

severely overlapping resonances at 89.34 and 80.34, 42.93, 39.25, 38.64, 34.87, 33.67, 29.56, 23.11 ( $>CH$ 's,  $>CH_2$ 's and  $CH_3$ 's).

The probe temperature was slowly raised to  $-50$  °C, and a third  $^{13}C$  spectrum was recorded of the reaction mixture, viz.,  $\delta$  210.57 and 208.30 ( $-C=O$ 's), 88.58 ( $\eta^5$ -Cp C's), 90.16 and 86.86 ( $\eta^2$ - $(CH=CH)$ 's), 39.16 (2,  $>CH$ 's), 38.25 ( $>CH$ ), 34.15, 32.11 and 28.52 ( $>CH_2$ 's), 23.45 ( $CH_3$ ). We attribute these resonances to [*exo*(?) $-\eta^2$ -(*exo*-4-methylbicyclo[3.2.1]oct-2-ene)dicarbonyl( $\eta^5$ -cyclopentadienyl)iron(II)] $^+$ ,  $21^+$ .

The NMR tube containing the reaction mixture was removed from the probe and maintained at 0 °C overnight, and a fourth  $^{13}C$  spectrum identical with that of *exo*-4-methylbicyclo[3.2.1]-oct-2-ene, **22**, was recorded.

**Reaction of [ $\eta^1$ -2-(4-Methoxybicyclo[3.2.1]oct-2-enyl)]dicarbonyl( $\eta^5$ -cyclopentadienyl)iron(II), **12**, and Tetrafluoroboric Acid. Formation of [ $\eta^1$ -2-Bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-enylidene]dicarbonyl( $\eta^5$ -cyclopentadienyl)iron(II) Tetrafluoroborate,  $9^+BF_4^-$ .** A nitrogen-blanketed solution of **12** (0.035 g, 0.111 mmol) in 0.6 mL of  $CD_2Cl_2$  was cooled to  $-78$  °C in a 5-mm NMR tube. To this cold solution was added 0.1 mL of  $HBF_4 \cdot Et_2O$ ,

the contents were mixed at  $-78$  °C, the tube was placed in the precooled ( $-78$  °C) probe of the NR-80, and the  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture was determined. It is identical in all respects to that of  $9^+BF_4^-$  formed when an  $\sim 3:2$  mixture of **4** and **5** is protonated under similar conditions.

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## Organolanthanide-Catalyzed Cyclodimerizations of Disubstituted Alkynes

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The lanthanide alkyls  $Cp_2^*LnCH(SiMe_3)_2$  ( $Ln = La, Ce$ ) are efficient catalysts for the cyclodimerization of 2-alkynes  $MeC\equiv CR$  ( $R = Me, Et, n-Pr$ ) to 1,2-disubstituted 3-alkylidenecyclobutenes. The first step in the reaction is a propargylic metalation of the  $\alpha$ -methyl group, giving  $Cp_2^*LnCH_2C\equiv CR$  compounds and free  $CH_2(SiMe_3)_2$ .

Various lanthanide alkyls and hydrides are active alkene polymerization catalysts.<sup>1,2</sup> In fact,  $Cp_2^*LnH$  ( $Ln = La, Nd, Sm, Lu$ )<sup>2c</sup> compounds appear to be the most active ethylene polymerization catalysts known to date. The bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)lanthanides are excellent models for the study of alkene polymerization. Mechanistic studies with this class of compounds have led to a better understanding of polymerization pathways and related reactions such as termination and chain transfer.<sup>2a</sup> In contrast, relatively little is known about organolanthanide-catalyzed alkyne oligomerization and polymerization. The reported literature deals mainly with acetylene polymerization by Ziegler-Natta type systems.<sup>3</sup> Our interest in this area stems from the observation that  $Cp_2^*Y-$  and  $Cp_2^*Sc-$ alkyl species are active catalysts for the selective dimerization of  $\alpha$ -alkynes to 2,4-disubstituted

enynes.<sup>4</sup> In this communication we report the reactivity of some well-defined lanthanide alkyls with various disubstituted alkynes.

