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Insertion of carbon dioxide and isocyanide into tantalum-amide and tantalum-methyl bonds

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Dedicated to Professor H. Brunner on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

Abstract

The methyl–amide complex [TaCp*(N'Bu)Me(NMe₂)] (1a) was isolated by reaction of the chloro–methyl [TaCp*(N'Bu)MeCl] complex with LiNMe₂. Reaction of the mono-amide compounds [TaCp*(N'Bu)XY] ($X = NMe_2$, Y = Me (1a); X = NH'Bu, Y = Me (1b), Cl (1c) with CO₂ gives the η^2 -carbamate derivatives [TaCp*(N'Bu)(η^2 -O₂CX)Y] ($X = NMe_2$, Y = Me (2a); X = NH'Bu, Y = Me (2b), Cl (2c)). A similar reaction with the di-amide complex [TaCp*(N'Bu)(NH'Bu)₂] (1d) gives the di-carbamate derivative [TaCp*(N'Bu){ η^2 -O₂C(NH'Bu)}{ η^1 -O₂C(NH'Bu)] (2d). Reaction of the methyl–carbamate (2a) with isocyanide CNAr ($Ar = 2,6-Me_2C_6H_3$) gives the η^2 -iminoacyl– η^1 -carbamate complex [TaCp*(N'Bu){ η^2 -C(Me)=NAr}{ η^1 -O₂C(NH'Bu)}] (3b) was only detected by NMR spectroscopy in C₆D₆ or CDCl₃ whereas the reaction of 2b in hexane gives the η^1 -iminoacyl– η^2 -carbamate complex [TaCp*(N'Bu){ η^1 -C(Me)=NAr}{ η^1 -O₂C(NH'Bu)}] (3b'). All of the new compounds were characterized by elemental analysis and η^1 -C-NMR spectroscopy. © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Carbon dioxide; Insertion reactions; Carbamate compounds

1. Introduction

Many studies of competitive insertion of carbon monoxide and isocyanides into different M-C [1-3], M-Si [4,5] and M-N [1c,6-8] bonds have been reported. However there are many fewer reports of the competitive reactivity of M-C, M-O, M-N and M-Si bonds in insertion reactions of N=CR, O=CO, O=CR₂, S=CS, O=C=NR and other related unsaturated substrates [2,3]. Studies of CO₂ insertion reactions established that the M-amide bonds were more reactive than M-alkyl and M-alkoxo bonds, and that regioselective insertion into the M-amide bonds always takes place [3,9] except for the η^5 -cyclopentadienyl silyl- η amide zirconium dimethyl complex [Zr{ η^5 -C₅H₄SiMe₂- η -N'Bu}Me₂] for which previous regioselective insertion into the Zr-Me bonds was reported [10].

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Mechanistic studies revealed [2] that direct nucleophilic attack on CO_2 by the amido ligand followed by O-coordination to the metal is more plausible than the initial coordination of CO_2 to the metal.

We have reported recently [11] that single and double insertion of $CN(2,6\text{-}Me_2C_6H_3)$ into the Ta-Me bond of $[TaCp^*(N'Bu)MeX]$ (X=Me, Cl, OMe, O'Bu, NH'Bu) is controlled by the π -donor capacity and the steric demands of the X substituent. As an extension of our previous studies we decided to investigate the competitive insertion of CO_2 into Ta-amide bonds (amide = NMe_2 , NH'Bu) and of $CN(2,6\text{-}Me_2C_6H_3)$ into the Ta-Me bond still present in the resulting carbamate compounds. The results of these studies are reported in this paper.

