

# Synthesis, Characterization, and Reactivity Study of Triosmium Acetylide Cluster Complexes Bearing a $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2$ Fragment

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**Summary:** The heterometallic cluster compound  $(C_5Me_5)W(\mu-O)_2Os_3(\mu-CCPh)(CO)_9$  (**1**), which possesses two edge-bridging oxo groups and an acetylide ligand in a  $\mu-\eta^2$  mode, has been obtained by addition of  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2(CCPh)$  to  $Os_3(CO)_{10}(NCMe)_2$ . The subsequent reactivity studies led to the isolation of  $Cp^*W(\mu-O)_2Os_3(\mu-H)(CO)_9$  (**2**) and  $Cp^*W(O)(\mu-O)Os_3(CCPh)(CO)_9$  (**3**) through hydrogenation and treatment with pressurized CO, respectively. The structures of **1** and **3** reveal two distinctive bonding modes for the  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2$  fragment on an  $Os_3$  skeleton.

Organometallic complexes containing oxo ligands serve as realistic models for metal-mediated oxidation and other homogeneous and heterogeneous reactions with high-valent metal species as catalysts.<sup>1</sup> As a result, a large number of transition-metal oxo complexes have been synthesized; their reactivities with organic substrates have been explored.<sup>2</sup> The critical information obtained has helped chemists to better understand the mechanism of these oxidation reactions catalyzed by discrete oxometal complexes.<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, the second approach is to synthesize complexes bearing both oxo and hydrocarbyl ligands and to examine the role of oxo ligands on the chemical reactivity of such complexes. The investigation on the chemistry of a heterometallic complex with the formula  $CpW(\mu-O)Os_3(\mu_3-CCH_2Tol)(CO)_9$ ,<sup>4</sup> which was prepared from the direct C–O bond

cleavage of an acyl functional group, provides a remarkable milestone of this indirect approach.

In this study, we wish to report the synthesis and identification of three  $WO_3$  cluster complexes which were prepared from a sequence initiated by combining the dioxo acetylide complex  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2(CCPh)_5$  and the lightly stabilized triosmium complex  $Os_3(CO)_{10}(NCMe)_2$ .<sup>6</sup> The products obtained inherit a  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2$  fragment from their starting materials; therefore, their structural and reactivity properties would differ greatly from those of the previously reported  $WO_3$  oxo-alkylidyne compounds<sup>4</sup> as well as our  $WRe_2$  and  $WRe$  oxo-acetylide complexes,<sup>7</sup> which possess only one oxo ligand in either an edge-bridging or terminal mode.

## Experimental Section

**General Information and Materials.** Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 2000 FT-IR spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-400 (400.13 MHz) or a Bruker AMX-300 (300.6 MHz) instrument. Mass spectra were obtained on a JEOL-HX110 instrument operating in the fast atom bombardment mode (FAB). All reactions were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere using solvents dried with an appropriate reagent. The products were separated on commercially available preparative thin-layer chromatographic plates (Kieselgel 60 F<sub>254</sub>, E. Merck). Elemental analyses were performed at the NSC Regional Instrumentation Center at National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan.

**Reaction of  $Os_3(CO)_{10}(NCMe)_2$  with  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2(CCPh)$ .** A toluene solution (60 mL) of  $Os_3(CO)_{10}(NCMe)_2$  (247 mg, 0.265 mmol) and  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2(CCPh)$  (100 mg, 0.224 mmol) was heated at 80 °C for 30 min. The solvent was removed under vacuum, the mixture was dissolved in a minimum amount of  $CH_2Cl_2$ , and this solution was subjected to thin-layer chromatography with a 1:1 mixture of  $CH_2Cl_2$  and hexane, affording 160 mg of orange  $(C_5Me_5)W(\mu-O)_2Os_3(\mu-CCPh)(CO)_9$  (**1**; 0.125 mmol, 56%). Crystals of complex **1** suitable for X-ray diffraction study were recrystallized from a mixture of  $CH_2Cl_2$  and methanol at room temperature.

Spectral data for **1** are as follows. MS (FAB, <sup>184</sup>W, <sup>192</sup>Os):  $m/z$  1280 ( $M^+$ ). IR ( $C_6H_{12}$ ):  $\nu(CO)$  2088 (m), 2069 (vs), 2026 (vs), 2003 (s, br), 1969 (m), 1933 (w)  $cm^{-1}$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 297 K):  $\delta$  7.38–7.20 (m, 5H), 2.12 (s, 15H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 297 K):  $\delta$  186.8 (1CO,  $J_{WC} = 9$  Hz), 185.1 (2CO), 178.3 (2CO), 172.8 (2CO), 169.5 (2CO);  $\delta$  130.9 (2C, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 128.5 (1C, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 128.4 (2C, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 127.9 (1C,

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*i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 115.8 (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 102.9 (CCPh), 75.6 (CCPh), 12.2 (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Os<sub>3</sub>W: C, 25.31; H, 1.57. Found: C, 25.31; H, 1.61.

