

Mononuclear Tris(aminopyridinato)zirconium Alkyl, Aryl, and Alkynyl Complexes

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Summary: The reaction of 3 equiv of 4-methyl-2-((trimethylsilyl)amino)pyridine (TMS-AP-H) with $(\text{Me}_2\text{N})_2\text{-ZrCl}_2(\text{THF})_2$ or the *in situ* lithiation of TMS-AP-H followed by addition of ZrCl_4 affords $(\text{TMS-AP})_3\text{Zr-Cl}$ (**1**) in high yield. The X-ray analysis of **1** reveals a mononuclear zirconium complex coordinated by six nitrogen atoms with an overall 3-fold molecule symmetry. The η^2 -coordinated aminopyridinato ligands arrange in a propeller-like fashion. The reactions of **1** with MeLi, phenyllithium, and (phenylethynyl)lithium afford the corresponding σ -alkyl, -aryl, and -alkynyl complexes $(\text{TMS-AP})_3\text{Zr-Me}$ (**2**), $(\text{TMS-AP})_3\text{Zr-Ph}$ (**3**), and $(\text{TMS-AP})_3\text{Zr-C}\equiv\text{CPh}$ (**4**). X-ray diffraction studies of **4** establish its monomeric structure, a long Zr–C bond distance, and a sterically shielded alkynyl ligand.

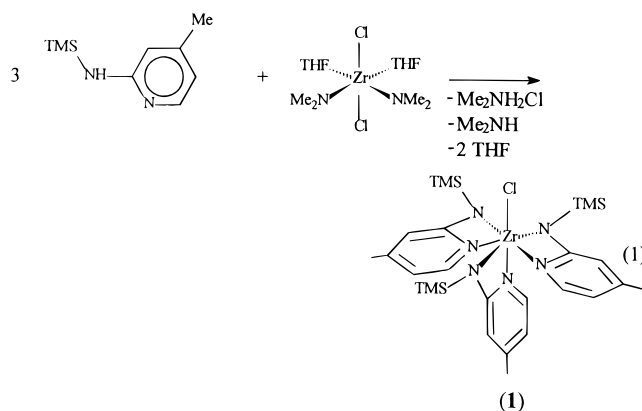
Introduction

Amido-based tripod ligand systems^{1–3} that form stable early transition metal complexes have gained a lot of attention. The ligands in these complexes shield a large sector of the coordination sphere and thus provide a "reactive pocket" for metal-supported activation and transformation reactions. Such complexes have been shown to activate small molecules like dinitrogen,⁴ to give rise to unusual transformation reactions,⁵ and to provide access to stable polar metal–metal bonds.⁶ With regard to their catalytic applications, we are currently examining the chemistry of early transition metal complexes that are reactive due to strained η^2 -coordinated aminopyridinato ligands.⁷ We expect the 4-methyl-2-((trimethylsilyl)amino)pyridinato

(TMS-AP) ligand with a "maximal steric angle" of 144° ⁸ to give rise to a propeller-like C_3 symmetric complex fragment containing a reactive pocket similar to those observed for tripod chelating ligands. Herein is reported the synthesis and structure of the first mononuclear zirconium complex that contains aminopyridinato ligands:⁹ $(\text{TMS-AP})_3\text{Zr-Cl}$ and its σ -alkyl, -aryl, and -alkynyl derivatives.

Results and Discussion

The reaction of 3 equiv of TMS-AP-H with mixed chloro(dialkylamido)zirconium complexes like $(\text{Me}_2\text{N})_2\text{-ZrCl}_2(\text{THF})_2$ (easily accessible by reacting $\text{Zr}(\text{NMe}_2)_4$ with ZrCl_4 in the presence of THF¹⁰) affords the colorless crystalline compound **1** (eq 1). A small amount $\text{Me}_2\text{NH}_2\text{Cl}$ is observed as a byproduct. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are indicative of an overall C_3 molecular symmetry, and elemental analysis is consistent with the formula $(\text{TMS-AP})_3\text{Zr-Cl}$.



