Carbonyl Insertion at [PtX(Ph)(CO)L]: The Effects of varying the Anionic Ligand X and the Neutral Ligand L

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From the reaction of HgPh₂ with *cis*-[PtCl₂(CO)L], the benzoyl complexes [Pt₂(μ -Cl)₂(COPh)₂L₂] can be isolated when L = PEt₃, PMe₂Ph, PMePh₂, PPh₃, or P(C₆H₁₁)₃, but when L = P(C₆H₄Me-*o*)₃, AsMePh₂, or AsPh₃ only the [PtCl(Ph)(CO)L] complexes are formed. Metathetical replacements of the chloride ions in [Pt₂(μ -Cl)₂(COPh)₂-(PMePh₂)₂] lead to the corresponding bromide or iodide complexes. Low-temperature n.m.r. studies show that the reaction between HgPh₂ and *cis*-[PtCl₂(CO)L] gives first the carbonyl derivative [PtCl(Ph)(CO)L], from which CO insertion proceeds. The equilibrium positions in solution between [PtX(Ph)(CO)L] (each with Ph *trans* to L) and the binuclear benzoyl complexes are reported. The effect of X on the equilibrium position depends on the bridging ability of that group in the benzoyl dimers, stronger bridges favouring the insertion product. The neutral ligands L exert an effect by both electronic and steric factors. The magnitude of the *trans* influence of L directly affects the tendency of the *trans* phenyl group to migrate to CO, unless a critical size of L is exceeded. In these cases, the steric bulk of L favours the mononuclear carbonyl derivative.

PREVIOUSLY we have shown¹ that the isomers of $[PtCl(R)(CO)(PMePh_2)]$ (1; R = Et, Me, Ph, or CH_2Ph) with R *trans* to the tertiary phosphine undergo the carbonyl-insertion reaction (i) and exist in solution in equilibrium with the halide-bridged dimers (4). The

$$2[PtCl(R)(CO)(PMePh_2)] \iff (1)$$

$$[(Ph_2MeP)(RCO)Pt(\mu-Cl)_2Pt(COR)(PMePh_2)] \quad (i)$$

$$(4)$$

other two configurations of $[PtCl(R)(CO)(PMePh_2)]$, with R *trans* to CO (2) and Cl (3) respectively, can isomerise readily between themselves and are also slowly converted into (1), but are resistant to attempts to promote carbonyl insertion.

Nucleophile-assisted carbonyl insertion at [PtX(R)-(CO)L] (X is halide, L is tertiary phosphine) had earlier been examined kinetically by Mawby and co-workers,² and complexes of the same stoicheiometry have been postulated as intermediates in the carbonylation of $[PtX(R)L_2]$ from a mechanistic study by Heck and coworkers.³ It would appear, therefore, that the complexes featured in both these studies must have had geometry (1).

Changing the organic groups R has a marked effect on the position of the equilibrium between (1) and (4). With 0.02 mol dm⁻³ solutions in chloroform, the amount of (4) decreases from *ca.* 90% (R = Et) to 60% (R = Ph), 17% (R = Me), and 0% (R = CH₂Ph).¹ We report here the effects on this equilibrium of varying the anionic ligand, X, and the neutral ligand, L, and show them to be as critical as the organic group in controlling this carbonyl-insertion reaction.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Formation Reactions.—The reactions between $[PtCl_2-(CO)L]$ $[L = PEt_3, PMe_2Ph, PPh_3, or <math>P(C_6H_{11})_3]$ and diphenylmercury resembled closely that reported by us between $[PtCl_2(CO)(PMePh_2)]$ and $HgPh_2$.¹ The products were isolated as the crystalline dimeric benzoyl derivatives $[L(PhCO)Pt(\mu-Cl)_2Pt(COPh)L]$. In chloroform solution, all these compounds were found to be in equilibrium with [PtCl(Ph)(CO)L]. The equilibrium positions and carbonyl-stretching frequencies of each component are listed in Table 1. In every case, the small values of ${}^{1}J(Pt-P)$ indicate that the monomers have geometry (1), with Ph *trans* to L (ref. 1) (Table 2).