Reaction of  $Cp_2^*LnCH(SiMe_3)_2$  ( $Ln = La, Ce$ ) with an excess of 2-butyne (benzene- $d_6$ , 2-butyne/ $Cp_2^*LnCH(SiMe_3)_2$  ratio 20:1) results in the catalytic formation of a cyclic dimer: 1,2-dimethyl-3-ethylidenecyclobutene (**1**; eq 1, characterized by MS and  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR methods).<sup>5</sup> The reaction proceeds to completion in ca. 10 h at

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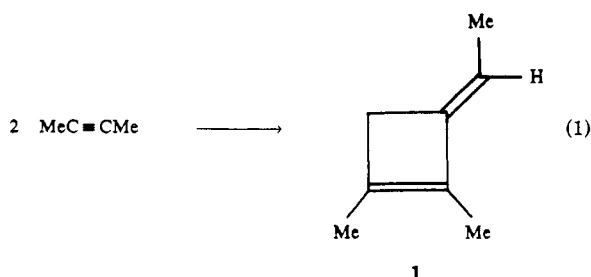
(5) Cyclic dimer **1** was separated from the catalysts by vacuum transfer (25 °C, 0.01 mmHg) and obtained as a benzene- $d_6$  (or benzene) solution. Attempts to purify **1** by vacuum distillation (bp 38–40 °C, 24 mmHg) resulted in partial decomposition. Spectroscopic data for **1**:  $^1H$  NMR (benzene- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  4.96 (q,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.6$  Hz, 1 H,  $=C(H)Me$ ), 2.72 (s, 2 H,  $CH_2$ ), 1.66 (d,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.6$  Hz, 3 H,  $=C(H)Me$ ), 1.61 (s, 3 H, Me), 1.51 (s, 3 H, Me);  $^{13}C$  NMR (benzene- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  141.3 (s), 140.4 (s), 139.2 (s), 102.5 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 153$  Hz,  $=C(H)Me$ ), 36.4 (t,  $^1J_{CH} = 137$  Hz,  $CH_2$ ), 13.5 (q,  $^1J_{CH} = 126$  Hz, Me), 13.1 (q,  $^1J_{CH} = 126$  Hz, Me), 9.1 (q,  $^1J_{CH} = 126$  Hz, Me); MS  $m^+ = m/e$  108. **1** slowly decomposes in air and must be stored under nitrogen. NMR and GC methods and a successful computer simulation of  $^1H$  NMR spectra including all long-range proton-proton coupling constants suggest the formation of a single isomer. Attempts to determine the exact geometry of the ethylidene moiety by  $^1H$  NOE difference measurements were not successful. However, 2D NOESY spectra display a clear NOESY cross-peak between the ring  $CH_2$  and the ethylidene methyl group and imply that the latter is pointing toward the ring  $CH_2$  protons.

(1) The following abbreviations are used in this article:  $Cp^* = \eta^5-C_5Me_5$  ring,  $Ln =$  lanthanide or group 3 element,  $lw =$  line widths of NMR resonances at half-maximum.

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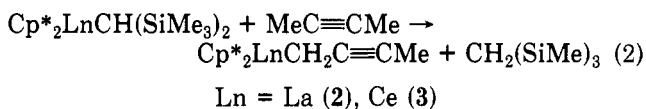
(3) (a) Shen, Z. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1987**, *140*, 7. (b) Bruzzone, M. In *Fundamental and Technological Aspects of Organo-f-Element Chemistry*; Marks, T. J., Fragala, J. L., Eds.; D. Reidel: Dordrecht, The Netherlands, **1985**; p 387.

80 °C, giving a turnover number of 2/h. Both NMR shifts



and coupling constants for **1** are in the range observed for various substituted cyclobutenes.<sup>6</sup> Especially informative is the downfield-shifted CH<sub>2</sub> group at  $\delta$  2.71 ppm (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) and  $\delta$  36.5 ppm (<sup>13</sup>C NMR).

