

assistance and useful discussions. We are also grateful to Professor M. F. Lappert and Professor M. Veith for supplying details of their work prior to publication.

Supplementary Material Available: A full table of crystallographic data and refinement, positional parameters for non-hydrogen atoms, bond distances and angles, anisotropic thermal parameters, and hydrogen coordinates for **1** (7 pages); table of observed and calculated structure factors for **1** (19 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Insertion of O₂ into the Mg–C Bonds of the Alkyl Derivatives {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgR (R = CH₃, CH₂CH₃, CH(CH₃)₂, C(CH₃)₃): Formation of Alkylperoxy Derivatives and Oxygen Atom Transfer

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The selective oxidation of organic substrates by molecular oxygen plays a crucial role in a variety of industrial and biological processes.¹ Control of these oxidations is achieved by catalysts in which the active sites are metal centers, and as a consequence, the reactivity of metal complexes toward molecular oxygen is of fundamental importance. Furthermore, stoichiometric reactions of molecular oxygen with organometallic derivatives have also provided useful synthetic methods for the formation of alkyl hydroperoxides and alcohols.² In order to control such metal-based oxidation processes using molecular oxygen, it is essential to understand the factors that influence the reactivity of dioxxygen with metal-alkyl derivatives. However, the reactions of organometallic derivatives with oxygen often produce complex mixtures, in part as a result of the indiscriminate reactivity of radical intermediates, and relatively few reactions result in the formation of single products. In this regard, the isolation of discrete products by the reaction of dioxxygen with metal-alkyl derivatives, along with their subsequent reactivity, has provided a major challenge. Here we describe (i) the quantitative insertion of dioxxygen into the Mg–C bond of the alkyl complexes {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgR (3-Bu^tpz = 3-C₃N₂Bu^tH₂; R = CH₃, CH₂CH₃, CH(CH₃)₂, C(CH₃)₃), to give alkylperoxy derivatives {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgOOR, and (ii) the conversion of the alkylperoxy complexes to alkoxy derivatives, {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgOR, by

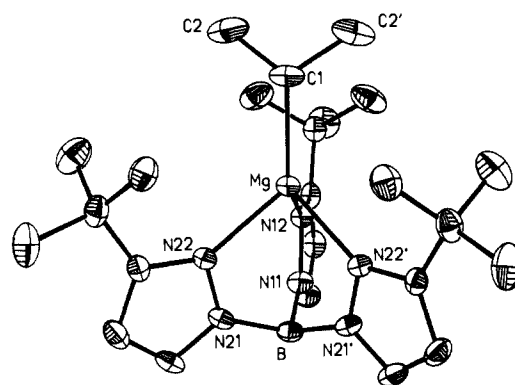


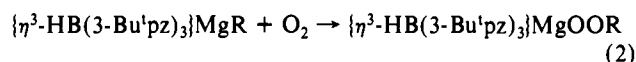
Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of {η³-HB(3-B^tpz)₃}MgCH(CH₃)₂. For clarity, thermal ellipsoids are shown at 20% probability. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (deg): Mg–C1, 2.182 (8); Mg–N12, 2.157 (6); Mg–N22, 2.170 (4); C1–C2, 1.515 (9); N11–N12, 1.377 (8); N21–N22, 1.375 (5); B–N11, 1.541 (11); B–N21, 1.537 (6); C1–Mg–N12, 124.8 (3); C1–Mg–N22, 124.0 (2); Mg–C1–C2, 119.1 (4); C2–C1–C2', 106.6 (7); N12–Mg–N22, 93.1 (2); N22–Mg–N22', 87.8 (2); N11–B–N21, 109.8 (4); N21–B–N21', 110.8 (6).

oxygen atom transfer to either {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgR or PPh₃.

