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Addition of Carbon Nucleophiles to (μ -Alkenyl)diiron Complexes

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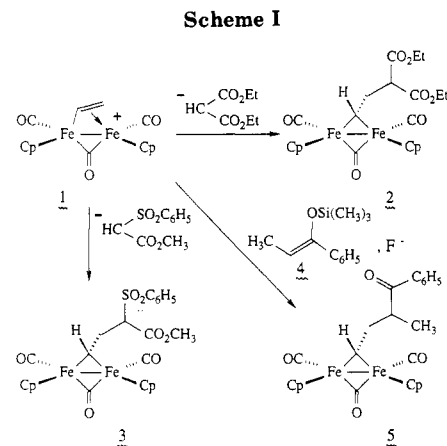
Received September 22, 1987

The reaction of μ -vinyl complex $\{[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)(\mu-\eta^1, \eta^2-CH=CH_2)\}^+PF_6^-$ (1) with the sodium salt of diethyl malonate gave the μ -alkylidene complex $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH_2CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2]$ (2) in 86% yield. 1 also reacted with the sodium salt of methyl (phenylsulfonyl)acetate to produce μ -alkylidene complex $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH_2CH(CO_2CH_3)(SO_2C_6H_5)]$ (3) in 88% yield. The reaction of μ -alkenyl complex $\{[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-\eta^1, \eta^2-(E)-CH=CHCH_2CH_2CH_3]\}^+CF_3SO_3^-$ (6) with the sodium salt of diethyl malonate gave alkylidene complex $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH[CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2]CH_2CH_2CH_3]$ (7) in 64% yield. Addition of $Li(CH_3CuCN)$ to 1 produced alkyl-substituted alkylidene complex $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)(\mu-CHCH_2CH_3)$ (10) in 100% yield.

The ability of the $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)$ system to stabilize both neutral and cationic bridging hydrocarbyl groups makes these diiron complexes very useful in the construction of new carbon-carbon bonds. Cationic diiron complexes possessing the μ -alkenyl ligand such as 1 were prepared by Pettit by hydride abstraction from the neutral μ -ethylidene complex.¹ More substituted μ -alkenyl complexes are readily prepared by thermal rearrangement of μ -alkylidyne complexes² or by acidification of the complexes $(C_5H_5)_2Fe_2(CO)(\mu-CO)[\mu-C(O)C_2R_2]$.³ Preliminary investigations indicated that μ -alkenyl complexes are readily attacked by simple nucleophiles such as H^- ,³ CH_3Li , $n-BuLi$, CH_3OH ,¹ and $LiC_6H_4-p-CH_3$ ⁴ to generate neutral diiron alkylidene complexes. Here we report that μ -alkenyl complexes react with a broad range of functionalized carbon nucleophiles to produce new neutral diiron alkylidene complexes.

When a suspension of $\{[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)(\mu-\eta^1, \eta^2-CH=CH_2)\}^+PF_6^-$ (1) (100 mg, 0.201 mmol) was stirred with the sodium salt of diethyl malonate (1 equiv) in THF at room temperature for 4.5 h, the addition of malonate to the β -vinyl carbon produced the μ -alkylidene complex $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH_2CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2]$ (2). Evaporation of THF under vacuum, extraction of the residue with CH_2Cl_2 , filtration, and precipitation with hexane produced 2 in 86% yield as orange-red microcrystals. The key 1H NMR spectral feature of 2 is the low-field chemical shift of the μ -CH proton at δ 11.45. Only a single isomer was observed. The cis arrangement of the Cp and terminal CO ligands of 2 is assigned on the basis of the observation of a single C_5H_5 resonance in both the 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra. This assignment was confirmed by the observation of a single terminal CO resonance at δ 213.9 in the ^{13}C NMR and by the appearance of infrared bands at 1989 (s) and 1945 (w) cm^{-1} consistent with cis terminal CO ligands. The stereochemistry of the alkyl group on the bridging carbon relative to the Cp groups is not known. The less crowded isomer with the alkyl group trans to the Cp groups is shown in Scheme I.

