Hdiol})]$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  slowly become orange and red crystals having the formula  $[\text{ReO}(\text{diol})_2]$  may be isolated. The reaction of rhenium(VII) oxides with  $\text{H}_2$ diol and PPh\_3 in the presence of drying agents in CH\_2Cl\_2 produced the same compounds in high yield. The crystal structures of the rhenium(VI) oxo bis(diolato) complexes are thermally stable and do not readily undergo oxidation in dry air.

## Introduction

High-valent rhenium oxides<sup>1</sup> have been extensively investigated, particularly because some representatives of this class of compounds exhibit catalytic properties; organorhenium oxides, *e.g.* methyltrioxorhenium, catalyse a wide range of transformations of organic compounds.<sup>2</sup> Simple oxides such as Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> and ReO<sub>3</sub> have been found to catalyse alkene epoxidations.<sup>3</sup> Trioxo-(trifluoroacetato)rhenium(VII)<sup>4</sup> performs a tandem oxidative cyclization reaction of hydroxypolyenes.<sup>5</sup> The further development of high valent rhenium oxides for catalytic purposes and stoichiometric reactions is of current interest.

Since earlier reports indicate that rhenium(VII) alkoxide trioxides,<sup>4</sup> e.g. ReO<sub>3</sub>(OR), R = Me or CMe<sub>3</sub>, are accessible, we have chosen to extend our study to diolato complexes of Re<sup>VII</sup> prepared from the commonly available rhenium(VII) precursors HReO<sub>4</sub>, Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> and the hydrocarbon soluble ReO<sub>3</sub>(OSiMe<sub>3</sub>) first used for this purpose by Edwards and Wilkinson.<sup>4</sup> Following submission of this work we became aware of the work of Herrmann *et al.* in this field. They have also used ReO<sub>3</sub>-(OSiMe<sub>3</sub>) and silylated derivatives of pinacol (H<sub>2</sub>pin) ligands as starting compounds and prepared two pinacolato complexes with the formulae [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Xpin)] (X = H or Me).<sup>6</sup>

Reduction of rhenium(VII) oxides by phosphines normally leads to rhenium(V) compounds, *e.g.* reduction of  $\text{Re}_2O_7$  with PMe<sub>3</sub> produces the *trans*-dioxo complex  $[\text{ReO}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_4]$ - $[\text{ReO}_4]^7$  and with PEt<sub>3</sub> in the presence of pyridine yields the related compound  $[\text{ReO}_2(\text{py})_4][\text{ReO}_4]$ .<sup>8</sup> The spontaneous reduction of rhenium(VII) in the formation of red  $[\text{ReO}(\text{pin})_2]$ prompted us to study reductions of  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{Hdiol})]$  with tertiary phosphines.

There are few reported examples of the preparation and characterization of rhenium(VI) alkoxo complexes. The first rhenium(VI) alkoxide oxide complexes were reported by Wilkinson and co-workers<sup>9</sup> and include the compounds  $[Re_2O_3-(OMe)_6]$ ,  $[ReO(OPr^i)_5]^-$  and  $[ReO(OBu^t)_4]$ ; in each case these were synthesized from ReOCl<sub>4</sub>. Hexamethoxorhenium(VI) Re(OMe\_3)\_6, prepared from ReF<sub>6</sub>, has been reported by Jacob.<sup>10</sup> Mononuclear tris(3,5-di-*tert*-butylcatecholato)rhenium(VI) seems to be the first tris(diolato) complex of rhenium(VI).<sup>11</sup> The

dinuclear methyl diolato complexes  $[Re_2O_3Me_2(eg)_2(py)_2]$  and  $[Re_2O_3Me_2(pin)_2]$  (H<sub>2</sub>eg = 1,2-dihydroxyethane) have been reported by Herrmann *et al.*<sup>12</sup>

In this paper we discuss the syntheses, reactions and crystal structures of two mononuclear rhenium(VII) oxo diolato complexes with the formulae  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{Hpin})]$ ·H<sub>2</sub>pin 1a and  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{Hbicy})]$  2 (H<sub>2</sub>bicy = 1,1'-bicyclohexane-1,1'-diol). We also report reactions of rhenium(VII) oxides with diols in the presence of PPh<sub>3</sub> including the syntheses, reactions and crystal structures of two mononuclear rhenium(VI) oxo diolato complexes with the formulae  $[\text{ReO}(\text{diol})_2]$  (diol = pin 3 or bicy 4).

## Discussion

### Reactions of diols with rhenium(VII) oxides

One of the general synthetic methods for the preparation of metal alkoxides is by the use of a metal oxide as a metal source. It was found that both Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> and concentrated aqueous HReO<sub>4</sub> (Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O) dissolve in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> in the presence of an excess of pinacol. When the molar ratio H<sub>2</sub>pin: Re was less than 2:1, a deep green insoluble and presumably polymeric material was formed, probably due to reduction of Re<sup>VII</sup>. When the molar ratio was 2:1 or more, evaporation of the solvent produced a colourless pinacolato complex 1a for which analytical data indicate the formula [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hpin)]·H<sub>2</sub>pin. When the reactions were performed in co-ordinating solvents such as thf, pinacolato complexes could not be isolated. A complex of analytical composition [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hpin)] 1b was formed when pinacol was removed from 1a by sublimation in vacuo. The behaviour of ditertiary alcohols is significantly different to that of disecondary and diprimary alcohols in this context since reactions of Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> with secondary (butane-2,3-diol) and primary (ethane-1,2-diol) diols yield dark violet solutions in which Re<sup>VII</sup> is reduced and diol is oxidized.

In the solid state compound 1a decomposes slowly under air to afford an intractable dark green material. Compound 1a is insoluble in hexane and petroleum ethers, soluble in toluene, Et<sub>2</sub>O, chlorinated solvents and thf. Solutions of 1a in dry nonco-ordinating solvents (*e.g.* halogenocarbons) are stable under air for several days at room temperature, and for weeks at -18 °C. Pale yellow CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and ethanol solutions become colourless upon addition of water due to hydrolysis. Under an inert atmosphere at room temperature, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solutions of **1a** slowly become orange due to the formation of [ReO(pin)<sub>2</sub>]. Above 30 °C this reaction is more rapid being complete in several hours.

