

## Pentakis(methoxycarbonyl)cyclopentadiene chemistry

### XI \*. Preparation and characterisation of rhodium complexes containing ligands derived from 1,2,3-tris(methoxycarbonyl)cyclopentadiene: X-Ray crystal structure of $\text{Rh}\{\eta^4\text{-C}_5\text{H}_3(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_{3-1,4,5}\}\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_{3-1,2,3}\}$

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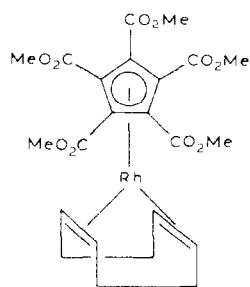
#### Abstract

Reactions between  $\text{Ti}[\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$  and  $\{\text{RhCl}(\text{CO})_2\}_2$  afford  $\text{Rh}\{\eta^4\text{-C}_5\text{H}_3(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_{3-1,4,5}\}\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3\}$ , fully characterised by an X-ray crystal structure determination, which is related to the previously described rhodicinium cation  $[\text{Rh}\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3\}_2]^+$  by formal addition of hydride to one of the  $\text{C}_5$  rings. Full details of the preparation of the  $[\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]^-$  salt of the latter cation are also given. Crystal data: monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/a$ ,  $a$  19.543(7),  $b$  13.52(1),  $c$  18.789(7) Å,  $\beta$  105.10(3)°,  $U$  4794(5) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 8$ ,  $N = 8342$ ,  $N_o(I > 3\sigma(I)) = 3053$ ,  $R = 0.090$ ,  $R' = 0.092$ .

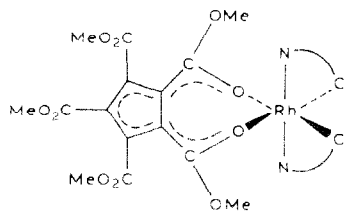
#### Introduction

We have recently prepared a series of rhodium(I) and rhodium(III) complexes containing the pentakis(methoxycarbonyl)cyclopentadienyl group,  $\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5$  [1]. In these, the latter group was variously present as the  $\eta^5$ , C-bonded ligand found in  $\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{12})\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5\}$  (1), as the  $\eta^2$ , O-bonded ligand found in

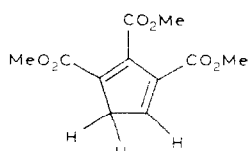
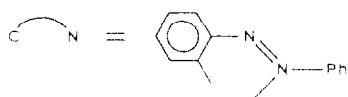
\* For Part X, see Ref. 10.



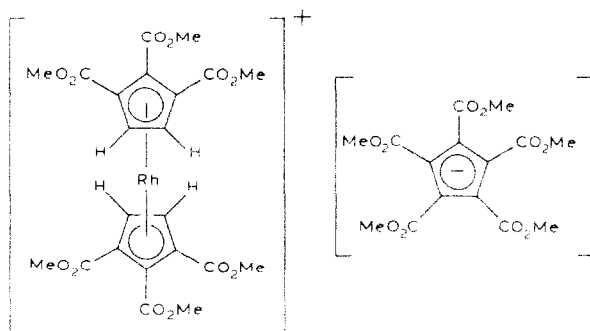
(1)



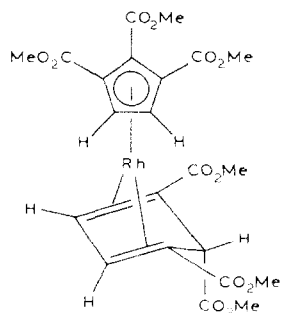
(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

$\text{Rh}(\text{azb})_2\{\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5\}$  (**2**), or as the very stable anion,  $[\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]^-$ , in salts such as  $[\text{Rh}(\text{dppe})(\eta^4\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{12})][\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$  and  $[\text{Rh}(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{PPh}_3)_2][\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$ . We now describe some related rhodium chemistry, which has afforded complexes containing ligands derived from 1,2,3-tris(methoxycarbonyl)cyclopentadiene,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_3(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3$  (**3**). Part of this work has been described in a preliminary report [2].