TABLE 1

Infrared data * for the system $2[PtX(Ph)(CO)L] \implies [Pt_2(\mu-X)_2(COPh)_2L_2]$ in CHCl₃ solution at 20 °C

		ν(CO)/	cm ⁻¹	%	%	$rac{K_{\mathbf{c}}}{\mathrm{dm^3}}$
L	х	Monomer	Dimer	Monomer	Dimer	mol ⁻¹
PEt ₃	Cl	$2\ 077$	1.628	18	82	690
PMe ₂ Ph	Cl	2083	1631	24	76	650
PMePh ₂	Cl	2087	1635	40	60	160
PMePh,	Br	2.085	1633	10	90	3 600
PMePh,	I	2085	1630	2	98	ca. 10 ⁵
PPh,	Cl	2087	1639	63	37	31
$P(C_{6}H_{11})_{3}$	Cl	2072	1.627	83	17	8.0
$P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3$	Cl	2083		100	0	0
AsMePh,	Cl	2084		100	0	0
AsPh ₃	C1	2085		100	0	0

* $0.02 \text{ mol } \text{dm}^{-3}$ solutions with respect to the monomer.

TABLE 2

		[PtX(Ph)(CO)L]		$[Pt_2(\mu - X)_2(COPh)_2L_2]$		
		δ(P) a/	1/(P-Pt)/	δ(P)/	$^{1}J(P-Pt)/$	
L	х	p.p.m.	Hz	p.p.m.	Hz	
PEt ₃	Cl	18.9	1 407	10.7	$5\ 041$	
PMe,Ph	Cl	-5.3	$1 \ 381$	-15.0	$5\ 180$	
PMePh ₂	Cl	6.8	$1 \ 402$	-3.3	$5\ 321$	
PMePh ₂	\mathbf{Br}	2.9	$1 \ 436$	-3.0	$5\ 280$	
				-3.5	5 397	
$PMePh_2$	I	b		-4.4	$5\ 016$	
-				-5.1	ca. 5 100	
PPh ₃	Cl	18.9	1 426	11.0	$5\ 495$	
$P(C_{6}H_{11})_{3}$	Cl	31.0	$1\ 437$	22.4	$5\ 055$	
$P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3$	Cl	17.9	$1\ 366$	b		

 ${}^{\rm o}$ Chemical shifts measured downfield of external ${\rm H_3PO_4.}$ ${}^{\rm b}$ Not observable.

A similar reaction takes place between $[PtCl_2(CO)L]$ $[L = P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3$, AsPh₃, or AsMePh₂] and diphenylmercury. In these cases, however, only [PtCl(Ph)(CO)L][geometry (1)] could be observed in solution, i.r. and n.m.r. examination failing to detect any dimer. This situation resembles the formation of the benzyl analogue [PtCl(CH₂Ph)(CO)(PMePh₂)].¹ The low value of ¹J(Pt-P) in [PtCl(Ph)(CO){P(C₆H₄Me-o)₃}] again proves its geometry to be (1). This parameter is not available for the two tertiary arsine complexes, but their values of v(CO) (Table 1), and δ^{13} C and ¹J(Pt-¹³C) for ¹³CO-labelled samples,⁴ are typical for complexes with phenyl *trans* to the neutral ligand.

The tri-o-tolylphosphine complex $[PtCl(Ph)(CO)-\{P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3\}]$ was isolated from its solution as a crystalline solid, but the two analogous arsine derivatives decomposed during work-up. In these cases, slow addition of 1 mol of arsine to the complexes produced the aroyl derivatives *trans*- $[PtCl(COPh)L_2]$ (L = AsPh₃ or AsMePh₂) which were isolated and characterised. The complex *trans*- $[PtCl(COCH_2Ph)(PMePh_2)_2]$ was similarly formed by treating $[PtCl(CH_2Ph)(CO)(PMePh_2)]$ with PMePh₂,¹ and all three of these reactions are analogous to Mawby's nucleophile-assisted insertion reactions.² It appears therefore that the insertion reaction proceeds, even when the equilibrium between (1) and (4) lies so far to the left that no dimer can be detected in solution.

Interestingly, treatment of $[PtCl(Ph)(CO){P(C_6H_{11})_3}]$ with $P(C_6H_{11})_3$, or of $[PtCl(Ph)(CO){P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3}]$ with $P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3$, failed to promote the insertion reaction, and the solutions remained unchanged at room temperature. This was surprising, since the platinum complexes were of the correct geometry for insertion, and the tricyclohexylphosphine complex exists in solution in equilibrium with a detectable amount of dimer (Table 1). Presumably the excessive steric demands of these phosphines must prevent attack of another such group at platinum, either on (1) (which would lead to CO loss ¹), (4), or the three-co-ordinate intermediate.