The monomethylated-oxygen derivative of pinacol (HMepin) could be prepared by a reaction of the mono-sodium salt of H<sub>2</sub>pin and MeI in thf or by an acid catalysed ring opening reaction of tetramethyloxirane by methanol. The derivative HMepin reacts with the rhenium(VII) precursors Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> or concentrated HReO<sub>4</sub> in a manner similar to that with H<sub>2</sub>pin and produces the compound [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Mepin)].<sup>6</sup> An X-ray diffraction study of the latter at room temperature gave the following unit cell parameters: a = 8.350(3), b = 10.996(4), c = 23.260(4) Å. These values are similar to those reported by Herrmann *et al.*,<sup>6</sup> where the structure determination was performed at -80 °C.

The compound Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> or concentrated HReO<sub>4</sub> reacts with an excess of 1,1'-bicyclohexane-1,1'-diol in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to form [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hbicy)] 2. The product prepared this way was difficult to separate from free diol and started to decompose during a few hours to give a pink-violet material, which subsequently turned into a brown-green insoluble solid. Similar changes were observed for solutions of 2 prepared from  $Re_2O_7$ . When [ReO<sub>3</sub>(OSiMe<sub>3</sub>)] reacted with a stoichiometric amount of H<sub>2</sub>bicy in light petroleum, an analytically pure white product precipitated which was indefinitely stable in the solid state under nitrogen at room temperature. Solutions of 2 prepared this way slowly changed from colourless to pink and finally violet during 1-2 d at room temperature. When the solutions were stored at -18 °C only a slight pink coloration was observed during several weeks. Crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were grown from dilute Et<sub>2</sub>O-light petroleum solutions. Compound 2 is insoluble in hexane and petroleum ethers, slightly soluble in toluene and Et<sub>2</sub>O and soluble in chlorinated solvents and thf.

Compounds 1a, 1b and 2 react with alkylating agents LiR (R = Me or  $CH_2SiMe_3$ ), MgMeI and AlMe<sub>3</sub> to produce presumably mixtures of lower oxidation state organorhenium compounds. When these reaction solutions were filtered and evaporated to dryness the residues did not appear to contain alkoxide ligands (by IR and NMR). Reactions of complexes 1a, 1b and 2 with  $ZnR_2$  (R = Me or Et) produce colourless or light yellow solutions indicating the presence of rhenium(VII) products. No pure products were isolated although <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of the mixtures of  $ZnMe_2$  and rhenium(VII) diolates ( $ZnMe_2$ : Re = 1:2) indicated the formation of  $ReMeO_3$ .

#### Formation and reactions of [ReO(diol)<sub>2</sub>] compounds

The bis(diolato)rhenium(vI) complex [ReO(pin)<sub>2</sub>] 3 was first isolated from a CH2Cl2 solution of rhenium(VII) oxide and pinacol. Alternatively, 3 was obtained when [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hpin)]. H<sub>2</sub>pin was treated with PPh<sub>3</sub> in a molar ratio of 2 to 1 in the presence of a drying agent (e.g. molecular sieves). At the beginning of the reaction the pale yellow solution of [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hpin)]. H<sub>2</sub>pin changed to dark blue, before finally changing to bright orange-red and 3 was formed in high yield (84%). Compound 3 may be recrystallized from light petroleum or hexane solutions as large red needles. It was also obtained when solutions of Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> or concentrated HReO<sub>4</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were treated with  $H_2pin$  and  $PPh_3$  in the molar ratio  $Re:diol: PPh_3 = 1:2:0.5$  in the presence of molecular sieves which forces the condensation to completion. The reaction between ReOCl<sub>4</sub> and pinacol in the presence of a tertiary amine as a base also produces the same product, but the yield is significantly lower (ca. 30%).

In dry air compound **3** decomposes above  $70 \,^{\circ}\text{C}$  but it appears indefinitely stable at room temperature. It decomposes

slowly during 24 h in moist air. Under an inert atmosphere, solutions of **3** are stable in hydrocarbons (*e.g.* toluene) to 110 °C without noticeable decomposition. In acetone or EtOH **3** becomes colourless upon addition of water, however solid **3** does not dissolve in water and is stable to water in the solid state for several hours. Thus **3** is significantly more stable than other known rhenium(vI) alkoxide oxide complexes, whereas for example [ReO(OBu<sup>1</sup>)<sub>4</sub>] decomposes above 0 °C under an inert atmosphere resulting in the elimination of unsaturated hydrocarbons and the formation of an insoluble residue.<sup>9</sup>

When solutions of compound **3** in Et<sub>2</sub>O were treated with an excess of pyridine a deep green colour developed. When these solutions were evaporated slowly or held at -18 °C a green solid could be isolated, however it rapidly returned to red *in vacuo* or during *ca*. 30 min under ambient conditions. This may be explained by the reversible formation of a six-co-ordinate pyridine adduct of **3**.

Compound **3** reacted with alkylating agents such as MgMeI, MgMe<sub>2</sub>, LiMe and AlMe<sub>3</sub> to form thermally unstable mixtures. Removal of the volatile materials from these reaction mixtures *in vacuo* led to the isolation of ReMe<sub>4</sub>O<sup>13</sup> (cold trap, -196 °C). When **3** was treated with an excess of methylating agent (especially with AlMe<sub>3</sub>) at -80 °C deep green solutions of ReMe<sub>6</sub> were observed (and which is known to be thermally unstable <sup>14</sup>). Following warming and evaporating to dryness, the IR and NMR spectra showed the absence of pinacolato ligands clearly indicating their facile substitution by these alkylating agents under these conditions. Reactions of **3** with ZnR<sub>2</sub> (R = Me or CH<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>3</sub>) also resulted in decomposition, as did the reaction with AlCl<sub>3</sub> in toluene unlike similar reactions of the analogous [OsO(pin)<sub>2</sub>] where the compounds [OsOX<sub>2</sub>(pin)]<sup>15</sup> (X = Cl or Br) were isolated.