Similar reactions of μ -vinyl complex 1 with other carbon nucleophiles were observed. Reaction of 1 equiv of the sodium salt of methyl(phenylsulfonyl)acetate with a suspension of 1 in THF occurred over 1 h at room temperature to give μ -alkylidene complex $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH_2CH(CO_2CH_3)(SO_2C_6H_5)]$ (3) as a single diastereomer in 88% yield. No reaction between 1 and the



enol silyl ether (*Z*)-trimethyl[(1-phenyl-1-propenyl)oxy]-silane (4) was observed even at 70 °C in THF. However, reaction of enol silyl ether 4 with 1 in the presence of 2 equiv of tetrabutylammonium fluoride led to formation of the μ -alkylidene complex $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH_2CH(CH_3)COC_6H_5]$ (5) as a single diastereomer in 42% yield after chromatography. The reactivity of these (μ -alkenyl)diiron complexes toward nucleophiles is apparently substantially less than that of cobalt-stabilized carbocations generated by Lewis acid addition to cobalt-complexed propargylic ethers.⁵ These cobalt systems react stereoselectively with enol silyl ethers in the absence of added fluoride.

Alkyl-substituted μ -alkenyl ligands also reacted with carbon nucleophiles. Addition of the sodium salt of diethyl malonate to the μ -pent-1-enyl complex $\{[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-\eta^1, \eta^2-(E)-CH=CHCH_2CH_2CH_3]\}^+CF_3SO_3^-$ (6) led to formation of neutral μ -alkylidene $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH[CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2]CH_2CH_2CH_3]$ (7) in 64% yield. Likewise, addition of the sodium salt of methyl(phenylsulfonyl)acetate to 6 gave $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH[CH(CO_2CH_3)(SO_2C_6H_5)]-CH_2CH_2CH_3]$ (8) in 60% yield as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers. Addition of basic nucleophiles to complex 6 occurs in preference to deprotonation of a γ -proton which would have produced the neutral μ -pent-2-enylidene complex $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)(\mu-CHCH=CHCH_2CH_3)$ (9). Deprotonation of 6 occurs with $N(CH_3)_3$ to produce 9.⁶

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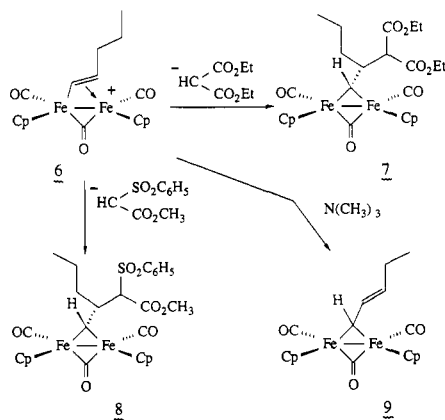
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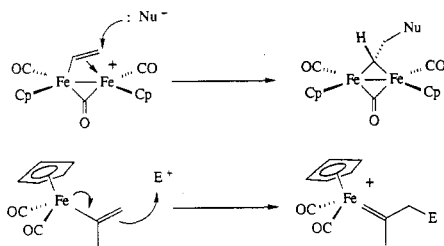
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Pettit reported that reactions of complex 1 with organolithium reagents (RLi) produces the corresponding $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)(\mu-CHCH_2R)$ complexes (10, R = CH_3 , 82%; 11, R = *n*-Bu, 80%).¹ We have found that the cuprate formed from 1 equiv each of CuCN and CH_3Li is the method best suited to transfer CH_3^- to μ -alkenyl complexes. Addition of $Li(CH_3CuCN)$ to 1 and 6 produced alkyl-substituted alkylidene complexes 10 in 100% isolated yield and $[(C_5H_5)(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH(CH_3)-CH_2CH_2CH_3]$ (12) in 98% isolated yield.

There is an interesting reactivity difference between neutral monoiron and cationic diiron μ -alkenyl complexes. Neutral monoiron alkenyl complexes react with *electrophiles* at the β -vinyl carbon to produce cationic monoiron alkylidene complexes.^{7,8} In contrast, cationic diiron μ -alkenyl complexes react with *nucleophiles* to produce neutral diiron μ -alkylidene complexes.