2. Results and discussion

The new methyl-amide complex $[TaCp*(N'Bu)-Me(NMe_2)]$ (1a), shown in Eq. (1), was isolated in high

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yield (84%) as a dark yellow oil from the reaction of LiNMe₂ with an Et₂O solution of the methyl-chloro derivative [TaCp*(N'Bu)MeCl].

$$TaCp*(N'Bu)MeCl + LiNMe_2 \xrightarrow{Et_2O, 7 \text{ h}} TaCp*(N'Bu)Me(NMe_2)$$
 (1)

The complex is air sensitive but can be stored for long periods under an inert atmosphere. Dynamic behaviour, not investigated in detail, was observed for **1a**, indicating that the amido ligand was rotating freely, making the two methyl groups equivalent to give a unique signal in both ¹H- (broad) and ¹³C-NMR spectra at room temperature (see Section 4).

2.1. Reactions with CO₂

Reactions of CO_2 with the methyl-amide [TaCp*(N'Bu)MeX] ($X = NMe_2$ (1a), NH'Bu (1b) [11]), chloro-amide [TaCp*(N'Bu)Cl(NH'Bu)] (1c) [12] and diamide $[TaCp*(N'Bu)(NH'Bu)_2]$ (1d) [12] complexes in hexane were studied. As shown in Scheme 1, the products isolated were the mono-carbamate $[TaCp*(N'Bu)-(\eta^2-O_2CX)Y]$ ($X = NMe_2$, Y = Me (2a); X = NH'Bu, Y = Me (2b), Cl (2c)) and the di-carbamate complex $[TaCp*(N'Bu)-(O_2CNH'Bu)_2]$ (2d). Insertion of CO_2 into each Ta-amide bond was complete after 16 h at room temperature. No intermediates were detected when these reactions were monitored by NMR spec-

troscopy in C_6D_6 or $CDCl_3$ at room temperature. The carbamate species were the unique reaction products, formed in quantitative yield and more rapidly (6 h at room temperature) when CDCl₃ was used. The presence of free amine, which could favour the insertion [13], was not detected. The mono-insertion product expected in the reaction of 1d with CO₂ could not be detected when this reaction was monitored by NMR spectroscopy, and the di-carbamate complex was the unique reaction product formed in quantitative yield. Transformation of methyl-carbamate into the corresponding amide-acetate complexes was not observed when their CDCl₃ solutions were heated for long periods, indicating that the carbamate complexes were the thermodynamic products of all these reactions. Insertion into the Ta-amide bond occurred by the direct attack of CO₂ at the nitrogen atom [2].

The 13 C-NMR and IR spectra of complexes 2a-c were consistent with the η^2 -coordination of the carbamate ligand [13], which shows one C(sp²) resonance at $\delta \approx 165-167$ and one ν (COO) stretching vibration at ≈ 1586 cm $^{-1}$. The di-carbamate complex 2d shows two ν (COO) and two ν (NH) absorptions in the solid (see Section 4), indicating that only one of the carbamate ligands is η^2 -coordinated. However, the 1 H- and 13 C-NMR spectra in CDCl₃ show the presence of a unique type of carbamate ligand with two singlets due to both equivalent N–H and CMe₃ protons (1 H) and three

$$Bu^{t}N \xrightarrow{Ta} CO_{2}$$

$$Y$$

$$X = NMe_{2}; Y = Me 1a$$

$$X = NH^{t}Bu; Y = Me 1b, Cl 1c,$$

$$NH^{t}Bu; Y = Me 1b, Cl 1c,$$

$$NH^{t}Bu; Y = Me 2a;$$

$$X = NH^{t}Bu; Y = Me 2b, Cl 2c$$

$$NH^{t}Bu; Y = Me 2b, Cl 2c$$

Scheme 1.

Scheme 2.

singlets due to the two equivalent COO C(sp²), CMe₃ and CMe₃ carbons (13 C) respectively, indicating that a rapid exchange between both η^2 - and η^1 -coordinate carbamate ligands takes place at room temperature (Scheme 2).

