Cp₂NbH₂SbPh₂: Synthesis and Structure of the First Antimony-Substituted Niobocene

Georgii I. Nikonov,*,† Lyudmila G. Kuzmina,^{‡,§} and Judith A. K. Howard[‡]

Chemistry Department, Moscow State University, Vorob'evy Gory, 119899 Moscow, Russia, and University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, U.K.

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Summary: The first antimony-substituted niobocene, $Cp_2NbH_2SbPh_2$ (2), was prepared by the reaction of $ClSbPh_2$ of Cp_2NbH_3 in the presence of amine. The molecular structure of 2 is reported.

Antimony-substituted transition metal complexes are much less studied than the corresponding phosphorus and arsenic derivatives.^{1–5} Their chemistry is mainly presented by the cluster compounds,1 whereas terminal antimony ligands are very rare.²⁻⁵ Moreover, only few complexes with the terminal $M-SbR_2$ (R = alkyl, aryl) groups are known,³ and none of them have been structurally characterized.⁴ To the best of our knowledge, only one hydridostibide compound, the iridium complex Ir(CO)ClH(PEt₃)₂(SbH₂), has been reported.⁵ This compound was prepared by oxidative addition of SbH₃ and is unstable at room temperature. The lack of stable stibines HSbR₂^{6,7} prevents the synthesis of other hydridostibide compounds H-M-SbR₂ by oxidative addition of the H-Sb bond, and thus alternative routes are required. We have shown recently that the insertion^{8–10} of halides of group 15 organyls XER₂ (E = P, As, Bi; X = Cl, Br) into the M-H bond of Cp_2MH_3

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Addition of $ClSbPh_2$ to an ether solution of Cp_2NbH_3 results in the expected precipitation of an orange material, eq 1. The NMR spectra revealed formation



of an ionic complex [Cp₂NbH₂(HSbPh₂)]Cl (1) together with a mixture of some other hydride derivatives, the structures of which are at present unknown. This result is in contrast to the high selectivity of the formation of $[Cp_2MH_2(HPR_2)]Cl (M = Nb, Ta) and [Cp_2NbH_2(HAsR_2)]$ -Br by the analogous insertion of halophosphines and arsines into the M-H bond. The lack of selectivity in reaction 1 can be attributed either to impurities in the starting $ClSbPh_2^{11}$ or to the inherent instability of **1**. Indeed, complex 1 decomposes when kept in the mother liquor. The decomposition is especially noticeable when THF is added. However, in the form of a dry solid, complex 1 can be kept under inert atmosphere for some days. To summarize our study on the complexes of the type $[Cp_2NbH_2(HER_2)]Hal (E = P, ^8 As, ^9 Sb, Bi^{10})$ the order of stability can be written as follows: [Cp₂- $NbH_2(HPR_2)$]Cl > [Cp₂NbH₂(HAsR₂)]Br > [Cp₂NbH₂- $(HSbR_2)$]Cl > [Cp₂NbH₂(HBiR₂)]Cl. Evidently, this order of stability correlates with the decrease of basicity of the related hydrides HER₂.

The structure of **1** was established by the ¹H NMR spectrum and in comparison with the corresponding data for $[Cp_2NbH_2(HPR_2)]Cl^{8a}$ and $[Cp_2NbH_2(HASR_2)]$ -Br.⁹ The Cp ligands give rise to a singlet at 5.54 ppm (integrated as 10), while the hydride resonance was found at -2.45 ppm (integrated as 2). The phenyl protons give rise to multiplets at 8.17 and 7.24 ppm. The Sb-H signal was not observed, apparently due to

[†] Moscow University.

[‡] University of Durham.

[§] Permanent address: Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry, RAS, Leninsky prosp. 31, 117907 Moscow, Russia.

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⁽¹¹⁾ Compound ClSbPh₂ was obtained in the form of a viscous oil by the reaction of SbPh₃ with SbCl₃. This procedure was reported¹² to give ClSbPh₂ in near quantitative yield, but isolation of this product in the undoubtedly pure crystalline form is complicated because of its low melting point. Thus, in this study ClSbPh₂ was used as prepared. Since there is no way to check the purity of this material, we cannot exclude that it contains some impurities (SbCl₃, Cl₂SbPh, and SbPh₃) amenable to the reaction with Cp₂NbH₃.

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Figure 1. Molecular structure of 2.

the fast proton for deuterium exchange with the solvent.^{8a} However, the presence of the Sb-H bond was confirmed by the band at 1856 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectrum.

