

## Preliminary communication

### Cationic nitrosyl complexes of the type $[M(CO)_2NO(PPh_3)_2]^+$ (M = Fe, Ru, or Os)

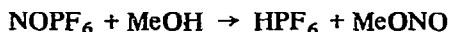
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The reactivity of the coordinated nitric oxide group has recently received considerable attention<sup>1</sup>. Our interest in this subject led us to prepare a series of cationic nitrosyl complexes of general formula  $[M(CO)_2NO(PPh_3)_2]^+$  (I, M = Fe; II, M = Ru; III, M = Os). Cation (I) has been reported previously<sup>2</sup> but was prepared in only moderate yields from *trans*-Fe(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (IV) and NOX (X = Cl, Br or NO<sub>3</sub>).

We obtained (I) in quantitative yield from (IV) and NOY (Y = BF<sub>4</sub> or PF<sub>6</sub>) in methanol-benzene. In contrast, when a solution of *trans*-M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (V, M = Ru; VI, M = Os) in the same solvent was treated with NOY at ambient temperature the protonated species  $[HM(CO)_3(PPh_3)_2]^+$  was formed<sup>3</sup>. This reaction must involve the initial formation of HPF<sub>6</sub>.



The ready formation of these hydrido cations is in accord with the improved basic character of the *trans*-M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> complexes (M = Ru, Os). The protonated species were also obtained as stable salts by treatment of complexes (V) and (VI) with strong acids HX (X = PF<sub>6</sub>, ClO<sub>4</sub>, BF<sub>4</sub>) in ether.

Treatment of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> with NO<sup>+</sup> in methanol was found to cause metal-metal bond cleavage; a result which is also found in reaction with the iso-electronic species carbon monoxide. However migration of PPh<sub>3</sub> also occurs, resulting in the product  $[Ru(CO)_2NO(PPh_3)_2]PF_6$  which is obtained from dichloromethane/ether as off-white needles. Similar treatment of Os<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> did not result in the formation of (III). However, the labile chloride in Os(CO)(NO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl may be displaced by carbon monoxide in the presence of NaBPh<sub>4</sub>, affording the required cation (III) in high yield as the tetraphenylborate salt. Cation (II) was also produced by a similar route. The characterisation of (I), (II) and (III) followed directly from analytical and spectroscopic data (Table 1).

Certain differences in reactivity between the three cations have been noted. When a suspension of (I) or (III) in methanol was treated with methoxide ion the

TABLE 1

INFRARED DATA <sup>a</sup> (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

	$\nu(\text{CO})$	$\nu(\text{NO})$
[Fe(CO) <sub>2</sub> (NO)(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]PF <sub>6</sub>	2051s, 1995vs	1792vs
[Ru(CO) <sub>2</sub> (NO)(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]PF <sub>6</sub> }	2065s, 2014vs	1765vs
[Ru(CO) <sub>2</sub> (NO)(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> }		
[Os(CO) <sub>2</sub> (NO)(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub>	2055s, 1998vs	1748vs
[RuH(CO) <sub>3</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>b</sup>	2127m, 2077s, 2057vs	
Fe(CO)(NO)(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me <sup>b</sup>	1915vs	1693vs
Os(CO)(NO)(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me <sup>b</sup>	1911vs	1648vs

<sup>a</sup> CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution unless stated otherwise. <sup>b</sup> Nujol mull.  $\nu(\text{CO})$  [carboxyl] 1605 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Fe), 1617 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Os) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution.

carboxyl derivatives M(CO)(NO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Me (M = Fe or Os) were formed whereas the reaction of (II) is complex and does not lead to a stable derivative\*. The cations (I) and (III) were reformed in almost quantitative yield as the stable PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> salt by treating the carboxyl derivatives with HPF<sub>6</sub> in methanol. Both (II) and (III) react rapidly with chloroform under reflux and nitrogen to give a mixture of M(NO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub> and *cis*-M(CO)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> but (I) is comparatively stable under these conditions. In air, however, (III) reacts differently to produce Os(NO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CO<sub>3</sub>)Cl<sup>5</sup> and *cis*-Os(CO)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. With chlorine (II) is immediately oxidised to Ru(NO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub> whereas (III) gives *cis*-Os(CO)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> reflecting the relative metal-nitrogen and metal-carbon bond strengths in each case. Indeed the IR data does suggest a weaker bonding of metal to carbonyl in the case of cation (II) as compared with (I) and (III).

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