

plexes or as H_3^- complexes of Ir(III). In this situation the designation of the formal oxidation state is dependent on the extent of back donation from the metal to the ligand.

The observed coupling constants in 1–3 are highly temperature dependent. In complex 3, $J_{H-H} = 376$ Hz at 176 K, increasing steadily to $J_{H-H} = 570$ Hz at 189 K. Similar trends are seen in 1 and 2 (see Supplementary Material). The origin of this pronounced temperature dependence remains obscure. Very recently, Chaudret and co-workers²³ have reported similar observations of large, temperature dependent H–H couplings in closely related neutral ruthenium complexes. Further studies to elucidate the structures of 1–3 and related complexes are in progress.

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Registry No. 1, 113161-52-7; 2, 113161-54-9; 3, 113180-40-8; ($\eta^5-C_5H_5$)Ir(PMe₃)H₂, 113161-55-0; ($\eta^5-C_5H_5$)Ir(PPh₃)H₂, 113161-56-1; ($\eta^5-C_5H_5$)Ir(AsPh₃)H₂, 113161-57-2.

Supplementary Material Available: X-ray structure data for 1, including details of data collection and refinement, experimental (¹H and ¹H {³¹P}) NMR spectra and computer-simulated spectra for 1 and 2 at various temperatures, and a table of J_{H-H} as a function of temperature for 1–3 (10 pages); table of observed and calculated structure factors (12 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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Stereochemistry and Mechanism of [4 + 2] Photocycloaddition of Pummerer's Ketone to Furan

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On the basis of the stereochemistry of photoaddition of MeOD to Pummerer's ketone (PK) 1, Hart and co-workers¹ suggested that "an excited state or intermediate in which the C=C bond is twisted more than 90°" might be the chemically reactive intermediate. The reaction course was suggested to be syn addition to the "trans" double bond, by analogy to the reaction course followed on photoaddition of MeOD to derivatives of cycloheptenone and cyclooctenone.² We have recently presented kinetic data which suggest that [2 + 2] photocycloaddition of alkenes to nonconstrained cyclohexenones may proceed via *trans*-cyclohexenones.³ Photoaddition of reactive 1,3-dienes to cycloheptenones and cyclooctenones⁴ as well as 1-acetylcycloalkenes ($n = 6-8$)⁵ gives *trans* fused [4 + 2] cycloadducts, which has generally been ascribed to capture by the diene of a ground-state

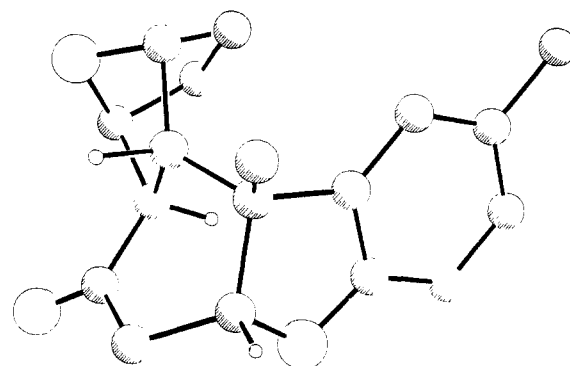


Figure 1. X-ray crystal structure of the cycloadduct 2.