NMR spectroscopy clearly indicates that the first step in the catalytic reaction is a fast and quantitative CH activation of an  $\alpha$ -methyl group of 2-butyne, giving 2-butyryllanthanide compounds, Cp\*<sub>2</sub>LnCH<sub>2</sub>C≡CMe<sup>7</sup> and free CH<sub>2</sub>(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (eq 2).



Propargylic metalation, well-known for group 1, 2, 12, and 13 chemistry,<sup>8</sup> is unprecedented in organolanthanide and early-transition-metal chemistry. Generally, insertion of disubstituted alkynes in the metal-carbon bond is observed.<sup>9</sup>

In contrast to the lanthanum and cerium derivatives, Cp\*<sub>2</sub>YCH(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> is unreactive toward 2-butyne (benzene-d<sub>6</sub> solution, 12-fold excess of 2-butyne, 6 weeks at 80 °C). The yttrium analogue of **2** and **3**, Cp\*<sub>2</sub>YCH<sub>2</sub>C≡CMe (**4**),<sup>10</sup> is accessible by the reaction of (Cp\*<sub>2</sub>YH)<sub>2</sub> with 2-butyne in pentane (eq 3). However, **4** is also inactive for (Cp\*<sub>2</sub>YH)<sub>2</sub> + 2MeC≡CMe → 2Cp\*<sub>2</sub>YCH<sub>2</sub>C≡CMe + 2H<sub>2</sub> (**3**)

the cyclodimerization of 2-butyne (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>, 10-fold excess of 2-butyne, 2 weeks at 50 °C, followed by 2 weeks

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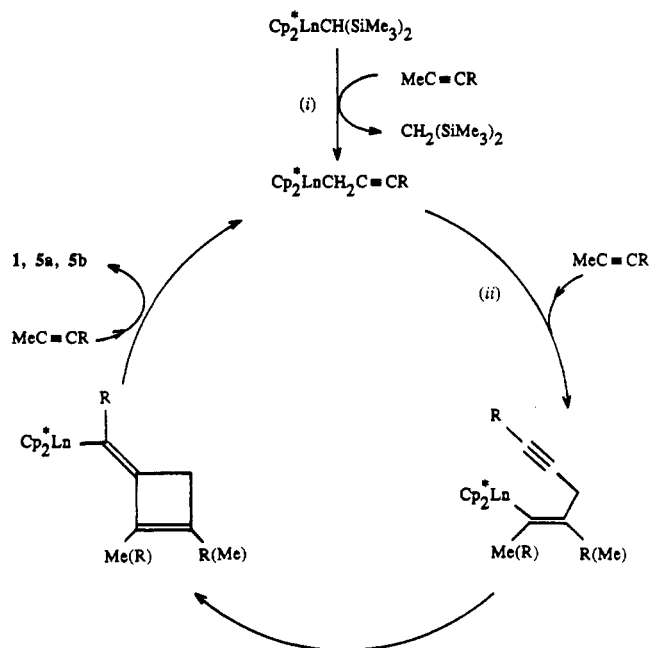
(7) Cp\*<sub>2</sub>LaCH<sub>2</sub>C≡CMe (**2**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  2.30 (q, <sup>5</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.9 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.90 (s, 30 H, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 1.67 (t, <sup>5</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.9 Hz, 3 H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  139.7 (s, C≡C), 118.6 (s, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 102.8 (s, C≡C), 50.8 (t, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> = 155 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 10.4 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> = 125 Hz, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 7.8 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> = 130 Hz, Me). Cp\*<sub>2</sub>CeCH<sub>2</sub>C≡CMe (**3**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>, 21 °C)  $\delta$  2.5 (s, 30 H, lw = 14 Hz, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), -9.6 (s, 3 H, lw = 6 Hz, Me), -30.5 (s, 2 H, lw = 38 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>). The exact bonding of the -CH<sub>2</sub>C≡CMe groups is still under investigation. Analogous to the case for allylic compounds, a dynamic equilibrium (M-CH<sub>2</sub>C≡CR ⇌ CH<sub>2</sub>=C=C(R)M<sup>9b</sup>) or a static intermediate  $\eta^3$  structure is possible.

