

# Comparison of the Closo Trigonal-Bipyramidal Structures of $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-Acetylene}$ and $\text{-Acetylide Clusters}$ : Synthesis of $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{NiFe}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}\equiv\text{CPr}^1)$ and X-ray Structures of $(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{NiFe}_2(\text{CO})_5(\text{L})(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}\equiv\text{CR})$ ( $\text{R} = \text{Pr}^1, \text{L} = \text{CO}; \text{R} = \text{Bu}^t, \text{L} = \text{PPh}_3$ )

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A comparison between the structures of closo trigonal-bipyramidal acetylene and acetylide clusters with  $\text{M}_3\text{C}_2$  frameworks is made. The synthesis of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{NiFe}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}\equiv\text{CPr}^1)$  (1) from  $[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Ni}(\text{CO})]_2$ ,  $\text{Ph}_2\text{PC}\equiv\text{CPr}^1$ , and  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_9$  is described. X-ray structural analyses of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{NiFe}_2(\text{CO})_5(\text{L})(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}\equiv\text{CR})$  ( $\text{L} = \text{CO}, \text{R} = \text{Pr}^1$ , 1;  $\text{L} = \text{PPh}_3, \text{R} = \text{Bu}^t$ , 2) are described. Crystal data: 1,  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{Fe}_2\text{NiO}_6$ ,  $M_r = 470.67$ , triclinic space group  $\text{P}\bar{1}$ ,  $a = 14.769$  (7) Å,  $b = 14.824$  (6) Å,  $c = 8.708$  (4) Å,  $\alpha = 91.77$  (2)°,  $\beta = 96.45$  (2)°,  $\gamma = 109.27$  (2)°,  $V = 1784$  (1) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ; 2,  $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{20}\text{Fe}_2\text{NiO}_5\text{P}\cdot 0.5\text{C}_7\text{H}_{16}$ ,  $M_r = 781.10$ , space group  $\text{P}2_1/c$ ,  $a = 10.058$  (3) Å,  $b = 13.225$  (6) Å,  $c = 26.906$  (8) Å,  $\beta = 96.08$  (2)°,  $V = 3559$  (2) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ . The structures of 1 and 2 were solved and refined on the basis of 5143 and 3289 observed intensities measured on Siemens AED and Syntex P2<sub>1</sub> diffractometers. Final  $R$  and  $R_w$  values were 0.048 and 0.054 for 1 and 0.056 and 0.066 for 2. There are significant structural differences between the closo trigonal-bipyramidal  $\text{M}_3\text{C}_2$  skeletons of the acetylide and acetylene clusters. In particular the  $\text{M-C}_\alpha$  distances are much shorter in the acetylides, perhaps indicating substantial  $\pi$ -character to the metal- $\sigma$ -acetylide bond. The intrapolyhedral  $\text{M-C}_\alpha\text{-C}_\beta$  angles are much larger in the acetylides than in the acetylenes. The  $\text{C}_\alpha\text{-R}$  fragments in the  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-acetylene}$  clusters approximate more closely to an equatorial component of a trigonal bipyramid than the "bare"  $\text{C}_\alpha$  in the  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-acetylide}$ . The acetylides show a closer structural resemblance to the  $\text{M}_4$  cluster carbides.

## Introduction

The iron group carbonyls  $\text{M}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$  react with alkynes to give a diverse array of organometallic compounds whose structures are a function of the metal, the nature of the alkyne, and the reaction conditions.<sup>1</sup> Among the first products observed in the reactions of  $\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$  with internal alkynes are the monoalkyne complexes  $\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-RC}\equiv\text{CR})$ , which have been the subject of intense study because of the unusual bonding of the alkyne in a perpendicular fashion on the  $\text{Fe}_3$  edge,<sup>2,3</sup> and the violet bis(alkyne) compounds  $\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_8(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\parallel\text{-RC}\equiv\text{CR})_2$ .<sup>4</sup>

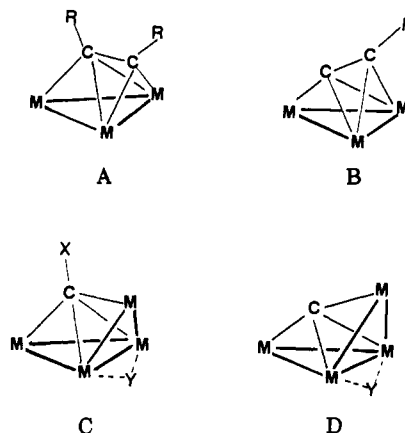
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Chart I



With ruthenium and osmium, on the other hand, internal alkynes afford tetranuclear  $\text{M}_4(\text{CO})_{10}(\mu_4\text{-}\eta^2\text{-RC}\equiv\text{CR})$  clusters via metal fragment condensation,<sup>5</sup> trinuclear complexes from oxidative addition,<sup>6</sup> and molecules of the

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type  $M_3(CO)_{10}(\mu_3-\eta^2-\parallel-RC\equiv CR)$ , in which the alkyne triple bond lies parallel to one edge of the  $M_3$  triangle.<sup>7</sup>

Terminal alkynes ( $HC\equiv CR$ ) undergo oxidative addition with  $M_3(CO)_{12}$  ( $M = Ru, Os$ ), affording the now classical hydrido acetylides  $(\mu-H)M_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-\eta^2-C\equiv CR)$ .<sup>8</sup> Strangely enough, such acetylides are not obtained in the direct reactions of terminal alkynes with  $Fe_3(CO)_{12}$  and the few trinuclear iron compounds of this type that have been characterized were synthesized indirectly from alkoxy-alkyne<sup>9</sup> and ketylenidene<sup>10</sup> clusters or via oxidative cleavage of C-H and P-C bonds in pre-coordinated terminal alkynes or phosphinoalkynes.<sup>11,12</sup>

In the Wade-Mingos PSEPT formalism<sup>13</sup> homonuclear molecules  $Fe_3(CO)_9(\eta^3-\eta^2-\perp-RC\equiv CR)$  and heteronuclear molecules  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2NiFe_2(CO)_6(\mu_3-\eta^2-C\equiv CR)$  have six-electron-pair five-vertex close trigonal-bipyramidal structures when the alkyne (two CR units) and the acetylide (C and CR) are considered as contributing two skeletal atoms and six or five electrons to the polyhedron (A and B, Chart I). With the alkynes as four-electron ligands the EAN electron count for  $Fe_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-\eta^2-\perp-RC\equiv CR)$  molecules is only 46 electrons, implying, at least formally, electronic unsaturation. In practice these  $\perp$ -acetylene clusters are prone to electrochemical two-electron reduction,<sup>14</sup> to addition of CO<sup>15</sup> or further alkyne,<sup>4</sup> and to exchange of metal fragments.<sup>14</sup> All of these reactions result in reorientation of the alkyne on the  $M_3$  face, generating nido octahedral structures with  $\mu_3-\eta^2-\parallel$ -alkyne coordination. With phosphines, however, simple substitution of CO gives  $M_3(CO)_8(\mu_3-\eta^2-\perp-RC\equiv CR)(L)$  complexes.<sup>11</sup>

Clearly there should be significant structural and electronic similarities between the  $Fe_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-\eta^2-\perp-RC\equiv CR)$  clusters and the corresponding isoelectronic acetylides. In this paper we describe the molecular structures of two new heteronuclear clusters of the latter class, namely  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2NiFe_2(CO)_5(L)(\mu_3-\eta^2-C\equiv CR)$  ( $L = CO, R = Pr^i; L = PPh_3, R = Bu^t$ ), and examine in detail the structural consequences of replacing a CR (alkyne) fragment by a C (acetylide) unit. We focus particularly on the suggestion<sup>16</sup> that these acetylides may be described as "alkylidyne-carbides" and draw comparisons with the related class of tetranuclear cluster carbides<sup>17</sup> (C and D, Chart I).