The precipitate obtained in reaction 1 was treated with aqueous NaOH to give a mixture of hydride compounds, the predominant component being Cp₂- NbH_2SbPh_2 (2). Complex 2 was also made by the reaction of ClSbPh₂ with Cp₂NbH₃ in the presence of NEt₃ (eq 2). Compound **2** was isolated in the crystalline



form from an ether solution and studied by means of spectroscopic methods and X-ray diffraction analysis. The ¹H NMR (benzene- d_6) spectrum of **2** reveals the Cp proton signal at 4.56 ppm and the resonance due to the Nb-H protons at -3.18 ppm. The presence of the Nb-H bond is also supported by the band at 1739 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectrum. Complex 2 is a yellow air-sensitive compound, quite stable at room temperature under inert atmosphere both as a solid and in solution. This thermal stability of 2 is analogous to that of Cp₂NbH₂-AsEt₂⁹ and is in contrast to the instability of Cp₂NbH₂-BiPh₂.¹⁰ Complex **2** is even stable when heated at 50 °C for 1 h, however, it decomposes in reflux THF after 16 h to give a mixture of unidentified products. In contrast, the previously reported hydridostibide complex Ir(CO)ClH(PEt₃)₂(SbH₂) decomposes at room temperature.⁵

Complex 2 is the first example of a compound having neighboring M-H and M-SbR₂ groups. Also, no stibide complexes L_nM-SbR_2 (R = alkyl, arul) have been studied structurally yet,⁴ which prompted the X-ray diffraction analysis of 2. The molecular structure of 2 is shown in Figure 1, and the selected bond distances and bond angles are given in Table 1. The crystal

Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg)

(ucg)				
	Nb(1)-Sb(1)	2.8929(4)	Nb(1)-H(1)	1.635
	Nb(1)-H(2)	1.692	Nb(1)-C(1)	2.400(4)
	Nb(1)-C(3)	2.378(4)	Nb(1)-C(2)	2.399(4)
	Nb(1)-C(5)	2.404(4)	Nb(1)-C(4)	2.372(4)
	Nb(1) - C(7)	2.408(4)	Nb(1) - C(6)	2.398(4)
	Nb(1) - C(10)	2.422(4)	Nb(1)-C(8)	2.396(4)
	Sb(1) - C(11)	2.175(4)	Nb(1) - C(9)	2.403(4)
	Sb(1)-C(21)	2.187(4)		
ŀ	H(1)-Nb(1)-H(2)	122.6	C(11)-Sb(1)-C(21)	94.32(14)
C	C(11) - Sb(1) - Nb(1)	106.05(10)	C(21)-Sb(1)-Nb(1)	105.95(10)

structures of some related complexes Cp₂TaH₂SiPhMe₂,¹³ Cp2TaH2PPh2,8b and Cp2NbH2AsEt29 were reported earlier. Complex **2** is a typical trisubstituted d⁰ niobocene with a central position of the stibido group and the Nb–Sb distance of 2.8929(4) Å. This bond length is 0.067 Å less than the calculated distance of 2.96 Å (obtained by combining the niobocene radius of 1.55 Å¹⁴ with the Sb covalent radius of 1.41 Å^{15}). It is also noteworthy that the Sb-C(11) and Sb-C(21) bond lengths of 2.175(4) and 2.187(4) Å are longer than the calculated value of 2.08 Å obtained by combining the Sb covalent radius of 1.41 Å with the sp² carbon radius of 0.67 Å.¹⁵ These observations can be attributed to the higher Sb s orbital character in the Nb-Sb bond and hence higher Sb p orbital contribution into the Sb–Ph bonds. Earlier Bulychev et al. showed that the M-Sn bonds (M = Mo, W, Ta) were shortened due to the high contribution of the Sn s orbital.¹⁶ The geometry around antimony can be described as pyramidal with the stereoactive lone pair of the Sb directed toward one of the Cp rings, thus minimizing repulsion from the Nb–H bonds. Two hydrides were also located and refined isotropically to the distances 1.635 and 1.692 Å, close to that found for Cp₂NbH₃ (average 1.69(4) Å, X-ray diffraction study).¹⁷ The true Nb-H bond length is probably about 0.1 Å longer and is close to the average Ta-H bond length of 1.773 Å found in Cp₂TaH₃¹⁷ (neutron diffraction study). The H(1')-Nb-H(2') angle of 122.6° in **2** is close to that in Cp_2NbH_3 (126(3)°) but is greater than the H–Nb–H angle in Cp₂NbH₂AsEt₂⁹ (112.1°), which in turn is larger than the corresponding angle in Cp₂TaH₂PPh₂^{8b} (102.0°). The decrease of the H–M–H angle in complexes of the type $Cp_2MH_2ER_2$ (E = P, As) may be due to a weak bonding interaction of the M–H bonds with the p_{E-C}^* antibonding orbital of the ER_2 moiety that is mainly located on atom E. This orbital is collinear with the C(11)-C(21) vector (C(11), C(21)—carbons connected with atom E) and thus almost exactly lays in the bisecting plane of the Cp₂M moiety in all three structures studied. This weak secondary interaction should decrease with the increase of the M–E bond length, i.e., in the order P > As > Sb.