We have recently reported the synthesis and reactivity of the primary alkyl derivatives {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgR (R = CH₃, CH₂CH₃).³ The secondary and tertiary alkyl derivatives {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgR (R = CH(CH₃)₂, C(CH₃)₃)⁴ may also be prepared by a similar procedure (eq 1), and the molecular structure of {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgCH(CH₃)₂ has been determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction (Figure 1).⁵



Treatment of the alkyl complexes {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgR (R = CH₃, CH₂CH₃, CH(CH₃)₂, C(CH₃)₃) with excess O₂ at room temperature results in the formation of the alkylperoxy derivatives {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgOOR (eq 2). The reactions of the deriv-



atives {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgR (R = CH₂CH₃, CH(CH₃)₂, C(CH₃)₃) with O₂ are both instantaneous (<5 min) and quantitative, as judged by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. In contrast, the reaction of O₂ with {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgCH₃ is significantly slower (t_{1/2} ~ 9h at room temperature) than for the other alkyl derivatives.⁶

The products obtained from the reactions of {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgR with ¹⁷O₂ (41%) have been investigated by ¹⁷O NMR spectroscopy. Specifically, each complex shows two ¹⁷O NMR resonances in the ranges δ 102–183 and 323–427 for the peroxy (MgOOR) unit, which thus suggests that ¹⁷O NMR spectroscopy may be a powerful method for the characterization of alkylperoxy complexes. The MgOOR group is further characterized by IR absorption bands in the ranges 889–935 cm⁻¹ (ν_{O–O}) and 608–660 cm⁻¹ (ν_{Mg–O}) that are assigned on the basis of the shifts observed for the isotopomers {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}Mg¹⁸O¹⁸OR.⁷ Other supporting evidence that the products are

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(4) In view of the sterically demanding nature of the tris(3-*tert*-butylpyrazolyl)hydroborato ligand, it is possible that the ground state of the *tert*-butyl derivative is η²-coordinated, {η²-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgC(CH₃)₃, although this structure cannot be observed down to -90 °C in the ¹H NMR spectrum.

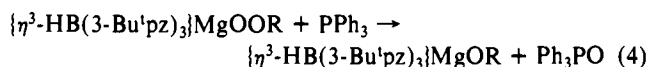
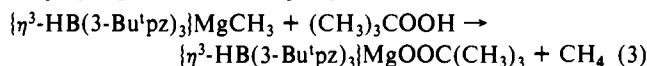
(5) Crystal data for {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgCH(CH₃)₂; orthorhombic, *Pnma*, *a* = 17.171 (2) Å, *b* = 15.893 (7) Å, *c* = 10.034 (3) Å, *V* = 2738 Å³, *Z* = 4, ρ(calcd) = 1.09g cm⁻³, μ(calcd) = 0.9 cm⁻¹, λ(Mo Kα) = 0.71073 Å (graphite monochromator); 4115 unique reflections with 3° < 2θ < 60° were collected, of which 1024 reflections with *F* > 5σ(*F*) were used in refinement; *R* = 6.44%, *R*_w = 6.06%, goodness of fit = 1.4.

(6) The reaction of O₂ with {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgCH₃ is also accompanied by ca. 30% decomposition, so that the product {η³-HB(3-Bu^tpz)₃}MgOCH₃ has only been characterized spectroscopically.

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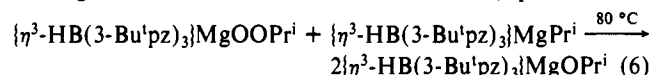
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alkylperoxy complexes include (i) the independent synthesis of the *tert*-butylperoxy derivative, $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOC(CH}_3)_3$, by the reaction of $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgCH}_3$ with $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{COOH}$ (eq 3), and (ii) the formation of the alkoxo derivative $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOR}^8$ and Ph_3PO upon treatment of $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOR}$ with PPh_3 (eq 4).