## Experimental Section

The complex  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2NiFe_2(CO)_5(\mu_3-\eta^2-C\equiv CPr^i)$  (1) was obtained in a two-step reaction. The nickel dimer  $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Ni(CO)]_2$  (0.2 g) in *n*-heptane (100 mL) was reacted with the phosphinoalkyne  $Ph_2PC\equiv CPr^i$ <sup>18</sup> (~3-fold excess) under reflux until the initially dark red solution turned dark brown and IR spectroscopy indicated complete consumption of starting material. A heptane

**Table I. Experimental Data for the X-ray Diffraction Studies of  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2NiFe_2(CO)_5(\mu_3-\eta^2-C\equiv CPr^i)$  (1) and  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2NiFe_2(CO)_5(PPh_3)(\mu_3-\eta^2-C\equiv CBu^t)$  (2)**

	1	2
mol formula	$C_{16}H_{12}Fe_2NiO_6$	$C_{26}H_{20}Fe_2NiO_6P^{1/2}C_7H_{16}$
mol wt	470.67	781.10
cryst syst	triclinic	monoclinic
space group	$P\bar{1}$	$P2_1/c$
<i>a</i> , Å	14.769 (7)	10.058 (3)
<i>b</i> , Å	14.824 (6)	13.225 (6)
<i>c</i> , Å	8.708 (4)	26.906 (8)
$\alpha$ , deg	91.77 (2)	
$\beta$ , deg	96.45 (2)	96.08 (2)
$\gamma$ , deg	109.27 (2)	
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	1784 (1)	3559 (2)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
<i>D</i> <sub>calcd</sub> , g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.753	1.458
<i>F</i> (000)	944	1612
cryst dimens, mm	0.16 × 0.18 × 0.24	0.24 × 0.28 × 0.31
$\mu$ (Mo K $\alpha$ ), cm <sup>-1</sup>	26.83	14.13
diffractometer	Siemens AED	Syntex P2 <sub>1</sub>
scan type	$\theta/2\theta$	$\theta/2\theta$
2 $\theta$ range, deg	6–54	3.2–45
rlins measd	$\pm h, \pm k, l$	$h, k, \pm l$
total no. of unique data	7672	4676
no. of unique obsd data	5143 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ )	3289 ( $I > 3\sigma(I)$ )
<i>R</i>	0.048	0.056
<i>R</i> <sub>w</sub>	0.054	0.066

suspension (50 mL) of  $Fe_2(CO)_9$  (0.3 g) or  $Fe_3(CO)_{12}$  (0.4 g) was then added to the hot solution under nitrogen and the mixture refluxed for a further 20 min. The dark brown suspension obtained was filtered under nitrogen and the insoluble fraction discarded. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to a few milliliters and chromatographed on preparative TLC plates (Merck, Kieselgel) with use of a diethyl ether-light petroleum ether mixture (1:9) for development. Small amounts of  $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2Ni(CO)]_2$  and  $Fe_3(CO)_{12}$  were detected together with the following compounds in order of development: complex 1 (10%);  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2Ni_2Fe_2(CO)_6(\mu_4-\eta^2-HC\equiv CPr^i)$  (10%);  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2Ni_2Fe_2(CO)_5(\mu_4-\eta^2-C\equiv CPr^i)(\mu-PPh_2)$  (5%);  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2NiFe_3(CO)_7(\mu_4-\eta^2-HC\equiv CPr^i)(\mu-PPh_2)$  (25%); trace amounts of two other unidentified clusters.<sup>19</sup>

**Analytical and Spectroscopic Data for 1.** Anal. Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{12}O_6NiFe_2$ : C, 40.83; H, 2.57. Found: C, 41.0; H, 2.8. IR ( $\nu$ (CO),  $C_7H_{16}$ ): 2067 vs, 2021 vs, 1994 vs, 1987 w, sh, 1973 m cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293 K):  $\delta$  4.90 s (5 H,  $C_5H_5$ ), 3.73 m (1 H,  $CHMe_2$ ), 1.45 d, 1.31 d (6 H,  $CH(CH_3)_2$ ).

The phosphine-substituted complex  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2NiFe_2(CO)_5(PPh_3)(\mu_3-\eta^2-C\equiv CBu^t)$  was obtained as previously described<sup>11</sup> and recrystallized from *n*-heptane.

IR spectra were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 580 B spectrometer and NMR spectra on a JEOL JNM GX 270 FT instrument. Microanalyses were carried out by Pascher Microanalytical Laboratories, Remagen, Germany.

**X-ray Data Collection, Structure Determination, and Refinement for 1 and 2.** Dark brown crystals of 1 and 2 were grown from *n*-heptane; those of the latter also contained heptane molecules of solvation. The crystallographic data for both compounds are summarized in Table I. Unit cell parameters were determined from the  $\theta$  values of 25 (1) and 15 (2) carefully centered reflections chosen from different regions of reciprocal space. Data were collected at room temperature on a Siemens AED diffractometer (1) using niobium-filtered Mo K $\alpha$  radiation and on a Syntex P2<sub>1</sub> diffractometer (2) using graphite-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). The reflections were collected with a variable scan speed of 3–12° min<sup>-1</sup> and a scan width from ( $\theta - 0.6$ )° to ( $\theta + 0.6 + 0.346 \tan \theta$ )° for 1 and with a variable scan speed of 2.93–29.3° min<sup>-1</sup> and a scan width of 0.75° below K $\alpha_1$  to 0.75° above K $\alpha_2$  for 2. One standard reflection was monitored every 50 measurements for 1, and two standard reflections were

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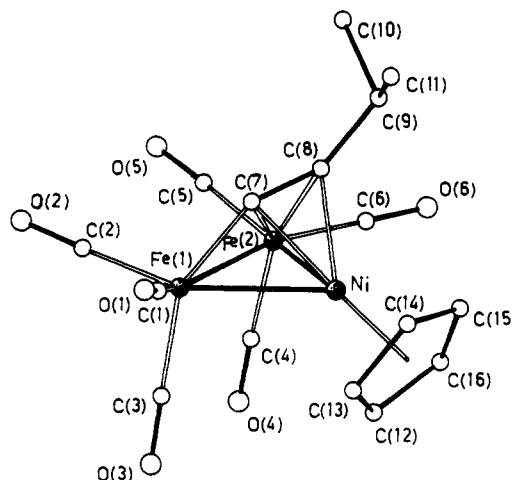
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**Table II. Fractional Atomic Coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) with Esd's in Parentheses for the Non-Hydrogen Atoms of 1**

