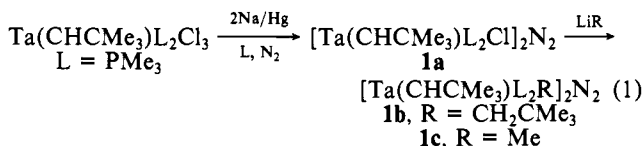


Figure 1. ORTEP-II diagram of the molecule, with hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. The equatorial ligands about Ta1 are C1, C6, and N1, and about Ta2 are C17, C22, and N2.

be prepared and show by a crystal structure of one of them that the bridging dinitrogen is "diimidolike".

The two-electron, sodium amalgam reduction of Ta(CHCMe₃)(PMe₃)₂Cl₃ in the presence of PMe₃ under argon gives Ta(CHCMe₃)(PMe₃)₄Cl.² Under dinitrogen the product is an extremely air-sensitive, THF- and benzene-soluble, yellow powder (~50% yield) whose ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR spectra suggest that it contains a neopentylidene ligand and two trans, equivalent PMe₃ ligands.³ It must contain a chloride ligand since it can be alkylated by LiCH₂CMe₃ or LiMe. Elemental analyses show that approximately one nitrogen atom per Ta is present.⁴ We formulate these complexes as bridging dinitrogen complexes as shown in eq 1. **1a** also forms slowly in pentane solutions of Ta-



(CHCMe₃)(PMe₃)₄Cl under dinitrogen. The reverse reaction does not occur in neat PMe₃ at 70 °C.

Stirring a pentane solution of Ta(CHCMe₃)(PMe₃)₄Cl under ¹⁵N₂ for 24 h gives an ~50% yield of **1a**-¹⁵N₂. The IR spectrum of **1a**-¹⁵N₂ differs from that of **1a**-¹⁴N₂ in only one respect. A medium-strength, sharp peak at 847 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectrum of **1a**-¹⁴N₂ shifts to 820 cm⁻¹. Since this type of molecule is not centrosymmetric, we do not know if this is an N-N stretching mode, a Ta-N stretching mode, or a combination mode.

The ¹⁵N NMR spectrum of **1a**-¹⁵N₂⁵ consists of a singlet at 414 ppm (referenced to liquid NH₃⁶). This chemical shift should be compared with chemical shifts of the order of 350–370 ppm for imido complexes such as Ta(NPh)(THF)₂Cl₃,⁷ and, equally importantly, with the rather different chemical shift of 679 ppm for the bridging dinitrogen in [Zr(η⁵-C₅Me₅)₂(¹⁵N₂)₂]^{6,8}

(2) Fellmann, J. D.; Turner, H. W.; Schrock, R. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1980**, *102*, 6608–6609.

(3) ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 270 MHz) δ 8.79 (br s, 1, CHCMe₃), 1.32 (t, 18, ²J_{HP} = 3.5 Hz, PMe₃), 1.29 (s, 9, CHCMe₃); ¹³C NMR (C₆D₆, 15.0 MHz) δ 274.5 (br d, ¹J_{CH} = 91 Hz, CHCMe₃), 46.6 (s, CHCMe₃), 35.0 (q, ¹J_{CH} = 125 Hz, CHCMe₃), 15.2 (qt, ¹J_{CP} = 12.0 Hz, ¹J_{CH} = 129 Hz, PMe₃); ³¹P NMR (C₆D₅CD₃, 109.3 MHz, 30 and -30 °C) δ -11.2 (s).

(4) Anal. Calcd for [Ta(CHCMe₃)(CH₂CMe₃)(PMe₃)₂]₂N₂: N, 2.87. Found, 2.52.

(5) Recorded at 9.04 MHz in the presence of ~5% Cr(acac)₃ on a JEOL FX-90Q spectrometer.

(6) Levy, G. C.; Lichter, R. L. "Nitrogen-15 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy," Wiley: New York, 1979.

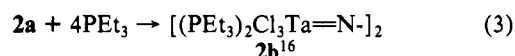
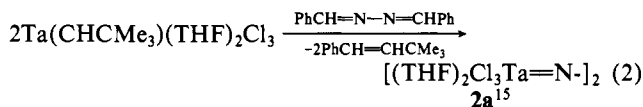
(7) See: Rocklage, S. M.; Schrock, R. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1980**, *102*, preceding paper in this issue.

(8) Manriquez, J. M.; McAlister, D. R.; Rosenberg, E.; Shiller, A. M.; Williamson, K. L.; Chan, S. I.; Bercaw, J. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1978**, *100*, 3078–3083.

