

4a and 4c. NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Spektrospin 270-MHz spectrometer.

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## Reactions of Dihydrido(bicarbonato)bis(triisopropylphosphine)rhodium(III) with Alkynes. Formation of $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$ and the Stereoselective Hydrogenation of Alkynes to Trans Olefins

T. Yoshida,<sup>1a</sup> Wiley J. Youngs,<sup>1b</sup> T. Sakaeda,<sup>1c</sup> T. Ueda,<sup>1a</sup> S. Otsuka,<sup>1c</sup> and  
James A. Ibers\*<sup>1b</sup>

Contribution from the Departments of Chemistry, Faculty of Arts and Science,  
University of Osaka Prefecture, Sakai, Osaka, Japan 591, Northwestern University,  
Evanston, Illinois 60201, and Faculty of Engineering Science, Osaka University,  
Toyonaka, Osaka, Japan 560. Received December 23, 1982

**Abstract:** A reaction of  $\text{RhH}_2(\text{O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (**1**) with  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  has been found to give *trans*-stilbene and a novel binuclear rhodium complex  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  (**2**). A similar reaction with  $\text{MeO}_2\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCO}_2\text{Me}$  results both in  $\text{H}_2$  evolution and half-hydrogenation, while with  $\text{F}_3\text{C}\equiv\text{CCF}_3$  only  $\text{H}_2$  evolution is observed. Compound **1** catalyzes the stereoselective half-hydrogenation of alkynes to *trans* olefins. Complex **2** crystallizes in the monoclinic space group  $C_{2h}^5-P2_1/c$ , with four formula units in a cell of dimensions  $a = 17.158$  (4) Å,  $b = 23.916$  (3) Å,  $c = 11.255$  (3) Å,  $\beta = 103.3$  (1)°, and  $V = 4494$  Å<sup>3</sup> ( $t \approx -160$  °C). In the solid state **2** consists of a distorted octahedral Rh(III) center and a distorted square-planar Rh(I) center bridged by a bis-bidentate carbonato group.

Cis dihydrides of transition metals have received considerable attention as catalysts for the hydrogenation of unsaturated organic molecules. The reaction proceeds through insertion of the unsaturated molecule into the M-H bond.<sup>2</sup> An alternative reaction of cis dihydrides with  $\pi$ -acids is reductive elimination to produce dihydrogen. Recently we have observed both types of reactions for the cis-dihydrido carbonato and formato compounds  $\text{RhH}_2\text{XL}_2$  ( $X = \text{O}_2\text{COH}, \text{O}_2\text{CH}; L = \text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3, \text{P}(\text{C}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11})_3$ ).<sup>3</sup> Thus, reaction with  $\text{CO}_2$  under ambient conditions leads readily to reduction of the substrate, while reaction with CO results in dihydrogen evolution. Both reactions afford the carbonyl compounds *trans*- $\text{Rh}(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{COH})(\text{CO})\text{L}_2$  and *trans*- $\text{Rh}(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{CH})(\text{CO})\text{L}_2$ , respectively. A facile dihydrogen evolution is also observed on treatment of the cationic cis-dihydrido compounds  $[\text{RhH}_2(\text{S})_2\text{L}_2]^+$  ( $S = \text{solvent}, L = \text{phosphine}$ ) with CO and *t*-BuNC.<sup>4,5</sup> The square-planar cis-dihydrido compound  $\text{PtH}_2(\text{diphos})$  ( $\text{diphos} = (i\text{-Bu})_2\text{P}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{P}(t\text{-Bu})_2$ ) reacts with olefins carrying electron-withdrawing substituents, e.g., acrylonitrile and maleic anhydride, to afford the compounds  $\text{Pt}(\text{olefin})(\text{diphos})$  with evolution of  $\text{H}_2$ .<sup>6</sup> Recent MO calculations<sup>7</sup> are consistent with this facile reductive

elimination of  $\text{H}_2$ . By contrast, the compound  $\text{PtH}_2(\text{diphos})$  is inert toward cyclohexene under ambient conditions, while under forcing conditions (100 °C, 80 Kg/cm<sup>2</sup> of  $\text{H}_2$ ) it catalyzes the hydrogenation to give cyclohexane.<sup>6</sup> Apparently the reaction of cis-dihydrido complexes with  $\pi$ -acid is sensitive to the  $\pi$ -acidity of the substrate.

In this paper we examine the types of reactions that occur between the cis-dihydrido  $\text{RhH}_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (**1**)<sup>3</sup> and the alkynes  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ ,  $\text{MeO}_2\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCO}_2\text{Me}$ , and  $\text{F}_3\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCF}_3$ . The reaction with  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  affords the half-hydrogenation product *trans*-stilbene, together with a new binuclear dihydrido carbonato diphenylacetylene compound characterized by diffraction and spectroscopic methods to be  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  (**2**). A similar reaction with  $\text{MeO}_2\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCO}_2\text{Me}$  results both in  $\text{H}_2$  evolution and hydrogenation to give dimethyl fumarate. In contrast, with the stronger  $\pi$ -acid  $\text{F}_3\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCF}_3$  only  $\text{H}_2$  evolution is observed. As the stereospecific half-hydrogenation of alkynes with homogeneous catalysts to afford *trans* olefins is rare,<sup>8,9</sup> we also describe our studies of the hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  as catalyzed by **1** and **2**.

### Results and Discussion

**Reaction of  $\text{RhH}_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  with  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ .** Reaction of the colorless compound  $\text{RhH}_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (**1**)<sup>3</sup> with an excess (3 molar equiv) of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  in toluene occurs

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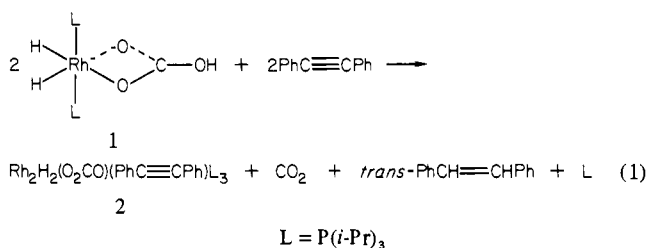
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Table I. Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (deg) in  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$ 