Attempts to prepare a complex of formula  $[\text{Re}_2\text{O}_4(\text{pin})_2]$ , in a similar manner to its osmium analogue  $[\text{Os}_2\text{O}_4(\text{pin})_2]$ , were unsuccessful. The reaction of  $[\text{ReO}_3(\text{Hpin})]$  with 0.5 mol equivalent of PPh<sub>3</sub> in the presence of molecular sieves yielded a dark brown-violet insoluble and uncharacterized material along with 3 in about 30–40% yield.

The reaction of  $\text{Re}_2\text{O}_7$  or concentrated  $\text{HReO}_4$  with  $\text{H}_2\text{bicy}$ and  $\text{PPh}_3$  in molar ratio  $\text{Re}:\text{diol}:\text{PPh}_3 = 1:2:0.5$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  in the presence of molecular sieves produces a red solution of  $[\text{ReO}(\text{bicy})_2]$  **4** and  $\text{OPPh}_3$ . Evaporation of the solvent and extraction with light petroleum, followed by purification by column chromatography on Florisil with toluene as an eluent, yielded pure **4**, which could then be crystallized from light petroleum. The chemical properties of **4** are similar to those of **3**.

Reactions of  $\text{Re}_2\text{O}_7$  with disecondary (butane-2,3-diol) and diprimary (ethane-1,2-diol) diols or their silylated derivatives in the presence of PPh<sub>3</sub> yielded orange-red solutions, which became dark brown-violet when the solvent was evaporated to small volume. Dark brown oils were obtained when the solvent (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or thf) was completely removed *in vacuo*; pure compounds could not be isolated from these mixtures. On addition of pyridine these solutions changed to deep blue-violet; again pure products were not isolable.

#### Spectroscopic characterization

The IR spectra of the rhenium(VII) compounds 1a and 2 show bands for co-ordinated diolate ligands. Bands at 941 and 910 cm<sup>-1</sup> for 1a and 982, 949, 934 and 915 cm<sup>-1</sup> for 2 are in the region expected for v(Re=O) bands (*cf.* v(Re=O) 998, 959 and 946 cm<sup>-1</sup> for ReMeO<sub>3</sub><sup>16</sup>). Differences between 1a and 1b are observed in the OH stretching region of their solid state spectra where  $v_{OH}$  for [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hpin)] 1b (3200 cm<sup>-1</sup>) appears at a significantly lower frequency than for 1a (at 3473 and 3410 cm<sup>-1</sup>). A crystallographic study (see below) confirms that the hydrogen-bonded framework in 1a is more complex than that in 1b. The lower frequency  $v_{OH}$  vibration of 1a is partially obscured by v(C–H). Compound **2** has a broad OH stretching band (3215 cm<sup>-1</sup>) close to that observed for **1b**.

The IR spectra of the rhenium(VI) compounds **3** and **4** show bands for co-ordinated diolates and the absence of  $\nu$ (O–H) bands. The Re=O stretches appear at 980 and 984 cm<sup>-1</sup> for **3** and **4**, respectively and are located at a similar position to that observed for the osmium analogue [OsO(pin)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>17</sup> [ $\nu$ (Os=O) 978 cm<sup>-1</sup>].

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **1a** shows three signals attributable to methyl hydrogens at  $\delta$  1.24 (assigned to non-co-ordinated pinacol) and at  $\delta$  1.31 and 1.40 (co-ordinated pinacol) in an intensity ratio of 2:1:1 respectively. The OH hydrogens of both **1a** and **1b** give two broad signals at  $\delta$  2.1 and  $\approx 6$  and 1.41 and 5.3 respectively. These values may be compared to those observed in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of free pinacol [ $\delta$  1.26 (CCH<sub>3</sub>) and 2.10 (OH)].<sup>18</sup> The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** exhibits a pattern of overlapping signals for the CH<sub>2</sub> hydrogens between  $\delta$  1.06 and 2.08 and a signal for the OH hydrogen at  $\delta \approx 5$ .

In the  ${}^{13}C-{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of compound 1a there are three clearly distinguishable signals in the methyl carbon region at  $\delta$  22.8 and 23.5 (assigned to co-ordinated pinacol, Hpin) and at 24.5 (non-co-ordinated pinacol, H<sub>2</sub>pin). In the spectrum of 2 resonances observed at  $\delta$  20.4 and 20.7 are assigned to CH<sub>2</sub> carbons at positions 3 and 5 in the cyclohexane rings by comparison to the free diol. Similarly, carbons at position 4 resonate at  $\delta$  24.0 and 24.2 and those assigned to carbons 2 and 6 appear at  $\delta$  29.0 and 30.6. The multiplicity of these resonances is due to the presence of inequivalent cyclohexyl groups arising in the monodeprotonated diolate ligand as is expected. The quaternary carbons of 1a assigned to the COH and CORe carbons give three sharp resonances at  $\delta$  75.2 (COH, H<sub>2</sub>pin), 77.4 (COH, Hpin) and 93.1 (CORe, Hpin). In the spectrum of 2, resonances assigned to COH and CORe were located at  $\delta$  79.3 and 96.4 respectively.

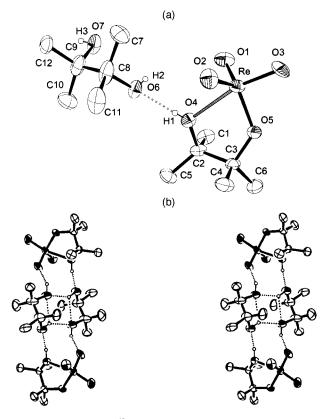
The mass spectra of compounds **3** and **4** show the molecular ions {M<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 433, 435 and 593, 595 respectively; calculated for [ReO(pin)<sub>2</sub>] m/z = 434.51 and for [ReO(bicy)<sub>2</sub>] m/z = 594.78} with the expected rhenium isotope pattern. Solid state magnetic susceptibilities [ $\mu_{eff} = 1.72$  (**3**) and 1.69  $\mu_{B}$  (**4**)] indicate that the compounds have paramagnetic d<sup>1</sup>-metal centres consistent with Re<sup>VI</sup>.