## Results and discussion

The reaction between  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4$  and  $\text{HC}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5$  gave red needles of a complex (**4**) shown by conductivity measurements to behave as a 1/1 electrolyte in

polar solvents such as water or acetone. Microanalytical figures and an osmometric molecular weight of  $1100 \pm 10\%$  in chloroform, suggested the presence of both ionic and covalently-bound  $C_5$  fragments. A single-crystal X-ray diffraction study [2] showed that **4** has the illustrated structure,  $[\text{Rh}\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_{3-1,2,3}\}_2][\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$ , in which the cations and anions stack along the long axis of the needle crystals. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum contains three resonances at  $\delta$  3.75, 3.89 and 6.30, of relative intensities 18/15/4, which are assigned to accidentally equivalent  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  Me groups of the  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3$  ligand, the  $\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5$  anion, and the ring protons, respectively. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum is more informative, containing three inequivalent OMe resonances between  $\delta$  51.4 and 54.6 and three carbonyl resonances between  $\delta$  159.7 and 176.6; the ring carbons of the  $\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5$  group resonate at  $\delta$  117.45, while those of the other  $\eta^5$  ligands are found between  $\delta$  91.3 and 105.0.

The reaction between  $\text{Ti}[\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$  and  $\{\text{RhCl}(\text{CO})_2\}_2$  was carried out in methanol. After several days at reflux point, TLC showed the presence of several products, of which only one has been isolated in a pure state. This compound (**5**) formed orange crystals, the mass spectrum of which contained the highest mass ion at  $m/z$  582. In the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, seven singlet resonances of relative intensities 2/2/1/3/6/6/3 were present. These observations taken with the finding that complex **4** contained two  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3$  ligands, suggested that **5** also contained similar groups. Both the analytical results and the ion at  $m/z$  582 were consistent with the formula  $\text{RhH}\{\text{C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3\}_2$ ; no high-field  $^1\text{H}$  resonance was found, and a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study was carried out to confirm the suggested diene-dienyl structure and to determine the precise  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  substitution pattern of **5**.

As can be seen from Fig. 1, which shows a plot of one of the two independent molecules found in the unit cell, complex **5** is indeed another example of an  $18e$   $\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-diene})(\eta^5\text{-dienyl})$  complex. The rhodium is attached to an  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_{3-1,2,3}$  group and to the 1,3-diene system of the related 1,4,5-tris(methoxycarbonyl)-cyclopenta-1,3-diene ligand. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum can be interpreted on the basis of this structure and comparing it with that of **4**; the singlet at  $\delta$  4.19 is assigned to the *endo* proton on C(5), while the equivalent pairs of protons on the  $\eta^4$  and  $\eta^5$  ligands resonate at  $\delta$  5.64 and 5.98, respectively. Assignment of the two sets of  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  resonances is not straightforward, apart from the obvious distinction between the single central and two outer  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  groups on each ligand.

The  $\text{Rh-C}(\text{cp})$  distances (2.24 Å) are comparable with those found in  $\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{12})\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5\}$  (2.28 Å) [1], but considerably longer than those in **4**, as would be expected when comparing neutral and cationic systems. The  $\text{Rh-C}(\text{diene})$  separations (2.14 Å) are 0.1 Å shorter, and are similar to those found in  $\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{12})\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5\}$  (2.13 Å) [1]. The bulky  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  group attached to C(2) of the diene is *exo*, while in the cp ligand, the middle substituent is twisted about its attachment similarly to ease steric strain.

In both cases, the isolation of **4** and **5** only after prolonged reaction times has precluded any studies designed to elucidate the manner in which the two  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  groups are replaced by H. We have noted previously that model studies suggest that steric interactions between the  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  groups of complexes  $\text{M}\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5\}_2$  having metallocene 'sandwich' structures, would be severe as a result of the impossibility of all  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  groups being able to adopt a configuration close to coplanarity with the  $C_5$  ring. Inspection of the structure of **4** shows that the