Bond Distances				Bond Angles			
Distances from the Rhodium Atoms				Angles about the Rhodium Atoms and the Carbonato Ligand			
Rh(1)-P(1)	2.299 (1)	Rh(2)-P(3)	2.208 (1)	P(1)-Rh(1)-P(2)	170.71 (3)	P(3)-Rh(2)-O(3)	97.84 (6)
Rh(1)-P(2)	2.299 (1)	Rh(2)-O(1)	2.208 (2)	P(1)-Rh(1)-O(1)	99.30 (5)	P(3)-Rh(2)-C(41)	96.63 (8)
Rh(1)-O(1)	2.324 (2)	Rh(2)-O(3)	2.092 (2)	P(1)-Rh(1)-O(2)	90.18 (5)	P(3)-Rh(2)-C(51)	97.40 (8)
Rh(1)-O(2)	2.272 (2)	Rh(2)-C(41)	2.037 (3)	P(1)-Rh(1)-H(1)	89 (1)	O(1)-Rh(2)-O(3)	61.97 (7)
Rh(1)-H(1)	1.48 (3)	Rh(2)-C(51)	2.048 (3)	P(1)-Rh(1)-H(2)	86 (1)	O(1)-Rh(2)-C(41)	103.52 (9)
Rh(1)-H(2)	1.42 (3)			P(2)-Rh(1)-O(1)	88.35 (5)	O(1)-Rh(2)-C(51)	101.39 (9)
Distances within the Carbonato Ligand				P(2)-Rh(1)-O(2)	98.40 (6)	O(3)-Rh(2)-C(41)	152.7 (1)
C(1)-O(1)	1.317 (3)	O(1)···O(2)	2.220 (3)	P(2)-Rh(1)-H(1)	83 (1)	O(3)-Rh(2)-C(51)	159.85 (9)
C(1)-O(2)	1.259 (3)	O(1)···O(3)	2.216 (3)	P(2)-Rh(1)-H(2)	87 (1)	O(1)-C(1)-O(2)	119.1 (2)
C(1)-O(3)	1.296 (3)	O(2)···O(3)	2.264 (3)	O(1)-Rh(1)-O(2)	57.74 (6)	O(1)-C(1)-O(3)	116.1 (2)
Distances within the Phosphine Ligands				O(1)-Rh(1)-H(1)	113 (1)	O(2)-C(1)-O(3)	124.9 (2)
P(1)-C(11)	1.861 (3)	C(13)-C(18)	1.527 (5)	O(1)-Rh(1)-H(2)	172 (1)	Rh(1)-O(1)-Rh(2)	174.44 (9)
P(1)-C(12)	1.853 (3)	C(13)-C(19)	1.518 (5)	O(2)-Rh(1)-H(1)	171 (1)	C(1)-O(1)-Rh(2)	87.9 (2)
P(1)-C(13)	1.862 (3)	C(21)-C(24)	1.530 (4)	O(2)-Rh(1)-H(2)	117 (1)	C(1)-O(1)-Rh(1)	89.7 (2)
P(2)-C(21)	1.865 (3)	C(21)-C(25)	1.526 (4)	H(1)-Rh(1)-H(2)	73 (2)	C(1)-O(2)-Rh(1)	93.5 (2)
P(2)-C(22)	1.858 (3)	C(22)-C(26)	1.530 (4)	P(3)-Rh(2)-O(1)	159.39 (5)	C(1)-O(3)-Rh(2)	93.7 (2)
P(2)-C(23)	1.868 (3)	C(22)-C(27)	1.530 (4)	Angles within the Phosphine Ligands			
P(3)-C(31)	1.855 (3)	C(23)-C(28)	1.531 (4)	Rh(1)-P(1)-C(11)	114.8 (1)	Rh(1)-P(2)-C(21)	118.0 (1)
P(3)-C(32)	1.861 (3)	C(23)-C(29)	1.535 (4)	Rh(1)-P(1)-C(12)	111.5 (1)	Rh(1)-P(2)-C(22)	110.8 (1)
P(3)-C(33)	1.859 (3)	C(31)-C(34)	1.532 (5)	Rh(1)-P(1)-C(13)	118.5 (1)	Rh(1)-P(2)-C(23)	116.0 (1)
P-C(av)	1.860 (5) <sup>a</sup>	C(31)-C(35)	1.517 (5)	C(11)-P(1)-C(12)	103.3 (1)	C(21)-P(2)-C(22)	105.3 (1)
C(11)-C(14)	1.531 (4)	C(32)-C(36)	1.528 (4)	C(11)-P(1)-C(13)	103.1 (1)	C(21)-P(2)-C(23)	101.7 (1)
C(11)-C(15)	1.535 (4)	C(32)-C(37)	1.535 (4)	C(12)-P(1)-C(13)	104.0 (1)	C(22)-P(2)-C(23)	103.6 (1)
C(12)-C(16)	1.528 (4)	C(33)-C(38)	1.530 (4)	P(1)-C(11)-C(14)	112.9 (2)	P(2)-C(21)-C(24)	112.7 (2)
C(12)-C(17)	1.524 (5)	C(33)-C(39)	1.524 (4)	P(1)-C(11)-C(15)	110.2 (2)	P(2)-C(21)-C(25)	112.7 (2)
		C-C(av)	1.529 (5)	C(14)-C(11)-C(15)	108.2 (3)	C(24)-C(21)-C(25)	109.3 (3)
Distances within the PhC≡CPh Ligand				P(1)-C(12)-C(16)	115.2 (2)	P(2)-C(22)-C(26)	113.5 (2)
C(41)-C(51)	1.268 (4)	C(51)-C(52)	1.443 (4)	P(1)-C(12)-C(17)	113.3 (2)	P(2)-C(22)-C(27)	114.6 (2)
C(41)-C(42)	1.441 (4)	C(52)-C(53)	1.395 (4)	C(16)-C(12)-C(17)	110.9 (3)	C(26)-C(22)-C(27)	111.0 (3)
C(42)-C(43)	1.399 (4)	C(53)-C(54)	1.376 (4)	P(1)-C(13)-C(18)	112.7 (2)	P(2)-C(23)-C(28)	113.6 (2)
C(43)-C(44)	1.389 (4)	C(54)-C(55)	1.390 (4)	P(1)-C(13)-C(19)	114.0 (2)	P(2)-C(23)-C(29)	110.9 (2)
C(44)-C(45)	1.387 (5)	C(55)-C(56)	1.379 (4)	C(18)-C(13)-C(19)	108.9 (3)	C(28)-C(23)-C(29)	109.3 (3)
C(45)-C(46)	1.382 (5)	C(56)-C(57)	1.386 (4)	Rh(2)-P(3)-C(31)	123.8 (1)	P(3)-C(31)-C(34)	113.9 (2)
C(46)-C(47)	1.383 (4)	C(57)-C(52)	1.402 (4)	Rh(2)-P(3)-C(32)	107.2 (2)	P(3)-C(31)-C(35)	113.6 (2)
C(47)-C(42)	1.403 (4)			Rh(2)-P(3)-C(33)	110.8 (1)	C(34)-C(31)-C(35)	110.9 (3)
				C(31)-P(3)-C(32)	105.2 (1)	P(3)-C(32)-C(36)	110.4 (2)
				C(31)-P(3)-C(33)	102.4 (1)	P(3)-C(32)-C(37)	116.9 (2)
				C(32)-P(3)-C(33)	106.2 (1)	C(36)-C(32)-C(37)	110.5 (3)
						P(3)-C(33)-C(38)	117.0 (2)
						P(3)-C(33)-C(39)	111.1 (2)
						C(38)-C(33)-C(39)	109.3 (3)
				Angles within the PhC≡CPh Ligand			
				Rh(2)-C(41)-C(42)	136.3 (2)	Rh(2)-C(51)-C(52)	136.6 (2)
				Rh(2)-C(41)-C(51)	72.4 (2)	Rh(2)-C(51)-C(41)	71.4 (2)
				C(42)-C(41)-C(51)	151.3 (3)	C(52)-C(51)-C(41)	151.9 (3)
				C(41)-C(42)-C(47)	120.2 (3)	C(57)-C(52)-C(51)	120.2 (3)
				C(41)-C(42)-C(43)	121.3 (3)	C(51)-C(52)-C(53)	121.3 (3)
				C(43)-C(42)-C(47)	118.5 (3)	C(53)-C(52)-C(57)	118.5 (3)
				C(42)-C(43)-C(44)	120.2 (3)	C(52)-C(53)-C(54)	120.8 (3)
				C(43)-C(44)-C(45)	120.6 (3)	C(53)-C(54)-C(55)	120.2 (3)
				C(44)-C(45)-C(46)	119.5 (3)	C(54)-C(55)-C(56)	119.9 (3)
				C(45)-C(46)-C(47)	120.6 (3)	C(55)-C(56)-C(57)	120.1 (3)
				C(46)-C(47)-C(42)	120.6 (3)	C(56)-C(57)-C(52)	120.5 (3)

