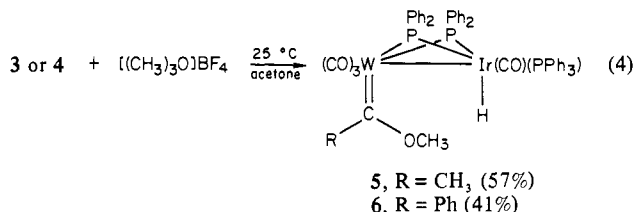


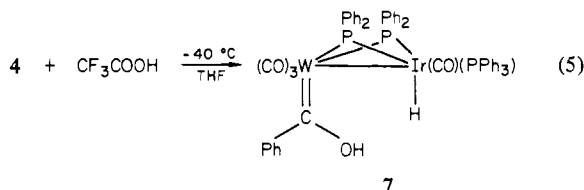
period to yield **1** as the only detectable organometallic product.

Treatment of **3** and **4** with [(CH₃)₃O]BF₄ leads smoothly to the stable binuclear carbene hydride complexes **5** and **6**, respectively (eq 4). These can be isolated as crystalline solids and have



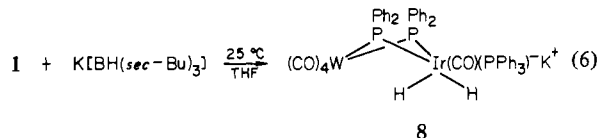
been spectroscopically characterized, **6** being studied more extensively.¹¹ These carbene hydride complexes are quite stable and show no tendency for the hydride to migrate to the carbene carbon. They can be heated to 60 °C without decomposition; prolonged heating at 90 °C induces decomposition to form **1** as the only observable organometallic product. Such behavior resembles the thermal decomposition of Cr(CO)₅[C(OCH₃)Me], which yields principally Cr(CO)₆ upon heating.¹²

Protonation of the acyl complex **4** with CF₃COOH at -40 °C leads to the formation of a hydroxycarbene-hydride complex, **7** (eq 5). Complex **7** has been characterized spectroscopically and



appears similar to the methoxycarbene complex **6**.¹³ Upon warming up to 25 °C, **7** decomposes, releasing PhCHO and yielding **1** as the principal organometallic product. The latter must derive by scavenging of CO by the coordinatively saturated intermediate that is formed upon aldehyde elimination.

The preparation of a binuclear formyl hydride complex analogous to the acyl hydride complexes **3** and **4** was also attempted by reacting **1** with K[BH(sec-Bu)₃], but this reaction instead led cleanly to the formation of the dihydride complex **8** (eq 6). The



³¹P{¹H} NMR resonances for the μ-PPh₂ ligands of **8** appear far upfield, implying the absence of a metal-metal bond.¹⁴ Addition of H⁻ occurs at the iridium center with displacement of the W-Ir bond.

The binuclear acyl hydride and carbene hydride complexes described herein are the first reported heterobimetallic examples

(11) **6**: IR ν_{CO} (hexane) 2012 w, 1968 m, 1938 s, 1920 m cm⁻¹; ³¹P{¹H} NMR δ 119.3 (dd, J_{31p-31p} = 136.2, 48.4 Hz), 97.7 (dd, J_{31p-31p} = 136.2, 2.2 Hz), 22.6 (dd, J_{31p-31p} = 48.4, 2.2 Hz); ¹H NMR δ -13.0 (ddd, J_{H-31p} 16.4, 16.4, 17.9 Hz); MS, m/e (FABS) 1242 (M⁺) plus fragment ions corresponding to successive loss of five CO's; satisfactory C, H analysis.

(12) Fischer, E. O.; Plabst, D. *Chem. Ber.* 1974, 107, 3326.

(13) **7**: ³¹P{¹H} NMR (-10 °C, acetone-d₆) δ 113.4 (dd, J_{31p-31p} = 128.8, 26.1 Hz), 61.5 (br d, J_{31p-31p} = 128.8 Hz), 24.3 (br d, J_{31p-31p} = 26.1 Hz); ¹H NMR (5 °C, acetone-d₆) δ -12.8 (ddd, J_{H-31p} = 15.3, 17.1, 18.9 Hz).

(14) **8**: ³¹P{¹H} NMR δ 11.2 (dd, J_{31p-31p} = 10.7, 210.5 Hz), -97.6 (dd, J_{31p-31p} = 210.5, 48.8 Hz), -140.5 (dd, J_{31p-31p} = 10.7, 48.8 Hz); ¹H NMR δ -7.5 m, -12.5 m.

of such classes of compounds. Indeed, the stability of these complexes is somewhat surprising. Although facile aldehyde elimination from **3** and **4** via coupling of acyl and hydride ligands and alkyl formation from **5-7** by hydride migration to the carbene ligand might have been anticipated, neither of these transformations readily occur.¹⁵ It is thus important to consider why these reactions do not take place. The most straightforward interpretation is that aldehyde elimination and alkyl formation in these complexes cannot occur by direct hydride migration from iridium to the organic ligand on tungsten but that such reactions must proceed through initial hydride migration of tungsten itself. However, the W center in these derivatives is best considered as a six-coordinate W(0) species (cf. Figure 1). It is thus coordinatively saturated with no open site to which the hydride ligand can migrate, and thus the complexes are stable as formed with the hydride remaining on iridium.

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Supplementary Material Available: Data for the X-ray diffraction study of **1**, positional and thermal parameters and their estimated standard deviations, bond distances, bond angles, and structure factors for **1** (37 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

(15) Compare the stability of **3** and **4** to the reported quantitative formation of aldehydes upon protonation of the binuclear acyl complexes [Fe₂(μ-PPh₂)₂(CO)₅[C(O)R]]⁻.¹²

Chemical Reactions of Tetramesityldisilene¹

Mark J. Fink, Douglas J. DeYoung, and Robert West*

Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Josef Michl*

Department of Chemistry, University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

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Tetramesityldisilene, **1**, the first stable compound containing a silicon-silicon double bond, was reported early in 1981.² A different synthesis of **1**³ and of a closely related molecule⁴ have recently been published. We now report preliminary studies of the so-far uncharted chemical reactivity of disilenes. Except where mentioned, the reactions of **1** described below all proceed cleanly in better than 80% yield.⁵

Thermolysis. Tetramesityldisilene, a bright yellow solid at room temperature, exhibits pronounced thermochromism. On heating, it darkens to orange and then melts to a red liquid at 178 °C. This

(1) This work was reported in part at the 16th Annual Organosilicon Symposium, Midland, MI, June 1982.

(2) West, R.; Fink, M. J.; Michl, J. 15th Organometallic Symposium, Duke University, Durham, NC, Mar 1981. West, R.; Fink, M. J.; Michl, J. 6th International Symposium on Organosilicon Chemistry, Budapest, Hungary, Aug 1981. West, R.; Fink, M. J.; Michl, J. *Science (Washington, D.C.)* 1981, 214, 1343.

(3) Boudjouk, P.; Han, B.-H.; Anderson, K. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1982, 104, 4992.

(4) Masamune, S.; Hanazawa, Y.; Murakami, S.; Bally, T.; Blount, J. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1982, 104, 1150.

(5) All compounds described have been identified by exact molecular weight determination by high-resolution mass spectroscopy and by NMR and IR spectra consistent with the structure given.