

residues of the opposite pyrromethenone system. The solvent bridges the propionic acid and the pyrromethenone to form a structure which is perturbed from the usual intramolecular hydrogen-bonded conformation.

However, the resonance Raman spectra provide information about the chromophores only. The spectra contain no propionate or central bridge methylene bands or bands directly attributable to bound water or amino acid residues, if any. While Raman spectroscopy demonstrates that the intramolecular hydrogen bonds of the aqueous dianion are broken in the albumin complex, it does not directly reveal where the propionates are.

It is known that the primary bilirubin binding site is in the region of residues 190-240.<sup>8b</sup> This region contains several lysines and arginines. It has previously been proposed that bilirubin

propionates bind to these sites.<sup>8,13</sup> Our Raman spectra provide further evidence that this binding occurs, and that there are no new hydrogen bonds to the bilirubin lactam or pyrrole groups.

The recent circular dichroism studies of Lightner and co-workers<sup>15</sup> may be interpreted as measuring the angle between extended pyrromethenone groups, rather than demonstrating retention of internal hydrogen bonds. With this interpretation, the circular dichroism can be reconciled with the model compound studies of Lauffer<sup>14</sup> and with our own results.

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**Registry No. 1a,** 635-65-4.

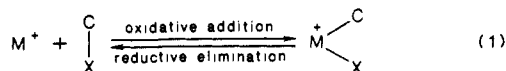
## Mn(I)-Induced 1,6-Demethanation across the CC Triple Bond of Linear Alkynes in the Gas Phase. A Case for the Generation of Manganese Cycloalkynes?<sup>†</sup>

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Contribution from the Institut für Organische Chemie, Technische Universität Berlin, D-1000 Berlin 12, West Germany. Received June 15, 1987

**Abstract:** Complexes of Mn(alkynes)<sup>+</sup> were generated in the gas phase and found to exhibit a reactivity which is even richer than that of the analogous Fe(alkyne)<sup>+</sup> species. Among the many unimolecular dissociations, the Mn<sup>+</sup>-induced demethanation of 4-octyne is of particular interest. The study of isotopomers and the effects of alkyl chain lengths reveals the operation of an unprecedented 1,6-elimination mode across the CC triple bond, and the experimental results may be explained by invoking the intermediate generation of the as yet unknown metallacycloalkynes. The implications of the unexpected, rich gas-phase ion chemistry of Mn<sup>+</sup> with regard to theoretical models are discussed.

The gas-phase chemistry of naked transition metal ions with organic substrates remains a major focus in quite different areas encompassing catalysis, organic, organometallic, and theoretical chemistry.<sup>1</sup> While most transition metal ions M<sup>+</sup> readily undergo oxidative insertion (eq 1) in CX bonds (X = hydrogen, carbon,



halogen, nitrogen, oxygen, etc.), Mn<sup>+</sup> shows a distinctly lower reactivity toward these substrates.<sup>1d,2,3</sup> The decreased reactivity of Mn<sup>+</sup> in comparison with, for example, Fe<sup>+</sup>, Co<sup>+</sup>, or Ni<sup>+</sup> has been explained by using several qualitative theoretical concepts. Allison and Ridge<sup>1g,2c</sup> ascribe the reduced reactivity of Mn<sup>+</sup> to the quite high promotion energies to generate from the 3d<sup>5</sup>4s<sup>1</sup> ground-state configuration of Mn<sup>+</sup> either a 3d<sup>4</sup>4s<sup>2</sup> or an 3d<sup>4</sup>4s<sup>1</sup>4p<sup>1</sup> excited state, which may then be used to form two covalent bonds. Based on this concept and taking into account results from a generalized valence bond approach,<sup>4</sup> it was indeed possible to establish an inverse relationship between the transition metal ion reactivity and the promotion energies of M<sup>+</sup>. Armentrout<sup>1f,2f</sup> and Weisshaar<sup>2e</sup> explain the low reactivity of Mn<sup>+</sup> in terms of a frontier orbital MO concept, developed earlier by Saillard and Hoffmann.<sup>5</sup> According to this, the metal insertion of a 3d<sup>n</sup>s<sup>0</sup> configuration is favored over that with a 3d<sup>n-1</sup>s<sup>1</sup> because of two favorable donor-acceptor interactions in the former. These are the interaction of the doubly occupied  $\sigma_{CX}$  orbital (donor) with the empty M<sup>+</sup><sub>4s</sub> (acceptor) and that of a doubly occupied d<sub>xz</sub>, say, (donor) with