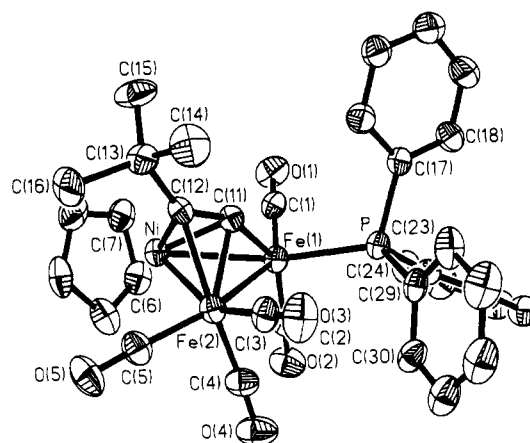
	$x/a$	$y/b$	$z/c$
Ni(11)	-3130 (1)	1748 (1)	7372 (1)
Fe(11)	-3180 (1)	2947 (1)	9423 (1)
Fe(21)	-1707 (1)	2371 (1)	9206 (1)
O(11)	-4828 (3)	3416 (4)	7997 (6)
O(21)	-2256 (4)	4649 (3)	11512 (5)
O(31)	-4157 (3)	1629 (3)	11599 (5)
O(41)	-2353 (3)	1055 (3)	11577 (5)
O(51)	-188 (3)	3893 (4)	11127 (6)
O(61)	-434 (3)	1458 (3)	8025 (6)
C(11)	-4192 (4)	3231 (4)	8565 (7)
C(21)	-2629 (4)	3979 (4)	10719 (6)
C(31)	-3772 (4)	2152 (4)	10773 (6)
C(41)	-2110 (4)	1584 (4)	10680 (6)
C(51)	-777 (4)	3300 (4)	10384 (6)
C(61)	-928 (4)	1791 (4)	8510 (6)
C(71)	-2401 (3)	3112 (3)	7906 (5)
C(81)	-1902 (3)	2814 (3)	7035 (5)
C(91)	-1342 (4)	3008 (4)	5719 (6)
C(101)	-385 (4)	3822 (6)	6207 (9)
C(111)	-1931 (6)	3250 (6)	4366 (7)
C(121)	-3480 (5)	286 (4)	6794 (8)
C(131)	-4125 (4)	443 (4)	7706 (8)
C(141)	-4617 (4)	1000 (4)	6962 (8)
C(151)	-4253 (5)	1195 (4)	5533 (7)
C(161)	-3555 (5)	759 (4)	5446 (7)
Ni(12)	2649 (1)	3258 (1)	3697 (1)
Fe(12)	3564 (1)	2711 (1)	1827 (1)
Fe(22)	1695 (1)	2016 (1)	1829 (1)
O(12)	5512 (3)	3375 (4)	3511 (7)
O(22)	3792 (3)	1261 (3)	-245 (5)
O(32)	3810 (3)	4264 (3)	-238 (6)
O(42)	1535 (3)	3210 (3)	-705 (5)
O(52)	1166 (4)	230 (3)	-114 (5)
O(62)	-160 (3)	1809 (4)	2867 (6)
C(12)	4755 (4)	3129 (4)	2836 (7)
C(22)	3712 (3)	1839 (4)	536 (6)
C(32)	3718 (4)	3654 (4)	544 (7)
C(42)	1624 (4)	2745 (4)	292 (6)
C(52)	1358 (4)	916 (4)	666 (6)
C(62)	552 (3)	1881 (4)	2406 (6)
C(72)	2878 (3)	2049 (3)	3257 (5)
C(82)	2171 (3)	1845 (3)	4062 (5)
C(92)	1738 (4)	1345 (4)	5379 (6)
C(102)	1319 (6)	276 (5)	4987 (9)
C(112)	2514 (6)	1581 (8)	6781 (7)
C(122)	2704 (6)	4625 (4)	3249 (9)
C(132)	3561 (5)	4680 (4)	4136 (9)
C(142)	3321 (6)	4292 (5)	5533 (8)
C(152)	2319 (6)	4018 (5)	5475 (8)
C(162)	1938 (6)	4218 (4)	4064 (9)

monitored every 100 measurements for 2; no significant decay was noticed over the time of data collection. Lorentz and polarization corrections were applied to the data and the intensities reduced to structure factors in the normal way. No absorption corrections were deemed necessary.

The structures were solved by Patterson and Fourier methods and refined first by full-matrix least squares with isotropic thermal parameters and then by blocked (1) and full (2) matrix least squares with anisotropic thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. All hydrogen atoms of 1 were placed at their geometrically calculated positions ( $C-H = 1.00 \text{ \AA}$ ) and refined "riding" on the corresponding carbon atoms. A disordered heptane molecule was found in 2, and the heptane carbon atoms were refined with isotropic thermal parameters and an occupancy factor of 0.5. The hydrogen atoms of 2 were not included in the refinement. The final cycles of refinement were carried out on the basis of 476 (1) and 417 (2) variables; after the last cycles, no parameters shifted by more than 1.23 (1) and 0.85 (2) esd. The largest remaining peaks in the final difference maps were equivalent to about 0.9 (1) and 0.7 (2)  $e/\text{\AA}^3$ . The function minimized in the least-squares refinements was  $\sum w|F_o - F_c|^2$ . In the final cycles of refinement a weighting scheme,  $w = K[\sigma^2(F_o) + gF_o^2]^{-1}$ , was used for 1; at convergence the  $K$  value was 1.000 and the  $g$  value 0.0048. For 2 the weighting scheme was  $w^{-1} = 1.98 - 0.0185|F_o| + 0.00013|F_o|^2$ .



**Figure 1.** View of the molecular structure of the complex  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{NiFe}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-C}\equiv\text{CPr})$  (1) together with the atomic numbering scheme.



**Figure 2.** View of the molecular structure of the complex  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{NiFe}_2(\text{CO})_6(\text{PPh}_3)(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-C}\equiv\text{CBu})$  (2) together with the atomic numbering scheme.

The analytical scattering factors, corrected for the real and imaginary parts of anomalous dispersions, were taken from ref 20. All calculations for 1 were carried out on the Cray X-MP/12 computer of the "Centro di Calcolo Elettronico Interuniversitario dell'Italia Nord-Orientale" (CINECA, Casalecchio Bologna) using the SHELX-76 system of crystallographic computer programs<sup>21</sup> and all of those for 2 on IBM 4341 computers at the University of Waterloo, Department of Computing Services using computer programs described elsewhere.<sup>22</sup> The final atomic coordinates for the non-hydrogen atoms are given in Tables II (1) and III (2). The atomic coordinates of the hydrogen atoms are given in Table SI (1; supplementary material) and the thermal parameters in Tables SII and SIII (1 and 2, respectively; supplementary material).

