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Synthesis of Simple CrL_4 (alkyne) Complexes by Displacement of a Labile Cyclooctadiene Ligand

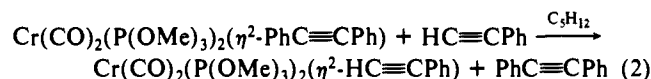
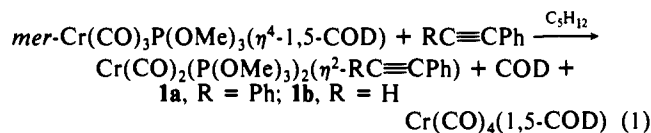
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We have shown that, in contrast to the simple tetracarbonyl system $\text{M}(\text{CO})_4(\text{diene})^{1,2}$ ($\text{M} = \text{Cr}, \text{Mo}, \text{W}$), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1,5-COD) is displaced from $\text{M}(\text{CO})_3(\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3)(\eta^4\text{-1,5-COD})$ by conjugated dienes.³ As reported here, alkynes, which are similar to 1,3-dienes in their frontier orbital characteristics,⁴ also displace the COD in $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_3(\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3)(\eta^4\text{-1,5-COD})$ to afford unprecedented $\text{CrL}_4(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CR})$ complexes.

Diphenylacetylene and phenylacetylene react in a few hours with *mer*- $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_3(\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3)(\eta^4\text{-1,5-COD})$ to give products of COD substitution and phosphite and carbonyl ligand redistribution (eq 1).^{7,8} The $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ complex **1a**⁹ forms in good yield as black crystals *directly from the reaction mixture* in pentane while the $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH}$ complex **1b** is crystallized separately in lower yield. A superior route to **1b** is alkyne exchange with **1a** (eq 2).¹⁰



Integration of the ¹H NMR spectra supports a 2:1 phosphite:alkyne stoichiometry, and a pair of bands in the IR spectra for $\nu(\text{CO})$ indicates a *cis*-dicarbonyl structure. The signals for the alkyne carbons for **1a** appear at δ 180.2 and for **1b** at δ 174.3 ($\equiv\text{CPh}$) and δ 163.7 ($\equiv\text{CH}$). These are downfield from the region generally cited for the carbons of a four-electron alkyne,¹¹ but of course the metal in this case is quite electron rich. Resonances for the alkyne and carbonyl carbons for both complexes and for the alkyne hydrogen in **1b** appear as *triplets* due to coupling to two phosphorus ligands. This is consistent with either structure **2**, with magnetically equivalent phosphorus atoms, or **3**, in which the phosphorus atoms would be rendered equivalent only by rotation of the alkyne. Variable-temperature NMR experiments with **1b** establish that the ground-state structure is

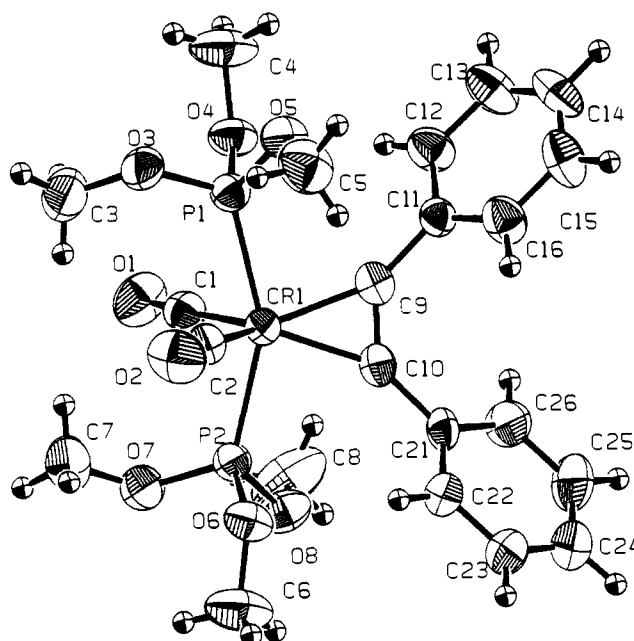
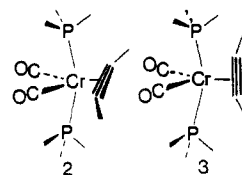


Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_2(\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3)_2(\eta^2\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})$. Important bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Cr1–P1, 2.252 (2); Cr1–P2, 2.264 (2); Cr1–C1, 1.857 (7); Cr1–C2, 1.827 (7); Cr1–C9, 1.959 (6); Cr1–C10, 1.958 (5); C1–O1, 1.144 (6); C2–O2, 1.166 (7); C9–C10, 1.311 (7); P1–Cr1–P2, 153.94 (7); C1–Cr1–C2, 107.0 (3); C10–C9–C11, 135.0 (5); C9–C10–C21, 136.0 (5).