the empty  $\sigma^*_{CX}$  (acceptor). Spin conservation also requires double occupancy of the d<sub>xz</sub> which can only occur for metal ions (3d<sup>n</sup>, high spin) with n > 6, i.e., for Fe<sup>+</sup>, Co<sup>+</sup>, and Ni, but not for the ground-state Mn<sup>+</sup> ion.

(1) (a) For leading references see: (a) Müller, J. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1972**, *11*, 653. (b) Beauchamp, J. L.; Stevens, A. E.; Corderman, R. *Pure Appl. Chem.* **1979**, *51*, 967. (c) Allison, J. *Prog. Inorg. Chem.* **1986**, *34*, 627. (d) Beauchamp, J. L., ACS Symposium Series, *High Energy Processes in Organometallic Chemistry* 1986, in press. (e) Hanratty, M. A.; Beauchamp, J. L.; Ilies, A. J.; van Koppen, P.; Bowers, M. T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, in press. (f) Armentrout, P. B. In *Structure/Reactivity and Thermochemistry of Ions* (NATO ASI Series); Ausloos, P., Lias, S. G., Eds., D. Reidel: Dordrecht, 1987; Vol. 193, p 97. (g) Ridge, D. P. *Ibid.*, p 165. (h) More than 100 references concerning the reactions of transition metal ions with organic substrates, together with a detailed analysis of the reaction of gaseous octynes with Fe<sup>+</sup>, are given in: Schulze, C.; Schwarz, H.; Peake, D. A.; Gross, M. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1987**, *109*, 2368. (i) Gregor, I. K.; Guilhaus, M. *Mass Spectrom. Rev.* **1984**, *3*, 39. (j) Simoes, J. A.; Beauchamp, J. L. *Chem. Rev.*, in press. (k) Freiser, B. S. *Talanta*, **1985**, *32*, 697.

(2) (a) Armentrout, P. B.; Halle, L. F.; Beauchamp, J. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 6501. (b) Halle, L. F.; Armentrout, P. B.; Beauchamp, J. L. *Organometallics* **1982**, *1*, 963. (c) Babinec, S. J.; Allison, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 7718. (d) Mestdagh, H.; Morin, N.; Rolando, C. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, *27*, 33. (e) Tonkyn, R.; Weisshaar, J. C. *J. Phys. Chem.* **1986**, *90*, 2305. (f) Elkind, J. L.; Armentrout, P. B. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1986**, *84*, 4862. (g) Elkind, J. L.; Armentrout, P. B. *Inorg. Chem.* **1986**, *25*, 1080. (h) Peake, D. A.; Gross, M. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1987**, *109*, 600. (i) Freas, R. B.; Ridge, D. P. *Ibid.* **1980**, *102*, 7129. (j) Armentrout, P. B. *Proc. SPIE*, **1986**, *38*, 620.