## Results and Discussion

**Comparison of the Structures of 1 and 2.** The molecular structures of the compounds 1 and 2 are depicted in Figures 1 and 2, respectively, together with the atomic labeling schemes. In the crystals of 1 two crystallographically independent, but practically identical, molecules are present. Important bond distances and angles

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**Table III. Fractional Atomic Coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) with Esd's in Parentheses for 2**

atom	x	y	z
Ni	4183 (1)	1905 (1)	2570 (1)
Fe(1)	3393 (1)	1587 (1)	1653 (1)
Fe(2)	2008 (1)	2568 (1)	2288 (1)
P	2066 (2)	1025 (2)	1008 (1)
O(1)	5440 (7)	89 (6)	1554 (3)
O(2)	4694 (8)	3204 (6)	1140 (3)
O(3)	-879 (6)	2398 (7)	2033 (3)
O(4)	2459 (8)	4277 (6)	1635 (3)
O(5)	1851 (8)	3883 (6)	3156 (3)
C(1)	4623 (9)	683 (7)	1594 (3)
C(2)	4161 (9)	2562 (7)	1334 (4)
C(3)	265 (9)	2467 (8)	2123 (3)
C(4)	2318 (10)	3570 (8)	1874 (4)
C(5)	1918 (9)	3357 (8)	2823 (4)
C(6)	6118 (8)	2363 (9)	2453 (4)
C(7)	6227 (9)	1409 (9)	2705 (4)
C(8)	5694 (10)	1568 (10)	3168 (4)
C(9)	5282 (10)	2616 (10)	3187 (4)
C(10)	5532 (9)	3094 (9)	2762 (4)
C(11)	2663 (8)	1156 (6)	2211 (3)
C(12)	2416 (8)	1234 (6)	2664 (3)
C(13)	1929 (10)	661 (7)	3101 (3)
C(14)	430 (11)	399 (10)	2946 (4)
C(15)	2772 (13)	-315 (8)	3176 (4)
C(16)	2055 (13)	1302 (9)	3581 (4)
C(17)	1809 (8)	-333 (7)	1027 (3)
C(18)	1890 (10)	-947 (8)	605 (4)
C(19)	1721 (11)	-2000 (8)	640 (4)
C(20)	1447 (10)	-2449 (9)	1093 (4)
C(21)	1365 (10)	-1830 (8)	1516 (4)
C(22)	1554 (9)	-784 (8)	1488 (4)
C(23)	2618 (9)	1226 (7)	386 (3)
C(24)	3982 (10)	1177 (8)	338 (3)
C(25)	4429 (11)	1286 (9)	-139 (4)
C(26)	3505 (13)	1454 (9)	-551 (4)
C(27)	2128 (12)	1498 (8)	-513 (4)
C(28)	1695 (10)	1384 (8)	-29 (3)
C(29)	376 (9)	1554 (8)	927 (3)
C(30)	264 (10)	2605 (8)	846 (3)
C(31)	-1006 (11)	3053 (10)	770 (4)
C(32)	-2158 (12)	2439 (11)	787 (4)
C(33)	-2034 (11)	1405 (11)	872 (4)
C(34)	-766 (9)	944 (9)	943 (4)
C(35) <sup>a</sup>	121 (4)	-19 (3)	535 (1)
C(36) <sup>a</sup>	278 (4)	13 (3)	523 (1)
C(37) <sup>a</sup>	306 (3)	88 (3)	497 (1)
C(38) <sup>a</sup>	404 (4)	76 (3)	492 (1)
C(39) <sup>a</sup>	453 (3)	-98 (2)	526 (1)
C(40) <sup>a</sup>	530 (4)	-68 (3)	527 (1)
C(41) <sup>a</sup>	615 (3)	78 (2)	462 (1)

<sup>a</sup> Disordered heptane of solvation, occupancy 0.5.

for 1 and 2 are given in Tables IV and V, respectively.

The core of both molecules 1 and 2 consists of an asymmetric triangle of two Fe and one Ni atom with an acetylide  $\sigma$ -bound to the Fe(1) atom and  $\pi$ -bonded to the Fe(2) and Ni atoms in such a way that the acetylenic triple bond lies almost perpendicular to the Ni-Fe(2) edge. This is the classical  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp$ -bonding mode first documented for  $\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})$  by Dahl, Hübel, and co-workers.<sup>2b</sup> It is interesting that in these heterometallic clusters the metal atoms adopt an unsymmetrical arrangement with the alkynyl group  $\sigma$ -bound to one iron atom, rather than the alternative, symmetrical arrangement with the  $\text{RC}\equiv\text{C}$  group  $\sigma$ -bonded to the unique Ni atom. The latter arrangement might also be expected on electronic grounds, since all three metal atoms would achieve the presumably favored 18-electron configuration, whereas in the unsymmetrical arrangement Fe(1) is a 17-electron center and the Ni atom has 19 electrons. The position of the nickel atom in both structures was unequivocally confirmed by different refinements carried out by placing the nickel atom