<sup>a</sup> Standard deviation of a single observation as estimated from agreement among values averaged.

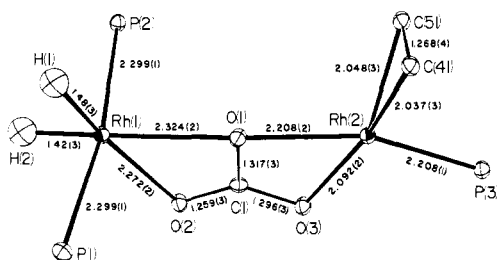
rapidly at room temperature to afford a dark red solution from which we isolated diamagnetic orange-red crystals of  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  (**2**) in 70% yield (based on **1**), together with *trans*-stilbene (38%) as the sole hydrogenation product (reaction 1). VPC analysis of the gaseous phase showed



the presence of  $\text{CO}_2$  in approximately 35% yield and no detectable

amounts of  $\text{H}_2$ . No product derived from insertion of the alkyne into the Rh-O<sub>2</sub>COH bond, e.g., "RhCPh≡CPh(OCO<sub>2</sub>H)", was detected in the IR spectrum of the residue left after separation of **2**. In contrast to  $\text{RhCl}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ , from which the alkyne dissociates extensively,<sup>10</sup> the alkyne coordination in **2** is stable in solution at room temperature. Thus, the molecular weight (949) determined cryoscopically in benzene agrees well with the required value (926).

**Crystallographic and Spectroscopic Characterization of  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  (**2**).** The molecular structure of  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  consists of a distorted octahedral Rh(III) center (labeled Rh(1)) and a distorted square-planar Rh(I) center (labeled Rh(2)), with two hydrido and two triisopropylphosphine ligands coordinated to



**Figure 1.** Labeling of atoms and selected distances (Å) about the rhodium atoms of  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$ .

Rh(1) and a diphenylacetylene and a triisopropylphosphine ligand coordinated to Rh(2). A carbonate ligand bridges the two rhodium atoms. Figure 1 shows the inner coordination sphere, labeling scheme, and some bond distances. Figure 2 is a stereodrawing of the molecule, while Figure 3 displays the packing. All intermolecular distances are normal, the shortest between non-hydrogen atoms being 3.509 Å. Table I lists distances and angles.

The bonding mode of the carbonate ligand is unusual, insofar as it is a bridging ligand that also acts as a chelating ligand to both the Rh(I) and Rh(III) metal centers. This bonding mode for a carbonate ligand has been previously observed in  $[(\text{Cu-L})_2\text{CO}_3](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ <sup>11</sup> (L = 2,4,4,9-tetramethyl-1,5,9-triazacyclodec-1-ene) and  $[(\text{CuCl}(\text{tetramethyl-1,3-propanediamine}))_2\text{CO}_3]$ .<sup>12</sup> In each of these previous structures there is a crystallographically imposed twofold axis of symmetry that passes through the bridging oxygen atom and the carbon atom of the carbonate bridge. In the current structure the carbonate ligand bridges the two rhodium atoms asymmetrically. The carbonate oxygen atom O(1) directly coordinated to both rhodium atoms is trans to a hydride ligand on atom Rh(1) (O(1)-Rh(1)-H(2) = 172 (1)°) and trans to a triisopropylphosphine ligand on atom Rh(2) (P(3)-Rh(2)-O(1) = 159.39 (5)°). One nonbridging oxygen atom O(2) is trans to a hydride ligand on Rh(1) (O(2)-Rh(1)-H(1) = 171 (1)°), and the analogous oxygen atom O(3) is trans to a diphenylacetylene ligand on Rh(2) (O(3)-Rh(2)-C(41) = 152.7 (1)°; O(3)-Rh(2)-C(51) = 159.9 (1)°). The lengthening of the Rh-O bonds trans to the hydride ligands in comparison with those trans to the diphenylacetylene and the triisopropylphosphine ligands is a function of both the differing trans effects of the ligands and the different oxidation states of the two rhodium atoms. The  $\text{Rh}_2\text{CO}_3$  fragment is essentially planar, the largest deviation from the best least-squares plane being 0.101 (2) Å for atom O(1).