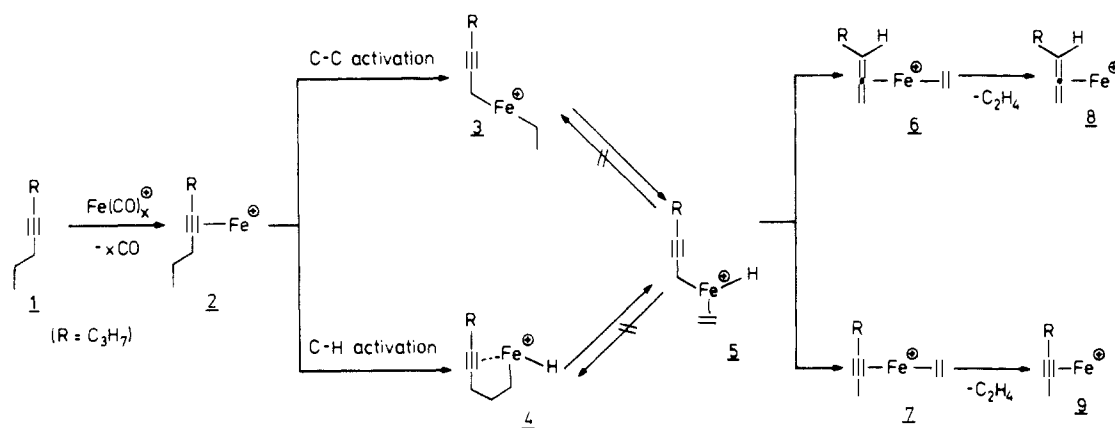
(3) The term "reactivity" is used throughout as suggested by Allison (ref 2c), i.e., "the number of different products formed".

(4) Goddard, W. A.; Harding, L. B. *Annu. Rev. Phys. Chem.* **1978**, *29*, 363.

(5) Saillard, J.-Y.; Hoffmann, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 2006.

<sup>†</sup> Dedicated to Professor Klaus Hafner, Darmstadt, on the Occasion of his 60th Birthday.

Scheme I



We describe here the unprecedented gas-phase reactions of  $\text{Mn}^+$  with linear alkynes which reveal an unexpectedly rich chemistry. Among the many reactions observed, the unimolecular loss of  $\text{CH}_4$  from  $\text{Mn}^+(\text{alkyne})^+$  complexes is of particular importance as the products formed could be interpreted as first examples of the as yet unknown metallacycloalkynes with  $\text{Mn}^+$  in a high oxidation state.<sup>6</sup>