3; the triplet with $J_{\text{PH}} = 20$ Hz for the acetylenic proton “loses” the central resonance and becomes a doublet with $J_{\text{PH}} = 40$ Hz upon cooling.¹² A barrier to formal rotation of the alkyne of 13.3 (3) kcal mol⁻¹ is calculated from the decoalescence of the ¹³C NMR resonance for the phosphite methyl carbons at ca. –5 °C ($\Delta = 51$ Hz).¹³



An X-ray diffraction study¹⁴ of **1a** confirms that in the solid state the alkyne ligand lies almost perpendicular¹⁵ with respect to the P–Cr–P plane in a distorted trigonal-bipyramidal geometry (P–Cr–P, 153.94 (7)°; OC–Cr–CO, 107.0 (3)°) (Figure 1). Distances and angles involving the alkyne are consistent with those in other chromium–diphenylacetylene complexes.¹⁶

The alkyne ligands in these complexes are labile to displacement by a variety of donor ligands, including carbon monoxide and trimethyl phosphite, to apparently give other CrL_6 complexes. Decomposition occurs, with liberation of free alkyne, in the presence of thf and ethyl diazoacetate. There is no reaction with conjugated or nonconjugated dienes.

Molecular orbital calculations at the extended Hückel level performed on a $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_4(\eta^2\text{-HC}\equiv\text{CH})$ model show that the conformation with the alkyne perpendicular to the P–Cr–P plane is preferred by 15 kcal mol⁻¹. This orientation maximizes the

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(4) The isolobal character of alkynes and other four-electron donors has been discussed before.⁵ This is especially true for 1,3-dienes, which also possess an excellent π -acceptor orbital.⁶

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(8) No intermediates are detected by ¹H NMR spectroscopy when the phenylacetylene reaction is performed in CD_2Cl_2 .

(9) Complex **1a** is prepared in 58% yield (29% based on Cr). ¹³C NMR: δ 180.2 (t, $J_{\text{PC}} = 15$ Hz, $\equiv\text{Calkyne}$). IR: $\nu(\text{CO}) = 1932, 1850$ cm⁻¹. Complete details are provided in the supplementary material.

(10) Complex **1b** is prepared from **1a** in 57% yield. ¹³C NMR: 175.5 (t, $J_{\text{PC}} = 9$ Hz, $\equiv\text{CPh}$), 163.7 (t, $J_{\text{PC}} = 18$ Hz, $\equiv\text{CH}$). IR: $\nu(\text{CO}) = 1934, 1840$ cm⁻¹.

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(14) Crystals were grown from ether at –20 °C. The space group is P_{21} with $a = 19.064$ (3) Å, $b = 14.070$ (2) Å, $c = 18.979$ (2) Å, and $V = 5091$ (2) Å³. Refinement of 298 least-squares parameters using 2205 reflections with $I > 2.0\sigma(I)$ gave $R = 4.6\%$ and $R_w = 5.6\%$.

(15) There is a slight tilt (12°) from the perpendicular.

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π -donation with a vacant metal fragment orbital in the equatorial plane and π -back-bonding with an orbital oriented in the axial direction.¹⁷ When the system is converted to a simple square pyramid, the calculated barrier to formal rotation becomes 12 kcal mol⁻¹, reminiscent of change in the barrier for olefin rotation in d⁸ Fe(CO)₄(olefin).¹⁸

We are aware of no reports concerning the synthesis of a simple four-electron monoalkyne complex of a d⁶ ML₄ fragment.¹⁹ This is remarkable considering the extensive group 6 alkyne chemistry that began with the synthesis of W(alkyne)₃(CO) complexes over 25 years ago.²¹ The availability of reagents that are both electron rich and labile, such as the 1,5-COD complexes utilized here, is critical to the synthetic strategy for introducing excellent π -acceptor ligands, such as alkynes and 1,3-dienes.³

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Supplementary Material Available: Synthetic and spectroscopic data for **1a** and **1b**, details of extended Hückel calculations, and methods and results (listings) of the crystal structure study of **1a** (11 pages); listing of observed and calculated structure factor amplitudes (16 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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An Unusual, Electronically Unsaturated Dirhenium Polyhydride Complex with No Metal-Metal Bond