#### Structural studies

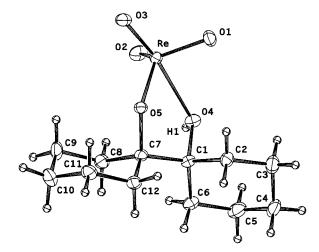
**Rhenium(VII) compounds.** The structures of compounds **1a** and **2** (Figs. 1 and 2) reveal that the rhenium(VII) centres are bonded to one bidentate hydrogendiolate ligand and to three terminal oxo ligands resulting in a distorted trigonal bipyramidal arrangement around  $\text{Re}^{\text{VII}}$  with O(3) and O(4) as axial atoms. As a result, each diolate ligand co-ordinates both axial and equatorial sites, an arrangement which is consistent with the solution NMR data and which presumably arises from the restriction of the chelate bite angle. The core rhenium(VII) units of compounds **1a** and **2** have the same basic structure with similar structural parameters (Table 1). Similar geometries are also found in [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Rpin)] (R = H or Me),<sup>6</sup> [ReMeO<sub>2</sub>(pin)]<sup>12</sup> and trioxo(3-piperidinopropyl)rhenium(VII).<sup>20</sup>

In compounds **1a**, **2** and [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Rpin)] (R = H or Me)<sup>6</sup> all Re<sup>VII</sup>=O distances are very similar (*ca.* 1.70 Å), although the axial oxide ligand *trans* to the Re–O (alcohol or ether) bond tends to form the longest Re=O bond. In structurally characterized compounds containing Re=O bonds the average Re=O distance is 1.700(64) Å.<sup>21</sup> The Re–O (alkoxo) distances in **1a**, **1b** and **2** are also similar [1.866(6), 1.865(5) and 1.850(3) Å respectively] (this value and all mentioned below for **1b** are values from our X-ray work) at room temperature. The Re–O (alcohol) distances however vary between compounds **1a**, **1b** and **2** [2.277(8), 2.319(5) and 2.384(3)Å respectively].

Comparison of the trigonal bipyramidal geometries in com-



**Fig. 1** (a) An ORTEP<sup>19</sup> view of compound **1a** with 30% thermal ellipsoids showing the atom labelling system of the heavy atoms and HO hydrogens. (b) A stereoview of **1a** showing the hydrogen bonding scheme.



**Fig. 2** An ORTEP view of compound **2** with 30% thermal ellipsoids showing the atom labelling system (CH hydrogens are not labelled for clarity).

pounds **1a**, **1b** and **2** to the similar structure in trioxo(3-piperidinopropyl)rhenium(VII),<sup>20</sup> [ReO<sub>3</sub>(pipro)], with the Re<sup>VII</sup>O<sub>3</sub>CN chromophore reveals significant differences. For example, the chelate angles around the five-coordinated Re<sup>VII</sup> are 72.5(3) (for **1a**), 71.8(2) (for **1b**), 72.0(2) (for **2**) and 74.6(2)° for [ReO<sub>3</sub>-(pipro)]. In **1a**, **1b** and **2** the largest angles around Re<sup>VII</sup> are 166.8(4), 168.3(2) and 168.6(3)°, respectively. The relevant angle for [ReO<sub>3</sub> (pipro)] is 162.4(2)°.

In compound **1a** the co-ordinated (Hpin) and uncoordinated pinacol (H<sub>2</sub>pin) adopt a *gauche* conformation with O(4)–C(2)–C(3)–O(5) and O(6)–C(8)–C(9)–O(7) torsion angles of 44(1) and 58.6(13)°, respectively. The O(4)–C(2)–C(3)–O(5) torsion angle in **1b** is 45.9(7)°. In the complexes  $[M_2O_3(pin)_2(H$  $pin)_2]$ , where M = Mo<sup>V122</sup> the torsion angle O–C–C–O in Hpin is 37(2)° and for M = W<sup>V123</sup> the related angle is 34(1)°. In these

Table 1 Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for compounds 1a and 2

	1a	2
Re–O(1)	1.692(8)	1.703(4)
Re-O(2)	1.694(7)	1.697(4)
Re-O(3)	1.713(7)	1.715(4)
Re-O(4)	2.277(8)	2.384(4)
Re-O(5)	1.866(6)	1.850(3)
O(1)-Re- $O(2)$	111.0(4)	111.5(2)
O(1)-Re- $O(3)$		( )
O(1)-Re- $O(4)$	85.2(3)	83.3(2)
O(1) - Re - O(5)		( )
O(2) - Re - O(3)	104.3(4)	( )
O(2)-Re- $O(4)$	81.2(3)	79.8(2)
O(2) - Re - O(5)	121.2(4)	119.8(2)
O(3)-Re- $O(4)$	166.6(3)	168.3(2)
O(3)-Re- $O(5)$	94.3(3)	96.7(2)
O(4) - Re - O(5)	72.5(3)	72.0(2)
Re-O(4)-C	114.5(6)	112.3(3)
Re-O(5)-C	127.1(6)	127.5(3)

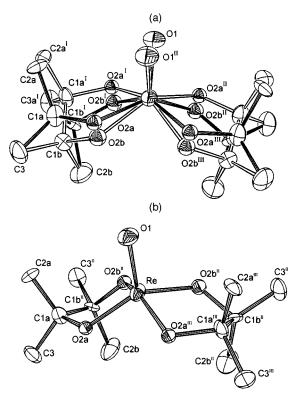
complexes there are two strong intramolecular hydrogen bonds. The formation of intra- or inter-molecular hydrogen bonds appears then to have a significant influence upon the Hpin ligand conformation in these compounds in the solid state.