### Experimental Section

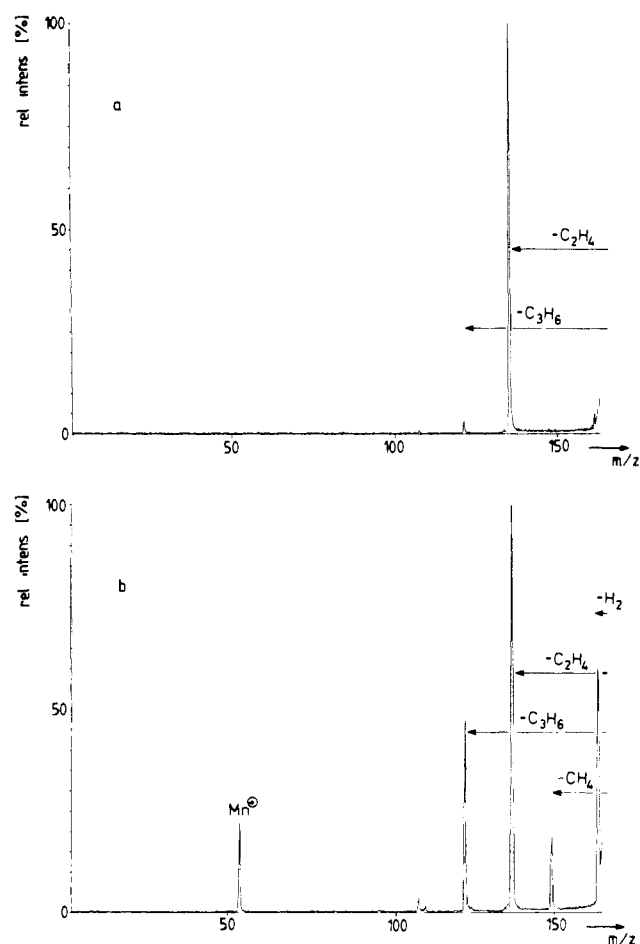
The experimental set-up has been described in earlier papers.<sup>1h,7</sup> Briefly,  $\text{Mn}^+$  is generated from either  $\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}$  or  $\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\text{CH}_3\text{-c-C}_5\text{H}_4)$  by electron impact ionization. In a typical experiment the organometallic compound and the alkynes (in a ratio 1:5–10) were introduced simultaneously via the gas inlet system in the chemical ionization source of a Vacuum Generator ZAB-HF-3F triple sector mass spectrometer of BEB configuration (B denotes magnetic and E electric sector).<sup>8</sup> Experimental conditions were as follows: ionization energy, 100 eV; emission current, 0.5 mA; repeller voltage, 0 V; acceleration voltage, 8 kV; mass resolution, 2000–5000 (10% valley definition); ion source pressure,  $10^{-5}$  mbar; ion source temperature, 200 °C. The  $\text{Mn}^+$ /hydrocarbon complexes were formed by reaction of  $\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_x^+$  ions and the appropriate hydrocarbon. The so-formed organometallic complexes, having 8 keV kinetic energy, were mass-selected and focused with B(1)E, and the unimolecular dissociations occurring in the field-free region between E and B(2) were monitored by scanning B(2). The data reported correspond to the average of 10–100 spectra which were accumulated using the VG 11/250 data system. All alkynes, including the D-labeled isotopomers, were purified by gas chromatography and fully characterized by NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry (MS). The deuterium content was determined by MS.

In view of the fact that electron impact ionization of  $\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}$  generates electronically excited  $\text{Mn}^+$  ions<sup>9</sup> having radiative lifetimes of the order of microseconds,<sup>10</sup> we have generated  $\text{Mn}^+$  species also by fast atom bombardment (FAB)<sup>11</sup> of  $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . This method, which is believed<sup>12</sup> to generate ground-state metal ions, has recently proved<sup>2d,13</sup> to be a convenient means to generate metal ion complexes in the gas phase. To this end,  $\text{Mn}^+$  is generated by bombarding a solid  $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  target with 8 kV xenon atoms, and the sputtered  $\text{Mn}^+$

(or  $\text{Mn}^+$  complexes of higher mass) react in the gas phase with hydrocarbons to form the  $\text{M}^+(\text{alkyne})^+$  complexes which, after extraction from the ion source, are mass-selected and analyzed as described above.

### Results and Discussion

The metastable ion (MI) mass spectrum of  $\text{Mn}(\text{4-octyne})^+$  is given in Figure 1b, and for comparison we also give the MI spectrum of  $\text{Fe}(\text{4-octyne})^+$  (Figure 1a). Unimolecular loss of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  from the latter has been studied in great detail,<sup>1h,14,15</sup> and the mechanism depicted in Scheme I accounts for all experimental findings.



**Figure 1.** Metastable ion (MI) mass spectra of (a)  $\text{Fe}(\text{4-octyne})^+$  (generated from  $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_5$  and 4-octyne according to ref 1h, 14) and (b)  $\text{Mn}(\text{4-octyne})^+$  (generated from  $\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}$  and 4-octyne). It should be noted that, except for minor intensity differences, the same MI spectra were obtained when the  $\text{Mn}(\text{4-octyne})^+$  complex was generated from  $\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}$ ,  $\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\text{CH}_3\text{-c-C}_6\text{H}_4)$  (both electron impact ionization) or  $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (FAB).