The common synthetic procedure of ligand lithiation followed by adding of zirconium chloride leads to **1** in a high-yield reaction (eq 2). This observation is in contrast to synthetic protocols of titanium aminopyridinato complexes,⁷ where only very low yields could be obtained.

(8) The "maximal steric angle" was defined as the angle between the outermost H atoms of the pyridine ring, the metal at which the aminopyridinato ligand coordinates, and the outermost H atom of the substituent at the amido nitrogen in relation to the cone angle approach, which is widely used to evaluate the bulkiness of ligands. See also: Brown, T. L.; Lee, K. J. *Coord. Chem. Rev.* **1993**, *128*, 89.

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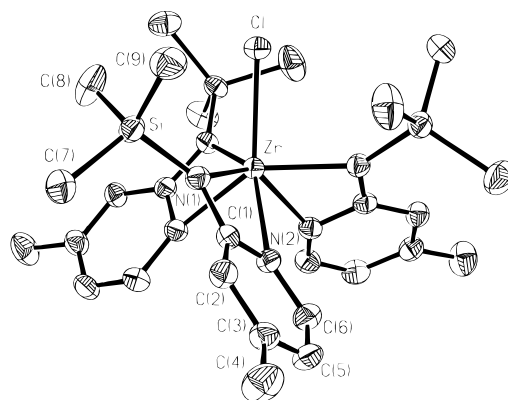
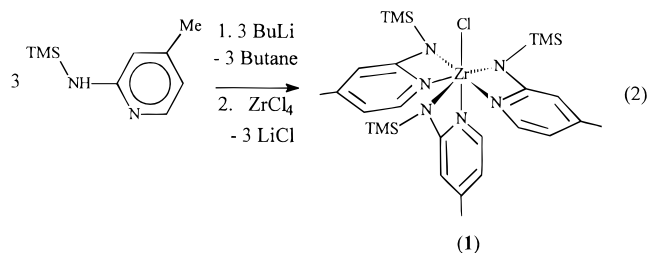


Figure 1. Structural representation of **1**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. The thermal ellipsoids correspond to 40% probability. Selected bond distances and angles: Zr–N(1) 2.209(2), Zr–N(2) 2.324(2), Zr–Cl 2.5160(14); N(1)–Zr–N(2) 59.59(9), N(1)–Zr–Cl 86.25(6), N(2)–Zr–Cl 131.22(6), C(6)–N(2)–C(1) 120.2(3), N(2)–C(1)–N(1) 110.8(3).

Table 1. Crystallographic Details of the X-ray Crystal Structure Analysis of 1 and 4

compd	1	4
cryst system	cubic	monoclinic
space group	$Pa\bar{3}$	$P2_1/n$ (No. 14)
<i>a</i> , Å	19.423(2)	11.914(2)
<i>b</i> , Å		20.364(2)
<i>c</i> , Å		17.419(2)
β , deg		100.48 (1)
<i>V</i> , Å ³	7327.4(1.3)	4102.4(9)
<i>Z</i>	24	4
cryst size, mm	0.4 × 0.4 × 0.2	0.4 × 0.3 × 0.3
fw	663.36	730.30
ρ_{calcd} , g cm ⁻³	1.203	1.167
μ , cm ⁻¹ (Mo K α)	4.92	3.80
<i>F</i> (000)	2779	1536
<i>T</i> , K	173	293
θ range, deg	2.3 < θ < 23.2	2.3 < θ < 25.0
scan type	$\omega/2\theta$	$\omega/2\theta$
no. of reflcns	5058	7659
no. of unique reflcns	1741	7284
no. of obsd reflcns ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	1358	4706
no. of params	115	351
<i>wR</i> ² (all data)	0.093	0.214
<i>R</i> value ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	0.032	0.073

bond lengths and angles observed for **1**. **4** is the first monoalkynylzirconium complexes,¹⁵ characterized by X-ray analysis, which has an amido ligand core. The Zr–C_{alkynyl} distance (2.281(7)Å) is slightly longer than the averaged Zr–C_{sp} bond (2.237(13)Å)¹⁶ length and indicates a weak Zr σ -alkynyl bond. The molecular structure of **4** verifies that the sterically demanding trimethylsilyl substituents of the ligand core do protect the metal–carbon bond.