The co-ordination sphere of Re<sup>VII</sup> in compound 1a is not significantly affected by the proton of the co-ordinated OH group being hydrogen bonded to an unco-ordinated pinacol in the lattice. The H atoms of the OH groups were located from the Fourier-difference and their coordinates refined. The  $O(4) \cdots O(6)$  distance is 2.585(10) Å indicating a strong intermolecular O-H···O bond. A similar strong hydrogen bond has been found in  $[W_2O_3(pin)_2(Hpin)_2]$  where the O···O distance is 2.63(3) Å. The HO hydrogens of unco-ordinated pinacol appear to bond to  $O(7^{I})$  and  $O(1^{I})$  (I 2 - x, -y, 1 - z). This is indicated by the  $O(6) \cdots O(7^{I})$  and  $O(7) \cdots O(1^{I})$  distances of 2.79(1) and 2.90(1) Å, respectively. Pinacol molecules form dimeric units with possible intramolecular hydrogen bonds. The hydrogen bonds are depicted in Fig. 1(b). Weak hydrogen bonds are also indicated by the bands at 3473 and 3410 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the IR spectrum of 1a. The IR frequency of the O-H stretch related to the O(4)-H(1) $\cdots$ O(6) bond was not identified and is presumed to be coincident with the C-H stretches, as is the case in [W<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>(pin)<sub>2</sub>(Hpin)<sub>2</sub>]. By comparison, in **1b** the  $O(4) \cdots O(1)$  distance is 2.716(7) Å and the observed  $v_{\rm OH}$  is at 3200 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

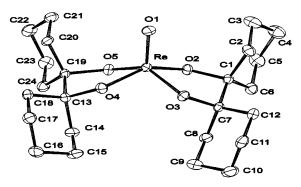
The O(4)–C(1)–C(7)–O(5) torsion angle is 44.4(5)° in compound **2** in which the hydrogen bonded framework is defined by O(4)–H(1)···O(3<sup>II</sup>) (II 1 –  $x, \frac{1}{2} - y, 1\frac{1}{2} - z$ ) with O(4)–H(1), H(1)···O(3<sup>II</sup>) and O(4)···O(3<sup>II</sup>) distances of 0.79(5), 2.05(5) and 2.843(5)Å, respectively. The O(4)–H(1)···O(3<sup>II</sup>) angle is 177(6) Å. In this case the hydrogen bond gives rise to  $v_{OH}$  in the IR spectrum at 3215 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Rhenium(VI) compounds.** The molecular structures of the bis(diolato-*O*, *O'*)oxorhenium(VI) compounds **3** and **4** are in Figs. 3(b) and 4; relevant bond distances and angles are collected in Table 2. The bond parameters are of poor accuracy for **3** due to a positional disorder discussed below. Compound **3** has a tetragonal unit cell with a = b = 10.315(2) and c = 7.270(1) Å and is isostructural with  $[OsO(pin)_2]$  [a = b = 10.256(1) and c = 7.278(3) Å].<sup>24</sup> As a result of disorder, the structure of [OsO-(pin)\_2] could not be completely solved.<sup>24</sup> The structure solution presented here shows clearly that in [ReO(pin)\_2] the rhenium(VI) cation is bonded to one oxide ligand and to two deprotonated pinacol ligands forming a distorted square pyramid. The oxide ligand is at the apex of the pyramid.

Problems in the structure solution and refinement of compound 3 arise from a molecular disorder in which the [ReO-



**Fig. 3** (a) An ORTEP view of compound **3** in the disordered position with 30% thermal ellipsoids showing the atom labelling scheme. Hydrogen atoms are not included and one half of all atoms and symmetry-related oxygens are labelled. Symmetry operations: I 1 - y, 1 - x, z; II 1 - x, 1 - y, z; III *y*, *x*, *z*. (b) An ORTEP view of **3** with 30% thermal ellipsoids showing the atom labelling system. Hydrogen atoms are not shown.



**Fig. 4** An ORTEP view of compound **4** with 30% thermal ellipsoids showing the heavy atom labelling system.

(pin)<sub>2</sub>] molecule can reside in the crystal having either the orientation **A** or **B**. These orientations are related by rotation of 180° around the average Re=O axis. The overall result of this disorder is shown in Fig. 3(a) in which the molecule having orientation **A** is described by those atoms connected by solid bonds, those atoms connected by unfilled bonds describe orientation **B**. The carbon atoms C2b and C3 are at the same position in both orientations. A view of an individual molecule with  $C_s$ symmetry is presented in Fig. 3(b).

In both orientations the opposing diolato chelates adopt both  $\lambda$  and  $\delta$  conformations simultaneously; the terminal oxygen O(1) also resides in two positions. The overall effect is that the sum of these two superimposed orientations results in two mutually perpendicular mirror planes. The atom labelling in Fig. 3(a) illustrates the situation. The  $\lambda$  conformation of the chelate ring is displayed by atoms O2a, C1a, C1b<sup>I</sup> and O2b<sup>I</sup> [torsion angle =  $-42(2)^{\circ}$ ], and the  $\delta$  conformation of the chelate ring is defined by the atoms O2b, C1b, C1a<sup>I</sup> and O2a<sup>I</sup> [torsion angle =  $42(2)^{\circ}$ ]. The atoms of the transoid diolate ligand

Table 2 Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for compounds 3 and 4  $\,$ 

	3	4				
	1.699(10)*	1.690(4)				
Re-O(2)	1.845(8)	1.900(3)				
Re-O(3)	1.904(9)	1.892(3)				
Re-O(4)		1.907(3)				
Re-O(5)		1.886(3)				
O(1)-Re-O(2)	114.6(8)	107.4(2)				
O(1)-Re- $O(3)$	100.7(10)	111.7(2)				
O(1)-Re- $O(4)$		105.3(2)				
O(1)-Re- $O(5)$		112.5(2)				
O(2)-Re- $O(3)$	79.4(5)	80.9(1)				
O(2)-Re- $O(4)$	143.1(10)	147.1(1)				
O(2)-Re- $O(5)$	94.6(11)	84.7(1)				
O(3)-Re- $O(4)$	84.0(13)	89.2(1)				
O(3)-Re- $O(5)$		135.8(1)				
O(4)–Re–O(5)		80.8(1)				
* Nearest relevant bond parameters listed. Atoms O2, O3, O4 and O5 in compound <b>4</b> are related to O2a, $O2b^{I}$ , $O2b^{II}$ and $O2a^{III}$ in <b>3</b> .						

connected by the solid (filled in) bonds [Fig. 3(a)] also define a  $\delta$  conformation. One of two [ReO(pin)<sub>2</sub>] molecules with a  $\lambda\delta$  conformation pair is represented in Fig. 3(b).