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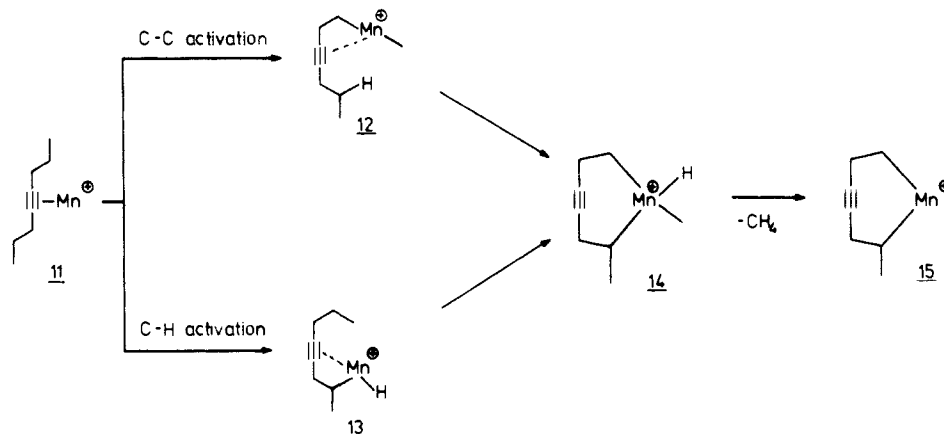
(12) Rabrenovic, M.; Ast, T.; Beynon, J. H. *Int. J. Mass Spectrom. Ion Processes* **1984**, *61*, 31.

(13) (a) Freas, R. B.; Ross, M. M.; Campana, J. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1985**, *107*, 6195. (b) Freas, R. B.; Campana, J. E. *Ibid.* **1985**, *107*, 6202. (c) Drewello, T.; Eckart, K.; Lebrilla, C. B.; Schwarz, H. *Int. J. Mass Spectrom. Ion Processes* **1987**, *76*, R1.

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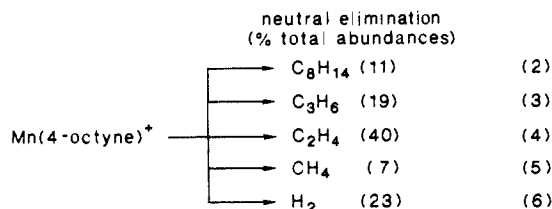
(15) (a) Peake, D. A.; Gross, M. L. *Anal. Chem.* **1985**, *57*, 115. (b) Peake, D. A.; Gross, M. L. *Organometallics* **1986**, *5*, 1236.

## Scheme II



The ethylene-hydrido complex **5** is, presumably, generated in competition via oxidative addition of the CC (**2** → **3**) or the CH bond (**2** → **4**) to the  $\pi$ -complexed  $\text{Fe}^+$ , followed by irreversible hydrogen migration (**3** → **5**) or cleavage of the propargylic CC bond (**4** → **5**). By probing the structure<sup>16</sup> of the ethylene decomposition products, Gross et al.<sup>15</sup> were able to show that **8** and **9** are formed in an approximate ratio of 1.5:1. This implies that migration of the  $\text{Fe}^+$ -bound hydrogen to the acetylenic carbon atom (**5** → **6**) is kinetically favored over migration to the propargylic carbon atom (**5** → **7**), a result which has also been observed in other cases.<sup>1h,15</sup>

In view of the previously reported low reactivity of  $\text{Mn}^+$ , the behavior of the  $\text{Mn}(4\text{-octyne})^+$  complex is completely unexpected. At best, one might have expected detachment of  $\text{Mn}^+$  to occur (eq 2), a reaction which is indeed observed. However, the majority of the  $\text{Mn}(4\text{-octyne})^+$  ions decompose via a multitude of competing processes (eq 3–6). The branching ratios of these reactions are



practically insensitive to the mode of generation of the  $\text{Mn}(4\text{-octyne})^+$  complexes.