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Many mononuclear and dinuclear mixed polyhydride-phosphine (or arsine or stibine) complexes of rhenium are known, in a variety far greater than that for any other transition element. In the case of the dirhenium species, these are of the generic types [Re₂H₉(PR₃)₄]⁺, Re₂H₈(PR₃)₄, [Re₂H₇(PR₃)₅]⁺, Re₂H₆(PR₃)₅, [Re₂H₅(PR₃)₆]⁺, and Re₂H₄(PR₃)₆, where PR₃ represents a monodentate or one-half a bidentate phosphine.¹⁻¹⁴ With one

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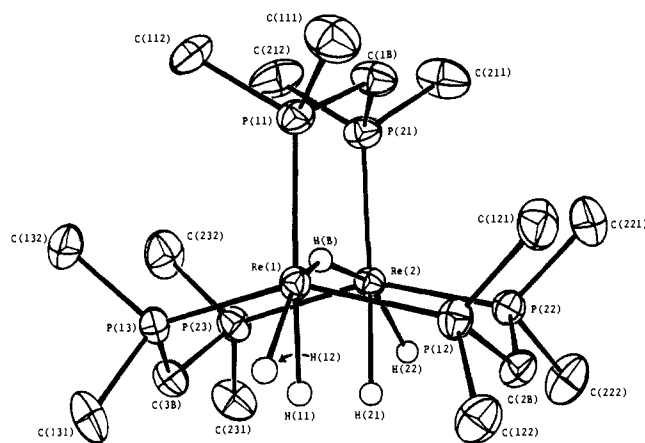


Figure 1. ORTEP view of the structure of the [Re₂H₅(dmpm)₃]⁺ cation with the hydrogen atoms of the dmpm ligands omitted. The thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level, except for the hydride ligands, which are circles of arbitrary radius. Some representative and important bond distances (Å) and angles (deg) and torsional angles (deg) are as follows: Re(1)–P(11) = 2.408 (2), Re(1)–P(12) = 2.365 (2), Re(1)–P(13) = 2.371 (2), Re(1)–H(B) = 1.53 (7), Re(1)–H(11) = 1.64 (8), Re(1)–H(12) = 1.7 (1), Re(2)–H(B) = 2.06 (7); Re(2)–Re(1)–P(11) = 85.48 (4), Re(2)–Re(1)–H(11) = 76 (3), Re(2)–Re(1)–H(12) = 135 (3), P(11)–Re(1)–H(12) = 139 (3), P(11)–Re(1)–P(12) = 102.73 (7), P(12)–Re(1)–P(13) = 151.07 (6); Re(1)–H(B)–Re(2) = 156 (5); P(11)–Re(1)–Re(2)–P(21) = 0.30 (7), P(12)–Re(1)–Re(2)–P(22) = 2.34 (7), P(13)–Re(1)–Re(2)–P(23) = 1.69 (7). Distances involving Re(2) are similar to those for Re(1) and, therefore, are not listed here.

exception, the structural characterizations of representative examples of these compounds have revealed the presence of three or four bridging hydrido ligands and a short Re–Re distance (2.51–2.61 Å).^{2,5,8-11} The latter observation has led to the conclusion that some degree of multiple metal–metal bonding is present, represented in terms of direct Re–Re bonding and/or three-center, two-electron Re–H–Re bonds.^{15,16} The single exception is the complex Re₂(μ-H)₂H₆(μ-dppm)₂ (dppm = Ph₂PCH₂PPh₂), which contains only two bridging hydrido ligands and possesses the much longer Re–Re bond distance of 2.9335 (9) Å. We now report the isolation of a molecule, viz., [Re₂H₅(dmpm)₃]PF₆ (dmpm = Me₂PCH₂PMe₂), that takes this trend to its extreme, namely, no direct Re–Re interaction whatsoever and metal centers that are electronically unsaturated. This may presage the discovery of other compounds of this type with metals that normally show a propensity to form strong metal–metal interactions.¹⁷

The reaction of the triply bonded dirhenium(II) complex Re₂Cl₄(μ-dmpm)₃¹⁸ (0.453 g, 0.49 mmol) with LiAlH₄ (0.32 g, 8.4 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at room temperature afforded a green solution. The mixture was stirred for 2 h, hydrolyzed with 20 mL of a H₂O/THF (5:15 mL) mixture, and then heated gently. After

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