The overall molecular geometry of **1b** is shown in Figure 1.⁹ It is a binuclear molecule with no crystallographically imposed symmetry. Each tantalum atom is in a trigonal-bipyramidal coordination environment in which the PMe₃ ligands occupy the axial sites (Ta-P = 2.582 (3)–2.601 (3) Å) and a neopentyl, a neopentylidene, and a μ-N₂ ligand occupy the equatorial sites. Each half of the molecule therefore resembles Ta(CHCMe₃)₂(mesityl)(PMe₃)₂,¹¹ and the two halves are close to orthogonal (dihedral angle between equatorial planes = 82.6°). The tantalum-neopentyl bond lengths are Ta(1)-C(6) = 2.285 (10) and Ta(2)-C(22) = 2.299 (10) Å, with Ta-C(α)-C(β) angles of 129.4 (7)° and 127.6 (7)°. The tantalum-neopentylidene linkages are substantially shorter, with Ta(1)=C(1) = 1.932 (9) and Ta(2)=C(17) = 1.937 (9) Å; the Ta=C(α)-C(β) angles are 158.5 (7)° and 160.3 (7)°, respectively.

The bridging dinitrogen ligand is the most unusual feature of this molecule. The tantalum-nitrogen bond lengths are shorter than the tantalum-neopentylidene linkages (Ta(1)-N(1) = 1.837 (8) and Ta(2)-N(2) = 1.842 (8) Å) and the N(1)-N(2) bond is very long (1.298 (12) Å). The Ta-(μ-N₂)-Ta unit is close to linear, with ∠ Ta(1)-N(1)-N(2) = 171.4 (7) and ∠ Ta(2)-N(2)-N(1) = 172.4 (7)°. There are other examples of short M-μ-N₂ bond lengths where M is a third row metal such as Re,^{1a} but there is no simple bridging dinitrogen complex in which the N-N bond is so long.^{1a,12} In particular, these results contrast sharply with studies of [(η⁵-C₅Me₅)₂Zr(N₂)₂(μ-N₂)]^{13a} and [(η⁵-C₅Me₅)₂Ti(μ-N₂)]^{13b} where the metal-nitrogen distances are substantially longer and the μ-N-N distances shorter (N-N = 1.182 (5) and 1.155 (14)–1.165 (14) Å, respectively). We propose that the μ-N₂ ligand is close to being a unique "diimido type", Ta=N-N-Ta.¹⁴ A mononuclear imido analogue is known.⁷

Several other findings corroborate this point of view and suggest further that this type of dinitrogen complex will be a common one in Nb and Ta chemistry. First, THF and PEt₃ complexes which are analogous to Ta(NPh)₂Cl₃ complexes⁷ can be prepared quantitatively from *cis,mer*-Ta(CHCMe₃)(THF)₂Cl₃ (eq 2 and 3). Secondly, a dinitrogen ethylene complex analogous to Ta-



(NPh)(PMe₃)₃(C₂H₄)Cl⁷ can be prepared as shown in eq 4.

(9) Triclinic crystals grown from pentane. Space group *P*1̄, with *a* = 9.712 (2) Å, *b* = 14.845 (2) Å, *c* = 18.448 (4) Å, α = 67.278 (14)°, β = 84.812 (15)°, and γ = 71.743 (12)°. The cell volume is 2328.5 (7) Å³ and ρ(calcd) = 1.39 g cm⁻³ for Z = 2 and mol wt = 976.9. Diffraction data (4.0 < 2θ < 40°) were collected at 23 (1) °C by using a Syntex P₂ diffractometer equipped with graphite-monochromatized Mo Kα radiation.¹⁰ Data were corrected for absorption and the structure was solved by a combination of Patterson and difference-Fourier techniques. Full-matrix least-squares refinement using anisotropic thermal parameters for all 40 nonhydrogen atoms, with all 78 hydrogen atoms included in calculated positions, converged with R_F = 4.5% and R_{wF} = 3.1% for all 4308 independent data (none rejected) and R_F = 3.1% and R_{wF} = 3.0% for those 3626 data with |F_o| > 3σ(F_o).

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(11) Churchill, M. R.; Youngs, W. J. *Inorg. Chem.* **1979**, *18*, 1930–1935.