Garrou and Heck ^{3a} reported isolating two isomers of $[PtCl(Ph)(CO){P(C_6H_{11})_3}]$ after eliminating tricyclohexylphosphine from trans-[PtCl(Ph){ $P(C_6H_{11})_3$ }] by CO over 4 d. These isomers resisted CO insertion, and their isolation was instrumental in establishing the presence of intermediates of the type [PtX(R)(CO)L] in the reaction scheme of trans-[PtX(R)L₂] with CO. This result is of interest, since the isomer (1) we obtained from the reaction of $cis-[PtCl_2(CO){P(C_6H_{11})_3}]$ with HgPh₂, whilst resisting reaction with $P(C_6H_{11})_3$, did equilibrate with the dimeric benzoyl compound which was obtained as a solid. We therefore repeated the procedure of Garrou and Heck, treating a sym-tetrachloroethane solution of trans-[PtCl(Ph){ $P(C_6H_{11})_3$ }] with CO at 70 °C. A similar reaction was carried out using labelled ¹³CO. Periodic ³¹P and ¹³C n.m.r. examinations revealed the reaction to be slower and more complicated than that reported: some starting material remained even after 7 d, and amongst the many products large amounts of $cis-[PtCl_2(CO){P(C_6H_{11})_3}] [\delta(P) 37.1 p.p.m.; ^1J(P-Pt)$ 2 844 Hz] were always detected. We failed to find any trace of isomer (1) or its related benzoyl, (4), but spectroscopic characteristics clearly typical ^{1,4} of isomers (2) and (3) of $[PtCl(Ph)(CO){P(C_6H_{11})_3}]$ were observed [(2); $\delta(P)$ 27.8, ¹/(P-Pt) 3 725, ²/(P-C)(CO) 6.8, $\delta(C)$ 178.3,

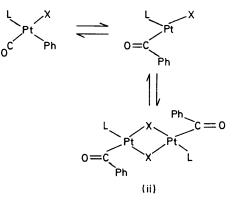
¹J(Pt-C)(CO) 900; (3), δ (P) 15.8, ²J(P-C)(CO) 141.1 Hz, δ (C) 173.0 p.p.m.]. We thus conclude that the isomers of [PtCl(Ph)(CO){P(C₆H₁₁)₃}] previously isolated ^{3a} were (2) and (3), which we would not expect ¹ to undergo CO insertion.

Treatment of $[Pt_2(\mu-Cl)_2(COPh)_2(PMePh_2)_2]$ (4) with LiBr or LiI forms the analogous bromide- or iodidebridged dimers. Like the chloride, these exist in solution in equilibria with $[PtX(Ph)(CO)(PMePh_2)]$, and the ³¹P n.m.r. spectra of the latter compounds again show Ph to lie *trans* to PMePh₂. Data are in Tables 1 and 2.

The halide-bridged acyl or aroyl complexes exist in solution as mixtures of *cis* and *trans* isomers. The chloride derivatives interconvert rapidly on the n.m.r. time scale at room temperature, leading to broadened or coalesced signals. These can be resolved at low temperature.⁴ The bromide and iodide complexes isomerise more slowly and both isomers can be detected by ³¹P n.m.r. at ambient temperatures. There is now considerable evidence that binuclear complexes [Pt₂-(μ -X)₂Y₂L₂] (X = halide; Y = X, alkyl, aryl, acyl, or aroyl) exist in solution as both *cis* and *trans* isomers.^{1,4-7} When Y is halide, *trans* isomers predominate, but *cis* configurations become more common with terminal organic groups. In the case of [Pt₂(μ -Cl)₂Me₂(PMe₂Ph)₂] only the *cis* isomer was observed.⁸

The values of ${}^{1}J({}^{195}\text{Pt}-{}^{31}\text{P})$ in the halide-bridged organic derivatives are unusually large,⁵ ranging up to *ca.* 5 495 Hz in $[\text{Pt}_{2}(\mu-\text{Cl})_{2}(\text{COPh})_{2}(\text{PPh}_{3})_{2}]$ (Table 2). We have reported the X-ray analysis of *trans*- $[\text{Pt}_{2}(\mu-\text{Cl})_{2}-(\text{COEt})_{2}(\text{PMe}_{2}\text{Ph})_{2}]$ and shown that the abnormal coupling constants are not reflected in excessively short Pt-P bond lengths.⁵

