Journal of Organometallic Chemistry, 236 (1982) C37—C40
Elsevier Sequoia S.A., Lausanne — Printed in The Netherlands

Preliminary communication

INSERTION OF ISOCYANIDES INTO THE PALLADIUM—(2-PYRIDYL) BOND

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(Received June 7th, 1982)

Summary

The reaction of the pyridyl-bridged binuclear complex $[PdBr(\mu\text{-}2\text{-}C_5H_4N)(PPh_3)]_2$ with isocyanides CNR (R = p-C_6H_4OMe, Me, C_6H_{11}) yields the complex $[PdBr\{C(=NR)C(=NR)(2\text{-}C_5H_4N)\}(PPh_3)]$ containing a C,N-chelated 1,2-bis(imino)-2-(2-pyridyl)ethyl group, which results from successive insertions of two isocyanide molecules into the palladium—2-pyridyl bond. The mononuclear compound *trans*-$[PdBr(2\text{-}C_5H_4N)(PMePh_2)_2]$ readily reacts with various CNR ligands (R = p-C_6H_4OMe, Me, C_6H_{11}, CMe_3) to give the imino(2-pyridyl)methylpalladium(II) derivatives, *trans*-$[PdBr\{C(=NR)(2\text{-}C_5H_4N)\}(PMePh_2)_2]$.

Complexes of palladium(II) with C-bonded 1,2-bis(imino)alkyl groups can generally be prepared by successive insertion reactions of two isocyanide molecules into Pd—Me [1,2], Pd—Ph [2a] or Pd—H [3] bonds. Due to our interest in the chemistry of this new class of ligands, we have studied the insertion of isocyanides into the Pd—C bond of 2-pyridylpalladium(II) derivatives of the type $[PdBr(\mu\text{-}2\text{-}C_5H_4N)(PPh_3)]_2$ [4] and *trans*-$[PdBr(2\text{-}C_5H_4N)(PMePh_2)_2]$, as a possible synthetic route to imino(2-pyridyl)methylpalladium(II) complexes (i.e., the imino-carbon palladated analogues of 2-iminomethylpyridines) (eq. 1 and 2).

Reaction 1 can be conveniently carried out either in dichloromethane at room temperature (2—3 days) or in 1,2-dichloroethane at 60°C (7—8 h) with a molar ratio Pd/CNR = 1/2. If a Pd/CNR ratio of 1/1 is used, a mixture of I and unreacted starting product is obtained. This fact and the observed IR spectral changes during the course of the reaction suggest a stepwise mechanism

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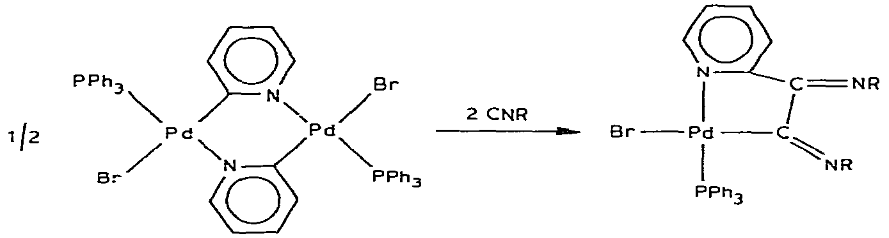
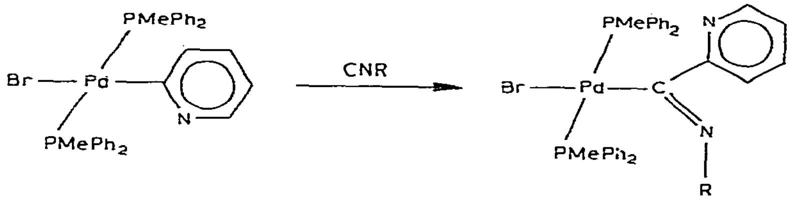

(1)

Ia : R = p-C_6H_4OMe ; Ib : R = Me ;
Ic : R = C_6H_{11}

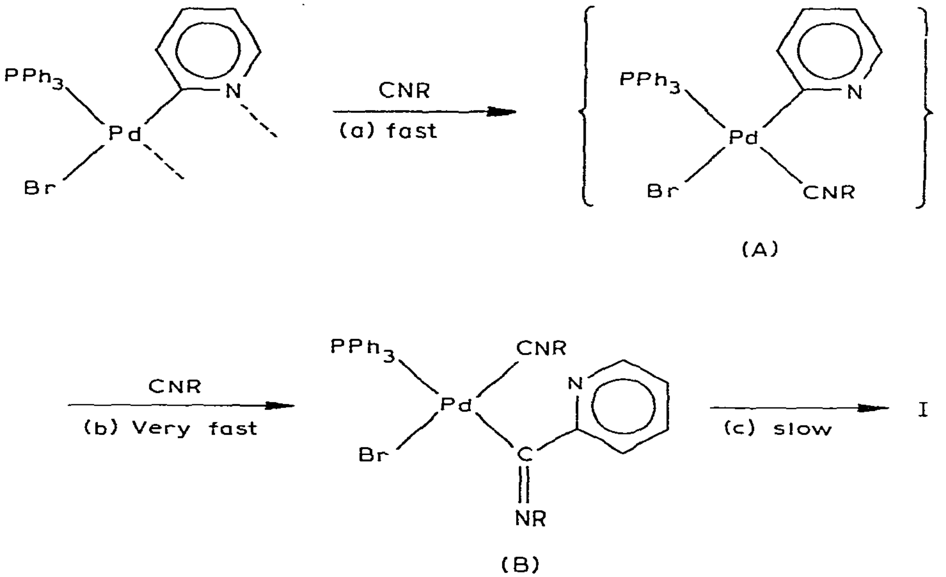

(2)