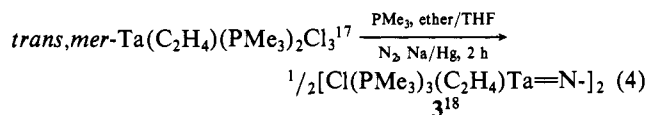
(12) Slightly longer N-N bonds (~1.35 Å) have been reported in complexes such as [(PhLi)₆Ni₂N₂(ether)₂]₂ and related species: Krüger, C.; Tsay, Y.-H. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1973**, *12*, 998,999.

(13) (a) Sanner, R. D.; Manriquez, J. M.; Marsh, R. E.; Bercaw, J. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1976**, *98*, 8351–8357. (b) Sanner, R. D.; Duggan, D. M.; McKenzie, T. C.; Marsh, R. E.; Bercaw, J. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1976**, *78*, 8358–8365.

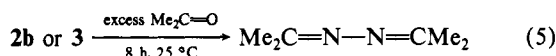
(14) A referee suggested that a resonance structure such as Ta=N⁺=N⁻=Ta might be equally appropriate.

(15) Insoluble orange powder quantitatively. The ν_{Ta-N₂} region is obscured by THF modes.

(16) Green crystals quantitatively; ν_{Ta-N₂} = 855 cm⁻¹ (cf. **1a**). ³¹P NMR: δ -14.2 (trans,mer). An analogous PEt₃Ph derivative analyzed for one N per Ta.



Extensive ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR studies suggest that the two ends of this molecule are "locked" ~90° to one another when the phosphine on each Ta which is trans to the μ-N₂ ligand stops exchanging rapidly on the NMR time scale (cf. 1b). Thirdly, 2b and 3 react with acetone to give dimethylketazine quantitatively (eq 5). This reaction is analogous to the reaction of Ta-



(NPh)(PEt₃)₂Cl₃ with the carbonyl function to give an imine.⁷ To our knowledge, this reaction of bridging dinitrogen is unique.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by NSF Grants CHE79-05307 (to R.R.S.) and CHE79-24560 (to M.R.C.).

(17) Fellmann, J. D.; Rupprecht, G. A.; Schrock, R. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 5099-5101.

(18) Ether-soluble yellow-orange powder, 60% yield; ν_{Ta-N₂} = 825 cm⁻¹ (cf. 1a, 2b).

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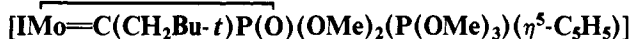
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Received July 28, 1980

Transformation of a Molybdenum-Alkyldiyne Complex into Molecules Containing Vinylalkylidene and Alkylidene Ligands. Crystal and Molecular Structure of

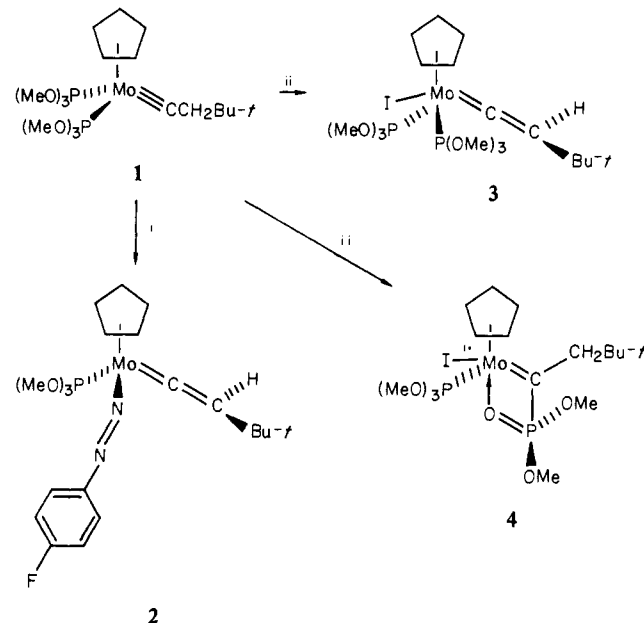


Sir:

Alkylidene transition-metal complexes in which the carbon atom bonded directly to the metal carries either a partial negative¹ or positive charge² have been described. This distinction has been emphasized by the use of the descriptive terms—Schrock or Fischer-type complexes. Group 6 alkyldiene chemistry has, so far, been largely dominated by Fischer-type complexes despite the obvious importance of expanding the range of alkyldiene complexes in this area of the periodic table. The availability of the alkyldiyne complex 1³ [Mo≡CCH₂Bu-*t*(P(OMe)₃)₂(η⁵-C₅H₅)], whose synthesis we have previously described, suggested a possible new synthetic approach to species containing carbon to molybdenum double bonds.