By using the time-honored "labeling approach" we have tried to elucidate the mechanisms by which the various neutrals are formed from  $\text{Mn}(4\text{-octyne})^+$ . However, except for the loss of hydrogen, which involves to 83% the 1,2 and to 17% the 2,3 positions of 4-octyne (with an average kinetic isotope effect  $k_{\text{H}_2}/k_{\text{HD}} = 1.70$ ), and which is described as a metal-induced 1,2-dehydrogenation, and that of  $\text{CH}_4$ , the presently available set of data does not permit us to draw any definitive conclusions. Therefore, in the following we will refrain from any speculation concerning these reactions and will rather confine ourselves to a discussion of the  $\text{Mn}^+$ -induced demethanation of 4-octyne. This reaction turned out to follow a quite remarkable mechanism.

From the data given in Table I the following conclusions can be drawn with regard to the loss of methane. (i) Methane is formed from a terminal methyl group, which is not surprising, and an additional hydrogen; the latter is provided by one of the methylene groups. Absence of loss of  $\text{CH}_3\text{D}$  in the spectrum of **10c** rules out that the fourth hydrogen is provided by the second methyl group. Thus, a formal 1,7-elimination is not operative.

(16) Suggested structures are hypothetical in nearly all cases studied in mass spectrometry; they are based on plausible considerations using as much direct and indirect evidence as available from experiments and model considerations. Strictly speaking, none of the structures are proven. Nevertheless, the heuristic values of such structural representations are undeniable in chemistry, as long as speculation remains within acceptable limits.

Table I. Unimolecular Loss of  $\text{CH}_{4-x}\text{D}_x$  ( $X = 0-4$ ) from Labeled  $\text{Mn}(4\text{-octyne})^+$  complexes<sup>a</sup>

| $\text{CH}_{4-x}\text{D}_x$ | $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{C}\equiv\text{CR}^b$ |            |            |            |            |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                             | <b>10</b>                                       | <b>10a</b> | <b>10b</b> | <b>10c</b> | <b>10d</b> |
| $\text{CH}_4$               | 100   | 85.1       | 61.4       | 58.7       | 10.0       |
| $\text{CH}_3\text{D}$       |   | 14.9       | 38.6       |            | 41.4       |
| $\text{CH}_2\text{D}_2$     |   |            |            | 41.3       | 48.6       |
| $\text{CHD}_3$              |   |            |            |            |            |
| $\text{CD}_4$               |   |            |            |            |            |

<sup>a</sup>Data are given in %  $\Sigma\text{CH}_{4-x}\text{D}_x$ . Errors are  $\pm 2\%$  of reported data. <sup>b</sup>**10**, R =  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ ; **10a**, R =  $\text{CD}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ ; **10b**, R =  $\text{CH}_2\text{CD}_2\text{CH}_3$ ; **10c**, R =  $(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CD}_3$ ; **10d**, R =  $\text{CH}_2\text{CD}_2\text{CD}_3$ .

Table II. Metastable Ion Spectra of  $\text{Mn}(\text{alkyne})^+$  Complexes<sup>a</sup>

| neutral lost           | $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{C}\equiv\text{CR}^b$ |           |           |           |
|------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                        | <b>10</b>                                       | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b> |
| $\text{H}_2$           | 23  | 23        | 7         | 12        |
| $\text{CH}_4$          | 7   | 5         |           |           |
| $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ | 40  | 36        | 37        | 21        |
| $\text{C}_3\text{H}_4$ |   |           | 1         |           |
| $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6$ | 19  | 13        | 2         |           |
| Alkyne                 | 11  | 23        | 53        | 67        |

<sup>a</sup>Data are given in %  $\Sigma$ neutrals. <sup>b</sup>**10**, R =  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ ; **16**, R =  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ ; **17**, R =  $\text{CH}_3$ ; **18**, R = H.