Although well proven examples are still quite rare, the accepted mechanism for carbonyl insertion is by organic group migration.⁹ Our evidence is compatible with this mechanism, with isomers (1), having their organic groups *trans* to the bond-weakening ¹⁰ tertiary phosphine or arsine ligands, being the only ones to undergo insertion. The cumulative data from our studies ¹ and



the kinetic studies by Mawby,² Heck,³ and their coworkers suggest that equation (ii) reflects the true situation. Many cases have now been reported of the existence of 'T-shaped' 14-electron intermediates in platinum chemistry,¹¹ and the potential importance of halide-bridge formation in the carbonyl-insertion reaction at second- and third-row transition elements has been emphasised.¹² The equilibria between 'T-shaped' intermediates and the halide-bridged dimer [equation (ii)] represents a possible isomerisation mechanism for the dimer, although others have been suggested.¹³

The question remains whether the carbonyl complex (1) or the acyl (4) is the initial product from the reaction between cis-[PtCl₂(CO)L] and HgR₂. Some years ago ¹⁴ we suggested the possibility that the reaction proceeded via oxidative addition of the mercury compound to platinum, and that CO insertion could take place at the six-co-ordinate intermediate. More recently Eaborn et al.⁷ suggested the same mechanism to account for the isolation of $[Pt_2(\mu-Cl)_2(COR)_2L_2]$ from the reaction between cis-[PtCl₂(CO)L] and SnMe₂R (R = aryl).* We have now studied the course of the reaction between diphenylmercury and cis-[PtCl₂(CO)(PMePh₂)] by ³¹P n.m.r. spectroscopy at low temperature. Deuteriochloroform solutions of the reactants were mixed at -60 °C, at which temperature no reaction occurred. At -40 °C, the presence of [PtCl(Ph)(CO)(PMePh₂)] [isomer (1)] was clearly observable, virtually no benzoyl derivative (4) being detected. On warming, the reaction proceeds and (1) and (4) equilibrate, (4) predominating. Thus, although it is possible that the reaction proceeds via oxidative addition, the primary product is (1), and it is unlikely that insertion occurs at a platinum(IV) intermediate.

Factors affecting the (1), (4) Equilibria.—The equilibrium positions between the carbonyl and aroyl complexes are listed in Table 1.

The variations caused by changing the anionic group X can be readily explained in terms of the bridge strengths of Cl, Br, and I. The softer halides are more compatible with the soft acid Pt^{II} and form stronger bridges in (4). Bromide and iodide readily replace Cl in bridging positions,¹⁷ and dimer formation will be energetically favoured by these groups.

The effects of the neutral ligands, L, are not so straightforward, and both steric and electronic factors must be considered. The effective sizes of the ligands can be estimated from the cone angles subtended at the metal atom, and an extensive series has been computed by Tolman,¹⁸ mainly from measurements on models. Although it has been shown that this angle is somewhat dependent on the system involved,¹⁹ it is clear that $P(C_6H_{11})_3$ and $P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3$ are particularly bulky, and will favour the less sterically crowded side of an equilibrium. These ligands favour (1), rather than (4) (Table 1), presumably because CO in the *cis* position in

(1) is less sterically demanding than COPh in (4), or in the 'T-shaped' intermediate.

Steric factors cannot explain the remainder of the sequence, however, and the correlation between equilibrium position and cone angle ¹⁸ is poor. The arsines in particular, with small cone angles due to longer Pt-L bonds, are obviously in an anomalous position. Clearly the bond-weakening trans influence of L would be expected to be important in promoting the migration of the trans aryl groups. Tolman's 'electronic parameter' gives a reasonable fit with our observed equilibria for PEt₃, PMe₂Ph, PMePh₂, and PPh₃ [although not, of course, for $P(C_6H_{11})_3$ or $P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3]$, but no data on arsines were reported, and in any case the data were derived from tetrahedral molecules.²⁰ Spectroscopic ²¹ and kinetic²² data on phosphine and arsine complexes suggest that the trans influence does follow our observed pattern of equilibria for the less bulky ligands in Table 1. but data for our complete series have not been published. We therefore accurately measured v(Pt-Cl) for the series cis-[PtCl₂L₂] (Table 3). The values fit the trans-