Several conclusions can be drawn from this study. First, aminopyridinato ligands can stabilize a new type of monomolecular zirconium complexes due to the strained η^2 binding mode. Second, the tris(aminopyridinato)zirconium moiety forms stable alkyl, aryl, and alkynyl complexes. Third, the sterically demanding TMS groups of the ligand protect the metal–carbon σ -bonds by a propeller-like arrangement. We are continuing to explore the potential utility of aminopyridinato ligands for organometallic chemistry and extend our studies to other early transition metals.

(16) Sample mean and standard deviation of 6 Zr–C_{sp} bond distances by using QUEST and VISTA.¹⁹

Suitable crystals for X-ray diffraction studies of **1** can be obtained by slowly cooling a saturated ether solution to -30°C . The single-crystal X-ray structure analysis of **1** establishes its monomeric structure as shown in Figure 1 including principal bond distances and angles. Some important crystallographic features are listed in Table 1. **1** crystallizes in the quite uncommon cubic lattice system and is oriented along a 3-fold crystallographic axis. The Zr–Cl vector coincides with this axis, and the aminopyridinato ligands arrange in a propeller-like fashion around it. This kind of C_3 symmetric mononuclear zirconium complex coordinated by six nitrogen atoms constitutes a new structural type of zirconium complexes.¹¹ The $N_{\text{pyridine}}\text{--C--}N_{\text{amido}}$ angle ($110.8(3)^\circ$) reflects the strained bonding situation. The Zr–N2 distance (2.324(2) Å) is well in the range of such Zr– N_{pyridine} bonds (2.39(1) Å).¹² The Zr–N1 bond length (2.209(2) Å) is approximately 0.1 Å shorter than the averaged Zr– N_{amido} distance (2.11(1) Å)¹³ and indicates a weak amido bond. The nitrogen atoms have an almost planar geometry, as has been found in virtually all structurally characterized transition metal amido complexes.¹⁴ The interest in the tris(aminopyridinato)zirconium moiety is focused on the stabilization of σ -alkyl, -aryl, and -alkynyl complexes in order to study the stability of the zirconium carbon bonds with regard to metal-supported C–C coupling reactions which might lead to catalytic applications. The reactions of **1** with MeLi, phenyllithium, and (phenylethynyl)lithium afford the corresponding organometallic complexes, (TMS-AP)₃Zr–Me (**2**), (TMS-AP)₃Zr–Ph (**3**), and (TMS-AP)₃Zr–C \equiv CPh (**4**), as shown in Scheme 1. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in accordance with the formulations, and elemental analyses are consistent. An X-ray crystal structure analysis of **4** was carried out in order to evaluate the steric protection of the aminopyridinato ligand core with respect to the Zr–C and the C \equiv C triple bond. Suitable crystals for X-ray diffraction studies of **4** could be obtained by slowly cooling a saturated ether solution to -30°C . A perspective ORTEP drawing of the molecular structure of **4** is shown in Figure 2 including key bond distances and angles. Crystallographic details are listed in Table 1. The molecular structure of **4** is characterized by a monomeric propeller-like ligand core which is largely in accordance with the