Taking advantage of this new class of efficient, versatile carbon-carbon bond-forming reaction in organic syntheses awaits the development of efficient procedures for cleavage of the μ -alkylidene ligand from the diiron complexes. Cleavage reactions are under active investigation.

Experimental Section

¹H NMR spectra were normally obtained on a Bruker WP200, WP270, or AM500 spectrometer. ¹³C NMR spectra from samples containing 0.07 M Cr(acac)₃ as a shiftless relaxation agent were obtained on a Bruker AM 500 spectrometer (126 MHz). Infrared spectra were measured on a Beckman 4230 or Mattson Polaris (FT) spectrometer. Mass spectra were determined on a Kratos MS-80. Elemental analyses⁹ were performed by Galbraith Laboratories, Inc. (Knoxville, TN) or by Schwarzkopf Laboratories (Woodside, NY).

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(9) Carbon analysis of our hydrocarbyl-bridged diiron complexes have been variable but consistently low by 1.5–3.5%. Lukehart¹⁰ has had similar difficulties with hydrocarbyl-bridged iron-platinum compounds. Consequently, we have relied on HRMS for establishing elemental composition and on ¹H and ¹³C NMR for demonstration of homogeneity of our samples.

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Diethyl ether, THF, and hexane were distilled immediately prior to use from purple solutions of sodium and benzophenone. CH_2Cl_2 and CD_2Cl_2 were dried over CaH_2 . $(CD_3)_2CO$ was dried over B_2O_3 . Air-sensitive materials were manipulated in an inert-atmosphere glovebox or by standard Schlenk techniques.

$[C_5H_5(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH_2CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2]$ (2). A mixture of 1 (100 mg, 0.20 mmol) and the sodium salt of diethyl malonate (36 mg, 0.20 mmol) in 30 mL of THF was stirred at room temperature for 4.5 h. Solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was dissolved in 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 and filtered. Addition of hexane precipitated 2, which was filtered, washed with 2×5 mL of hexane, and isolated as orange-red microcrystals (89 mg, 86%): ¹H NMR (270 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 11.45 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, μ -CHR), 4.89 (s, 10 H, C_5H_5), 4.26 (apparent qd with peak separations of 7.2 and 1.2 Hz, AB portion of ABX_2 , CH_2CH_3), 3.88 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, μ -CHCH₂CH), 3.58 (t, *J* = 8.0, μ -CHCH₂), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H, CH_2CH_3); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*₆, 0.07 M Cr(acac)₃) δ 271.6 (μ -CO), 213.9 (CO), 169.8 ($CO_2CH_2CH_3$), 169.4 (μ -CHR), 88.4 (C_5H_5), 61.6 ($COCH_2CH_3$), 58.2 (μ -CHCH₂CH), 54.5 (μ -CHCH₂), 14.5 (CH_3); IR (CH_2Cl_2) 1989 (s), 1945 (w), 1785 (m), 1730 (w), 1610 (w) cm^{-1} ; HRMS calcd for $M - CO C_{21}H_{24}Fe_2O_6$ 484.0271, found 484.0262.

$[C_5H_5(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH_2CH(CO_2CH_3)(SO_2C_6H_5)]$ (3). A mixture of 1 (200 mg, 0.40 mmol) and the sodium salt of methyl (phenylsulfonyl)acetate (94 mg, 0.40 mmol) in 30 mL of THF was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The solution was filtered, and THF was evaporated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , and addition of hexane precipitated 3 which was filtered and isolated as a red powder (200 mg, 88%): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 11.11 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 5.7 Hz, μ -CHR), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, *o*- C_6H_5), 7.75 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, *p*- C_6H_5), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, *m*- C_6H_5), 4.87 (s, C_5H_5), 4.84 (s, C_5H_5), 4.54 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 3.2 Hz, μ -CHCH₂CH), 3.82 (s, CO_2CH_3), 3.81 (ddd, *J* = 13.9, 11.4, 5.7 Hz, μ -CHCHH), 3.35 (ddd, *J* = 13.9, 10.8, 3.2 Hz, μ -CHCHH); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*₆, 0.07 M Cr(acac)₃) δ 270.7 (μ -CO), 213.6, 213.2 (CO), 167.3 (CO_2CH_3), 164.2 (μ -CHR), 139.1 (ipso- C_6H_5), 135.0 (*p*- C_6H_5), 130.0, 129.8 (*o*, *m*- C_6H_5), 88.5, 88.4 (C_5H_5), 76.0 (μ -CHCH₂CH), 53.2 (CO_2CH_3), 51.9 (μ -CHCH₂), 1980 (s), 1943 (w), 1786 (m) cm^{-1} ; IR (CH_2Cl_2) 1980 (s), 1943 (w), 1786 (m) cm^{-1} ; HRMS calcd for $M - CO C_{23}H_{22}Fe_2O_6S$ 537.9835, found 537.9835.