TABLE 3

Infrared spectra of the complexes $\mathit{cis}\text{-}[PtCl_2L_2]$ and $\mathit{cis}\text{-}[PtCl_2(CO)L],$ recorded as CsI discs

	$\nu(\text{PtCl})/\text{cm}^{-1}$			
L	cis-[PtCl ₂ L ₂]	$cis-[PtCl_2(CO)L]$		
PEt ₃	303, 280	353, 304		
PMe ₂ Ph	308, 286	349, 301		
PMePh ₂	316, 292	348, 304		
PPh ₃	318, 293	353, 312		
$P(C_{6}H_{4}Me-o)_{3}$		349, 312		
		(KBr disc)		
$P(C_{6}H_{11})_{3}$		345, 303		
AsMePh ₂	320, 299	350, 308		
AsPh_3	338, 325 (sh)	341, 315		

influence series $PEt_3 > PMe_2Ph > PMePh_2 > PPh_3 > AsMePh_2 > AsPh_3$, which matches our equilibrium sequence for these ligands exactly. *cis*-Dihalides for the bulky $P(C_6H_{11})_3$ and $P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3$ ligands are not available, but the v(Pt-Cl) values for *cis*-[PtCl₂(CO)L], as well as Tolman's values,²⁰ suggest that these ligands fall in an exceptional position in the equilibrium series, with $P(C_6H_{11})_3$ electronically resembling PEt₃, and $P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3$ being similar to PPh₃.

We thus conclude that the *trans* influences of the neutral ligands, L, dominate the equilibrium positions up to a critical size {cone angle greater than 145° (for PPh₃), but less than 170° [for P(C₆H₁₁)₃] ¹⁸}, when steric effects become more important.

EXPERIMENTAL

The complexes cis-[PtCl₂(CO)L] (L = PEt₃, PMe₂Ph, PMePh₂, PPh₃, AsMePh₂, or AsPh₃) were prepared by passing carbon monoxide through suspensions of $[Pt_2(\mu-Cl)_2-Cl_2L_2]$ in benzene, the complexes being obtained as colourless crystals.²³

Solution i.r. spectra were recorded in chloroform on a Perkin-Elmer 577 instrument using NaCl cells of 0.5 mm path length. Infrared spectra of solid materials were obtained for CsI or KBr discs on a Perkin-Elmer 580

^{*} We previously observed that SnPh₄ reacts with *cis*-[PtCl₂-(CO)L] to produce the aroylplatinum dimer.¹⁵ The obvious similarity between these reactions and the arylation of [PdCl₂-(CNR)L] to $[Pd_2(\mu-Cl)_2\{C(R')NR\}_2L_2]$ (R' = aryl) by a variety of organometallic arylating agents ¹⁶ suggests that overall the process is very versatile.

spectrophotometer. Phosphorus-31 and ¹³C n.m.r. spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ solution using a Varian XL-100 spectrometer in the Fourier-transform mode.

cis-Carbonyldichloro(tricyclohexylphosphine)platinum.--

The compound dichloro(norbornadiene) platinum (0.256 g,0.72 mmol) was stirred in chloroform (40 cm³). Carbon monoxide was passed through the suspension for 2 h and tricyclohexylphosphine (0.200 g, 0.71 mmol) was added. After 1 h the solvent was removed, the residue stirred with charcoal in benzene, and the solution filtered. Addition of light petroleum (b.p. 40-60 °C) caused precipitation of a white solid (0.125 g, 31%), which was recrystallised from chloroform-diethyl ether to give colourless crystals of cis- $[PtCl_2(CO){P(C_6H_{11})_3}]$, $\nu(CO)$ at 2 099 cm⁻¹ in CHCl₃ solution (Found: C, 39.65; H, 5.95. Calc. for C19H33Cl2OPPt: C, 39.7; H, 5.80%).

Similarly prepared was $cis-[PtCl_2(CO){P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3}],$ ν (CO) at 2 110 cm⁻¹ in CHCl₃ solution (Found: C, 44.2; H, 3.65. Calc. for C₂₂H₂₁Cl₂OPPt: C, 44.15; H, 3.55%).