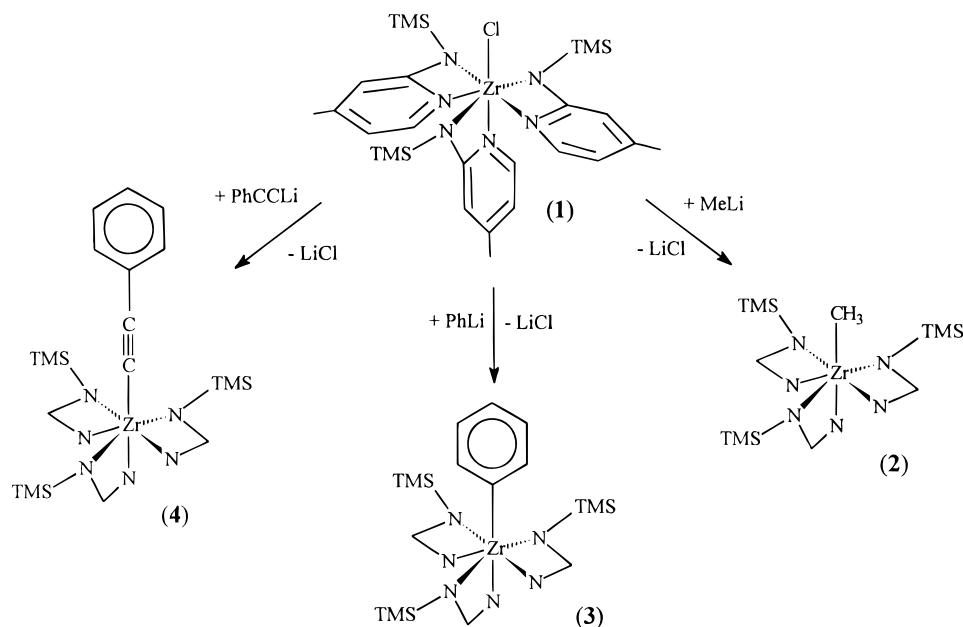
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(12) Sample mean and standard deviation of 18 Zr– N_{py} bond distances by using QUEST and VISTA.¹⁹

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Scheme 1. Synthesis of Tris(aminopyridinato)zirconium σ -Alkyl, -Aryl, and -Alkynyl Complexes

Experimental Section

Materials and Procedures. 4-Methyl-2-((trimethylsilyl)amino)pyridine⁷ was prepared according to a previously published procedure. All other reagents were obtained commercially and used as supplied. All manipulations of air-sensitive

materials were performed with rigorous exclusion of oxygen and moisture in dried Schlenk-type glassware on a dual manifold Schlenk line, interfaced to a high-vacuum line, or in an argon-filled Vacuum Atmospheres glovebox (mBraun lab-master 130) with a high-capacity recirculator (<1.5 ppm O₂). Solvents (Aldrich) and NMR solvents (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories all 99 atom % D) were freshly distilled from sodium tetraethylaluminate.

Physical Measurements. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ARX 400 instrument with variable-temperature unit. ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts are referenced to the solvent resonances and reported relative to TMS. ²⁹Si chemical shifts are reported relative to TMS. Melting points were determined in sealed capillaries on a Büchi 535 apparatus. Elemental analysis were performed with a Leco CHNS-932 elemental analyzer. X-ray diffraction data were collected on a CAD4 MACH3 diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo K α radiation. The crystals were mounted in a cold nitrogen stream or sealed inside a capillary. An absorption correction was carried out by a ψ -scan. The structure was solved by direct methods (SHELXS-86)¹⁷ and refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques against F^2 (SHELXL-93).¹⁸ XP (Siemens Analytical X-ray Instruments, Inc.) was used for structure representations.

(TMS-AP)₃Zr-Cl (1). To a solution of 4-methyl-2-((trimethylsilyl)amino)pyridine (6.56 mL, 22.4 mmol) in ether (35 mL) was added slowly via syringe a 1.6 M hexane solution of MeLi (14 mL, 22.4 mmol) at -70 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over a period of 20 min, ZrCl₄ (1.74 g, 7.46 mmol) was added over a period of 20 min, and the mixture was stirred for a further 5 h. A white solid precipitated. The solution was filtered, and the volume was reduced under vacuum to approximately 10 mL. Cooling to -30 °C overnight afforded a colorless crystalline material. Yield: 4.11 g, 6.18 mmol, 83%. ¹H NMR (303 K, C₆D₆) (δ): 7.26 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H-6); 6.24 (s, 1 H, H-3); 5.86 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1 H, H-5); 1.76 (s, 3 H, Me); 0.43 (s, 9 H, SiMe₃). ¹³C NMR (303 K, C₆D₆) (δ): 168.1 (C-2); 152.0 (C-4); 142.1 (C-6); 112.2 (C-3); 111.4 (C-5), 21.7 (Me); 1.2 (SiMe₃). Anal. Calcd