(8) (a) For example, the reaction of 2-butyne with *n*-BuLi in THF leads to clean monometalation and the formation of a CH<sub>2</sub>C≡CMe anion; see: Klein, J.; Becker, J. Y. *Tetrahedron* **1978**, *28*, 5385. (b) Moreau, J. L. In *The Chemistry of Ketenes, Allenes, and Related Compounds*; Patai, S., Ed.; Wiley: Chichester, England **1980**; Chapter 10, p 364. (c) Klein, J. In *The Chemistry of the Carbon-Carbon Triple Bond*; Patai, S., Ed.; Wiley: Chichester, England, **1978**, Chapter 9, p 343.

(9) (a) See ref 2d. (b) Evans, W. J.; Meadows, J. H.; Hunter, W. E.; Atwood, J. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 1291. (c) Evans, W. J. *Polyhedron* **1987**, *6*, 803. (d) Schwartz, J.; Labinger, J. A. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1976**, *15*, 333. (d) McDade, C.; Bercaw, J. E. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1985**, *279*, 281.

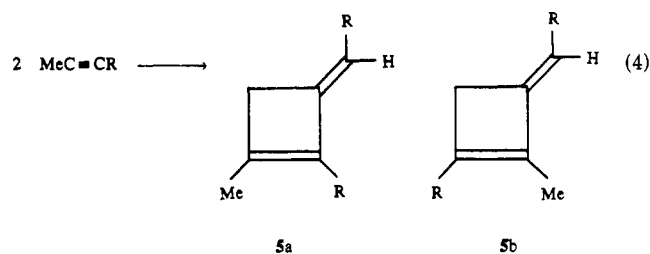
(10) IR (KBr/Nujol): 2720 (w), 1975 (m), 1930 (w), 1230 (w), 1020 (m), 710 (m), 600 (w) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  2.16 (q, <sup>5</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.9 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.92 (s, 30 H, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 1.54 (t, <sup>5</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.9 Hz, 3 H, Me). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  137.3 (s, C≡C), 116.9 (s, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 94.9 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>YC</sub> = 8.0 Hz, C≡C), 42.0 (d of t, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> = 154 Hz, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>YC</sub> = 8.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 11.0 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> = 125 Hz, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 8.4 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> = 130 Hz, Me). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>35</sub>Y: C, 69.89; H, 8.55. Found: C, 69.54; H, 8.41.

## Scheme I



at 80 °C). These differences in reactivity are likely to be steric in origin.<sup>11</sup>

Various disubstituted alkynes RC≡CMe were tested to determine the scope of this remarkable cyclodimerization. Catalytic dimerization was found for Ln = La, Ce and R = Et, *n*-Pr. GC/MS data for the lanthanum-catalyzed dimerizations of 2-pentyne and 2-hexyne indicate the presence of two major dimers (**5a** and **5b**), representing more than 93% of all oligomers present, in a 2.3:1 ratio for 2-pentyne and a 1.3:1 ratio for 2-hexyne. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra show that both isomers are substituted cyclobutenes which differ with respect to the position of the alkyl substituents at the endocyclic double bond (eq 4).<sup>12</sup> The activities are 2.0 and 1.3 turnovers/day (50 °C) for 2-pentyne and 2-hexyne, respectively.