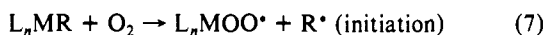


Although a number of well-characterized examples of reactions of dioxygen with metal-alkyl complexes have been reported, isolated products are commonly alkoxo derivatives, $[\text{L}_n\text{MOR}]^9$ with relatively few examples involving isolation of alkylperoxy complexes, $[\text{L}_n\text{MOOR}]^{10}$. The selective formation of alkylperoxy complexes in the reactions of $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgR}$ with O_2 is presumably a consequence of the sterically demanding ligand environment that hinders bimolecular oxygen atom abstraction from the alkylperoxy complex by the alkyl derivative, which is the commonly suggested pathway for the formation of alkoxo derivatives (eq 5). In accord with this suggestion, $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOR} + \text{L}_n\text{MR} \rightarrow 2\text{L}_n\text{MOR}$ (5)

$\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOC(CH}_3)_2$ and $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgCH(CH}_3)_2$ do not react rapidly at room temperature to give the alkoxo derivative $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOCH(CH}_3)_2$, but rather require heating to 80 °C to effect this transformation (eq 6).



The direct insertion of ground-state triplet oxygen into metal-carbon bonds has been considered to be unlikely since the products would be formed in a high-energy triplet state. Indeed, the rearrangement and racemization of alkyl groups, and inhibition of oxygenation by radical traps, have provided strong evidence for mechanisms involving radical intermediates (eq 7–9) in the reactions of metal-alkyls with O_2 .¹¹ Although the insertion of



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(8) The alkoxo derivatives $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pyz)}_3\}\text{MgOR}$ ($\text{R} = \text{CH(CH}_3)_2$, $\text{C(CH}_3)_3$) have also been synthesized independently by the reaction of $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pyz)}_3\}\text{MgCH}_3$ with ROH. Also see ref 3.

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O_2 into the Mg–C bonds of the derivatives $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgR}$ ($\text{R} = \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $\text{CH(CH}_3)_2$, $\text{C(CH}_3)_3$) is too rapid to be studied, small quantities (<2%) of galvinoxyl, a radical trap, inhibit the reaction $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgCH}_3$ with O_2 , thus supporting the above radical-chain sequence for formation of the alkylperoxy derivatives $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOR}$.

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Registry No. $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgCH}_3$, 122519-72-6; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, 122519-82-8; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgCH(CH}_3)_2$, 125950-40-5; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgC(CH}_3)_3$, 125950-41-6; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOC(CH}_3)_3$, 125950-42-7; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOC(CH}_3)_2$, 125950-43-8; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOC(CH}_3)_2$, 125950-44-9; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOOC(CH}_3)_2$, 125950-45-0; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOCH}_3$, 125950-46-1; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, 125950-47-2; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOCH(CH}_3)_2$, 125950-48-3; $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgOC(CH}_3)_3$, 122519-77-1.

Supplementary Material Available: Tables of spectroscopic data for all new compounds and tables of crystal and intensity collection data, atomic coordinates, bond distances and angles, and anisotropic displacement parameters and an ORTEP drawing for $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgCH(CH}_3)_2$ (15 pages); listing of observed and calculated structure factors for $\{\eta^3\text{-HB(3-Bu}^i\text{pz)}_3\}\text{MgCH(CH}_3)_2$ (6 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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New Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Experiment for Measurements of the Vicinal Coupling Constants $^3J_{\text{HN}^\alpha}$ in Proteins

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The NMR¹ method of protein three-dimensional structure determination^{2,3} makes use primarily of distance constraints measured with ^1H – ^1H nuclear Overhauser enhancement (NOE) experiments.⁴ High-quality structure determinations further

(1) Abbreviations: NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance; 2D, 3D, two-dimensional, three-dimensional; COSY, 2D correlated spectroscopy; BPTI, bovine pancreatic trypsin inhibitor; 434 repressor(1–69), N-terminal DNA-binding domain of the 434 repressor comprising 69 residues; $^3J_{\text{HN}^\alpha}$, homonuclear vicinal amide proton–C $^\alpha$ proton coupling constant. In the product operator formalism used, H^N denotes an amide proton, H $^\alpha$ a C $^\alpha$ proton, and N a nitrogen-15 spin.

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