The coordination geometry about the Rh(III) center is approximately that observed about the Rh(III) center in the parent compound  $\text{RhH}_2(\text{O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$ .<sup>3</sup> The Rh(III)-P bond lengths of 2.299 (1) and 2.299 (1) Å are very similar to those observed in  $\text{RhH}_2(\text{O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (2.321 (2) and 2.302 (2) Å) and are slightly shorter than several other reported Rh-P distances ( $\text{RhCl}(\text{L})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (L = O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>=CH<sub>2</sub>) (2.348–2.363 Å)),<sup>13,14</sup> while the Rh(I)-P bond length of 2.208 (1) Å is significantly shorter. The Rh(III)-O bond lengths of 2.324 (2) and 2.272 (2) Å are considerably longer than the Rh(I)-O bond lengths of 2.208 (2) and 2.092 (2) Å but similar to the Rh(III)-O bond lengths in  $\text{RhH}_2(\text{O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  of 2.279 (2) and 2.306 (3) Å.<sup>3</sup>

The Rh(III)-H bond lengths of 1.42 (3) and 1.48 (3) Å are shorter than the 1.5–1.7 Å distances usual for terminal metal-hydride bonds<sup>15,16</sup> but once again are comparable with the Rh-

(III)-H distances of 1.41 (3) and 1.47 (3) Å found in  $\text{RhH}_2(\text{O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$ .

The Rh(I) center in  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  has Rh-P (2.208 (1) Å) and Rh-O (2.092 (2)–2.208 (2) Å) bond distances similar to those about the Rh(I) center in  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{PPh}_3)_5$ <sup>17</sup> (Rh-P = 2.183 (5)–2.208 (3) Å and Rh-O = 2.104 (7)–2.138 (7) Å). In the present compound the longer bond distance of 2.208 (2) Å for Rh(2)-O(1) probably results from the bridging nature of this oxygen atom. The C-O bond lengths in the carbonate ligand (C(1)-O(1) = 1.317 (3) Å, C(1)-O(2) = 1.259 (3) Å, C(1)-O(3) = 1.296 (3) Å) are comparable with those observed in  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{PPh}_3)_5$ ,<sup>17</sup> carbonates,<sup>18</sup> and  $\text{Mo}_2(\mu\text{-O}_2\text{CO})(\text{CO})_2(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})_6$ .<sup>19</sup>

The Rh(I) interaction with the diphenylacetylene ligand is that expected for an  $\eta^2$ -alkyne ligand bonded to one metal center,<sup>20,21</sup> the Rh-C bond lengths being Rh(2)-C(41) = 2.037 (3) Å and Rh(2)-C(51) = 2.048 (3) Å and the C-C acetylenic linkage being C(41)-C(51) = 1.268 (4) Å. The phenyl rings of the coordinated acetylene are bent from the C(41)-C(51) bond axis, away from the Rh atom, with angles of C(41)-C(51)-C(52) = 151.9 (3)° and C(51)-C(41)-C(42) = 151.3 (3)°. The bond distances from the acetylenic carbon atoms to their phenyl rings are C(41)-C(42) = 1.441 (4) Å and C(51)-C(52) = 1.443 (4) Å. All other bond distances and angles in the structure are normal.

The structure of **2**, as deduced crystallographically, is consistent with IR studies of the solid and with NMR studies of the compound in solution. The IR spectrum (Nujol mull) of **2** shows two  $\nu(\text{Rh-H})$  bands at 2090 and 2140  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The  $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{C})$  absorption observed at 1870  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is considerably lower than that (1916  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) found for  $\text{RhCl}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ <sup>10</sup> but higher than those (1740–1825  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of the corresponding compounds of the zero-valent nickel triad  $\text{M}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})\text{L}_2$  (L =  $\text{PPh}_3$ , *t*-BuNC).<sup>22</sup>

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** measured in benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub> exhibits two hydride signals at  $\delta$  -24.12 and -24.13, both as double triplets of equal intensity. The magnitudes of the coupling constants of both signals are essentially equal,  $J_{\text{H-P}}$  and  $J_{\text{H-Rh}}$  being 14.3 and 27.0 Hz, respectively. These values are comparable with those of the parent compound **1** ( $J_{\text{H-P}}$  = 13.1 Hz,  $J_{\text{H-Rh}}$  = 26.3 Hz).<sup>3</sup> Consistently the methyl proton signal of the two  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$  ligands attached to the Rh(III) center is observed at  $\delta$  1.16 as an apparent quartet because of virtual coupling ( $^3J_{\text{H-P}} + ^5J_{\text{H-P}}$  = 14.5 Hz,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$  = 7.3 Hz). The corresponding signal of the third  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$  group, the one attached to the Rh(I) center, appears at  $\delta$  1.14 as a doublet of doublets ( $J_{\text{H-P}}$  = 11.7 Hz,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$  = 7.8 Hz). As expected, the intensity ratio of the former methyl proton signal to the latter is approximately 2. The relative intensity of the aromatic ortho proton signal ( $\delta$  8.32) and the methyl proton signals of  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$  (4:5:6) is consistent with the molecular formula of **2**.

The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **2** (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>) shows signals from the carbonate and alkyne carbon atoms at  $\delta$  170.0(s) and 89.9 (br d,  $J_{\text{C-Rh}}$  = 18.3 Hz), respectively. As expected from the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, both methyl and methine carbon atoms show two signals at  $\delta$  20.3 (s) and 20.0 (s) and  $\delta$  25.0 (t,  $^1J_{\text{C-H}} + ^3J_{\text{C-P}}$  = 22.1 Hz) and 24.8 (d,  $J_{\text{C-P}}$  = 25.0 Hz), respectively. The lower field signals of the respective carbon atoms are assignable to the two mutually trans  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$  ligands coordinated to a Rh(III) moiety, while the higher field signals arise from the third  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$  ligand bonded to the Rh(I) center.

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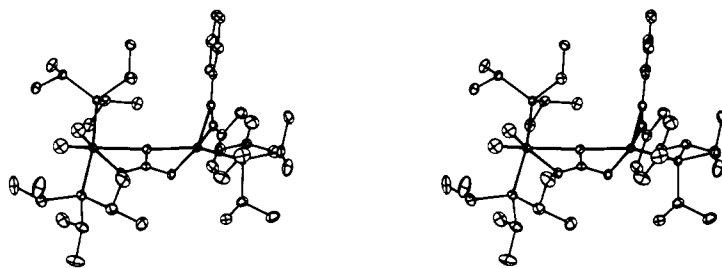
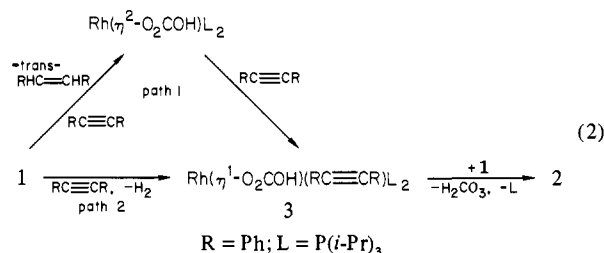


Figure 2. Stereoscopic view of the  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  molecule.