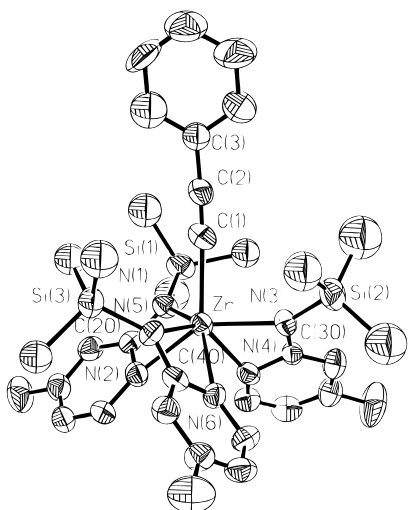


Figure 2. Perspective ORTEP drawing of the molecular structure of **4**. All non-hydrogen atoms are represented by thermal ellipsoids drawn to encompass 40% probability. Selected bond distances and angles: C(1)–C(2) 1.184(9), C(1)–Zr 2.281(7), C(2)–C(3) 1.453(9), C(20)–N(1) 1.356(8), C(20)–N(2) 1.359(7), C(24)–N(2) 1.338(8), C(30)–N(3) 1.354(8), C(30)–N(4) 1.368(8), C(34)–N(4) 1.340(8), C(40)–N(5) 1.351(8), C(40)–N(6) 1.354(8), C(40)–C(41) 1.424(9), C(44)–N(6) 1.335(7), N(1)–Si(1) 1.730(5), N(1)–Zr 2.210(5), N(2)–Zr 2.318(5), N(3)–Zr 2.198(5), N(4)–Zr 2.299(5), N(5)–Zr 2.202(5), N(6)–Zr 2.314(5); C(2)–C(1)–Zr 170.2(7), C(1)–C(2)–C(3) 176.9(8), N(1)–C(20)–N(2) 110.0(5), N(3)–C(30)–N(4) 110.1(5), N(5)–C(40)–N(6) 110.9(5), C(30)–N(3)–Si(2) 128.1(4), N(3)–Zr–N(5) 121.8(2), N(3)–Zr–N(1) 118.5(2), N(5)–Zr–N(1) 119.0(2), N(3)–Zr–N(4) 59.4(2), N(5)–Zr–N(4) 138.9(2), N(1)–Zr–N(4) 80.7(2), N(3)–Zr–N(6) 81.4(2), N(5)–Zr–N(6) 59.1(2), N(1)–Zr–N(6) 141.0(2), N(4)–Zr–N(6) 82.6(2), N(3)–Zr–N(2) 139.9(2), N(5)–Zr–N(2) 80.2(2), N(1)–Zr–N(2) 58.7(2), N(4)–Zr–N(2) 81.7(2), N(6)–Zr–N(2) 84.1(2).

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for $C_{27}H_{45}ClN_6Si_3Zr$: C, 48.79; H, 6.82; N, 12.64. Found: C, 49.07; H, 6.42; N, 12.65.