The structure of complex **4** is also composed of distorted square pyramidal rhenium(v1) units similar to those in **3**. The structure solution of **4** supports the result obtained for **3**. However the structure of the rhenium(v1) centre in **4** is more distorted towards trigonal bipyramidal than that in **3** as the largest O–Re–O angles in **4** are 147.1(1) and 135.8(1)° and in **3** there are two O–Re–O angles with the value of 142.7(10)°. In **4** the diolate ligands in the asymmetric unit adopt  $\lambda\delta$  conformations with torsion angles of -41.7(4) and  $37.0(5)^\circ$ . A pseudo-mirror passes through Re, O1 and the midpoints of the O2–O5 and O3–O4 vectors. The co-ordination sphere of the central metal atom in **3** and **4** is also comparable to that of the related osmium(v1) oxo diolates [OsO(eg)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>25</sup> and [Os<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(pin)<sub>2</sub>].<sup>17</sup> However in [OsO(eg)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>25</sup> the molecule has  $C_2$  symmetry indicating that the ligand conformations around Os<sup>V1</sup> are either  $\lambda\lambda$  or  $\delta\delta$ .

# Conclusion

This work has shown that tertiary 1,2-diols readily form five-coordinated, distorted trigonal bipyramidal trioxorhenium(VII) complexes in their reactions with rhenium(VII) oxides and in which the co-ordinated diol is singly deprotonated. These alkoxide oxide complexes readily hydrogen bond to an additional diol molecule and they are relatively stable in air. The synthetic method by which these compounds may be prepared is simple and efficient; yields are high even from rhenium-metal. Diols may be used without protection of the hydroxyl group and water removal is unnecessary when the preparation is performed in  $CH_2Cl_2$ .

The reduction of rhenium(VII) trioxo hydrogendiolato complexes by PPh<sub>3</sub> yields paramagnetic rhenium(VI) compounds with the general formula [ReO(diol)<sub>2</sub>]. In these compounds, the co-ordination geometry is distorted square pyramidal. They are thermally stable and are not oxidized by dry air. Thus the stabilities of these rhenium(VI) diolato complexes are significantly greater than those observed for complexes of monodentate alkoxide ligands. Reactivity studies indicate that these compounds may be valuable starting materials for organometallic compounds and are a stable, general source for exploring the chemistry of Re<sup>VI</sup>.

# Experimental

All reactions were carried out in a dry nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. All solvents were distilled over standard drying agents under nitrogen; light petroleum had bp 40–60 °C. The compounds Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>,<sup>26</sup> [ReO<sub>3</sub>(OSiMe<sub>3</sub>)]<sup>27</sup> and 1,1'-bicyclohexane-1,1'-diol<sup>28</sup> were prepared by literature methods. Pinacol (2,3-dimethylbutane-2,3-diol) and rhenium metal powder were obtained from Aldrich Chemical Company. Solutions of pinacol were dried over 4 Å molecular sieves. Infrared spectra were recorded in Nujol on a Nicolet 510 FT-IR spectrometer, NMR spectra on a Bruker W360 instrument operating at 360.13 (<sup>1</sup>H) or 90.53 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C) and are referenced to SiMe<sub>4</sub> ( $\delta$  0). All chemical shifts  $\delta$  are in ppm. Microanalyses were obtained from the Microanalysis Group from the University of Turku using a Perkin-Elmer CHNS-Analyzer 2400.

#### Preparations

[ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hpin)]·H<sub>2</sub>pin 1a. (a) From  $Re_2O_7$ . To a suspension of  $\text{Re}_2\text{O}_7$  (0.23 g, 0.5 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (7 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added  $\text{H}_2\text{pin}$ (0.34 g, 2.9 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 cm<sup>3</sup>). The colourless solution was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, then filtered and evaporated to dryness in vacuo. The white residue was washed with light petroleum  $(3 \times 5 \text{ cm}^3)$ . The colourless product (0.28)g, 62%) was crystallized from Et<sub>2</sub>O solution (2 cm<sup>3</sup>) by slow addition of light petroleum (5 cm<sup>3</sup>), mp 74–76 °C with decomposition under nitrogen (Found: C, 29.5; H, 5.69. C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>27</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Re requires C, 30.7; H, 5.80%). IR (Nujol mull, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3473m (br), 3410m, 2719w, 2617w, 2535w (br), 1231w, 1203m, 1150s, 1130m, 1117m, 1014w, 941s, 910s, 853m, 830m, 670w, 648w, 617m, 578w, 547w, 527m, 510m and 469m. NMR: <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ 1.24 (s, 4 H, CCH<sub>3</sub> H<sub>2</sub>pin), 1.31 (s, 2 H, CCH<sub>3</sub> Hpin), 1.40 (s, 2 H, CCH<sub>3</sub> Hpin), 2.11–2.17 (br, OH) and  $\approx 6$  (br, OH); <sup>13</sup>C-{<sup>1</sup>H} (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>), δ 22.8 (CH<sub>3</sub> Hpin), 23.5 (CH<sub>3</sub> Hpin), 24.5 (CH<sub>3</sub> H<sub>2</sub>pin), 75.2 (COH H<sub>2</sub>pin), 77.4 (COH Hpin) and 93.1 (CORe).