The cerium-catalyzed reactions of 2-pentyne and 2-hexyne are more complicated, as is suggested by the presence of five dimers in the reaction mixture (GC/MS) with isomers **5a** and **5b** as the major products (2-pentyne, together 89%, 2.4:1 ratio; 2-hexyne 80% 2.4:1 ratio).<sup>13</sup>

Stoichiometric  $\alpha$ -methyl CH activation without subsequent dimerization takes place for MeC≡CR with bulky R groups, e.g. SiMe<sub>3</sub> and *t*-Bu.<sup>14</sup> 3-Hexyne does not react, even when kept at 80 °C for 2 months. Hence, cyclo-

(11) Ionic radii for Ln<sup>3+</sup> (6-coordinate): La<sup>3+</sup>, 1.03 Å; Ce<sup>3+</sup>, 1.01 Å; Y<sup>3+</sup>, 0.90 Å. See: Shannon, R. D. *Acta Crystallogr.* **1976**, *A32*, 751.

(12) NMR data are given in the supplementary material.

(13) No attempts have been made to characterize these three minor isomers.

(14) The reactions were carried out in sealed NMR tubes for the Ce-alkyl compound (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>, Cp\*<sub>2</sub>CeCH(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>/2-alkyne ratios of 1:15). <sup>1</sup>H NMR for Cp\*<sub>2</sub>CeCH<sub>2</sub>C≡CR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>, 25 °C): R = -SiMe<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  2.96 (s, 30 H, lw = 23 Hz, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), -7.07 (s, 9 H, lw = 5 Hz, SiMe<sub>3</sub>), -32 (s, 2 H, lw = 80 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>); R = *t*-Bu,  $\delta$  2.69 (s, 30 H, lw = 10 Hz, C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), -10.4 (s, 9 H, lw = 16 Hz, *t*-Bu), CH<sub>2</sub> protons not observed.

dimerization seems limited to alkynes bearing (a) at least one  $\alpha$ -methyl group and (b) a small second alkyl group.

The details of the mechanism remain to be elucidated, but a plausible route is given in Scheme I. One of the key steps (ii) is alkyne insertion in the  $\text{Ln-CH}_2$  bond. The 2-alkynyl compounds **2** and **3** and their analogues are the only organolanthanide species that can be observed during the catalytic dimerization (NMR), and this suggests that alkyne insertion in the  $\text{M-C}$  bond is rate-determining. This step also determines the selectivity, i.e. isomeric ratios, of the reactions with asymmetrical 2-alkynes.

**Acknowledgment.** We thank the PX-2 group at the Koninklijke/Shell-laboratorium, Amsterdam, for stimulating discussions and Dr. A. P. Bruins and E. van der Meulen for recording the GC/MS spectra. Financial support from Shell Research BV is gratefully acknowledged.

**Supplementary Material Available:** An experimental section containing details of the preparation and spectroscopic characterization of compounds (4 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

## Generation of the 19-Electron ("18 + $\delta$ ") Adducts $\text{CpMo(CO)}_3(\text{L}_2\text{-P})$ and $\text{CpMo(CO)}_2(\text{L}_2\text{-P,P'})$ ( $\text{Cp} = \eta^5\text{-CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$ , $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H}$ , $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_5$ ; $\text{L}_2 = 2,3\text{-Bis(diphenylphosphino)maleic}$ $\text{Anhydride}$ ). Crystal Structure of the $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H})\text{Mo(CO)}_2\text{L}_2$ **Complex**