Similarly, the absence of  $\text{CD}_4$  loss in the spectrum of **10d** suggests that a 1,1-elimination, by which a manganese-carbyne complex would have been generated, can also be ruled out. (ii) The losses of  $\text{CH}_3\text{D}$  (14.9%) from **10a** and  $\text{CH}_4$  (10%) from **10d** can be interpreted as the result of either a conventional 1,2-elimination mode or a 1,5-elimination across the CC triple bond. A distinction between these mechanistic variants cannot be achieved by the present set of labeling data. (iii) The elimination of  $\text{CH}_3\text{D}$  (41.4%) from **10d** leaves no doubt that  $>83\%$  of the total methane loss is due to an *unprecedented 1,6-elimination*. A mechanism which is in keeping with this unexpected labeling result is depicted in Scheme II. Addition of either a CC (**11** → **12**) or a CH bond (**11** → **13**) to the complexed manganese ion **11** generates intermediates which may further rearrange to the manganese-cycloheptyne cation **14**; the latter would then serve as direct precursor for the reductive elimination of methane to generate **15**. While metallacycles are often invoked or experimentally indicated to act as intermediates in gas phase reactions of transition metal ions,<sup>1b,c,e,g,6,7,17</sup> we are fully aware that in none of the previously reported cases were CC multiple bond containing metallacycles involved. We, therefore, stress that the labeling results do not prove the existence of **14** and **15**, although it is difficult to conceive other, chemically more reasonable, pathways which would account for the unusual 1,6-elimination mode. As suggested by a referee it is interesting to note that each step of the mechanism proposed

(17) Jacobson, D. B.; Freiser, B. S. *Organometallics* **1984**, *3*, 513.

in Scheme II is consistent with the latest values for the  $\text{Mn}^+-\text{H}$  and  $\text{Mn}^+-\text{CH}_3$  bond energies.<sup>2f,g</sup> By using these values and average bond energies for  $(\text{CH}_2)-\text{H}$  and  $(\text{CH}_2)-\text{CH}_3$  bonds, we estimate an upper limit on strain energy for the manganese-cycloheptyne species **14** of **18** kcal/mol.

The  $\text{Mn}^+$ -induced demethanation across the triple bond of acetylenes is also reflected if one generates  $\text{Mn}(\text{alkyne})^+$  complexes with shorter alkyl chain length. This can be clearly seen from the data of the  $\text{Mn}(\text{alkyne})^+$  complexes given in Table II. While  $\text{CH}_4$  loss is found for both **10** and **16**, the reaction is not observed for **17** and **18**. This is, presumably, a direct consequence of the fact that for smaller alkynes the formation of metallacycles analogous to **14** is no longer possible. Instead, reactions dominate in which either the ligand is detached from the  $\text{Mn}(\text{alkyne})^+$  complex or processes occur which involve the  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$  unit (loss of  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ ) only.

### Conclusions

In contrast to previous reports,  $\text{Mn}^+$  is not necessarily an unreactive transition metal ion in the gas phase. In the present system its reactivity with alkynes is even higher than that of the analogous  $\text{Fe}(\text{alkyne})^+$  complexes which were previously thought of having the highest reactivity. Our results imply that either the hitherto used concepts for the oxidative addition of CX bonds to transition metal ions deserve a reconsideration of, alternatively, that the  $\text{Mn}^+$  ions generated upon both electron impact (EI) and fast atom bombardment (FAB) are electronically excited, thus generating reactive species. While the formation of electronically excited  $\text{Mn}^+$  upon electron impact ionization has been reported earlier,<sup>2f,g,18</sup>

this possibility has not yet been considered for the FAB experiments.<sup>2d,12</sup> The identical behavior of the  $\text{Mn}(\text{4-octyne})^+$  complexes, generated via EI or FAB, strongly suggests that metal ions of the same electronic state distribution are formed, in which the excited ones are likely to cause the CH and CC activation.<sup>18</sup>

$\text{Mn}^+$ -induced demethanation of 4-octyne follows to >83% a formal 1,6-elimination.<sup>19</sup> This unprecedented result could be interpreted by the formation of as yet unknown metallacycloalkyne intermediates. The study of labeled isotopomers and of the effects of chain length is in keeping with this interpretation.