2.2. Reactions with isocyanide

The carbamate complexes $[TaCp*(N'Bu)(O_2CX)Me]$ $(X = NMe_2 2a, NH^tBu 2b)$ still contain one Ta-Me bond susceptible to reaction with an isocyanide. Addition of one equivalent of CNAr (Ar = 2,6-Me₂C₆H₃) to a hexane solution of the dimethylamide compound 2a resulted in the immediate formation of the η^2 -iminoa $cyl-\eta^1$ -carbamate complex $[TaCp*(N^tBu)\{\eta^2-C(Me)=$ NAr $\{\eta^1-O_2C(NMe_2)\}$ (3a), isolated in high yield as a colorless solid soluble in aromatic and chlorinated solvents but only partially soluble in hexane. It was an air sensitive compound, decomposing slowly in the solid state under inert atmosphere without evolving CNAr. Accepting the metal coordination pathway, this insertion would require the transformation of the η^2 - into η^1 -coordinated carbamate ligand before insertion. After insertion two alternative processes, namely η^2 -O,O-coordination of the carbamate ligand to give a four membered chelate ring or η^2 -C, N-coordination of the iminoacyl ligand to give a three membered ring, are in competition. The η^2 -C,N-coordination route was preferred to give complex 3a. Its formulation is consistent with the low field resonance observed at δ 248.5 for the η^2 -C=N carbon, similar to that found for alkoxo η^2 iminoacyl species $[TaCp*(N'Bu)\{\eta^2-C(R')=NR\}OR'']$ $(R = 2.6 - Me_2C_6H_3$. R' = Me, C(Me) = NR; R'' = Me, ^tBu) [11] and the η^1 -O₂C carbon resonance observed at δ 161.2 in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum. Its IR spectrum showed two absorption bands at 1600 and 1639 cm⁻¹, corresponding to the $v(\eta^2-C=N)$ and $v(\eta^1-OOC)$ vibrations, respectively.

When a similar reaction with the 'butylamide compound 2b was monitored by ¹H-NMR in CDCl₃, formation of the corresponding compound 3b was observed. However the same reaction carried out on a preparative scale in hexane gave the iminoacyl-carbamate derivative 3b', which was isolated as a colourless air sensitive solid. The ¹³C-NMR spectrum of compound **3b** suggests the η^2 -iminoacyl- η^1 -carbamate relative of 3a (see Section 4). However the NMR behaviour of compound 3b' is slightly different, the most remarkable features being the higher field resonance observed at $\delta = 232.4$ for the sp² C=N carbon [1c] and the resonance slightly displaced to lower field ($\delta = 167.7$) corresponding to the sp² OOC carbon. Its IR spectrum showed two absorption bands at 1670 and 1656 cm⁻¹ due to two different v(C=N) moieties and one absorption at 1572 cm⁻¹ due to the $v(\eta^2$ -OOC) vibration [14]. This behaviour is more consistent with its formulation

as a η^1 -iminoacyl- η^2 -carbamate compound. Exchange between both coordination modes could not be detected as heating their solutions resulted in their decomposition.

The IR spectrum of complex 3b' indicates the presence of two v(C=N), two broad v(N-H) and one $v(CO_2)$ absorption indicating that in the solid hydrogen bridges between the iminoacyl nitrogen and the 'butylamido hydrogen are present. The same behaviour was observed in C_6D_6 but not in $CDCl_3$. Studies made in solution demonstrate that heating or dilution make the v(N-H) band narrower and displaced to higher wave numbers, as expected for intermolecular hydrogen bridges [14].