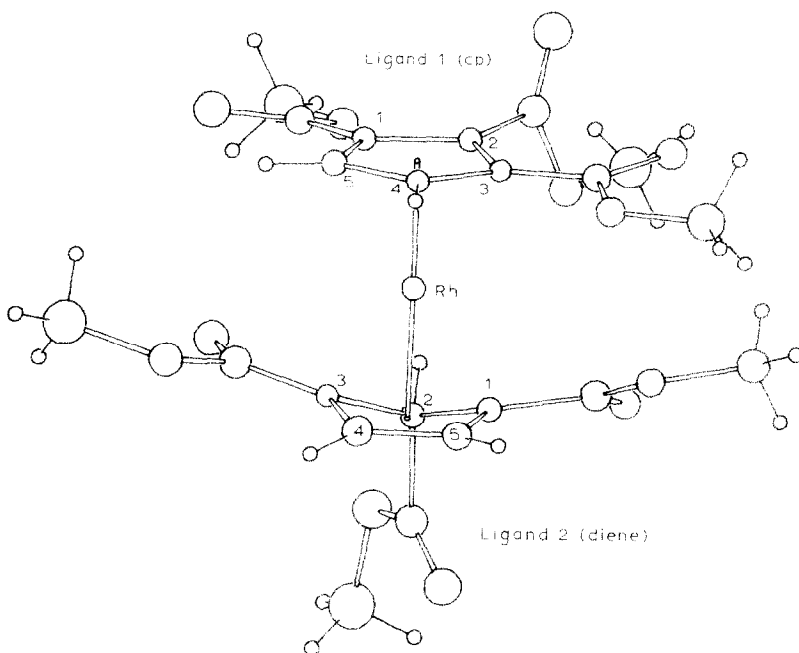
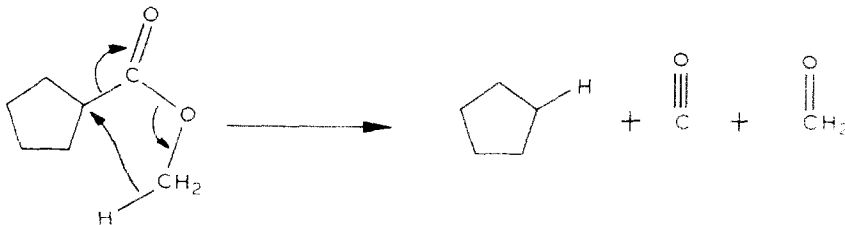


Fig. 1. A projection of molecule A of **5**, showing 20% thermal envelopes for the non-hydrogen atoms, with labelling, and hydrogen atoms of arbitrary radius 0.1 Å. (A similar projection of molecule B is indistinguishable.)

sterically least demanding conformation of the two rings is adopted, such that the  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  groups of one ring lie above the H atoms of the second. No such constraint applies to **5**, since the central  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  group on the  $\eta^5$ -ring, whose plane has a dihedral of ca.  $80^\circ$  with the  $\text{C}_5$  ring plane, lies above and to one side of the proton attached to C(2) of the  $\eta^4$ -ring, i.e. the carbon furthest away (2.65 Å) from the metal, and thus is in the most open position. In consequence, the two CH-CH portions of the rings are approximately staggered but overlapping with respect to one another.

The steric interactions of  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$  groups on separate  $\eta^5$ -rings may provide the driving force for the reaction which results in the replacement of two of these groups on each ring with H. The reaction corresponds to a net elimination of " $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ " from each group, and we have observed similar processes in the mass spectra of  $\text{Ru}(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5\}$  [3], where a stepwise conversion of the molecular ion of this complex to the molecular ion of ruthenocene,  $[\text{Ru}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5)_2]^+$ , occurs. In that case, one can propose a cyclic elimination of CO and  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ :



Alternatively, abstraction of (2CO + 2H) may occur via the intermediacy of rhodium hydrido-carbonyl complexes, in a reversal of the rhodium-catalysed homologation reactions used in syn-gas chemistry.

Complexes **4** and **5** are related by hydride transfer reactions, as found previously for  $[\text{Rh}(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2]^+$  and nucleophiles such as  $\text{Ph}^-$  [4].

### Conclusion

The formation and structures of two rhodium complexes containing ligands derived from tris(methoxycarbonyl)cyclopentadiene, itself formed by an unusual elimination of "C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>" (CO + CH<sub>2</sub>O?) from two of the CO<sub>2</sub>Me groups of the initial C<sub>5</sub>(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>5</sub> reagent, have been described.

### Experimental

General experimental conditions have been described previously in [1]. The compounds HC<sub>5</sub>(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>5</sub> and  $\text{Ti}[\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$  [5], Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub> [6] and  $\{\text{RhCl}(\text{CO})_2\}_2$  [7] were prepared by published procedures.