**Table IV. Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (deg) for 1**

	molecule A	molecule B
Fe(1)-Fe(2)	2.608 (2)	2.608 (2)
Ni-Fe(1)	2.504 (1)	2.504 (1)
Ni-Fe(2)	2.386 (1)	2.368 (1)
Fe(1)-C(1)	1.776 (7)	1.775 (5)
Fe(1)-C(2)	1.773 (5)	1.770 (6)
Fe(1)-C(3)	1.782 (5)	1.789 (6)
Fe(1)-C(7)	1.818 (5)	1.800 (4)
Fe(2)-C(4)	1.781 (6)	1.761 (6)
Fe(2)-C(5)	1.783 (5)	1.783 (5)
Fe(2)-C(6)	1.791 (6)	1.766 (5)
Fe(2)-C(7)	2.024 (5)	2.012 (5)
Fe(2)-C(8)	2.041 (5)	2.045 (4)
Ni-C(7)	1.964 (4)	1.963 (5)
Ni-C(8)	2.031 (4)	2.025 (5)
Ni-C(12)	2.087 (6)	2.053 (6)
Ni-C(13)	2.061 (6)	2.089 (5)
Ni-C(14)	2.092 (5)	2.093 (6)
Ni-C(15)	2.100 (6)	2.081 (8)
Ni-C(16)	2.088 (6)	2.066 (9)
C(7)-C(8)	1.278 (7)	1.281 (7)
C(8)-C(9)	1.469 (7)	1.476 (7)
C(9)-C(10)	1.531 (8)	1.511 (9)
C(9)-C(11)	1.508 (9)	1.523 (9)
C(12)-C(13)	1.377 (10)	1.383 (11)
C(13)-C(14)	1.398 (10)	1.394 (10)
C(14)-C(15)	1.411 (10)	1.394 (12)
C(15)-C(16)	1.392 (11)	1.375 (11)
C(12)-C(16)	1.399 (9)	1.380 (11)
C(1)-O(1)	1.130 (9)	1.139 (7)
C(2)-O(2)	1.130 (7)	1.123 (7)
C(3)-O(3)	1.130 (7)	1.130 (8)
C(4)-O(4)	1.126 (7)	1.147 (7)
C(5)-O(5)	1.133 (6)	1.141 (7)
C(6)-O(6)	1.118 (8)	1.141 (7)
Ni-Fe(1)-Fe(2)	55.60 (6)	55.16 (6)
Ni-Fe(2)-Fe(1)	60.00 (6)	60.20 (6)
Fe(1)-Ni-Fe(2)	64.40 (6)	64.65 (6)
Fe(2)-Fe(1)-C(2)	100.5 (2)	99.5 (2)
Fe(2)-Fe(1)-C(3)	99.9 (2)	103.7 (2)
Ni-Fe(1)-C(1)	99.4 (2)	101.4 (2)
Ni-Fe(1)-C(3)	99.6 (2)	98.8 (2)
C(1)-Fe(1)-C(2)	99.0 (3)	98.1 (3)
C(1)-Fe(1)-C(3)	98.1 (3)	97.1 (3)
C(2)-Fe(1)-C(3)	98.0 (3)	98.1 (3)
Fe(1)-Fe(2)-C(4)	87.9 (2)	85.9 (2)
Fe(1)-Fe(2)-C(5)	100.3 (2)	103.1 (2)
Ni-Fe(2)-C(4)	97.3 (2)	97.2 (2)
Ni-Fe(2)-C(6)	102.1 (2)	98.2 (2)
C(4)-Fe(2)-C(5)	98.2 (3)	96.5 (3)
C(4)-Fe(2)-C(6)	96.8 (3)	97.2 (3)
C(5)-Fe(2)-C(6)	96.2 (3)	97.8 (3)
Fe(1)-C(7)-C(8)	151.6 (4)	152.6 (4)
C(7)-C(8)-C(9)	146.1 (5)	147.2 (5)
Fe(1)-C(1)-O(1)	178.8 (6)	178.0 (5)
Fe(1)-C(2)-O(2)	177.7 (6)	177.9 (5)
Fe(1)-C(3)-O(3)	178.2 (5)	178.2 (6)
Fe(2)-C(4)-O(4)	176.8 (5)	177.0 (6)
Fe(2)-C(5)-O(5)	179.6 (5)	177.4 (5)
Fe(2)-C(6)-O(6)	176.8 (5)	176.0 (5)

in the other two possible positions of the metal triangle. In both cases the effect of switching positions for Fe and Ni was to increase significantly the *R* factors and to adversely affect the thermal parameters of the atoms.

In attempting to rationalize these facts, we can make the following remarks. (i) In both structures the Fe(1)-C<sub>x</sub> (Fe(1)-C(7) = 1.814 (5) Å in 1; Fe(1)-C(11) = 1.831 (8) Å in 2) bonds are rather short. Indeed, these distances approach the iron-carbonyl bond lengths to the same atom (Fe(1)-CO<sub>av</sub> = 1.777 (6) Å in 1; Fe(1)-CO<sub>av</sub> = 1.755 (9) Å in 2) and are much shorter than any of the remaining metal-carbon distances to the unsaturated hydrocarbyl. Churchill and Chang<sup>23a</sup> have previously tabulated Fe-C<sub>sp</sub>,<sup>3</sup>

Table V. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) for 2

(A) Bond Lengths			
Ni-Fe(1)	2.546 (2)	Ni-Fe(2)	2.404 (2)
Ni-C(6)	2.094 (9)	Ni-C(7)	2.152 (10)
Ni-C(8)	2.138 (11)	Ni-C(9)	2.114 (11)
Ni-C(10)	2.089 (11)	Ni-C(11)	1.985 (8)
Ni-C(12)	2.026 (8)	Fe(1)-Fe(2)	2.655 (2)
Fe(1)-P	2.205 (2)	Fe(1)-C(1)	1.740 (9)
Fe(1)-C(2)	1.771 (10)	Fe(1)-C(11)	1.831 (8)
Fe(2)-C(3)	1.768 (9)	Fe(2)-C(4)	1.780 (10)
Fe(2)-C(5)	1.788 (10)	Fe(2)-C(11)	1.998 (9)
Fe(2)-C(12)	2.054 (8)	P-C(17)	1.816 (9)
P-C(23)	1.836 (9)	P-C(29)	1.830 (9)
C(1)-O(1)	1.15 (1)	C(2)-O(2)	1.16 (1)
C(3)-O(3)	1.15 (1)	C(4)-O(4)	1.15 (1)
C(5)-O(5)	1.14 (1)	C(6)-C(7)	1.43 (2)
C(7)-C(8)	1.42 (1)	C(8)-C(9)	1.45 (2)
C(9)-C(10)	1.44 (2)	C(10)-C(6)	1.38 (1)
C(11)-C(12)	1.28 (1)	C(12)-C(13)	1.52 (1)
C(13)-C(14)	1.56 (1)	C(13)-C(15)	1.55 (2)
C(13)-C(16)	1.54 (1)		
(B) Bond Angles			
Fe(1)-Ni-Fe(2)	64.78 (4)	Fe(1)-Ni-C(6)	95.8 (3)
Fe(1)-Ni-C(7)	107.9 (3)	Fe(1)-Ni-C(8)	144.9 (3)
Fe(1)-Ni-C(9)	156.6 (3)	Fe(1)-Ni-C(10)	116.6 (3)
Fe(1)-Ni-C(11)	45.6 (2)	Fe(1)-Ni-C(12)	82.0 (2)
Fe(2)-Ni-C(6)	132.5 (3)	Fe(2)-Ni-C(7)	170.2 (3)
Fe(2)-Ni-C(8)	149.8 (3)	Fe(2)-Ni-C(9)	117.9 (3)
Fe(2)-Ni-C(10)	109.8 (3)	Fe(2)-Ni-C(11)	53.1 (2)
Fe(2)-Ni-C(12)	54.4 (2)		
Ni-Fe(1)-Fe(2)	55.02 (3)	Ni-Fe(1)-P	156.93 (6)
Ni-Fe(1)-C(1)	92.9 (3)	Ni-Fe(1)-C(2)	104.0 (3)
Ni-Fe(1)-C(11)	50.8 (2)	Fe(2)-Fe(1)-P	110.87 (6)
Fe(2)-Fe(1)-C(1)	145.2 (3)	Fe(2)-Fe(1)-C(2)	104.0 (3)
Fe(2)-Fe(1)-C(11)	48.8 (2)	P-Fe(1)-C(1)	94.2 (3)
P-Fe(1)-C(2)	97.1 (3)	P-Fe(1)-C(11)	106.2 (3)
C(1)-Fe(1)-C(2)	96.1 (4)	C(1)-Fe(1)-C(11)	102.2 (4)
C(2)-Fe(1)-C(11)	149.0 (4)	Ni-Fe(2)-Fe(1)	60.20 (3)
Ni-Fe(2)-C(3)	153.8 (3)	Ni-Fe(2)-C(4)	104.8 (3)
Ni-Fe(2)-C(5)	94.6 (3)	Ni-Fe(2)-C(11)	52.6 (2)
Ni-Fe(2)-C(12)	53.4 (2)	Fe(1)-Fe(2)-C(3)	112.1 (3)
Fe(1)-Fe(2)-C(4)	79.9 (3)	Fe(1)-Fe(2)-C(5)	151.4 (3)
Fe(1)-Fe(2)-C(11)	43.6 (2)	Fe(1)-Fe(2)-C(12)	78.8 (2)
C(3)-Fe(2)-C(4)	97.7 (4)	C(3)-Fe(2)-C(5)	96.5 (4)
C(3)-Fe(2)-C(11)	103.4 (4)	C(3)-Fe(2)-C(12)	101.5 (4)
C(4)-Fe(2)-C(5)	95.5 (4)	C(4)-Fe(2)-C(11)	123.4 (4)
C(4)-Fe(2)-C(12)	155.4 (4)	C(5)-Fe(2)-C(11)	132.4 (4)
C(5)-Fe(2)-C(12)	97.4 (4)	C(11)-Fe(2)-C(12)	36.6 (3)
Fe(1)-P-C(17)	112.8 (3)	Fe(1)-P-C(23)	116.9 (3)
Fe(1)-P-C(29)	116.3 (3)	C(17)-P-C(23)	103.0 (4)
C(17)-P-C(29)	104.4 (4)	C(23)-P-C(29)	101.8 (4)
Fe(1)-C(1)-O(1)	179.7 (4)	Fe(1)-C(2)-O(2)	177.7 (4)
Fe(2)-C(3)-O(3)	177.6 (4)	Fe(2)-C(4)-O(4)	173.6 (4)
Fe(2)-C(5)-O(5)	178.1 (4)		
Ni-C(11)-Fe(1)	83.6 (2)	Ni-C(11)-Fe(2)	74.3 (2)
Ni-C(11)-C(12)	73.3 (4)	Fe(1)-C(11)-Fe(2)	87.7 (2)
Fe(1)-C(11)-C(12)	153.6 (4)	Fe(2)-C(11)-C(12)	74.1 (4)
Ni-C(12)-Fe(2)	72.2 (2)	Ni-C(12)-C(11)	69.8 (4)
Ni-C(12)-C(13)	132.3 (4)	Fe(2)-C(12)-C(11)	69.3 (4)
Fe(2)-C(12)-C(13)	138.1 (4)	C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	144.1 (5)
C(12)-C(13)-C(14)	106.6 (5)	C(12)-C(13)-C(15)	107.4 (5)