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The 19-electron ("18 +  $\delta$ ")  $\text{CpMo(CO)}_3(\text{L}_2\text{-P})$  ( $\text{Cp} = \eta^5\text{-CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$ ,  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H}$ ) and  $\text{CpMo(CO)}_2(\text{L}_2\text{-P,P'})$  ( $\text{Cp} = \eta^5\text{-CH}_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$ ,  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H}$ ,  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_5$ ) complexes were generated by irradiation of  $\text{Cp}_2\text{Mo}_2(\text{CO})_6$  and  $\text{L}_2$  ( $\text{L}_2$  is the chelating phosphine ligand 2,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)maleic anhydride) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  or THF. ( $\text{L}_2\text{-P}$  indicates one P atom of  $\text{L}_2$  is coordinated;  $\text{L}_2\text{-P,P'}$  indicates two P atoms are coordinated.) ESR and IR spectra of these complexes show that the odd electron is primarily localized on the  $\text{L}_2$  ligand ( $\text{L}_2$  has low-energy  $\pi^*$  orbitals), and therefore, these complexes are best described as 18-electron complexes with reduced ligands ("18 +  $\delta$ " complexes). All of the complexes were spectroscopically characterized, but only the  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H})\text{Mo(CO)}_2(\text{L}_2\text{-P,P'})$  complex could be isolated. The mechanism of formation of these complexes involves the reaction of a photogenerated  $\text{CpMo(CO)}_3$  radical with the  $\text{L}_2$  ligand to form initially the  $\text{CpMo(CO)}_3(\text{L}_2\text{-P})$  species; this complex then reacts to give the  $\text{CpMo(CO)}_2(\text{L}_2\text{-P,P'})$  molecule. The crystal structure of the  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H})\text{Mo(CO)}_2(\text{L}_2\text{-P,P'})$  complex was determined; the molecule has a four-legged piano-stool structure. In the solid state, the two phosphorus atoms are not equivalent because of the orientation of the  $\text{C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H}$  ring. The two phosphorus atoms are also magnetically inequivalent at room temperature in solution on the ESR time scale but become equivalent at 185 °C. The dynamic ESR spectra are attributed to  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H}$  ring rotation. An analysis of the spectra led to the following activation parameters for rotation of the  $\text{C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H}$  ring:  $\Delta H^\ddagger = 2.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta S^\ddagger = -22.9 \pm 0.3 \text{ cal K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . Rotation of the  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Ph}_4\text{H}$  ring is hindered because of the severe steric interactions between the phenyl rings on the  $\text{C}_5$  ring and the phenyl rings bonded to the phosphorus atoms. Electrochemical, infrared, NMR, and ESR data are reported for the complexes generated in this study.

The reaction of 17-electron organometallic radicals with two-electron-donor ligands yields 19-electron adducts.<sup>1</sup> The stability of the 19-electron adducts depends critically on their electronic structure. At one extreme of the stability range are 19-electron transition states in which the unpaired electron is primarily metal-localized in a  $\text{M-L}$  antibonding orbital.<sup>1</sup> Adducts such as this are involved in many of the associatively activated substitution reactions of 17-electron species.<sup>2,3</sup> At the other extreme of stability are the relatively stable adducts that are perhaps best described as 18-electron complexes with reduced ligands (so-called "18 +  $\delta$ " complexes).<sup>4</sup> An example of

this type of complex is the  $\text{Co(CO)}_3\text{L}_2$  species ( $\text{L}_2$  is the chelating phosphine ligand 2,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)-maleic anhydride):<sup>5</sup>

(4) Prof. Ted Brown (University of Illinois) coined the term "18 +  $\delta$ " to describe those 19-electron adducts that are essentially 18-electron complexes with reduced ligands. The term 18 +  $\delta$  is preferred when the term "19-electron adduct" might lead to confusion about the electronic structure of the adduct. Examples of 18 +  $\delta$  complexes are increasingly numerous; see: (a) Kaim, W. *Inorg. Chem.* **1984**, *23*, 504-505. (b) Creber, K. A. M.; Wan, J. K. S. *Transition Met. Chem.* **1983**, *8*, 253-254. (c) Creber, K. A. M.; Wan, J. K. S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 2101-2102. (d) Alberti, A.; Hudson, A. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1983**, *241*, 313-319. (e) Maroney, M. J.; Troglor, W. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 4144-4151. (f) Kaim, W.; Kohlmann, S. *Inorg. Chem.* **1986**, *25*, 3442-3448. (g) Kaim, W. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1984**, *262*, 171-178. (h) Kaim, W. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1981**, *53*, L151-L153. (i) Kaim, W. *Inorg. Chem.* **1984**, *23*, 3365-3368. (j) Alegria, A. E.; Lozada, O.; Rivera, H.; Sanchez, J. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1985**, *281*, 229-236. (5) Fenske, D. *Chem. Ber.* **1979**, *112*, 363-375.

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