$[C_5H_5(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH_2CH(CH_3)COC_6H_5]$ (5). A solution of $(C_4H_9)_4N^+F^-$ (200 mg, 0.76 mmol) and enol silyl ether 4 (173 mg, 0.84 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was cooled to $-78^\circ C$ and added to a suspension of 1 (200 mg, 0.40 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at $-78^\circ C$. The suspension was stirred for 0.5 h at room temperature. THF was evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was extracted into CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) and purified by column chromatography (alumina, diethyl ether) to give 5 as a red solid (81 mg, 42%): ¹H NMR (270 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 11.81 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 7.7 Hz, μ -CHR), 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, *o*- C_6H_5), 7.67–7.53 (m, *m*-, *p*- C_6H_5), 4.87 (s, C_5H_5), 4.74 (s, C_5H_5), 4.13 (sextet, *J* = 6.6 Hz, CHCH₃), 3.71 (dt, *J* = 14.2, 6.9 Hz, μ -CHCHH), 3.15 (ddd, *J* = 14.3, 8.6, 6.1 Hz, μ -CHCHH), 1.46 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, CH_3); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 0.07 M Cr(acac)₃) δ 272.8 (μ -CO), 212.9, 212.8 (CO), 204.1 (COC_6H_5), 173.5 (μ -CHR), 137.2 (ipso- C_6H_5), 132.9 (*p*- C_6H_5), 128.8, 128.2 (*o*-, *m*- C_6H_5), 87.3, 87.2 (C_5H_5), 59.7 (μ -CHCH₂), 46.7 (μ -CHCH₂CH), 18.2 (CH_3); IR (CH_2Cl_2) 1974 (s), 1933 (w), 1776 (m) cm^{-1} ; HRMS calcd for $M - CO C_{23}H_{22}Fe_2O_3$ 458.0267, found 458.0270.

$[C_5H_5(CO)Fe]_2(\mu-CO)[\mu-CHCH[CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2]-CH_2CH_2CH_3]$ (7). A mixture of 6 (100 mg, 0.18 mmol) and the sodium salt of diethyl malonate (33 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 30 mL of THF was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was dissolved in 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 and was filtered. Addition of hexane precipitated 7 which was filtered, washed with 2×5 mL of hexane, and isolated as an orange-red solid (64 mg, 64%): ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 11.57 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, μ -CHR), 4.79 (s, C_5H_5), 4.75 (s, C_5H_5), 4.38 (dq, *J* = 11.0, 7.2 Hz, CO_2CHHCH_3), 4.33 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, $CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2$), 4.32 (dq, *J* = 11.0, 7.2 Hz, CO_2CHHCH_3), 4.16 (dq, *J* = 10.8, 7.2 Hz, CO_2CHHCH_3), 4.12 (dq, *J* = 10.8, 7.1 Hz, CO_2CHHCH_3), 3.14 (m, μ -CHCH), 2.29 (m, μ -CHCHCHH), 2.07 (m, μ -CHCHCHH), 1.50 (m, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH_3), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH_3), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, CH_3); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*₆, 0.07 M Cr(acac)₃) δ 271.6 (μ -CO), 214.1, 213.6 (CO), 180.2 (μ -CHR), 169.9, 169.5 ($CO_2CH_2CH_3$), 62.4, 61.3,

61.2, 61.0 (CO₂CH₂, μ -CHCHR, μ -CHCHRCH), 41.7 (CH₂CH₂C-H₃), 22.4 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 15.1, 14.6, 14.2 (CH₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 1985 (s), 1945 (w), 1785 (m), 1750 (w), 1725 (w), 1610 (w) cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for M - CO C₂₄H₃₀Fe₂O₆ 526.0740, found 526.0746. Anal. Calcd for C₂₅H₃₀Fe₂O₇: C, 54.18; H, 5.46. Found: C, 54.15; H, 5.69.