3. Conclusions

Reaction of the methyl-amide [TaCp*(N'Bu)MeX] (1a),NH^tBu (1b)),chloro-amide $(X = NMe_2)$ and $[TaCp*(N^tBu)Cl(NMe_2)]$ (1c)diamide $[TaCp*(N'Bu)(NH'Bu)_2]$ (1d) complexes with CO₂ resulted in insertions into the Ta-amide bonds to give the mono-carbamate complexes $[TaCp*(N^tBu)(\eta^2 O_2CX)Y] (X = NMe_2, Y = Me (2a); X = NH^tBu, Y =$ Me (2b), Cl (2c)) and the di-carbamate complex $[TaCp*(N^tBu)(O_2CNH^tBu)_2]$ (2d). The carbamate ligand is always η^2 -coordinate in the mono-carbamate derivatives whereas rapid exchange between η^2 -and η^1 coordination was observed in solution at room temperature for the di-carbamate derivative 2d. Insertion of CNAr $(Ar = 2,6-Me_2C_6H_3)$ into the Ta-Me bond of the methyl-carbamate complexes 2a and 2b results in formation of the iminoacyl-carbamate complexes $[TaCp*(N^tBu)(O_2CY)\{C(Me) = NR\}] (Y = NMe_2 (3a);$ NH^tBu (3b)), which show varying $\eta^2 - \eta^1$ -coordination of the iminoacyl and carbamate substituents, depending on the amide group and the solvent. Formation of intermolecular hydrogen bridges was observed by IR and NMR spectrometry in the solid and in C₆D₆ solutions of the 'butyl-carbamate derivative.

4. Experimental

All operations were carried out under a dry argon atmosphere either in a Vacuum Atmosphere Dri-lab or by standard Schlenk techniques. Hydrocarbon solvents were dried and freshly distilled: n-hexane from sodium potassium alloy and toluene and ether from sodium. Reagent grade $CN(2,6-Me_2C_6H_3)$ (Fluka), LiNMe₂ (Aldrich) were purchased from commercial sources and were used without further purification. The starting complexes [TaCp*(N'Bu)XY] (Y = Cl; X = Me [12]. Y = NH'Bu; X = Me [11], Cl [12], NH'Bu [12]) were synthesized by reported methods. Infrared spectra were

recorded on a Perkin–Elmer 583 spectrophotometer $(4000-200 \text{ cm}^{-1})$. $^{1}\text{H-}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity VXR 300 MHz instrument, and chemical shifts were measured relative to residual ^{1}H and ^{13}C resonances of the deuterated solvents C_6D_6 (δ 7.15), $CDCl_3$ (δ 7.24) and C_6D_6 (δ 128), $CDCl_3$ (δ 77), respectively. C, H and N analyses were carried out with a Perkin–Elmer 240C microanalyzer.

4.1. $[TaCp*(N^{t}Bu)Me(NMe_{2})]$ (1a)

A mixture of [TaCp*(N'Bu)ClMe] (2.00 g, 4.57 mmol) and LiNMe₂ (0.23 g, 4.57 mmol) was stirred in Et₂O (40 ml) for 7 h at room temperature (r.t.). The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was extracted into n-hexane (2 × 20 ml) to give 1a as a brown oil after removal of the solvent in vacuo (Yield: 1.71 g, 84%).

Data for **1a**: IR (CsI, δ , cm⁻¹): 1280 (s). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 3.17 (s, 6H, NMe₂), 2.03 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.15 (s, 9H, CMe₃), -0.16 (s, 3H, Ta-Me). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 114.5 (C₅Me₅), 64.2 (NCMe₃), 50.8 (NMe₂), 33.4 (CMe₃), 20.5 (Ta-Me), 11.2 (C₅Me₅). Anal. Calc. for C₁₇H₃₃N₂Ta: C, 45.74; H, 7.45; N, 6.28. Found: C, 45.29; H, 7.36; N, 6.04.

4.2. $[TaCp^*(N^tBu)(O_2CX)Y] X = NMe_2, Y = Me$ (2a); $X = NH^tBu, Y = Me$ (2b), Cl (2c)

Hexane (60 ml) solutions of compounds **1a** (1.50 g, 3.36 mmol), **1b** (1.50 g, 3.16 mmol) and **1c** (1.50 g, 3.03 mmol) were stirred for 16 h at r.t. under a CO_2 atmosphere. Then the solutions were filtered, the solvent evaporated under vacuum until 10 ml remained and the resulting solution was cooled at $-30^{\circ}C$ to yield, respectively, **2a** (1.20 g, 73%), **2b** (1.20 g, 73%) and **2c** (1.27 g, 78%) as colourless solids.