The observation of three  $\text{O}_2\text{CO}$  bands (1535 (s), 1328 (s), 828 (s)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for **2** is certainly different from that found for the  $\eta^1, \eta^1$ -bridging carbonate  $\text{Rh}_2(\mu\text{-O}_2\text{CO})(\text{CO})_2(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_4$  (1533, 1300, 1275, 829  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>3</sup> The band positions are rather similar but do not correspond exactly to those of the  $\eta^2, \eta^2$ -carbonates  $\text{Cu}_2\text{Cl}_2(\mu\text{-O}_2\text{CO})(\text{Me}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{NMe}_2)_2$  (1560, 1380, 895, 730  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )<sup>12</sup> and  $\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-O}_2\text{CO})\text{L}_2^+$  (L = 2,4,4,7-tetramethyl-1,5,9-triazacyclodec-1-ene) (1570, 1350, 830, 730  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>11</sup>

**Reaction Scheme and Reaction of  $\text{RhH}_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  with Other Alkynes.** The compound  $\text{RhH}_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{COH})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (**1**) was found to be an efficient catalyst for half-hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  to give *trans*-stilbene (vide infra). Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the formation of  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  (**2**) (reaction 1) proceeds through an incipient reduction of the alkyne by **1** to give *trans*-stilbene and  $\text{Rh}(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{COH})\text{L}_2$  (L =  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$ ) and subsequent coordination of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  to the latter to afford a transient alkyne compound  $\text{Rh}(\eta^1\text{-O}_2\text{COH})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})\text{L}_2$  (**3**) (path 1 in eq 2). Oxidative



addition of the bicarbonato OH bond of **1** to **3**, followed by reductive elimination of  $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$  and dissociation of L from the adduct leads to the formation of **2**. A facile transformation of the square-planar bicarbonato  $\text{Rh}(\text{I})$  species *trans*- $\text{Rh}(\eta^1\text{-O}_2\text{COH})(\text{CO})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  into  $\text{Rh}_2(\mu\text{-}\eta^1, \eta^1\text{-O}_2\text{CO})(\text{CO})_2(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_4$  is known.<sup>3,5</sup>

When **1** was treated with 0.5 mol of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  at room temperature for 3 h, compound **2** (0.13 mol) and *trans*-stilbene (0.17 mol) were isolated, together with unreacted **1** (0.35 mol), but no  $\text{H}_2$  was found. This is consistent with the proposed scheme (path 1 in eq 2) and excludes an alternative path involving  $\text{H}_2$  evolution (path 2 in eq 2) and half-hydrogenation of the alkyne with **2**, since the latter reaction, in a separate experiment, was confirmed to be rather slow (vide infra).

Reductive elimination of cis-dihydrido ligands is facilitated by the presence of an electron-accepting trans ligand in a square-planar  $d^8$  complex,<sup>7</sup> and this is also true in the reaction of the  $d^6$  complex **1** with CO.<sup>3</sup> Consistently both hydrogenation of an alkyne and reductive elimination of  $\text{H}_2$  take place when **1** is treated with  $\text{MeO}_2\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCO}_2\text{Me}$ . Thus, on addition of 2 mol of  $\text{MeO}_2\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCO}_2\text{Me}$  to a toluene solution of **1**, the colorless solution turns red and gas evolution is observed. VPC analysis of the vapor phase shows the evolution of  $\text{H}_2$  (10% based on **1**) and  $\text{CO}_2$  (52%). The reddish oily residue obtained by concentration of the reaction mixture was purified by chromatography on  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Elution with a mixture of acetone-toluene gave dimethyl fumarate (29%) and a small amount of uncharacterized red crystals (**4**).

In contrast to the facile half-hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  and  $\text{MeO}_2\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCO}_2\text{Me}$  with **1**, a similar reaction with  $\text{F}_3\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCF}_3$  proceeds exclusively through reductive elimination of  $\text{H}_2$  from **1**.

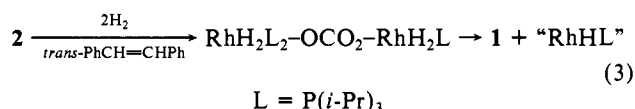
Thus treatment of a suspension of **1** in *n*-hexane with 2 mol of  $\text{F}_3\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCF}_3$  at room temperature results in evolution of  $\text{H}_2$  (92% based on **1**) and  $\text{CO}_2$  (65%). From the orange solution orange crystals (**5**) are obtained (35%). These remain uncharacterized from elemental analyses and spectral data (see Experimental Section).

**Catalytic Half-Hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ .** We have shown that the hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  and  $\text{MeO}_2\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCO}_2\text{Me}$  with **1** gives *trans*-stilbene and dimethyl fumarate. The selective half-hydrogenation of internal alkynes to give *trans* olefins is remarkable, since *cis* hydrogenation seems to be general with  $\text{Rh}(\text{I})$  catalysts, e.g.,  $\text{RhCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ ,<sup>23</sup>  $[\text{Rh}(\text{diene})\text{L}_2]^+$  (L = phosphine),<sup>24</sup> and  $[\text{RhH}(\text{P}(\text{OCH}_3)_3)_2]_n$  ( $n = 2, 3$ ).<sup>25</sup> The homogeneous catalysts for *trans* hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  so far reported are  $\text{RhCl}_3(\text{py})_3 \cdot \text{NaBH}_4 \cdot \text{DMF}$ <sup>8</sup> and  $\text{Rh}_2(\mu\text{-H})_2(\text{P}(\text{O}-i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7)_2)_4$ .<sup>9</sup> Therefore, we have studied the hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  as catalyzed by **1** and **2**.

Hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  catalyzed with **1** (1 mol %) in toluene proceeds under ambient conditions (20 °C, 1 atm of  $\text{H}_2$ ) without an induction period. After absorption of 1 mol of  $\text{H}_2$  *trans*- $\text{PhCH}=\text{CHPh}$ , *cis*- $\text{PhCH}=\text{CHPh}$ , and  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$  were obtained in a 31:3:1 ratio. The hydrogenation rates of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  and *trans*- $\text{PhCH}=\text{CHPh}$  are 6.6 and  $4 \times 10^{-2}$  mol/mol of **1**/min, respectively. The IR spectrum of the concentrated reaction mixture indicates the absence of any Rh compounds other than **1**.