The following compounds were prepared by the method previously described 1 for dibenzoyl-di-µ-chloro-bis(diphenylmethylphosphine)diplatinum. Dibenzoyl-di-u-chloro-bis(triethylphosphine)diplatinum, m.p. 153 °C (Found: C, 34.35; H, 4.4. Calc. for C₂₆H₄₀Cl₂O₂P₂Pt₂: C, 34.4; H, 4.45%); dibenzoyl-di-u-chloro-bis(dimethylphenylphosphine)di-

platinum, m.p. 166-168 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 37.9; H, 3.30. Calc. for C₃₀H₃₂Cl₂O₂P₂Pt₂: C, 38.0; H, 3.4%); dibenzoyl-di-µ-chloro-bis(triphenylphosphine)diplatinum, m.p. 287–291 $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ (decomp.) (Found: C, 50.25; H, 3.25. Calc. for C₅₀H₄₀Cl₂O₂P₂Pt₂: C, 50.2; H, 3.35%); dibenzoyl-diµ-chloro-bis(tricyclohexylphosphine)diplatinum, m.p. 192-194 °C. This solid material also contains [PtCl(Ph)(CO)- $\{P(C_6H_{11})_3\}$ [isomer (1)] which was not separated by crystallisation (Found: C, 48.65; H, 6.20. Calc. for C₅₀H₇₆Cl₂O₂P₂Pt₂: C, 48.75; H, 6.20%)

Dibenzoyl-di-u-bromo-bis(methyldiphenylphosphine)diplatinum.—The compound [Pt₂(µ-Cl)₂(COPh)₂(PMePh₂)₂] (0.304 g, 0.52 mmol) was stirred with lithium bromide (ca. 1.0 g, 11.5 mmol) in acetone (50 cm³) under nitrogen for 18 h, then heated briefly to 50 °C. The solvent was removed and the oily residue treated with water-chloroform (4:1). The chloroform layer was withdrawn, dried over anhydrous $Mg[SO_4]$, and filtered. Diethyl ether addition caused precipitation of colourless crystals of [Pt₂(µ-Br)₂-(COPh)₂(PMePh₂)₂], m.p. 165-170 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 41.25; H, 3.35. Calc. for C₄₀H₃₆Br₂O₂P₂Pt₂: C, 41.4; H, 3.15%).

Dibenzoyl-di-µ-iodo-bis(methyldiphenylphosphine)di-

platinum.--Treatment of [Pt₂(µ-Cl)₂(COPh)₂(PMePh₂)₂] with lithium iodide, in a manner analogous to that described above, gave yellow crystals of $[Pt_2(\mu-I)_2(COPh)_2(PMePh_2)_2]$, m.p. 243-244 °C (Found: C, 38.15; H, 2.90; I, 20.1. Calc. for C₄₀H₃₆I₂O₂P₂Pt₂: C, 38.3; H, 2.90; I, 20.3%).

Carbonylchloro(phenyl)(tri-o-tolylphosphine)platinum.---

The compound cis-[PtCl₂(CO){P(C₆H₄Me-o)₃}] (65.7 mg, 0.11 mmol) and HgPh₂ (39.0 mg, 0.11 mmol) were stirred in benzene (5 cm³) under nitrogen for 8 h. Phenylmercury(II) chloride was filtered off, and addition of light petroleum (b.p. 40-60 °C) caused precipitation of colourless crystals of $[PtCl(Ph)(CO){P(C_6H_4Me-o)_3}], m.p. 171-172$ °C (Found:

C, 52.5; H; 4.45. Calc. for C₂₈H₂₆ClOPPt: C, 52.55; H, 4.10%).

trans-Benzoylchlorobis(methyldiphenylarsine)platinum.-The compound cis-[PtCl_o(CO)(AsMePh_o)] (0.115 g, 0.21 mmol) was suspended in benzene (10 cm³) under nitrogen. Diphenylmercury (0.076 g, 0.21 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. A small amount of charcoal was added to the brown suspension and stirring continued for 15 min. To the pale yellow solution, after filtration, was added, over 2 h, a solution of AsMePh₂ (41 μ l, 0.21 mmol) in benzene (2 cm³). The solution was again filtered and addition of light petroleum caused precipitation of colourless crystals of trans-[PtCl(COPh)(AsMePh₂)₂], m.p. 163-165 °C (Found: C, 48.05; H, 3.95. Calc. for C₃₃H₃₁As₂ClOPt: C, 48.1; H, 3.80%). trans-Benzoylchlorobis(triphenylarsine)platinum was prepared similarly, m.p. 243-245 °C (Found: C, 54.4; H, 3.80. Calc. for C₄₃H₃₅As₂ClOPt: C, 54.45; H, 3.70%).

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