

gold atoms bonded to PPh_3 [10], the quadrupole pair at 0.91 mm/sec is assigned to peripheral gold coordinated to *i*-PrNC (see Table 1). The new cluster is clearly closely related to $[\text{Au}_9(\text{PPh}_3)_8]^{3+}$ with two PPh_3 ligands replaced by 2 *i*-PrNC. The formation of $[\text{Au}_9(\text{PPh}_3)_6(\text{i-PrNC})_2]^{3+}$ from $[\text{Au}_8(\text{PPh}_3)_7]^{2+}$ and *i*-PrNC looks somewhat puzzling, but the interconversion of Au_9 and Au_8 clusters is well known in other reactions [1].

The addition of primary amines to gold(I) isocyanide complexes leads to the formation of formamidine complexes [6–9]. The magnitude of the $\nu(\text{CN})$ shift is significant for the reactivity of the isocyanide ligand; although the shift of 60 cm^{-1} for the $[\text{Au}_9(\text{PPh}_3)_6(\text{i-PrNC})_2]^{3+}$ seems low, the compound reacts with primary amines to carbene cluster compounds. Further details of this reaction will be reported later.

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