Hydrogenation with **2** also takes place under conditions similar to those employed for **1** to afford *trans*- $\text{PhCH}=\text{CHPh}$ ; no  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$  was detected after absorption of 0.9 mol of  $\text{H}_2$ . Prolonged hydrogenation, however, affords  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$ . The catalysis of **2** differs from that of **1** in several respects: (1) the hydrogenation rate with **2** ( $3.0 \times 10^{-1}$  mol/mol of **2**/min) is much slower than with **1** and (2) there is an induction period (~100 min), suggesting that **2** is not an active species. The reaction of compound **2** with  $\text{H}_2$  was therefore studied. An orange-red solution of **2** in toluene reacts slowly with  $\text{H}_2$  under ambient conditions to give a dark brown solution, together with some precipitation of metallic Rh. From the solution we isolated **1** (15%) and  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$  (91%). An attempt to isolate other Rh compounds from the concentrated dark oily residue failed. The IR spectrum of the oil, however, suggests the presence of  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{CO})_3(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  ( $\nu(\text{CO})$  1955, 1770, 1732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>4,5</sup>

Compound **1** may be produced through reduction of the coordinated alkyne in **2** and  $\text{H}_2$  addition to a  $\text{Rh}(\text{I})$  moiety to give *trans*- $\text{PhCH}=\text{CHPh}$  and  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_4(\text{OCO}_2)(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  and subsequent reductive elimination of hydrido and carbonato ligands from the latter to give **1** and a highly coordinatively unsaturated species " $\text{RhHP}(i\text{-Pr})_3$ " (eq 3).



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This coordinatively unsaturated Rh(I) compound probably decomposes to afford metallic Rh. An alternative route involving hydrolysis of the carbonato ligand in **2** by a trace of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  present in the reaction mixture to give **1** and  $\text{Rh}(\text{OH})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  is unlikely since **2** may be recovered quantitatively after stirring a solution of **2** in toluene with an excess of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  for 5 h.

A Rh(I) hydride  $\text{RhH}(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$ , which readily adds  $\text{H}_2$  to give  $\text{trans-RhH}_3(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$ ,<sup>26</sup> also serves as an active catalyst for the half-hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  to afford  $\text{trans-PhCH=CHPh}$ , the rate being 2.8 mol/mol of Rh/min. The yields of  $\text{cis-PhCH=CHPh}$  and  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$  are less than 1% of that for  $\text{trans-PhCH=CHPh}$ . In the presence of free  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$ , the species " $\text{RhH}(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)$ ", formed through the reaction of **2** with  $\text{H}_2$  (eq 3), should afford  $\text{RhH}(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_n$  ( $n = 2, 3$ ).<sup>26</sup> A mixture of **2** and free  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$  therefore should show activity for the half-hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  comparable with that observed for **1** or  $\text{RhH}(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$ . In fact the activity of **2** is enhanced in the presence of 1 mol of free  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$ , the rate being 4.3 mol/mol of **2**/min. Furthermore, the induction period observed for the catalysis of **2** is absent for this system. The product ratio of  $\text{trans-PhCH=CHPh}$ ,  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$ , and  $\text{cis-PhCH=CHPh}$  is essentially that obtained for **1**. These studies suggest that the active species involved in the catalysis of **2** is **1** produced as indicated in eq 3.

Compound **1** also catalyzes an isomerization of  $\text{cis-PhCH=CHPh}$  to the  $\text{trans}$  olefin. Under conditions similar to those employed for the hydrogenation, but in the absence of  $\text{H}_2$ , the rate of  $\text{cis-trans}$  isomerization (0.8 mol/mol of **1**/min) is much slower than that of 6.6 mol/mol of **1**/min for the hydrogenation of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ . Moreover, even at the initial stage of the hydrogenation  $\text{trans-PhCH=CHPh}$  is obtained as the major product; the rates of  $\text{trans-}$  and  $\text{cis-PhCH=CHPh}$  formation are 5.0 and 1.6 mol/mol of **1**/min, respectively. Thus  $\text{cis-trans}$  isomerization is not a major factor in the selective formation of the  $\text{trans}$  olefin. Formation of  $\text{trans-vinyl}$  metal compounds from transition-metal hydrides and internal alkynes, e.g.,  $\text{IrH}(\text{NCC}\equiv\text{CCN})(\text{CO})(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ <sup>27</sup> and  $(\eta^2\text{-C}_3\text{H}_5)_2\text{MoH}_2(\text{F}_3\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCF}_3)$ ,<sup>28</sup> may proceed through  $\text{cis}$  addition of  $\text{M-H}$  to the coordinated alkyne and subsequent intramolecular isomerization of the  $\text{cis}$  isomer via the dipolar intermediate  $\text{M}^+=\text{CR}-\text{CHR}$ .<sup>29-31</sup> Therefore, it is possible that the stereoselective hydrogenation of  $\text{RC}\equiv\text{CR}$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Ph}, \text{MeO}_2\text{C}$ ) with **1** to afford the  $\text{trans}$  olefin occurs mainly through the isomerization to the  $\text{trans}$  isomer of the incipiently bound  $\text{cis-vinyl}$  compound  $\text{RhH}(\text{cis-CR=CHR})(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$ , with subsequent reductive elimination of  $\text{trans}$  olefin. Presumably electron-donating ligands (e.g.,  $\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3$ ) and electron-withdrawing substituents (e.g.,  $\text{Ph}, \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ) of alkynes provide a low-energy process that leads to the dipolar intermediate.

## Experimental Section

All reactions and manipulations were carried out under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ .  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-4H-100 spectrometer and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra on a JEOL JNM-C-60HL spectrometer. IR spectra were measured on a Hitachi Model 295 spectrometer. Quantitative analysis of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  were carried out by the method described previously.<sup>5,31,32</sup>

**Reactions of  $\text{RhH}_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{CO})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (**1**) with Alkynes.** I. **PhC≡CPh.** To a toluene solution (10 mL) of **1** (0.17 g, 0.35 mmol) was added  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  (0.19 g, 1.06 mmol) at room temperature. Immediately the colorless solution turned orange-red and  $\text{CO}_2$  gas (35%) was evolved. The concentrated residue of the reaction mixture was washed with  $n$ -hexane and subsequently recrystallized from toluene- $n$ -hexane to

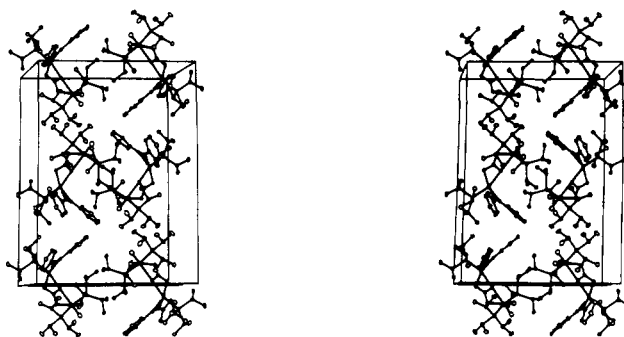


Figure 3. Stereoscopic view of the unit-cell contents of  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$ .

afford  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  (**2**) as orange crystals (0.12 g, 70%). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{75}\text{O}_3\text{P}_3\text{Rh}_2$ : C, 54.43; H, 8.16. Found: C, 54.48; H, 7.95. Concentration of the  $n$ -hexane washing gave a mixture of  $\text{trans-stilbene}$  and unreacted  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ . The yield of the former, as assessed from the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR intensity ratio of olefinic ( $\delta$  6.9 in  $\text{CCl}_4$ ) and aromatic proton signals of the mixture, was 38% (based on the Rh(III) dihydride).  $\text{cis-Stilbene}$  and  $\text{bibenzyl}$  were not detected. Similarly a mixture of **1** (0.10 g, 0.21 mmol) and  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  (0.02 g, 0.11 mmol) was treated to give **2**,  $\text{trans-stilbene}$ , and unreacted **1** in 26, 17, and 35% yield (based on **1**), respectively.