Fe-C<sub>sp<sup>2</sup></sub>, and Fe-Cp<sub>sp</sub> bond lengths in a variety of organoiron compounds. It would appear from this tabulation that a normal single-bond length for an Fe-C<sub>sp<sup>3</sup></sub> linkage (i.e. in the absence of multiple-bond character) should be ~ 2.09 Å. The observed Fe-C<sub>sp</sub> bond length in ( $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ )-Fe(CO)<sub>2</sub>(C≡CPh), where a component of  $\pi$ -bonding may be already present, is 1.920 (6) Å.<sup>23b</sup> We can conclude that there must be substantial multiple-bond character in the Fe-C<sub>α</sub> interaction in 1 and 2. This result contrasts sharply with the situation observed in Fe<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-RC}\equiv\text{CR}$ )

compounds, where the Fe-C<sub>α</sub> (Fe-C<sub>α</sub> being considered as the equatorial carbon atom in the trigonal bipyramid) bond lengths are much longer, averaging 2.07 Å.<sup>2a</sup> We will return to this point in a general context later in the discussion. (ii) When we take into account the slight contraction in the covalent radius of the metal from Fe to Ni, the metal-acetylide  $\eta^2$  interactions are not significantly different in 2 ( $\Delta(\text{M-C}_\alpha) = 0.013$  Å;  $\Delta(\text{M-C}_\beta) = 0.028$  Å) and the acetylide is only slightly more strongly bound to Ni in 1 ( $\Delta(\text{M-C}_\alpha) = 0.055$  Å;  $\Delta(\text{M-C}_\beta) = 0.015$  Å). Thus, it is unlikely that the metal-acetylide  $\pi$ -bonding dictates the adoption of the unsymmetrical structure. (iii) Calculations on closo heterometallic acetylene complexes M<sub>2</sub>M'( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-RC}\equiv\text{CR}$ )L<sub>n</sub> suggests that unsymmetrical isomers of this type are more stable by 1-4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, although there does not appear to be a single explanation for this in molecular orbital terms.<sup>3b</sup>

The principal difference between 1 and 2 is the substitution of an equatorial CO by a PPh<sub>3</sub> ligand at the iron atom  $\sigma$ -bonded to the acetylide. The phosphine is approximately trans to the Ni-Fe(1) bond (Ni-Fe(1)-P = 156.9 (1)°) possibly to minimize steric contacts with the  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$  ring on nickel. Carbonyl substitution in acetylide clusters most frequently occurs at the  $\sigma$ -bound metal atom,<sup>24</sup> and for heterometallic systems with ( $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ )Ni fragments the disposition of the phosphine in an equatorial site trans to an ( $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ )Ni-M bond is common.<sup>25</sup> More interesting is the effect on the dimensions of the cluster core. Recent results on an extensive series of substituted triruthenium carbonyls suggest only small changes in intracenter distances following phosphine substitution.<sup>26</sup> For 1 and 2, however, the effect is quite distinct. The Fe(1)-Fe(2) bond length in 2 (2.655 (2) Å) is significantly elongated in comparison to that in 1 (2.608 (2) Å) or to the Fe-Fe bond length in CpNiFe<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>6</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}\equiv\text{CBu}^t$ ) (2.610 (3) Å) (Table VI). Thus, it seems that phosphine substitution at the metal atom  $\sigma$ -bound to the acetylide effects a lengthening of the cis homonuclear metal-metal bond. The situation is less clear for the trans heteronuclear Fe(1)-Ni bond, which for 2 (2.546 (2) Å) is intermediate in length between the values for 1 (2.504 (1) Å) and the *tert*-butylacetylide analogue (2.564 (3) Å). The effect of phosphine substitution on the third distant heterometallic bond Fe(2)-Ni is to cause a slight but significant lengthening (Fe(2)-Ni = 2.378 (1) (1), 2.404 (2) Å (2)).