Data for **2a**: IR (KBr pellets, δ , cm⁻¹): 1586 (s), 1273 (s). 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 2.85 (s, 6H, NMe₂), 1.95 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.10 (s, 9H, CMe₃), 0.12 (s, 3H, Ta-Me). 13 C(1 H}-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 166.2 (O₂C), 115.3 (C₅Me₅), 64.2 (CMe₃), 34.5 and 33.1 (NMe₂ and Ta-Me), 32.8 (CMe₃), 10.9 (C₅Me₅). Anal. Calc. for C₁₈H₃₃N₂O₂Ta: C, 44.07; H, 6.78; N, 5.71. Found: C, 43.91; H, 6.65; N, 5.83.

Data for **2b**: IR (KBr pellets, δ , cm⁻¹): 3143 (w), 1587 (s), 1274 (s). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 4.59 (s, 1H, NH), 1.97 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.31 (s, 9H, CMe₃), 1.09 (s, 9H, CMe₃), 0.08 (s, 3H, Ta-Me). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 166.5 (O₂C), 115.6 (C₅Me₅), 64.2 (CMe₃), 50.4 (CMe₃), 32.9 (CMe₃), 32.8 (Ta-Me), 29.1 (CMe₃), 11.0 (C₅Me₅). Anal. Calc. for C₂₀H₃₇N₂O₂Ta: C, 46.32; H, 7.21; N, 5.40. Found: C, 46.20; H, 7.26; N, 5.30.

Data for **2c**: IR (KBr pellets, δ , cm⁻¹): 3312 (w), 1586 (s), 1274 (s). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 4.88 (s, 1H, NH), 2.10 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.36 (s, 9H, CMe₃), 1.10 (s,

9H, CMe₃). 13 C{ 1 H}-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 165.6 (O₂C), 119.2 (C₅Me₅), 65.7 (CMe₃), 50.9 (CMe₃), 32.7 (CMe₃), 29.2 (CMe₃), 11.4 (C₅Me₅). Anal. Calc. for C₁₉H₃₄ClN₂O₂Ta: C, 42.35; H, 6.36; N, 5.20. Found: C, 42.30; H, 6.41; N, 4.98.

4.3. $[TaCp^*(N^tBu)(O_2CNH^tBu)_2]$ (2d)

A hexane solution (60 ml) of **1d** (1.50 g, 2.82 mmol) was stirred for 16 h at r.t. under CO_2 atmosphere. Then the solution was filtered, the solvent evaporated under vacuum until 10 ml remained and the resulting solution was cooled at -30° C to yield **2d** as a white solid (1.31 g, 75%).

Data for **2d**: IR (KBr pellets, δ , cm⁻¹): 3399 (w), 3230 (w), 1630 (s), 1597 (s), 1285 (s). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 4.94 (s, 2H, NH), 2.10 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.24 (s, 18H, CMe₃), 1.11 (s, 9H, CMe₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 162.4 (2 O₂C), 118.9 (C₅Me₅), 64.9 (CMe₃), 50.1 (2 CMe₃), 33.2 (CMe₃), 29.1 (2 CMe₃), 11.1 (C₅Me₅). Anal. Calc. for C₂₄H₄₄N₃O₄Ta: C, 46.53; H, 7.16; N, 6.78. Found: C, 46.65; H, 7.10; N, 6.55.

4.4. $[TaCp*(N^tBu)(\eta^1-O_2CNMe_2)\{\eta^2-C(Me)=NAr\}]$ $(Ar = 2,6-Me_2C_6H_3)$ (3a)

A hexane (30 ml) solution of [TaCp*(N'Bu)-Me(O₂CNMe₂)] (**2a**) (1.00 g, 2.04 mmol) and CNAr (Ar = 2,6-Me₂C₆H₃) (0.27 g, 2.04 mmol) was stirred for 1 h at r.t. The solution was filtered, the solvent removed under vacuum until 5 ml remained and the resulting solution cooled at -20° C to yield **3a** as a white solid (0.97 g, 76%).