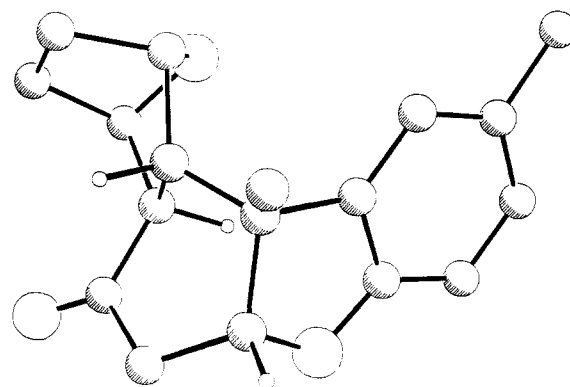
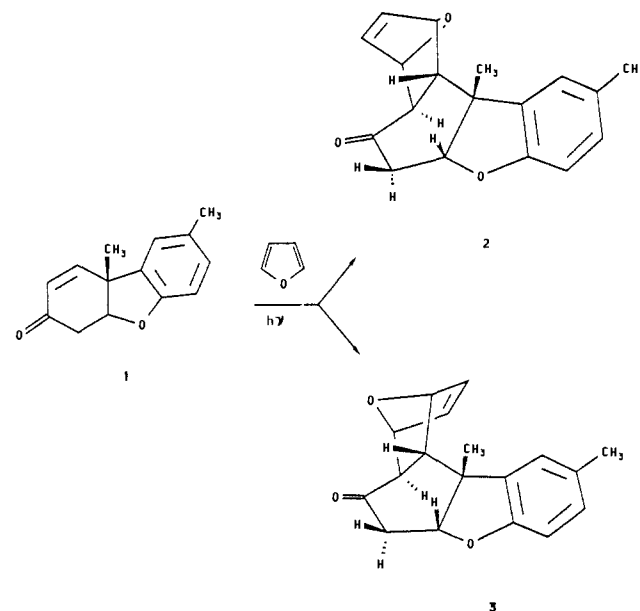


Figure 2. X-ray crystal structure of the cycloadduct 3.

Scheme I



trans-enone. This conclusion has been confirmed in eight-ring systems by formation of the same adduct(s) on excitation of the enone at low temperature followed by dark reaction with added diene.⁵ Because of our interest in *trans*-cyclohexenones as possible reaction intermediates in the photochemistry of *cis*-cyclohexenones,³ we have investigated the photoaddition of PK to furan.

Irradiation of a 0.005 M solution of PK in neat furan at room temperature through Pyrex led to isolation of two PK–furan adducts, 2 (mp 219–220 °C) and 3 (mp 208–209 °C) (Scheme I). The assignment of *trans* stereochemistry to the ring junction protons was made from completely decoupled 300 MHz ¹H NMR spectra (see Supplementary Material) and was confirmed by X-ray crystallography (see Figures 1 and 2 for the crystal structures of 2 and 3). Both 2 and 3 crystallized in the centrosymmetric, monoclinic space group $P2_1/c$, with unit cells parameters as

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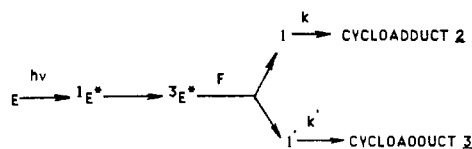
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Scheme II



follows: **2**, $a = 7.701$ (2), $b = 16.593$ (3), $c = 12.041$ (3) Å; **3**, $a = 7.722$ (2), $b = 16.631$ (4), $c = 11.741$ (3) Å. Final agreement factors were $r = 0.0479$ for **2** and 0.0485 for **3**.⁶ Although these results appear to confirm the photochemical generation of *trans*-PK,¹ subsequent results indicate this is probably not the case. No reaction between PK and furan occurs on heating at 150–155 °C for up to 48 h.

Laser flash photolysis of PK at 308 nm in acetonitrile using pulses from an excimer laser leads to the formation of an intermediate with a lifetime of ca. 15 ns with absorption centered at 270–277 nm.⁷ This very short lifetime, at the limit of the time resolution of this flash system, precluded quenching studies to fully characterize this transient species. However, by analogy with previous laser flash studies of cyclohexenones⁸ and other cyclic enones,⁹ we assign this absorption to a highly twisted triplet excited state of PK; a general correlation of triplet lifetimes of cyclohexenones with structure has been observed, in which the lifetime is inversely correlated with the ability to twist around the C=C bond.^{8–10} Consistent with these findings is that methylnaphthalene (MN) (E_T 61 kcal/mol) in concentrations up to 0.86 M (PK 0.013 M, furan 0.05 M) does not quench the formation of **2** and **3**. However, the free radical tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy (TEMPO) quenches formation of **2** and **3**, with Stern–Volmer quenching constants $k_q\tau$ of 12.5 ± 0.6 and 6.6 ± 0.3 M⁻¹, respectively, where k_q is the quenching rate constant and τ is the lifetime of the intercepted intermediate. Quenching by oxygen was also observed, with $k_q\tau = 438 \pm 8$ and 132 ± 5 M⁻¹, respectively.