**Structural Comparison of Trinuclear  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-Acetylide and  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-Acetylene Clusters with Closo Trigonal-Bipyramidal M}_3\text{C}_2$  Skeletons.$**  Despite the characterization of Fe<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ ) in 1966<sup>2a</sup> relatively few molecules with this type of structure have been subjected to X-ray analysis. Other examples are as follows: homonuclear Fe<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-EtC}\equiv\text{CEt}$ )<sup>2a</sup> and heteronuclear FeRu<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ ),<sup>2d</sup> ( $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ )<sub>2</sub>M<sub>2</sub>Fe(CO)<sub>6</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-RC}\equiv\text{CR}$ ) (M = Mo, W; R = *p*-tolyl),<sup>27</sup> and ( $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ )<sub>2</sub>W<sub>2</sub>Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub>(O)( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp\text{-RC}\equiv\text{CR}$ ) (R = *p*-tolyl).<sup>28</sup> Structurally characterized acetylides in-

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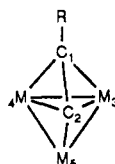
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Table VI. Structural Parameters for  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp$ -Acetylene and  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2$ -Acetylide Clusters of Iron<sup>a</sup>

	structural params								ref
	3-5	4-5	3-4 <sup>b</sup>	2-5 <sup>c</sup>	2-3 2-4 <sup>d</sup>	1-3 1-4 <sup>e</sup>	1-2	1-2-5	
(Cp)Fe <sub>3</sub> (CO) <sub>7</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> Ph)	2.632 (1)	2.639 (1)	2.524 (1)	1.829 (6)	2.040 (4) 2.006 (5)	2.031 (5) 2.031 (5)	1.299 (9)	152.9 (5)	29
[Fe <sub>3</sub> (CO) <sub>9</sub> (COC(O)Me)] <sup>-</sup>	2.626 (1)	2.646 (1)	2.494 (1)	1.809 (6)	2.033 (5) 2.044 (5)	2.047 (5) 2.011 (5)	1.314 (8)	150.6 (4)	10
(Cp)WFe <sub>2</sub> (CO) <sub>8</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> R) <sup>f</sup>	2.897 (2) <sup>g</sup>	2.874 (3) <sup>g</sup>	2.503 (3)	1.999 (15)	2.025 (11) 2.011 (11)	2.091 (13) 2.086 (12)	1.30 (2)	163	28
(Cp)NiFe <sub>2</sub> (CO) <sub>8</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> Bu <sup>t</sup> )	2.610 (3)	2.564 (3) <sup>g</sup>	2.378 (3) <sup>g</sup>	1.813 (10)	2.010 (10) 1.929 (10)	2.060 (10) 2.034 (10)	1.284 (14)	155.8 (9)	32
(Cp)NiFe <sub>2</sub> (CO) <sub>8</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> Pr <sup>t</sup> ) <sup>h</sup>	2.608 (2)	2.504 (1) <sup>g</sup>	2.386 (1) <sup>g</sup>	1.818 (5)	2.024 (5) 1.964 (4)	2.034 (5) 2.031 (4)	1.278 (5)	151.6 (4)	this work
	2.608 (2)	2.504 (1) <sup>g</sup>	2.368 (1) <sup>g</sup>	1.800 (4)	2.012 (5) 1.963 (5)	2.045 (4) 2.025 (5)	1.281 (7)	152.6 (4)	this work this work
(Cp)NiFe <sub>2</sub> (CO) <sub>8</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> )(C <sub>2</sub> Bu <sup>t</sup> )	2.655 (2)	2.546 (2) <sup>g</sup>	2.404 (2) <sup>g</sup>	1.831 (8)	1.998 (9) 1.985 (8)	2.054 (8) 2.026 (8)	1.273 (11)	153.6 (4)	this work
(Cp) <sub>2</sub> Mo <sub>2</sub> Fe(CO) <sub>8</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> R <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>f</sup>	2.764 (1)	2.761 (1) <sup>g</sup>	2.732 (1) <sup>g</sup>	2.297 (3)	2.299 (3) 2.016 (2)	2.070 (3) 2.049 (3)	1.399 (4)	131.1 (2)	33
(Cp) <sub>2</sub> W <sub>2</sub> Fe(CO) <sub>8</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> R <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>f</sup>	2.747 (1)	2.745 (1) <sup>g</sup>	2.731 (1) <sup>g</sup>	2.264 (7)	2.289 (5) 2.011 (5)	2.040 (6) 2.052 (5)	1.399 (9)	130.7 (4)	27
(Cp) <sub>2</sub> (O)W <sub>2</sub> Fe(CO) <sub>8</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> R <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>f</sup>	2.848 (1)	2.677 (1) <sup>g</sup>	2.747 (2) <sup>g</sup>	2.259 (8)	2.480 (10) 2.027 (9)	2.046 (10) 2.017 (9)	1.441 (11)	124.2 (6)	27
Fe <sub>3</sub> (CO) <sub>9</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> Ph <sub>2</sub> )	2.501 (9)	2.480 (10)	2.579 (11)	2.048 (16)	2.043 (15) 2.098 (15)	1.945 (15) 1.947 (16)	1.409 (22)	126.9 (10)	2b
Fe <sub>3</sub> (CO) <sub>9</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> Et <sub>2</sub> )	2.4749 (5)	2.4734 (5)	2.5666 (5)	2.063 (3)	2.070 (3)	1.947 (3)	1.391 (4)	126.3 (1)	2e
Fe <sub>2</sub> Ru(CO) <sub>9</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> Ph <sub>2</sub> )	2.564 (2) <sup>g</sup>	2.582 (3) <sup>g</sup>	2.588 (3)	2.198 (17)	2.088 (12) 2.052 (13)	1.941 (16) 1.961 (12)	1.413 (20)	126.6	2d

<sup>a</sup>Bond distances are in Å and angles in deg. Structural key:



<sup>b</sup>Bridged M-M. <sup>c</sup>M<sub>σ</sub>-C<sub>α</sub> <sup>d</sup>M<sub>π</sub>-C<sub>α</sub> <sup>e</sup>M<sub>π</sub>-C<sub>β</sub> <sup>f</sup>R = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-Me-4 (*p*-tolyl). <sup>g</sup>Heterometallic edge. <sup>h</sup>Two independent molecules.

Table VII. Summary of Pertinent Intraskelatal Bond Lengths for Iron Acetylene (A) and Acetylide (B) Clusters<sup>a</sup>

	type A	type B
M <sub>σ</sub> -C <sub>α</sub> , Å	2.05-2.30	1.80-1.83
M <sub>π</sub> -C <sub>α</sub> (mean), Å	2.06-2.25	1.97-2.02
M <sub>π</sub> -C <sub>β</sub> (mean), Å	1.95-2.05	2.03-2.88
C≡C, Å	1.39-1.44	1.28-1.31
M <sub>σ</sub> -C <sub>α</sub> -C <sub>β</sub> , deg	90-130	150-165

<sup>a</sup>For A and B structural types see Chart I.

clude the following: homonuclear ( $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ )Fe<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>7</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}\equiv\text{CPh}$ ),<sup>29</sup> the anion [Fe<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}\equiv\text{COC(O)Me}$ )],<sup>10</sup> and heteronuclear ( $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$ )WFe<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>8</sub>( $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}\equiv\text{CR}$ ) (R = *p*-tolyl), as well as the new molecules 1 and 2. To facilitate comparisons, we have listed important structural parameters for these clusters in Table VI together with the skeletal key shown. Table VII provides a short summary of the range for iron complexes only of metal-carbon and carbon-carbon distances as well as the angles at C<sub>α</sub> and C<sub>β</sub> of the hydrocarbyls which indicate the distortion of the M<sub>σ</sub>-C<sub>α</sub>≡C<sub>β</sub>-C fragments from linearity. Several remarkable points arise from these comparisons. (i) Even through Table VII makes no allowance for differences in the π-bound metals, for iron clusters the Fe-C<sub>α</sub> distances all lie within the narrow range of 1.80-1.83 Å for

the acetylides and in a quite separate, much higher range of 2.05-2.30 Å for the  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp$ -acetylene complexes. (ii) There are major differences in the stereochemistry at the C<sub>α</sub> atom in the two series, with the intrapolyhedral Fe-C<sub>α</sub>-C<sub>β</sub> angle (150-165°) being much larger in the acetylide clusters than in the acetylenes (126-130°). (iii) Although the -C≡C- bond length is not always a sensitive probe of the perturbation of an acetylene or acetylide upon coordination, there are again two distinct ranges in Table VII, with the triple bonds being more elongated in the  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp$ -acetylenes. (iv) In general, metal π-interactions are stronger to C<sub>α</sub> in the acetylides and to C<sub>β</sub> in the acetylenes.