Data for **3a**: IR (KBr pellets, δ , cm⁻¹): 1639 (s), 1600 (s), 1269 (s). 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 6.94 (m, 3H, Me₂C₆H₃), 2.58 (s, 6H, NMe₂), 2.48 (s, 3H, MeCN), 2.14 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 2.04 and 1.98 (s, 3H, Me₂C₆H₃), 1.08 (s, 9H, CMe₃). 13 C{ 1 H}-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 248.5 (MeCN), 161.2 (O₂C), 142.2, 130.2, 129.1, 127.8, 127.6 and 125.2 (Me₂C₆H₃), 115.7 (C₅Me₅), 65.0 (CMe₃), 36.5 (NMe₂), 33.6 (CMe₃), 22.5, 18.9 and 18.8 (MeCN and Me₂C₆H₃), 11.6 (C₅Me₅). Anal. Calc. for C₂₇H₄₂N₃O₂Ta: C, 51.84; H, 7.41; N, 6.72. Found: C, 51.66; H, 7.27; N, 6.59.

4.5. $[TaCp*(N^tBu)\{\eta^1-O_2C(NH^tBu)\}\{\eta^2-C(Me)=NAr\}]$ $(Ar = 2,6-Me_2C_6H_3)$ (**3b**)

A CDCl₃ solution of **2b** (0.020 g, 0.041 mmol) and CNAr (Ar = 2,6-Me₂C₆H₃) (0.005 g, 0.042 mmol) was charged into a teflon-valved NMR tube and the reaction, which was complete after 15 min, was monitored by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy to give **3b** as the unique product.

Data for **3b**: ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 6.98 (m, 3H, Me₂C₆H₃), 4.43 (s, 1H, NH), 2.51 (s, 3H, MeCN), 2.13 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 2.05 and 1.97 (s, 3H, Me₂C₆H₃), 1.09 and 0.95 (s, 9H, CMe₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (CDCl₃, δ ,

ppm): 247.9 (MeCN), 159.7 (O_2 C), 142.5, 130.1, 129.4, 128.2, 127.7 and 125.8 ($Me_2C_6H_3$), 115.9 (C_5Me_5), 65.0 (Ta=NCMe₃), 49.1 (NHCMe₃), 34.1 and 28.7 (CMe₃), 22.7, 18.8 and 18.7 (MeCN and $Me_2C_6H_3$), 11.6 (C_5Me_5).

4.6. $[TaCp^*(N^tBu)(\eta^2-O_2CNH^tBu)\{\eta^1-C(Me)=NAr\}]$ $(Ar = 2,6-Me_2C_6H_3)$ (3b')

A hexane (30 ml) solution of **2b** (0.60 g, 1.16 mmol) and $CN(2,6-Me_2C_6H_3)$ (0.15 g, 1.16 mmol) was treated using the procedure described above for **3a** to give **3b**' as a white solid (0.63 g, 84%).

Data for **3b**': IR (KBr pellets, δ , cm⁻¹): 3442 (w), 3232 (w, broad), 1670 (s), 1656 (s), 1572 (s), 1522 (s), 1284 (s). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 6.84 (m, 3H, Me₂C₆H₃), 4.72 (s, 1H, NH), 2.44 (s, 3H, MeCN), 2.24 and 1.90 (s, 3H, Me₂C₆H₃), 1.99 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.44 and 1.33 (s, 9H, CMe₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 232.4 (MeCN), 167.7 (O₂C), 144.5, 136.9, 128.2, 128.1 and 124.2 (Me₂C₆H₃), 118.6 (C₅Me₅), 62.8 (Ta=NCMe₃), 50.8 (NHCMe₃), 30.0 and 29.7 (CMe₃), 22.6, 19.2 and 14.1 (MeCN and Me₂C₆H₃), 11.2 (C₅Me₅). Anal. Calc. for C₂₉H₄₆N₃O₂Ta: C, 53.62; H, 7.14; N, 6.47. Found: C, 54.42; H, 7.06; N, 6.20.

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