IIa : R = p-C_6H_4OMe ; IIb : R = Me ;
IIc : R = C_6H_{11} ; IId : R = CMe_3

of the type shown in eq. 3, in which the first step (a), involving a fast cleavage of the 2-pyridyl bridge, is followed by an even faster reaction (b) with a second isocyanide molecule to give the intermediate B, which then rearranges slowly to the final product I. The postulated transient A is not observed in the IR spectra of the reaction mixtures, which a few minutes after mixing of the reactants are characterized by a ν(C=N) band in the range 1600—1630 cm^{-1} (1615 cm^{-1} for R = C_6H_{11}, in CH_2Cl_2) and by a sharp ν(C$\equiv$N) absorption at ca. 2200 cm^{-1} (2202 cm^{-1} for R = C_6H_{11}), attributable to the intermediate B. However, highly reactive palladium(II) species containing isocyanides ligands *cis* to a Pd—Me bond have been previously isolated and characterized [5].

In the course of step (c), the ν(C$\equiv$N) band of the coordinated isocyanide progressively disappears with concomitant formation of a second ν(C=N) band in the range 1620—1650 cm^{-1} (1635 cm^{-1} for R = C_6H_{11}). The complexes I are monomeric species which exhibit two ν(C=N) and one ν(Pd—Br) vibrations in their IR spectra (at 1647, 1633 and 165 cm^{-1} respectively, for Ib). On the basis of *trans*- influence considerations, the low frequency position of ν(Pd—Br) (180—165 cm^{-1}) suggests a solid state configuration with the bromide ligand *trans* to the Pd—C σ bond. On the other hand, the ^1H and ^{31}P NMR spectra in $CDCl_3$ at ambient temperature indicate that only one isomer is present in solution, characterized by two non-equivalent R groups (δ(OMe) 3.68, 3.83 ppm for Ia, δ(Me) 2.95, 3.45 ppm for Ib), and by a marked low-field chemical shift of the pyridyl ring proton in position 6 (δ(H^6) in the range 9.7—9.5 ppm), due to N-coordination of the pyridyl moiety.

The desired imino(2-pyridyl)methylpalladium(II) derivatives can be easily prepared by reaction 2, involving insertion of one isocyanide molecule into the Pd—C σ-bond of the mononuclear complex *trans*-[PdBr(2-C_5H_4N)-



(3)

$(PMePh_2)_2]$*. In this case, as expected [5b], the insertion rate is markedly influenced by the nature of the entering CNR ligand: in benzene, the reaction is almost immediate for $R = p\text{-}C_6H_4OMe$ at room temperature, whereas it takes 5—6 h for completion at 60°C when R is an alkyl group. Infrared and electrical conductivity measurements in 1,2-dichloroethane show that reaction 2 proceeds essentially through an ionic intermediate, which may be formulated as $[Pd(2\text{-}C_5H_4N)(CNR)(PMePh_2)_2]Br$, in accordance with the proposed insertion mechanism on *trans*-$[PtX(R')(L)_2]$ substrates [5b,6]. The IR spectra of the monomeric complexes II show a $\nu(C{=}N)$ band in the range 1615—1605 cm^{-1} and a $\nu(Pd{-}Br)$ band in the range 185—175 cm^{-1}. The *trans*-arrangement of the $PMePh_2$ ligands is indicated by the triplet pattern of $\delta(P{-}Me)$ signals in the ^1H NMR spectra (IIa, $\delta(P{-}Me)$ 1.90 ppm, $^2J(P{-}H)+^4J(P'{-}H) = 6.4$ Hz, in CD_2Cl_2) and by the occurrence of only one singlet in the ^{31}P NMR spectra (IIa, $\delta(P)$ 4.65 ppm down-field from external H_3PO_4). In contrast to compounds I, in II the pyridyl ring proton in position 6 resonates at higher field, 8.7—8.5 ppm, the same range in which the corresponding signal of the free ligand 2-(*p*-methoxyphenylimino)methylpyridine is observed ($\delta(H^6)$ 8.67 ppm).

Attempts to extend reaction 2 to the platinum(II) derivatives, *trans*-$[PtBr(2\text{-}C_5H_4N)(L)_2]$ ($L = PPh_3, PMePh_2$) (obtained from oxidative addition of 2-bromopyridine to $[Pt(L)_4]$) gave only a poor yield of insertion products, even with the more reactive $p\text{-}CNC_6H_4OMe$ ligand, in line with the much reduced tendency of isocyanides to insert into the Pt—C σ-bonds [5b].

Preliminary results show that both compounds I and II can act as N-donor ligands towards various transition metal centers, such as cobalt(II), nickel(II), copper(II) and zinc(II). Of particular interest are the binuclear complexes

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*This compound can be conveniently prepared by oxidative addition of 2-bromopyridine to the $[Pd_2(dba)_3]\cdot CHCl_3$ /2 $PMePh_2$ system (dba = dibenzylideneacetone) [7].

Pd^{II}/Cu^{II}, the catalytic activity of which in the oxidation of olefins we are currently investigating.

Financial support by C.N.R. (Progetto Finalizzato: Chimica Fine e Secondaria) is gratefully acknowledged.

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