[C₅H₅(CO)Fe]₂(μ -CO)[μ -CHCH[CH(CO₂CH₃)(SO₂C₆H₅)]-CH₂CH₂CH₃] (8). A mixture of 6 (200 mg, 0.37 mmol) and the sodium salt of methyl (phenylsulfonyl)acetate (87 mg, 0.37 mmol) in 30 mL of THF was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. The solution was filtered, and the THF was evaporated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and addition of hexane precipitated 8, which was filtered, washed with 5 mL of hexane, and isolated as a red solid (133 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): major isomer, δ 12.11 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, μ -CHR), 8.06-7.56 (m, C₆H₅), 4.92 (s, C₆H₅), 4.77 (s, C₅H₅), 3.47 (s, CO₂CH₃), 3.4-1.5 (complex multiplets, μ -CHCH(CH₂CH₂CH₃)CHRR'), 0.95 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, CH₃); minor isomer, δ 11.23 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, μ -CHR), 8.06-7.56 (m, C₆H₅), 4.82 (s, C₅H₅), 4.67 (s, C₅H₅), 3.81 (s, CO₂CH₃), 3.4-1.5 (complex multiplets, μ -CHCH(CH₂CH₂CH₃)CHRR'), 1.01 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 0.07 M Cr(acac)₃): major isomer, δ 271.2 (μ -CO), 212.5, 211.8 (CO), 180.1 (μ -CHR), 166.7 (CO₂CH₃), 141.1 (ipso-C₆H₅), 133.7 (*p*-C₆H₅), 128.9, 128.3 (*o*-, *m*-C₆H₅), 87.9, 87.6 (C₅H₅), 77.2 (μ -CHCHCH), 64.3 (μ -CHCH), 52.1 (CO₂CH₃), 40.3 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 21.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 14.2 (CH₃); minor isomer, δ 270.5 (μ -CO), 212.1, 211.7 (CO), 175.2 (μ -CHR), 166.0 (CO₂CH₃), 140.3 (ipso-C₆H₅), 133.7 (*p*-C₆H₅), 129.0, 128.6 (*o*-, *m*-C₆H₅), 87.8, 87.5 (C₅H₅), 78.3 (μ -CHCHCH), 59.4 (μ -CHCH), 52.3 (CO₂CH₃), 39.2 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 22.3 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 14.6 (CH₃). IR (CH₂Cl₂): 1978 (s), 1939 (w), 1782 (m), 1745 (w) cm⁻¹. HRMS: calcd for M - CO C₂₆H₂₈Fe₂O₆S 580.0305, found 580.0268.

[C₅H₅(CO)Fe]₂(μ -CO)(μ -CHCH₂CH₃) (10)¹. A clear solution of Li(CH₃CuCN) prepared by stirring CH₃Li (0.17 mmol) and CuCN (16 mg, 0.18 mmol) in THF at -20 °C was cooled to -78

°C and added to a stirred suspension of 1 (75 mg, 0.15 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature, and the THF was evaporated under vacuum. The residue was extracted into CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) and purified by column chromatography (alumina, diethyl ether) to give 10 as a red solid (56 mg, 100%): ¹H NMR (270 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 11.86 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, μ -CHR), 4.85 (s, 10 H, C₅H₅), 3.10 (dq, J = 8.1, 7.2 Hz, μ -CHCH₂), 1.47 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, CH₃); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*₆, 0.07 M Cr(acac)₃) δ 273.1 (μ -CO), 214.4 (CO), 182.1 (μ -CHR), 88.2 (C₅H₅), 50.3 (μ -CHCH₂), 20.8 (CH₃).