#### Reaction between Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and HC<sub>5</sub>(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>5</sub>

Rhodium(II) acetate (140 mg, 0.32 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of HC<sub>5</sub>(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>5</sub> (500 mg, 1.4 mmol) in MeOH (10 ml), whereupon the blue-green MeOH adduct of the rhodium complex formed immediately. The mixture was heated at the reflux point for 48 h, after which cooling to room temperature afforded red needles; filtration, washing with MeOH (2 × 10 ml), and recrystallisation (MeOH) gave pure  $[\text{Rh}\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3\}_2][\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$  (**4**) (150 mg, 10%), m.p. 245 °C. Found: C, 47.28; H, 3.91; O, 37.45; C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Rh<sup>+</sup> · C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>10</sub><sup>-</sup> calc: C, 47.44; H, 3.95; O, 37.61%. IR (nujol):  $\nu(\text{CO})$  at 1745s, 1710s, 1670s; other bands at 1415m, 1365m, 1353m, 1255vs, 1175m, 1140m, 993m, 795m, 780m, 775m cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.73 (s, 18H, (CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>), 3.89 (s, 15H, (CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>5</sub>), 6.30 (d, *J*(HRh) 1 Hz, 4H, CH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 51.38, (s, OMe), 117.45 (s, ring C), 167.80 (s, CO) for C<sub>5</sub>(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>5</sub> anion; 54.05 (s, 1,3-(OMe)<sub>2</sub>), 54.60 (s, 2-OMe), 91.52 (d, *J*(CRh) 7 Hz) and 94.44 (d, *J*(CRh) 7 Hz) (CH and 1,3-C(CO<sub>2</sub>Me), not distinguished), 104.8 (d, *J*(CRh) 7 Hz, 2-C(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)), 159.78 (d, *J*(CRh) 5 Hz, 1,3-(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>2</sub>), 176.55 (s, 2-CO<sub>2</sub>Me) ppm.

#### Reaction between $\{\text{RhCl}(\text{CO})_2\}_2$ and $\text{Ti}[\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$

To a stirred solution of  $\text{Ti}[\text{C}_5(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_5]$  (400 mg, 0.72 mmol) in MeOH (40 ml) was added  $\{\text{RhCl}(\text{CO})_2\}_2$  (150 mg, 0.38 mmol), to give a yellow solution. The mixture was refluxed for approximately 130 h to give a grey-black precipitate and a red-brown solution. The precipitate was filtered off and washed with MeOH (5 ml). The combined filtrates were evaporated to dryness (rotary evaporator). Preparative TLC of a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> extract of the residue (silica gel; 3/2 acetone/light petroleum) separated the major product (*R<sub>f</sub>* 0.88) from several minor unidentified components. Crystallisation (MeOH) gave orange crystals of  $\text{Rh}\{\eta^4\text{-C}_5\text{H}_3(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3\}\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3\}$  (**5**) (74 mg, 18%), m.p. 134–136 °C. Found: C, 44.94; H, 4.03%; *M* (mass spectrometry) 582; C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Rh calc: C, 45.38; H, 3.98%; *M*, 582. IR (Nujol):  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$  1750s, 1742s, 1735s, 1725s, 1717s, 1713s, 1708s, 1702(sh), 1690(sh), 1678(sh); other bands at 1440s, 1426m, 1411m, 1407(sh), 1350m, 1340m, 1332m,

1312s, 1297m, 1280m, 1257s, 1246(sh), 1205s, 1185s, 1170m, 1162(sh), 1140s, 1128m, 1074s, 1037(sh), 1033m, 1028m, 1000m, 960m, 778m, 770m  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H NMR}$ :  $\delta$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 5.98 (s, 2H, CH), 5.64 (s, 2H, CH), 4.19 (s, 1H, CH), 3.91 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.81 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.70 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.55 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ). FAB MS ( $m/z$ , assignment, relative intensity): 582,  $[M]^+$ , 4; 580,  $[M - 2\text{H}]^+$ , 4; 551,  $[M - \text{OMe}]^+$ , 14; 508,  $[M - \text{CO}_2 - \text{OCH}_2]^+$ , 6; 522  $[M - \text{CO}_2\text{Me} - \text{H}]^+$ , 100; 464,  $[M - 2\text{CO}_2\text{Me}]^+$ , 9; 289, -, 5; 231, -, 8.