(TMS-AP)₃Zr-Me (2). To a solution of **1** (0.33 g, 0.50 mmol) in ether (30 mL) was added slowly via syringe a 1.6 M hexane solution of MeLi (310 μ L, 0.50 mmol) at -70°C . The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over a period of 20 min and stirred for another 3 h. A white solid precipitated. The solution was filtered, and the volume was reduced under vacuum to approximately 10 mL. Cooling to -30°C afforded overnight a colorless crystalline material. Yield: 0.206 g, 0.32 mmol, 64%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (303 K, C_6D_6) (δ): 7.38 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 3 H, H-6); 6.26 (s, 3 H, H-3); 5.85 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 3 H, H-5); 1.76 (s, 9 H, Me); 0.93 (s, 3 H, Me-Zr); 0.38 (s, 27 H, SiMe₃). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (303 K, C_6D_6) (δ): 168.9 (C-2); 151.4 (C-4); 142.8 (C-6); 112.0 (C-3), (111.5 C-5), 47.6 (Me-Zr); 21.6 (Me); 1.1 (SiMe₃). Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{48}N_6Si_3Zr$: C, 52.21; H, 7.51; N, 13.05. Found: C, 52.19; H, 7.60; N, 13.06.

(TMS-AP)₃Zr-Ph (3). To a solution of **1** (0.41 g, 0.62 mmol) in ether (30 mL) was added slowly via syringe a 1.8 M hexane solution of phenyllithium (350 μ L, 0.63 mmol) at -70°C . The color changed to light yellow immediately. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over a period of 30 min and stirred for another 18 h. A white solid precipitated. The solution was filtered, and the volume was reduced under vacuum to approximately 10 mL. Cooling to -30°C afforded overnight a yellow crystalline material. Yield: 0.30 g, 0.42 mmol, 68%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (303 K, C_6D_6) (δ): 7.97 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2 H, *o*-Ph); 7.64 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 3 H, H-6); 7.30 (tr, 2 H, *m*-Ph); 7.20 (m, 1 H, *p*-Ph); 6.30 (s, 3 H, H-3); 5.92 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 3 H, H-5); 1.76 (s, 9 H, Me); 0.20 (s, 27 H, SiMe₃). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (303 K, C_6D_6) (δ): 190.5 (*ipso*-Ph); 171.3 (C-2); 151.7 (C-4); 143.7 (C-6); 135.9 (*o*-Ph); 126.7 (*m*-Ph); 126.0 (*p*-Ph); 112.7 (C-3); 111.4 (C-5), 21.6 (Me); 1.3 (SiMe₃). Anal.

Calcd for $C_{33}H_{50}N_6Si_3Zr$: C 56.12; H, 7.14; N, 11.94. Found: C, 56.13; H, 7.33; N, 11.94.

(TMS-AP)₃Zr-C \equiv CPh (4). To a solution of phenylacetylene (109 μ L, 1.00 mmol) in ether (30 mL) was added slowly via syringe a 1.6 M hexane solution of MeLi (0.62 mL, 1.00 mmol) at -70°C . The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred over a period of 1 h. **1** (0.66 g, 1.00 mmol) was added slowly, and the mixture was stirred for a further 18 h. A white solid precipitated. The solution was filtered, and the volume was reduced under vacuum to approximately 10 mL. Cooling to -30°C afforded overnight a colorless crystalline material. Yield: 0.49 g, 0.67 mmol, 67%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (303 K, C_6D_6) (δ): 7.75 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H, *o*-Ph); 7.35 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 3H, H-6); 7.11 (tr, 2 H, *m*-Ph); 6.98 (tr, 1 H, *p*-Ph); 6.26 (s, 3 H, H-3); 5.89 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 3 H, H-5); 1.77 (s, 9 H, Me); 0.51 (s, 27 H, SiMe₃). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (303 K, C_6D_6) (δ): 168.2 (C-2); 151.8 (C-4); 142.8 (C-6); 111.9, 111.6 (C-3, C-5), 21.3 (Me); 0.9 (SiMe₃); 152.5, 103.9 (C \equiv C); 131.4, 128.5, 126.3 (*o*-, *m*-, *p*-Ph); 127.3 (*ipso*-Ph). IR (Nujol): 2078 (C \equiv C) cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $C_{35}H_{50}N_6Si_3Zr$: C, 57.56; H, 6.90; N, 11.51. Found: C, 57.28; H, 6.80; N, 11.52.

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Supporting Information Available: Tables of crystal data, positional parameters, full bond distances and angles, and thermal parameters (16 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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