**Acknowledgment.** We gratefully acknowledge support of our work by the following institutions: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Fonds der Chemischen Industrie, Stiftung Volkswagenwerk, and Technische Universität Berlin.

**Registry No.** **10**, 1942-45-6; **10a**, 108686-71-1; **10b**, 108686-72-2; **10c**, 81186-40-5; **10d**, 108686-73-3; **16**, 2586-89-2; **17**, 764-35-2; **18**, 107-00-6;  $\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\text{CH}_3\text{-c-C}_5\text{H}_9)$ , 12108-13-3;  $\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}$ , 10170-69-1;  $\text{Mn}^+$ , 14127-69-6;  $\text{CH}_4$ , 74-82-8;  $\text{CH}_3\text{D}$ , 676-49-3;  $\text{CHD}_3$ , 676-80-2;  $\text{H}_2$ , 1333-74-0;  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ , 74-85-1;  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_4$ , 74-99-7;  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6$ , 115-07-1.

(18) Beauchamp et al. (Halle, L. F.; Armentrout, P. B.; Beauchamp, J. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 962) mention very briefly in a footnote that the reactivity of excited-state  $\text{Mn}^+$  (produced by electron impact of  $\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}$  with alkanes differs markedly from the reactions of ground-state ions.

(19) Co(I)-induced 1,5-demethanation of *n*-hexane does not, as interpreted by Allison (ref 1c), result in the formation of a saturated cobalt metallacycle. Instead, deuterium-labeling data are interpreted in the original paper<sup>6</sup> in terms of the conventional reaction sequence, i.e., a combination of CC and CH insertion reactions, thereby bypassing high oxidation states of  $\text{Co}^+$ .

## Chemisorption on Size-Selected Metal Clusters: Activation Barriers and Chemical Reactions for Deuterium on Aluminum Cluster Ions

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**Abstract:** We describe a new approach to investigating chemisorption on size-selected metal clusters. This approach involves investigating the collision-energy dependence of chemisorption using low-energy ion beam techniques. The method provides a direct measure of the activation barrier for chemisorption and in some cases an estimate of the desorption energy as well. We describe the application of this technique to chemisorption of deuterium on size-selected aluminum clusters. The activation barriers increase with cluster size (from a little over 1 eV for  $\text{Al}_{10}^+$  to around 2 eV for  $\text{Al}_{27}^+$ ) and show significant odd-even oscillations. The activation barriers for the clusters with an odd number of atoms are larger than those for the even-numbered clusters. In addition to chemisorption of deuterium onto the clusters, chemical reactions were observed, often resulting in cluster fragmentation. The main products observed were  $\text{Al}_{n-1}\text{D}^+$ ,  $\text{Al}_{n-2}^+$ , and  $\text{Al}^+$  for clusters with  $n < 10$ , and  $\text{Al}_n\text{D}^+$  and  $\text{Al}_{n-1}\text{D}^+$  for the larger clusters.

### I. Introduction

Metal clusters might be considered as microscopic surfaces, and while there is an obvious relationship between chemisorption on surfaces and on bare metal clusters, we might anticipate that size, electronic properties, and geometric structure could influence chemisorption on the clusters. Since the application of the fast-flow reactor techniques to studying the chemistry of metal clusters<sup>1-3</sup> many cases have been identified in which the reaction

rates show a strong cluster-size dependence. Several attempts have been made to account for these changes in reactivity, invoking either the electronic properties<sup>4-7</sup> or geometric structure.<sup>8</sup> The cluster-size dependence presumably results from changes in the height of the activation barrier associated with chemisorption, or changes in the stability of the adduct. However, it is often difficult to determine which of these factors is responsible.

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