### Crystallography

#### $Rh\{\eta^4\text{-C}_5\text{H}_3(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3\}\{\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_2(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_3\}$ (5)

The crystals, although well-formed, diffracted poorly, giving weak and diffuse reflections; independent data sets were measured on two crystals, but the second was not appreciably better than the first. A unique data set was measured at 295 K within the limit  $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 50^\circ$  using a Syntex  $P2_1$  four-circle diffractometer with monochromatic  $\text{Mo-K}_\alpha$  radiation source ( $\lambda$  0.71069 Å) in conventional  $2\theta/\theta$  scan

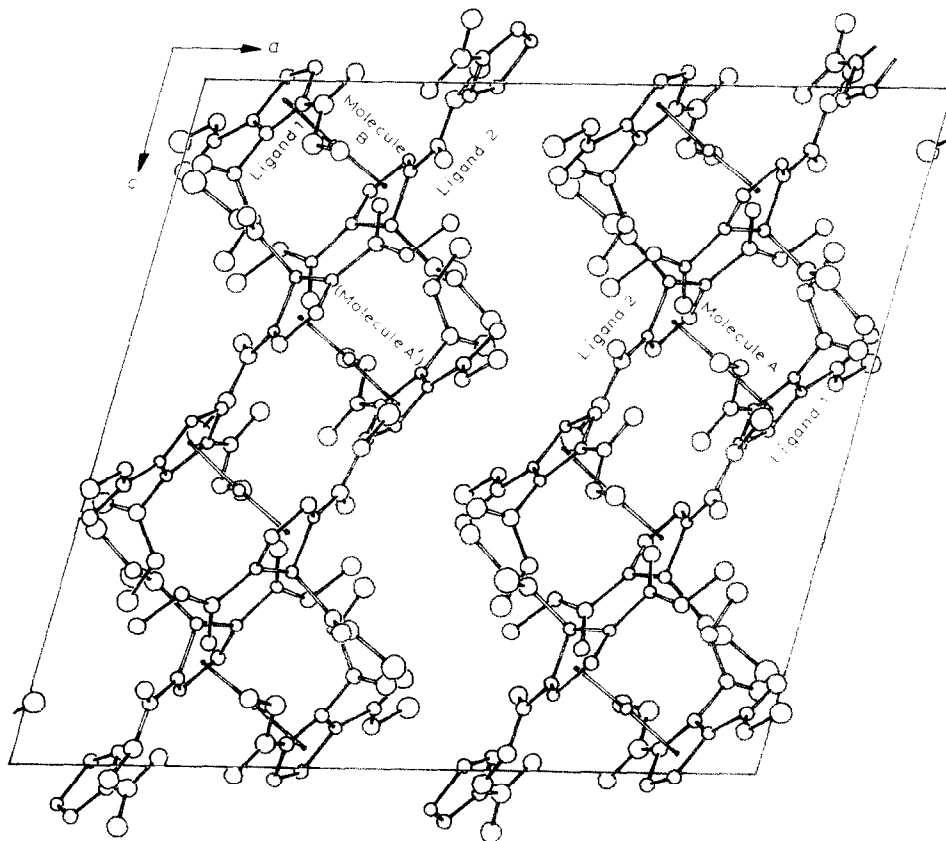


Fig. 2. The unit cell of 5, projected down  $b$ . Note the pseudo-symmetry, evident in the relationship of molecule B to molecule A, and also the pseudo-orthogonality of the cell diagonals.

mode. 8342 independent reflections were measured, 3053 with  $I > 3\sigma(I)$  being considered 'observed' and used in block diagonal least-squares refinement without absorption correction after solution by vector methods. Anisotropic thermal parameters were refined for the metal atoms only; for the other non-hydrogen atoms, the