(b) From HReO<sub>4</sub>. Rhenium metal powder (0.25 g, 1.3 mmol) was dissolved in 70% HNO<sub>3</sub> (1 cm<sup>3</sup>) with gentle heating. The colourless solution was evaporated in an open flask by careful heating (water-bath) until a pale yellow oily residue remained. The residue was diluted with water (1 cm<sup>3</sup>) and the solution evaporated as before; this procedure was repeated twice more to ensure evaporation of all the nitric acid. The yellow-green HReO4 residue was placed under a nitrogen atmosphere and  $H_2$ pin (0.40 g, 3.4 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (25 cm<sup>3</sup>) added. The HReO<sub>4</sub> dissolved to give a colourless solution during 20 min; this solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and subsequently filtered and evaporated to dryness. The white residue was washed with light petroleum  $(3 \times 5 \text{ cm}^3)$  to give a white microcrystalline crude product (0.52 g, 85%) which was recrystallized as above. It was identical to that obtained from Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (IR and NMR).

[ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hpin)] 1b. From  $Re_2O_7$ . To a suspension of  $Re_2O_7$ (0.23 g, 0.5 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (7 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added H<sub>2</sub>pin (0.34 g, 2.9 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 cm<sup>3</sup>). The Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> dissolved to give a colourless solution, which was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The solution was filtered, evaporated to dryness in *vacuo* and the residue washed with light petroleum  $(3 \times 5 \text{ cm}^3)$ . The white residue was heated to 40 °C in vacuo and free H<sub>2</sub>pin removed by sublimation. The residue was dissolved in Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 cm<sup>3</sup>) and colourless crystals were obtained by slow addition of light petroleum (5 cm<sup>3</sup>). The moisture sensitive crystals (0.21 g, 64%) were filtered off, washed with light petroleum  $(2 \times 5 \text{ cm}^3)$ and dried in vacuo. The compound decomposes at 73-75 °C under nitrogen (Found: C, 20.6; H, 3.80. C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Re requires C, 20.5; H, 3.74%). IR (Nujol mull, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3200m (br), 2707w, 2594w, 2488w, 1232w, 1195w, 1160m, 1137s, 1012w, 983m, 950s, 910s, 888s, 850m, 679m, 617m, 562m, 523w, 498m and 465m. NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): <sup>1</sup>H,  $\delta$  1.41 (br, CCH<sub>3</sub>) and 5.3 (OH); <sup>13</sup>C-{<sup>1</sup>H}, δ 23.30–24.03 (m, CH<sub>3</sub>), 78.50 (COH) and 94.94 (CORe).

The crystal structure of a single crystal of [ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hpin)] was determined: a = 12.363(1), b = 11.013(2), c = 14.541(4) Å,

 Table 3
 Crystal data and experimental details for compounds 1a to 4

	1a	2	3	4	
Formula	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>27</sub> O <sub>7</sub> Re	$C_{12}H_{21}O_5Re$	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>5</sub> Re	$C_{24}H_{40}O_5Re$	
M	469.55	431.50	434.51	594.78	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Tetragonal	Monoclinic	
Space group (no.)	$P2_{1}/c$ (14)	$P2_{1}/c$ (14)	$P4_2nm(102)$	$P2_{1}/c$ (14)	
aĺÅ	12.184(8)	8.623(1)	10.315(2)	9.491(2)	
b/Å	11.217(7)	9.917(2)	10.315(2)	16.732(1)	
c/Å	13.864(9)	16.373(2)	7.270(1)	15.763(1)	
βl°	111.35(5)	91.57(1)		104.49(1)	
U/Å <sup>3</sup>	1765(2)	1399.6(6)	773.5(2)	2423.6(9)	
Z	4	4	2	4	
$\mu$ (Mo-K $\alpha$ )/cm <sup>-1</sup>	69.09	88.09	78.64	51.10	
Reflections measured	3276	2809	743	4733	
Observed reflections	3122	2023	403	3317	
$[I > 3.0\sigma(I)]$					
Parameters/restraints	190/6	167	62/11	271	
$R^{a}$	$0.097 (0.043)^{b}$	0.021	0.053 (0.031)	0.024	
<i>R'</i>	0.111 (0.081)	0.021	0.072 (0.065)	0.024	
<sup><i>a</i></sup> Calculations for compounds <b>1a</b> and <b>3</b> with SHELXL 97 and refinements based on $F^2$ . $R = R1 = \Sigma   F_o  -  F_c  /\Sigma F_o $ ; $R' = wR2 = [\Sigma w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2/\Sigma w(F_o^2)^2 ^2$ and $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$ , where $P = (2F_c + F_o)/3$ . <sup><i>b</i></sup> For reflections with $I > 2.0\sigma(I)$ .					

 $\beta = 90.18(2)^\circ$ , space group *C2/c* (no. 15). The structural data are similar to those obtained by Herrmann *et al.*<sup>6</sup> In our case, however, the hydrogen atom bonded to pinacol was located from the Fourier map and its positional parameters were refined.

[ReO<sub>3</sub>(Hbicy)] 2. To a solution of H<sub>2</sub>bicy (0.137 g, 0.73 mmol) in light petroleum (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added [ReO<sub>3</sub>(OSiMe<sub>3</sub>)] (0.235 g, 0.73 mmol) in light petroleum (20 cm<sup>3</sup>). A white precipitate formed immediately and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The solution was filtered and the analytically pure white microcrystalline precipitate (0.17 g, 63%) washed with light petroleum  $(3 \times 5 \text{ cm}^3)$ . Crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray diffractometry were obtained from mixed  $Et_2O$ -light petroleum solutions held at -18 °C. The product decomposed above 90 °C (Found: C, 33.7; H, 4.57. C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Re requires C, 33.4; H, 4.91%). IR (Nujol mull, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3215m (br), 1313w, 1289w, 1254m, 1225w, 1181m, 1152m, 1078w, 1061w, 1038w, 1019w, 982w (sh), 949s, 934s, 915s, 900s, 867s, 752m, 723m, 687w, 670w, 588m, 534m, 516w, 498w and 479w. NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): <sup>1</sup>H, δ 1.06 (d, br, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.31 (d, br, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.41-1.52 (m, br, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.62 (m, br, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.71 (d, br, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.83 (d, br, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.03–2.08 (m, br, CH<sub>2</sub>) and ≈5 (br, OH);  $^{13}C-\{^{1}H\}, \delta 20.4 (CH_2), 20.7 (CH_2), 24.0 (CH_2), 24.2 (CH_2), 29.0$ (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 79.3 (COH) and 96.4 (CORe).