Differential quenching by TEMPO and O₂ is consistent only with a nonconcerted photocycloaddition mechanism, as shown in Scheme II, in which the highly twisted triplet of PK reacts with furan (F) to give two distinct quenchable intermediates, I and I', which are direct precursors of **2** and **3**, respectively. Since the adducts have lost conjugation, the possibility that I and I' could be adduct triplet states can be eliminated on energetic grounds. It seems more likely that I and I' are short-lived triplet biradicals, interceptable by TEMPO and O₂ but not by MN. The quantum efficiency for formation of **2** and **3**, 0.062 ± 0.005 and 0.065 ± 0.005 , suggests that reversion to ground states of PK and F may occur from I and I' as well as PK*. The observed stereochemistry suggests that reaction occurs on only one face of the twisted triplet of PK but indiscriminately exo and endo to the oxy bridge of furan. Since Diels–Alder addition of ground state *trans*-PK to furan should be concerted mechanistically even if nonsynchronous,¹¹ quenching of this process by TEMPO or O₂ is not expected.¹²

Mechanistic examination of [4 + 2] photocycloaddition reactions of dienes to cyclic enones¹³ and to other systems in which

strained *trans* ground state intermediates have been proposed¹⁴ appear warranted.

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Supplementary Material Available: Tables consisting of 300-MHz ¹H NMR spectral data, atomic coordinates, bond lengths and angles, and anisotropic thermal parameters, details of the structure determination, and a computer-generated plot with atom labels for **2** and **3** (9 pages); tables of observed and calculated structure factors for **2** and **3** (18 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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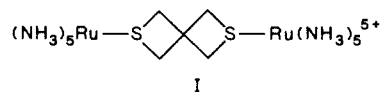
Ionic Strength Dependence of Intervalence Transition Bands in Electron Tunnelling Processes

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We wish to report the first study of the effect of ionic strength on an intervalence transition band (IT band). It is apparent that not only is the nature of the anion present important in determining the position of the IT band¹ but also the present work shows that there can be a strong ionic strength dependence of the band so that the concentration of the binuclear itself contributes to the band position as does the concentration of the oxidant or reductant used to generate the mixed-valence species. The ruthenium binuclear used in this investigation was the μ -2,6-dithiaspiro-[3.3]heptanedecaamminediruthenium(II,III) species studied earlier (complex I);² electron transfer in this molecule is known to be



significantly nonadiabatic.^{3,4} The oxidant employed was [Fe(bpy)₃](PF₆)₃. The ionic strength was controlled to the desired values by the addition of tetra-*n*-butylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAH). For ion-pairing in optical electron transfers, the Guntelberg⁵ modification of the Debye–Huckel equation may be expressed as

$$E_{op} = E_{op}^{\circ} + \frac{2z_1z_2A\sqrt{\mu}}{1 + \sqrt{\mu}}$$

where z_1 and z_2 are the charges of the ions, μ is the ionic strength, A is a Debye–Huckel constant, E_{op} is the energy of the IT band, and E_{op}° is the energy of the IT band at infinite dilution. The ionic strength dependence of complex I was studied in two solvents, dimethyl sulfoxide and *N*-methylformamide; the results are graphically displayed in the figure, where the lines shown are

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(6) The full NMR and X-ray data are provided as Supplementary Material.

(7) These data were kindly obtained by Dr. J. C. Scaiano at the National Research Council, Ottawa, Canada.

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(12) No one has ever observed quenching by radical traps of a thermally induced Diels–Alder reaction, to the best of our knowledge. Dewar (ref 11) goes to great pains to distinguish between a concerted, nonsynchronous, two-stage mechanism in which the two bonds are formed to different extents at the transition state and two-step nonconcerted addition via biradical intermediates. In the absence of experimental and theoretical evidence for a two-step mechanism in any ground-state Diels–Alder process, we cannot accept the possibility raised by a referee that Diels–Alder reactions of a ground-state *trans*-cyclohexenone might be uniquely quenchable. See, also: Tolbert, L. M.; Mahfuza, B. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1984, 106, 3806.