Table 1

## Non-hydrogen atom parameters

Atom	Molecule A				Molecule B			
	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$10^3 U \text{ \AA}^2$	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$10^3 U \text{ \AA}^2$
Rh	0.7982(1)	0.0019(2)	0.4034(1)	<sup>a</sup>	0.1981(1)	-0.0683(2)	0.0933(1)	<sup>a</sup>
<i>Ligand 1 (cp)</i>								
C(1)	0.858(1)	0.124(2)	0.470(1)	26(6)	0.139(1)	0.056(2)	0.035(1)	38(7)
C(11)	0.827(1)	0.221(2)	0.469(1)	40(8)	0.167(2)	0.144(2)	0.035(2)	67(10)
O(11)	0.800(1)	0.251(2)	0.517(1)	62(6)	0.197(1)	0.179(1)	-0.013(1)	55(6)
O(12)	0.825(1)	0.273(1)	0.409(1)	47(6)	0.168(1)	0.200(2)	0.091(1)	73(7)
C(12)	0.795(2)	0.373(2)	0.403(2)	70(10)	0.206(2)	0.296(2)	0.101(2)	64(9)
C(2)	0.900(1)	0.087(2)	0.423(1)	26(6)	0.102(1)	0.024(2)	0.077(1)	36(7)
C(21)	0.925(2)	0.143(2)	0.370(2)	51(9)	0.074(1)	0.071(2)	0.135(1)	40(7)
O(21)	0.974(1)	0.198(2)	0.382(1)	71(7)	0.028(1)	0.133(2)	0.123(1)	71(7)
O(22)	0.882(1)	0.133(1)	0.299(1)	52(6)	0.116(1)	0.054(1)	0.204(1)	52(6)
C(22)	0.904(2)	0.189(3)	0.240(2)	79(12)	0.095(2)	0.105(2)	0.264(2)	73(11)
C(3)	0.914(1)	-0.019(2)	0.443(1)	22(6)	0.079(1)	-0.083(2)	0.059(1)	29(7)
C(31)	0.953(1)	-0.077(2)	0.409(1)	38(7)	0.035(1)	-0.152(2)	0.089(1)	35(7)
O(31)	0.986(1)	-0.049(1)	0.361(1)	46(5)	0.008(1)	-0.120(2)	0.133(1)	66(7)
O(32)	0.957(1)	-0.173(1)	0.431(1)	41(5)	0.032(1)	-0.239(1)	0.062(1)	50(6)
C(32)	0.997(2)	-0.241(2)	0.402(2)	65(10)	-0.010(2)	-0.305(3)	0.090(2)	84(12)
C(4)	0.887(1)	-0.041(2)	0.502(1)	24(6)	0.108(1)	-0.104(1)	-0.006(2)	35(7)
C(5)	0.852(1)	0.043(2)	0.520(1)	31(7)	0.141(1)	-0.017(2)	-0.019(1)	36(7)
C(0)	0.881(-)	0.038(-)	0.471(-)	-	0.114(-)	-0.024(-)	0.029(-)	-
<i>Ligand 2 (diene)</i>								
C(1)	0.746(1)	-0.032(2)	0.289(1)	28(7)	0.250(1)	-0.100(2)	0.207(1)	27(7)
C(11)	0.790(1)	-0.041(2)	0.235(1)	44(8)	0.211(1)	-0.112(2)	0.264(1)	28(7)
O(11)	0.780(1)	0.011(1)	0.180(1)	42(5)	0.224(1)	-0.060(2)	0.320(1)	55(6)
O(12)	0.835(1)	-0.115(1)	0.251(1)	37(5)	0.164(1)	-0.185(1)	0.245(1)	44(5)
C(12)	0.882(2)	-0.127(2)	0.204(2)	52(9)	0.120(2)	-0.200(2)	0.295(2)	64(10)
C(2)	0.697(1)	0.052(2)	0.286(1)	29(6)	0.303(1)	-0.014(2)	0.209(1)	29(6)
C(21)	0.624(2)	0.038(2)	0.220(1)	50(9)	0.376(2)	-0.027(2)	0.269(2)	60(10)
O(21)	0.607(1)	-0.040(2)	0.198(1)	66(7)	0.406(1)	-0.105(2)	0.278(1)	109(9)
O(22)	0.598(1)	0.127(2)	0.202(1)	71(7)	0.408(1)	0.051(1)	0.285(1)	49(5)
C(22)	0.525(2)	0.123(3)	0.150(2)	99(14)	0.473(2)	0.044(2)	0.346(2)	70(11)
C(3)	0.688(1)	0.034(2)	0.366(1)	23(6)	0.308(1)	-0.021(1)	0.129(1)	33(7)
C(31)	0.663(2)	0.115(2)	0.402(2)	49(8)	0.336(1)	0.047(2)	0.092(1)	41(8)
O(31)	0.651(1)	0.202(1)	0.384(1)	57(6)	0.348(1)	0.134(2)	0.111(1)	56(6)
O(32)	0.651(1)	0.083(1)	0.467(1)	53(6)	0.340(1)	0.014(2)	0.025(1)	60(6)
C(32)	0.627(2)	0.158(3)	0.515(2)	88(13)	0.361(2)	0.089(3)	-0.021(2)	72(11)
C(4)	0.700(1)	-0.073(2)	0.383(1)	45(8)	0.301(1)	-0.131(2)	0.112(1)	25(6)
C(5)	0.737(1)	-0.112(2)	0.338(1)	39(8)	0.262(1)	-0.177(2)	0.159(1)	35(7)
C(0)	0.718(-)	-0.046(-)	0.345(-)	-	0.280(-)	-0.108(-)	0.152(-)	-