Reaction of 1 with 4-fluorophenyldiazonium tetrafluoroborate in methylene chloride at room temperature led to the rapid formation of a deep red solution. Chromatography of the reaction mixture on an alumina packed column afforded (31% yield) from hexane (-78 °C) dark red crystals, which were characterized by elemental analysis and mass, IR, and NMR spectroscopy⁴ as the

Scheme I^a



^a (i) 4-FC₆H₄N₂BF₄/CH₂Cl₂, (ii) CF₃I/Et₂O.

vinylalkylidene complex 2. (See Scheme I.) Thus, an apparent two-electron oxidative reaction has occurred between an aryldiazonium salt⁵ and an alkyldiyne complex with loss of a molecule of trimethyl phosphite. It is likely that the displaced phosphite facilitates loss of HBF₄ from an intermediate cationic species to give the neutral vinylalkylidene complex 2, containing a chiral molybdenum center.

A vinylalkylidene complex was also obtained as one of the products on treatment of complex 1 with trifluoroiodomethane in diethyl ether at room temperature. Column chromatography on alumina at low temperature (-30 °C) led, on elution with hexane, to the separation of the red crystalline (-20 °C, hexane) product 3, which was identified⁶ as a molybdenum vinylalkylidene with the illustrated structure. Recent calculations^{7,8} suggest that in 3 the plane of the CHBu-*t* fragment should bisect the molecular symmetry plane as shown, although the barrier to rotation is calculated to be relatively low. This prediction was borne out by the observation of *one* ³¹P resonance at -90 °C for the two phosphite ligands present in 3.

The formation of 3 probably involves an initial oxidative reaction followed by elimination of a proton, this being supported by the

(4) The spectroscopic data for complex 2 is as follows: γ(Nujol) 1608 m (Mo=C=C), 1594 m (MoN₂C₆H₄F) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, room temperature) τ 2.49 (m, 2 H, FC₆H₄), 3.08 (t, 2 H, FC₆H₄, J_{HH} = 8 Hz), 4.15 (d, 1 H, C=CHBu-*t*, J_{PH} = 6 Hz), 4.61 (s, 5 H, C₅H₅), 6.64 (d, 9 H, POME, J_{PH} = 12 Hz), 8.78 (s, 9 H, Bu-*t*); ¹³C NMR (C₆D₆, room temperature, ¹H decoupled) δ 31.2 (s, CMe₃), 34.7 (s, CMe₃), 52.0 (s, POME), 96.7 (d, C₅H₅, J_{CP} = 22 Hz), 115.5 (d, FC₆H₄, J_{CF} = 25 Hz), 120.5 (d, FC₆H₄, J_{CF} = 7 Hz), 141.3 (s, C=CHBu-*t*), 146.4 (s, FC₆H₄), 159.4 (d, FC₆H₄, J_{CF} = 242 Hz), 348.6 (d, Mo=C=CHBu-*t*, J_{CP} = 30 Hz); ³¹P NMR (C₆D₆, room temperature, ¹H decoupled) δ 184.7 (s).

(5) Oxidative-addition reactions between low-valent metal complexes and aryldiazonium salts have been previously observed; see: Sutton, D. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **1975**, *4*, 443-470.

(6) The spectroscopic data for complex 3 is as follows: γ(Nujol) 1605 m (Mo=C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, room temperature) τ 4.69 (t, 1 H, C=CHBu-*t*, J_{PH} = 13 Hz), 5.08 (t, 5 H, C₅H₅, J_{PH} = 2 Hz), 6.32 (t, 18 H, POME, J_{PH} = 5 Hz), 8.94 (s, 9 H, Bu-*t*); ¹³C NMR (C₆D₆, room temperature, ¹H decoupled) δ 31.3 (t, CMe₃, J_{CP} = 3 Hz), 35.0 (t, CMe₃, J_{CP} = 6 Hz), 54.5 (t, POME, J_{CP} = 3 Hz), 91.0 (t, C₅H₅, J_{CP} = 20 Hz), 132.7 (t, C=CHBu-*t*, J_{CP} = 12 Hz), 326.4 (t, Mo=C=CHBu-*t*, J_{CP} = 51 Hz); ³¹P NMR (C₆D₆, room temperature, ¹H decoupled) δ 157.9 (s); ³¹P NMR (C₆D₆, -90 °C, ¹H decoupled) δ 159.3 (s).

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(3) Bottrill, M.; Green, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1977**, *99*, 5795-5796.