The net consequence of these distinctive features is that the C<sub>α</sub>-R fragment in the  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp$ -acetylene clusters approximates much more closely to an equatorial skeletal component of a trigonal bipyramid than the "bare" C<sub>α</sub> in the acetylides. Indeed, the Fe<sub>3</sub> acetylides show a closer resemblance to the Fe<sub>4</sub> cluster carbides such as [Fe(CO)<sub>12</sub>C]<sup>2-</sup> and [Fe<sub>4</sub>(CO)<sub>13</sub>C],<sup>14,30</sup> if a wingtip metal atom of the latter class is replaced by C<sub>β</sub>-R of the acetylide as illustrated in B and D (Chart I). In the tetrairon carbides

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$[\text{Fe}_4(\text{CO})_{12}(\mu_4\text{-C})]^{2-}$ ,  $[\text{HFe}_4(\text{CO})_{12}(\mu_4\text{-C})]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}_4(\text{CO})_{12}(\mu_4\text{-CO})]$ ,  $[\text{HFe}_4(\text{CO})_{12}(\mu_4\text{-CH})]$ , and  $[\text{HFe}_4(\text{CO})_{12}(\mu_4\text{-COCH}_3)]$ , the  $\mu_4$  carbon atom is semiencapsulated and almost colinear with the wingtip atoms ( $\text{Fe}-\mu_4\text{-C}-\text{Fe}$  angles lie in the range  $170-177^\circ$ ). These angles are somewhat larger than the corresponding  $\text{Fe}-\text{C}_\alpha-\text{C}_\beta$  angles ( $150-165^\circ$ ) in the acetylides, but the latter lie closer to the  $\text{Fe}_4$  carbides than the  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-}\perp$ -acetylides. The analogy can be taken a step further by recognizing that the formal attachment of a non-cluster-bound substituent  $\text{R}^+$  ( $\text{R} = \text{COOMe}$ ) on the  $\mu_4$ -carbide atom of  $[\text{Fe}_4(\text{CO})_{12}(\mu_4\text{-C})]^{2-}$  gives  $[\text{Fe}_4(\text{CO})_{12}(\mu_4\text{-COCOOME})]^-$ , an anion in which the wingtip- $(\mu_4\text{-C})$ -wingtip angle is  $148^\circ$ .<sup>31</sup> In the  $\text{Fe}_3$ -acetylide  $\text{M}_4$ -

carbide analogy this anion corresponds to the  $\text{Fe}_3(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-RC}\equiv\text{CR})$  structures. It will be interesting to see whether these structural analogies translate into patterns of chemical reactivity for the  $\text{M}_3(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-acetylides})$  similar to those of the butterfly carbides.

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**Supplementary Material Available:** Positional coordinates and isotropic thermal parameters for the hydrogen atoms of 1 (Table SI) and anisotropic thermal parameters for the non-hydrogen atoms of 1 and 2 (Tables SII and SIII, respectively) (3 pages); observed and calculated structure factors from the final cycle of least-squares refinement for 1 and 2 (Tables SIV and SV, respectively) (47 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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## Formation of Diaziridines by Reaction of $(\text{CO})_5\text{W}=\text{C}(\text{OMe})\text{Ph}$ with Electron-Deficient Azo Compounds

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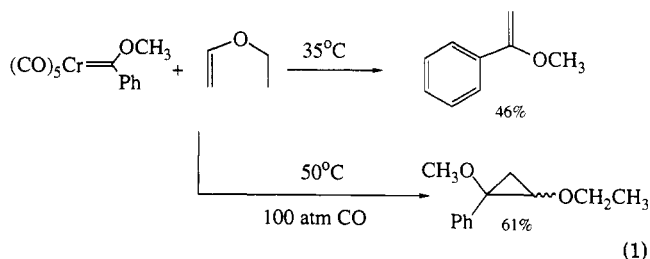
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The reaction between  $(\text{CO})_5\text{W}=\text{C}(\text{OMe})\text{Ph}$  (7) and 4-methyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione in acetonitrile results in the formation of two isomeric diaziridines 8a and 8b in a 2:1 ratio. The related azo compound diethyl azodicarboxylate also reacts with 7 to produce a diaziridine product. This reactivity of electron-poor azo compounds is analogous to the cyclopropanation of olefins and contrasts with the previously reported metathesis reaction of tungsten carbenes with *cis*-azobenzene.

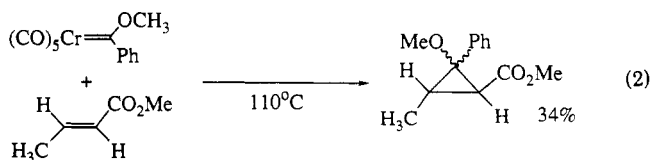
### Introduction

We previously reported the isolation of zwitterionic intermediate 4 in the azo metathesis reaction between  $(\text{CO})_5\text{W}=\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)\text{CH}_3$  (1) and *cis*-azobenzene (2).<sup>1</sup> The proposed mechanism involves initial nucleophilic attack of *cis*-azobenzene on the carbene complex to give 3, which then rearranges to give the observed zwitterionic species 4 (Scheme I). Cleavage of zwitterion 4 yields imino ether 5 and products derived from the low-valent nitrene complex 6.

The current work addresses the question of how the reaction manifold is altered when less nucleophilic azo compounds are reacted with Fischer carbenes. Olefins react with carbene complexes to produce mixtures of metathesis and cyclopropanation products,<sup>2</sup> depending on the reaction conditions and the nature of the olefin substrate. For example, the chromium carbene  $(\text{CO})_5\text{Cr}=\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)\text{Ph}$  undergoes metathesis with ethyl vinyl ether under mild conditions, but under a high pressure of CO, the metathesis pathway is shut down and only cyclopropanation occurs (eq 1).<sup>3</sup> When the electron-poor



methyl crotonate is used, the reaction pathway is cyclopropanation and no metathesis products are observed (eq 2).<sup>4</sup> The reaction between 1 and *cis*-azobenzene gives only



the azo metathesis product. We now have observed the equivalent of the cyclopropanation pathway for azo compounds. Reactions of  $(\text{CO})_5\text{W}=\text{C}(\text{OMe})\text{Ph}$  (7) with the more electron-deficient azo substrates 4-methyl-1,2,4-tri-

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