II. **MeO<sub>2</sub>CC≡CCO<sub>2</sub>Me.** A solution of **1** (0.79 g, 1.6 mmol) in toluene (50 mL) was treated with  $\text{MeO}_2\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCO}_2\text{Me}$  (0.5 g, 3.5 mmol) at room temperature. The colorless solution turned red immediately. The amounts of  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  evolved were 10 and 52%, respectively, based on **1**. The concentrated reaction mixture was chromatographed on  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Elution with a mixture of acetone-toluene (1:20 volume ratio), followed by evaporation of the eluent gave dimethyl fumarate (0.066 g, 29%). Subsequent elution with acetone-toluene (1:10) gave a small amount of a red solid. Recrystallization from ether- $n$ -hexane gave red crystals of **4** (0.02 g). IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1950 (w), 1738 (vs), 1717 (vs), 1630 (s), 1595 (m), 1435 (vs), 1400 (m), 1350 (s), 825 (w);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\delta$ )  $\text{CH}_3$ , 1.16 (dd, 18 H,  $J_{\text{H-P}} = 12.3$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.2$  Hz), 1.26 (dd, 18 H,  $J_{\text{H-P}} = 13.4$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.2$  Hz), CH, 1.98 (m, 3 H), 2.54 (m, 3 H);  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$ , 3.49 (s, 3 H), 3.54 (s, 6 H), 3.27 (dd,  $J = 8.4$  Hz,  $J = 2.0$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\delta$ )  $\text{CH}_3$ , 19.8 (s), CH, 24.4 (d,  $J_{\text{C-P}} = 24.8$  Hz), 24.8 (d,  $J_{\text{C-P}} = 22.7$  Hz),  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$ , 51.0 (s), 52.8 (s), CO and  $\text{OCO}_2$ , 164.8 (s), 172.9 (s), 185.8 (s), 186.0 (s), 36.9 (d,  $J = 17.6$  Hz), 102.0 (s). Anal. Found: C, 44.48; H, 6.50; P, 4.38.

III. **F<sub>3</sub>CC≡CCF<sub>3</sub>.** To a suspension of **1** (0.14 g, 0.29 mmol) in  $n$ -hexane (10 mL) was introduced gaseous  $\text{F}_3\text{CC}\equiv\text{CCF}_3$  (13 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 2 h to give an orange solution. VPC analysis of the gaseous phase showed evolution of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  in 60 and 92%, respectively. Concentration of the reaction mixture gave a viscous oil to which ether was added to induce crystallization. Recrystallization from  $n$ -hexane gave orange crystals of **5** (0.05 g). IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1880 ( $\nu_{\text{C}\equiv\text{C}}$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\delta$ )  $\text{CH}_3$ , 1.12 (dd, 6 H,  $J_{\text{H-P}} = 14.4$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.4$  Hz), 1.21 (q, 12 H,  $^3J_{\text{H-P}} + ^5J_{\text{H-P}} = 13.6$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.8$  Hz), 1.22 (q, 24 H,  $^3J_{\text{H-P}} + ^5J_{\text{H-P}} = 13.0$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-P}} = 6.5$  Hz), CH, 1.7-2.4 (m, 7 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\delta$ )  $\text{CH}_3$ , 19.3 (s), 19.5 (s), 20.2 (s), CH, 22.2 (t,  $^1J_{\text{C-P}} + ^3J_{\text{C-P}} = 17.7$  Hz), 24.3 (d,  $J_{\text{C-P}} = 22.1$  Hz), 25.1 (t,  $^1J_{\text{C-P}} + ^3J_{\text{C-P}} = 20.6$  Hz), 30.1 (b), 31.9 (b), 111.1 (b), 121.5 (s), 169.4 (s), 171.6 (s);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\delta$  from  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ ) 35.0 (d,  $J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 110.3$  Hz), 59.3 (d,  $J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 115.2$  Hz), 70.6 (d,  $J = 176.7$  Hz). Anal. Found: C, 42.44; H, 7.08; F, 21.45; P, 9.35.

**Reactions of  $\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CO})(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  (**2**).** I. **With  $\text{H}_2$ .** An orange-red solution of **2** (0.20 g, 0.21 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was stirred under  $\text{H}_2$  (1 atm) at room temperature for 12 h. The dark brown solution was filtered to remove traces of metallic rhodium. The amount of metal separated increased with increasing reaction time. The dark brown oily residue obtained by concentration of the filtrate was dissolved in  $n$ -hexane and was kept at  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  to separate  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$  (0.035 g, 91%) as colorless crystals. On further cooling of the mother liquor to  $-70^\circ\text{C}$  colorless crystals were obtained (0.015 g, 15%). These were identified as  $\text{RhH}_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{CO})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (**1**) by IR spectroscopy ( $\nu(\text{Rh-H})$  2120, 2140;  $\nu(\text{O}_2\text{CO})$  1338, 1587  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). The concentration of the filtrate gave a dark brownish oil that contained  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{CO})_3(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_3$  as deduced from the  $\nu(\text{CO})$  bands which were identical with those found for an authentic sample.<sup>4,5</sup>

II. **With  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .** A mixture of **2** (0.03 g, 0.3 mmol) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.5 mL) in toluene (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 5 h. The mixture was concentrated to dryness to recover **2** quantitatively. The IR spectrum of the concentrated residue did not indicate the formation of  $\text{RhH}_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{CO})(\text{P}(i\text{-Pr})_3)_2$  (**1**).