In summary, we have prepared the first antimonysubstituted group 5 metallocene complex Cp₂NbH₂-SbPh₂. This compound has a unique combination of neighboring M–H and M–SbR₂ groups and is the first

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Table 2. Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for 2

empirical formula	C22H22NbSb			
fw	501.06			
color, habit	light-yellow, prism			
cryst size	$0.04 \times 0.06 \times 0.18$			
cryst syst	monoclinic			
space group	$P2_{1}/n$			
unit cell dimens				
<i>a</i> , Å	9.1912(2)			
b, Å	16.3299(3)			
c, Å	12.5275(3)			
β , deg	99.412(1)			
volume, Å ³	1854.96(7)			
Ζ	4			
density (calcd), g/cm ³	1.794			
abs coeff, mm^{-1}	2.074			
<i>F</i> (000)	984			
diffractometer	Siemens Smart			
temperature, K	150.0(2)			
radiation, (λ Å)	Μο Κα (0.710 73)			
scan mode	ω			
scan step (in ω), deg	0.3			
time per step, s	30			
θ range for data collection,	2.07-29.00			
deg				
index ranges	$-12 \le h \le 11, -20 \le k \le 22,$			
-	$-17 \leq l \leq 17$			
no. of reflns collected	14 502			
no. of independent reflns	4885 [$R(int) = 0.0579$]			
abs corr	empirical			
max transmission	0.497 10			
min transmission	0.405 31			
refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on F^2			
data/restraints/params	4481/0/226			
goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.072			
final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	R1 = 0.0379, $wR2 = 0.0626$			
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0645, wR2 = 0.0761			
ext coeff	0.00056(11)			

complex with the M-SbR₂ group that was studied by X-ray diffraction analysis.

Experimental Section

All manipulations were carried out using conventional Schlenck techniques. Solvents were dried over sodium or sodium benzophenone ketyl. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian VXR-400 spectrometer (1H, 400 MHz; 13C, 100.4 MHz). IR spectra were obtained in Nujol with a FTIR Perkin-Elmer 1600 series spectrometer. SbCl₃ and SbPh₃ were purchased from Aldrich. ClSbPh₂ was prepared according to the literature method.¹² Cp₂NbH₃ was prepared by the modified procedure as reported earlier.8a

Reaction of Cp₂NbH₃ with ClSbPh₂ To Give [Cp₂NbH₂-(SbHPh₂)]Cl (1). A solution of 1.03 g (4.56 mmol) of Cp₂NbH₃ in 70 mL of ether was added to 1.70 g (5.46 mmol) of ClSbPh₂ in 10 mL of ether. An orange precipitate was formed immediately. In 3 min, the solution was filtered and the residue was washed by 10 mL of ether. Yield: 1.55 g (mixture of 1

and two more cyclopentadienylhydride compounds). [Cp2-NbH₂(HSbPh₂)]Cl. IR (Nujol): v_{Sb-H} 1856, v_{Nb-H} 1637 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (acetone- d_6): 8.17 (d, $J_{H-H} = 6.0$ Hz, 4, Ph), 7.24 (m, 6, Ph), 5.54 (s, 10, Cp), -2.45 (s, 2, Nb-H).

Preparation of Cp₂NbH₂SbPh₂ (2). An ether solution of ClSbPh₂ (40 mL), prepared in situ¹² from 0.174 g (0.764 mmol) of SbCl₃ and 0.540 g (1.528 mmol) of SbPh₃), was added to a mixture of 0.540 g (2.292 mmol) of Cp₂NbH₃ and 1 mL of NEt₃ in 30 mL of ether. An orange precipitate is formed immediately. The mixture was stirred for 30 min. The solution was filtered, and the residue was washed by 15 mL of ether. Yellow crystals were formed from an ether solution after some hours at room temperature. Yield: 0.117 g (0.238 mmol, 10%).

IR (Nujol): $v_{\text{Nb-H}} = 1739 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ¹H NMR (benzene-*d*₆): 7.98 (dd, $J_{H-H} = 7.8$, $J_{H-H} = 1.5$ Hz, 4, Ph), 7.23 (dt, $J_{H-H} = 8.1$, $J_{\rm H-H} = 1.2$ Hz, 4, Ph), 4.56 (s, 10, Cp), -3.18 (s, 2, Nb–H). ¹³C NMR (benzene-d₆): 137.49, 126.17, 129.20, 89.57 (Cp). Anal. Calcd for C22H22NbSb: C, 52.81; H, 4.43. Found: C, 52.59; H, 4.40.

Crystal Structure Determination of 2. The yellow crystals of 2 were grown from an ether solution. The crystals were covered by polyperfluor oil and mounted directly to the Siemens three-circle diffractometer with CCD area detector (SMART system) at -120 °C. The crystallographic data are given in Table 2. The structure amplitudes for 4885 independent reflections were obtained after the Lorentz and polarization corrections. An empirical absorbtion correction based on measurements of equivalent reflections was applied. The structure was solved by heavy-atom methods¹⁸ and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures,¹⁹ using $(F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2$ as the refined function. All hydrogen atoms were found from the difference map. In the final cycles of refinement, all the nonhydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic temperature parameters. The hydride ligands were refined isotropically, other hydrogen atoms were refined using the riding scheme with $B_{iso} = 1.2B_{eq}$ of the corresponding C atoms. The largest residuals in the final difference Fourier map were about 0.8 Å³, and the location and magnitude of the residual electron density was of no chemical significance.

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Supporting Information Available: Tables of nonhydrogen atom positional parameters, bond distances and angles, anisotropic thermal parameters for non-hydrogen atoms, and hydrogen atom positional and isotropic displacement parameters for 2 (4 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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