[ReO(pin)<sub>2</sub>] 3. To a solution of compound 1 (0.59 g, 1.3 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) over 4 Å molecular sieves was added a solution of PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.17 g, 0.65 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (20 cm<sup>3</sup>). The reaction solution changed immediately from colourless to dark blue. It was stirred for 3 h at room temperature during which time it turned to bright orange-red and some white precipitate formed. The solution was evaporated to dryness in vacuo and the orange residue extracted with light petroleum  $(2 \times 15 \text{ cm}^3)$ . The combined extracts were slowly evaporated to dryness. Compound 3 crystallized as small red needles during evaporation. The crude product (0.47 g, 84%) was purified by extraction with warm (40 °C) light petroleum (5 cm<sup>3</sup>). Large red needles (0.38 g, 68%) were formed when the solution was allowed to cool slowly to room temperature, filtered off and dried in vacuo. The compound decomposed above 120 °C under N<sub>2</sub> (Found: C, 33.2; H, 5.53. C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Re requires C, 33.2; H, 5.58%). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2981s, 2938m, 1461m, 1448m, 1387m, 1367s, 1262m, 1199m, 1164m, 1129s, 1020w, 1000w, 980s, 948s, 885m, 856s, 816m, 746w, 722s, 674s, 638w, 625m, 555w, 484m and 443w. m/z 435 (M<sup>+</sup>) and 433 (M<sup>+</sup>).  $\mu_{\rm eff}$  1.72  $\mu_{\rm B}$ .

 $[\text{ReO(bicy)}_2]$  4. To a HReO<sub>4</sub> residue (from 0.106 g Re powder, 0.569 mmol prepared as described above) was added a solution

of H<sub>2</sub>bicy (0.229 g, 1.15 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) and stirred for 30 min at room temperature. During this time the HReO<sub>4</sub> residue dissolved and formed a pale yellow solution. This was filtered directly into a Schlenk flask containing PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.075 g, 0.286 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (5 cm<sup>3</sup>) and 4 Å molecular sieves. The reaction mixture changed immediately to dark orange-brown and was stirred for 20 h at room temperature. During this time it turned bright orange-red. The solution was filtered and evaporated to dryness in vacuo and the orange residue extracted with light petroleum  $(3 \times 5 \text{ cm}^3)$ . The light petroleum solution was evaporated slowly to dryness. The orange-red microcrystalline crude product (0.25 g, 74%) was purified by chromatography on silica gel using toluene as an eluent. The red-orange fraction was collected and evaporated to dryness in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in warm light petroleum (3 cm<sup>3</sup>, 40 °C). Large red needles (0.20 g, 59%) were formed when the solution was allowed to cool slowly to room temperature and then held at -18 °C for 2 d. The crystals were filtered off and dried in vacuo. The compound decomposed at 166 °C (Found C: 48.7; H, 7.08. C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Re requires C, 48.5; H, 6.79%). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2935s, 2857s, 1448s, 1364m, 1352m, 1341m, 1279m, 1250m, 1199w, 1147m, 1121s, 1062m, 1036m, 1023m, 984s, 953s, 941s, 923s, 908s, 855s, 841s, 750s, 740s, 635s, 582s, 535m, 518w, 502m, 465m and 406m cm<sup>-1</sup>. m/z 595 (M<sup>+</sup>) and 593 (M<sup>+</sup>).  $\mu_{eff}$  1.69  $\mu_{B}$ .

## Crystallography

Crystal data for compounds **1a–4** and other experimental details are summarized in Table 3. The unit cell parameters were determined by least-squares refinements from 25 carefully centred high-angle reflections measured at ambient temperature on a Rigaku AFC5S diffractometer using Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71069$  Å). The data obtained were corrected for Lorentz-polarization effects. Absorption ( $\psi$ -scan)<sup>29</sup> corrections were also applied. The intensity variations of three check reflections showed a decay of 6.8% for **1a** and 0.5% for **4** during the data collection. These effects were corrected using linear correction factors. Secondary extinction was also taken into account for **2** and **3**.<sup>30</sup>

The structures of compounds **1a**–**4** were solved by direct methods and subsequent Fourier syntheses. Least-squares refinements minimized the function  $R' = [\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \Sigma w|F_o|^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}$  for **2** and **4**, where  $w = [\sigma^2(F_o)]^{-1}$ . For **1a** and **3** refinements were against  $F^2$ . The heavy atoms were refined anisotropically, and the CH hydrogen atoms were included in calculated positions with fixed thermal parameters. The OH hydrogens of **1a** and **2** were refined isotropically. Calculations

for 2 and 4 were performed using the TEXSAN<sup>31</sup> crystallographic software. The structures of **1a** and **3** were refined on  $F^2$ with SHELXL 97.32 Figures were drawn with ORTEP II 19 and ORTEP 3 for Windows.33

In compound 3 atoms C1a, C1b, C2a, C2b, O2a and O2b of the disordered pinacol molecule were given the population parameter 0.5 and for O1 the population parameter was 0.25. Hydrogen atoms were not included in calculations. Atoms O2a and O2b were refined with isotropic displacement factors and the rest with anisotropic ones. Restraints were used for the Re-O, C-O and C-C distances.

CCDC reference number 186/1108.

See http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/dt/1998/3287/ for crystallographic files in .cif format.

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