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Table II. Summary of Crystal Data and Intensity Collection

compound formula	Rh <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> (O <sub>2</sub> CO)(PhC≡CPh)(P( <i>i</i> -Pr) <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>
fw	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>75</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P <sub>3</sub> Rh <sub>2</sub> 962.80
temp, °C	~-160 <sup>a</sup>
<i>a</i> , Å	17.158 (4)
<i>b</i> , Å	23.916 (3)
<i>c</i> , Å	11.255 (3)
β, deg	103.31 (1)
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	4494
<i>Z</i>	4
<i>d</i> (calcd), g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.37
space group	C <sub>2h</sub> <sup>s</sup> -P2 <sub>1</sub> /c
cryst dimens, mm	0.23 × 0.32 × 0.36
cryst shape	parallelepiped with faces of forms {100}, {010}, {111}
cryst vol, mm <sup>3</sup>	0.003 25
radiatn	Mo K <sub>1</sub> (λ(Mo K <sub>α1</sub> ) = 0.709 30 Å) from monochromator
linear abs coeff, cm <sup>-1</sup>	6.29
transmissn factors	0.846-0.874
takeoff angle, deg	3.1
scan speed	2° in 2θ/min
scan range, deg	1.0 below K <sub>α1</sub> to 0.9 above K <sub>α2</sub>
background counts	10 s total with rescan option <sup>b</sup>
2θ limits, deg	4.0-56.0
final no. of variables	459
no. of observns	11 182
<i>R</i> ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	0.046
<i>R</i> <sub>w</sub> ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	0.073
<i>R</i> ( <i>F</i> )	0.032
<i>R</i> <sub>w</sub> ( <i>F</i> )	0.036
error in observn of unit weight, electrons <sup>2</sup>	1.26

<sup>a</sup> The low-temperature system is based on a design by: Huffman, J. C. Ph.D. Thesis, Indiana University, 1974. <sup>b</sup> The diffractometer was run under the Vanderbilt disk-oriented system (Lenhert, P. G. *J. Appl. Crystallogr.* 1975, 8, 568-470).

**Catalytic Hydrogenation of PhC≡CPh.** A Schlenk flask (50 mL), sealed with a serum cap and connected with a liquid paraffin leveling manometer, was used for the hydrogenation. The flask was filled with H<sub>2</sub> (1 atm), and then successively two 5-mL toluene solutions, one containing the catalyst (5 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M) and the other containing PhC≡CPh (5 × 10<sup>-1</sup> M), were added by syringe. The latter solution also contained naphthalene (5 × 10<sup>-2</sup> M) as an internal reference for the product analysis. The hydrogenation was carried out at 20 ± 0.5 °C under 1 atm. of H<sub>2</sub>. The reaction products were analyzed quantitatively by vapor phase chromatography with Triton X or Apiezon L or both as columns.

**Catalytic Isomerization of *cis*-PhCH=CHPh with RhH<sub>2</sub>(η<sup>2</sup>-O<sub>2</sub>COH)(P(*i*-Pr)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (1).** To an NMR tube cooled to -70 °C was added a benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub> solution (0.2 mL) of 1 (5 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M) and then a benzene solution (0.2 mL) of *cis*-PhCH=CHPh (9.4 × 10<sup>-1</sup> M) that also contained dibenzyl ether as an internal standard (δ(CH<sub>2</sub>) 4.52). The frozen mixture was melted just before the <sup>1</sup>H NMR measurement. The isom-

erization of *cis*-PhCH=CHPh was followed by the intensity increase of *cis* olefinic proton signal (δ 6.57).

**X-ray Data Collection.** Crystals of Rh<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>(O<sub>2</sub>CO)(PhC≡CPh)(P(*i*-Pr)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained upon recrystallization from toluene-hexane. These crystals were manipulated in an inert atmosphere (Ar or N<sub>2</sub>). Preliminary film work revealed the material to be monoclinic with systematic absences (*h*0*l*, *l* = 2*n* + 1; 0*k*0, *k* = 2*n* + 1) strongly indicative of the centrosymmetric space group C<sub>2h</sub><sup>s</sup>-P2<sub>1</sub>/c. Lattice parameters were obtained and intensity data collected on a Picker FACS-I diffractometer in a manner previously described.<sup>33</sup> Details relevant to the present structure appear in Table II.

The positions of the two rhodium atoms were found by direct methods.<sup>34</sup> All remaining non-hydrogen atoms were obtained from a single Fourier synthesis. After two cycles of isotropic and one cycle of anisotropic least-squares refinement all hydrogen atoms, including the two hydrido ligands, were apparent on a difference electron density map. All phenyl and isopropyl hydrogen atoms were placed in idealized positions (C-H = 0.95 Å, tetrahedral or trigonal angles) with idealized thermal parameters (*B* = 1.0 Å<sup>2</sup> greater than the equivalent *B* of the atom to which it is attached) and held fixed during subsequent refinement.

Initial cycles of refinement were based on *F*, using only those reflections having *F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> > 3σ(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>). Final refinements were carried out on *F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>, using all unique data including those with *F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> ≤ 0. The positions and isotropic thermal parameters of the hydrido ligands were refined, along with all non-hydrogen atoms in the final cycles of anisotropic refinement, which converged to values of *R*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.046 and *R*<sub>w</sub>(*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.073 for 11 182 observations and 459 variables. The corresponding agreement indices on *F* for those 8946 reflections for which *F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> > 3σ(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>) are 0.032 and 0.036, respectively. The largest peak on a final difference electron density map is of height 0.76 (12) e/Å<sup>3</sup> and is near the Rh(III) center. An analysis of Σ*w*(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> - *F*<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)<sup>2</sup> as a function of *F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>, setting angles, and Miller indices showed no unexpected trends. Final positional and thermal parameters are collected in Table III.<sup>35</sup> Table IV<sup>35</sup> lists parameters for the non-hydridic hydrogen atoms. Table V gives the value of 10|*F*<sub>o</sub>| and 10|*F*<sub>c</sub>|. A negative entry for |*F*<sub>o</sub>| indicates *F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> < 0.

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**Registry No. 1,** 71380-76-2; **2,** 86747-89-9; Rh<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>3</sub>(P(*i*-Pr)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, 74521-39-4; *trans*-PhCH=CHPh, 103-30-0; MeO<sub>2</sub>CC≡CCO<sub>2</sub>Me, 762-42-5; F<sub>3</sub>CC≡CCF<sub>3</sub>, 692-50-2; PhCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph, 103-29-7; *cis*-PhCH=CHPh, 645-49-8; dimethyl fumarate, 624-49-7.

**Supplementary Material Available:** Table III, positional and thermal parameters, Table IV, a listing of parameters for the non-hydridic hydrogen atoms, and Table V, a listing of 10|*F*<sub>o</sub>| and 10|*F*<sub>c</sub>| (40 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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