<sup>a</sup>  $10^3 U_{11,22,33,12,13,23}$  ( $\text{\AA}^2$ ): 29(1), 33(1), 13(1), -2(2), 4(1), -1(1) (Rh(A))  
30(1), 32(1), 13(1), -3(1), 5(1), 0(1) (Rh(B))

Table 2  
Rhodium environments

Distance (Å)	Molecule A		Molecule B	
	Ligand 1	Ligand 2	Ligand 1	Ligand 2
Rh–C(1)	2.23(2)	2.17(2)	2.18(3)	2.16(2)
Rh–C(2)	2.24(2)	2.65(2)	2.21(3)	2.68(2)
Rh–C(3)	2.21(2)	2.13(2)	2.26(2)	2.17(2)
Rh–C(4)	2.26(2)	2.12(3)	2.26(2)	2.13(2)
Rh–C(5)	2.24(2)	2.14(3)	2.22(2)	2.11(2)
Rh–C(0) <sup>a</sup>	1.85(–)	1.79(–)	1.87(–)	1.78(–)

<sup>a</sup> For ligand 2, C(0) is at the centre of gravity of C(1,3,4,5). C(10)–Rh–C(20) are 173.2, 177.6° for molecule A, B respectively. Deviations of C(2) from the C(1,3,4,5) plane for ligands 2 respectively are 0.47, 0.58 Å. Dihedral angles of CO<sub>2</sub>C substituted plane to C(1,2,3,4,5) (ligand 1) or C(1,3,4,5) (ligand 2) planes at C(*n*) for molecules A, B respectively are

<i>n</i>	Ligand 1	Ligand 2
1	13.2; 7.8	26.3; 30.6
2	81.8; 78.1	83.2; 86.0
3	7.3; 9.4	12.0; 15.4

Dihedral angles between ligand 1 and 2 planes are 3.0, 8.9° for molecules A, B.

isotropic form was used. (*x*, *y*, *z*, *U*<sub>iso</sub>)<sub>H</sub> were included, constrained at estimated values. *R*, *R'* on  $|F|$  at convergence were 0.090, 0.092, statistical reflection weights were derived from  $\sigma^2(I) = \sigma^2(I)_{\text{diff}} + 0.0001\sigma^4(I)_{\text{diff}}$ . Neutral complex scattering factors were used [8]; computation used the XTAL program system [9] implemented by S.R. Hall on a Perkin–Elmer 3240 computer.

*Crystal data.* Rh{C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>}<sub>2</sub>{C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>2</sub>(CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>}<sub>2</sub> ≡ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Rh, *M* = 582.3, Monoclinic, space group *P*2<sub>1</sub>/*a* (*C*<sub>2h</sub><sup>5</sup>, No. 14), *a* 19.543(7), *b* 13.52(1), *c* 18.789(7) Å, β 105.10(3)°, *U* 4794(5) Å<sup>3</sup>. *D*<sub>c</sub> (*Z* = 8) 1.61 g cm<sup>−3</sup>. *F*(000) = 2368. μ<sub>Mo</sub> 7.3 cm<sup>−1</sup>. Specimen 0.10 × 0.10 × 0.48 mm (needle).

*Abnormal features.* The conformations of the two independent molecules are identical; atom labelling is similar for similar atoms. In the CO.OMe groups attached to ring atoms *n*, atoms are labelled CO(*n*1).OC(*n*2). Pseudo-symmetry is evident in the structure (Fig. 2); reflections (*h*0*l*) are present only for *h*, *l* both even. Assignment of space group was resolved only after attempted solution of the structure in all of *P*2<sub>1</sub>/*a*, *n* and *c*.

Non-hydrogen atom parameters for the two independent molecules and rhodium environments are given in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. A table of thermal parameters and a list of observed and calculated structure factors are available from the authors.

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