[C₅H₅(CO)Fe]₂(μ -CO)[μ -CHCH(CH₃)CH₂CH₂CH₃] (12). A solution of Li(CH₃CuCN) prepared from CH₃Li (0.40 mmol) and CuCN (40 mg, 0.44 mmol) in THF at -20 °C was added by syringe to a stirred suspension of 6 (200 mg, 0.37 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at -78 °C. THF was evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was extracted into CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) and purified by column chromatography (alumina, diethyl ether) to give 12 as a red solid (149 mg, 98%): ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 11.64 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, μ -CHR), 4.73 (s, 10 H, C₅H₅), 2.5-1.4 (multiplets, μ -CHCH(CH₃)CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.47 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, μ -CHCHCH₃), 0.97 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, CH₂CH₂CH₃); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*₆, 0.07 M Cr(acac)₃) δ 273.1 (μ -CO), 214.4 (CO), 188.2 (μ -CHR), 88.3 (C₅H₅), 58.0 (μ -CHCH), 45.5 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 25.6 (CH₃), 21.4 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 14.6 (CH₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 1974 (s), 1933 (w), 1772 (m) cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₂Fe₂O₃ 410.0267, found 410.0253.

Acknowledgment. Support from the National Science Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

Registry No. 1, 87858-04-6; 2, 112840-90-1; 3, 112840-91-2; 4, 66323-99-7; 5, 112840-92-3; 6, 112924-67-1; 7, 112840-93-4; 8 (isomer 1), 112840-97-8; 8 (isomer 2), 112924-68-2; 9, 112840-94-5; 10, 112840-95-6; 12, 112840-96-7; (C₄H₉)₄N⁺F⁻, 429-41-4; Li(C-H₃CuCN), 41753-78-0; sodium diethyl malonate, 51923-79-6; sodium methyl(phenylsulfonyl)acetate, 60729-65-9.

Homogeneous Catalysis. Conversion of 4-Pentenals to Cyclopentanones by Efficient Rhodium-Catalyzed Hydroacylation

David P. Fairlie and B. Bosnich*

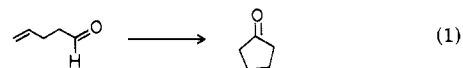
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A variety of complexes of the type [Rh(diphosphine)]⁺ have been investigated as catalysts for hydroacylation, the intramolecular cyclization of 4-pentenals to cyclopentanones. All of the complexes studied effect this conversion in weakly or noncoordinating solvents at 20 °C, but the most effective catalyst was found to be the rhodium(I) species containing diphos ((C₆H₅)₂P(CH₂)₂P(C₆H₅)₂). This complex converts 4-pentenal at a remarkably fast rate of one turnover every 6 s at 20 °C in CH₃NO₂ and CH₂Cl₂ solutions. These catalysts are effective for 4-pentenals bearing mono substituents at the 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-positions and disubstitution at the 3-position. Disubstitution at the 2-position slows the rate and effectiveness of catalysis considerably, and substrates having disubstitution at the terminal 5-position are not turned over by these catalysts. For the diphos catalyst, between 100 and 800 rapid turnovers are observed at 1 molar percent catalyst depending on the substrate. After this, the catalysis becomes sluggish because of substrate decarbonylation leading to the catalytically inactive [Rh(diphos)(CO)₂]⁺ species. Even when the dicarbonylated species is present, catalysis continues because of substrate-induced dissociation of the carbonyl ligands. Unlike the case of hydroacylation with the [Rh(PPh₃)₃Cl] complex no cyclopropanes are produced with these catalysts. Double-bond migration is a competing reaction, the extent of which depends on the substrate and the diphosphine catalyst, but in general it is a minor side reaction and it is not rate-limiting.

Hydroacylation, a process having no direct organic analogy, can be induced by certain rhodium(I) complexes. The most extensively investigated form of this reaction

involves the intramolecular addition of the hydrogen atom and the acyl group derived from an aldehyde moiety to the carbon atoms of an olefin (eq 1). Because hydroacylation



involves the activation of carbon-hydrogen bonds and their

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