**Hydrogenation of 1.** A toluene solution (30 mL) of (C<sub>5</sub>-Me<sub>5</sub>)W(*μ*-O)<sub>2</sub>Os<sub>3</sub>(*μ*-CCPh)(CO)<sub>9</sub> (**1**; 107 mg, 0.084 mmol) was heated under a hydrogen atmosphere (50 psig) at 100 °C for 2 h, during which the color changed from orange to orange-red. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was taken up in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and subjected to chromatographic workup on TLC plates using a 1:1 mixture of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and hexane, giving 38 mg of orange-red (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)W(*μ*-O)<sub>2</sub>Os<sub>3</sub>(*μ*-H)(CO)<sub>9</sub> (**2**; 0.032 mmol, 39%). Crystals of **2** were obtained from a mixture of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and methanol at room temperature.

Spectral data for **2** are as follows. MS (FAB, <sup>184</sup>W, <sup>192</sup>Os): *m/z* 1180 (M<sup>+</sup>). IR (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>): ν(CO) 2094 (m), 2069 (s), 2056 (vw), 2024 (vs), 2013 (s), 2005 (m), 1987 (w), 1958 (m), 1936 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 297 K): δ 2.07 (s, 15H), -15.71 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 297 K): CO δ 192.6, 184.0 (2CO), 174.7 (2CO), 172.0 (2CO), 169.1 (2CO); δ 116.5 (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 11.8 (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Os<sub>3</sub>W: C, 19.43; H, 1.37. Found: C, 19.49; H, 1.41.

**Treatment of 1 with CO.** A toluene solution (35 mL) of (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)W(*μ*-O)<sub>2</sub>Os<sub>3</sub>(*μ*-CCPh)(CO)<sub>9</sub> (**1**; 107 mg, 0.084 mmol) was placed in a 100 mL stainless steel Parr high-pressure reactor and then charged with 800 psig of CO atmosphere. After the temperature was increased to 80 °C, the solution was continuously stirred for 2 h. The CO was then released, and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*; the residue was taken up in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and separated by thin-layer chromatography (1:1 CH<sub>2</sub>-Cl<sub>2</sub>-hexane), giving 87 mg of orange (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)W(O)(*μ*-O)-Os<sub>3</sub>(CCPh)(CO)<sub>11</sub> (**3**; 0.065 mmol, 77%) and 7 mg of (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)W(O)<sub>2</sub>(CCPh) (0.016 mmol, 19%). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction study were recrystallized from a mixture of CHCl<sub>3</sub> and methanol at room temperature.

Spectral data for **3** are as follows. MS (FAB, <sup>184</sup>W, <sup>192</sup>Os): *m/z* 1336 (M<sup>+</sup>). IR (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>): ν(CO) 2119 (w), 2092 (vs), 2045 (vs), 2019 (vs), 2012 (s), 1989 (s), 1979 (m), 1975 (w), 1967 (vw), 1958 (vw) cm<sup>-1</sup>, ν(CC) 2141 (vw) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 297 K): δ 7.25 (d, 2H, J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.3 Hz), 7.17 (t, 2H, J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.3 Hz), 7.06 (t, 1H, J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.3 Hz), 2.10 (s, 15H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 297 K): CO δ 193.3, 189.0, 186.9, 183.5, 178.9, 177.7 (2C), 176.7, 174.5, 173.1, 162.7; δ 131.4 (2C, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 127.7 (2C, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 127.1 (1C, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 125.7 (1C, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 117.1 (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>), 112.2 (CCPh), 65.3 (CCPh), 11.5 (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>13</sub>Os<sub>3</sub>W: C, 26.17; H, 1.51. Found: C, 26.08; H, 1.59.

**Thermolysis of 3.** A toluene solution (30 mL) of **3** (48 mg, 0.036 mmol) was heated at 100 °C for 2 h, during which time the color changed from yellow to light orange. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was dissolved in 3 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Workup of the mixture on TLC plates using a 1:2 mixture of dichloromethane and hexane gave 32 mg of **1** (0.024 mmol, 67%) followed by 2 mg of unreacted **3** (0.002 mmol, 4%).

**X-ray Crystallography.** The X-ray diffraction measurements were carried out on a Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer at room temperature. Lattice parameters were determined from 25 randomly selected high-angle reflections. Three standard reflections were monitored every 3600 s. No significant change in intensities (≤2%) was observed during the course of data collection. Intensities of the diffraction signals were corrected for Lorentz, polarization, and absorption effects ( $\psi$  scans). The structure was solved by using the NRCC-SDP-VAX package. All of the non-hydrogen atoms had anisotropic temperature factors, while the hydrogen atoms of the organic substituents were placed at the calculated positions with  $U_H = U_C + 0.1$ . The crystallographic refinement parameters of complexes **1** and **3** are given in Table 1, while their selected bond distances and angles are presented in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

**Table 1.** X-ray Structural Data for Complexes **1** and **3**<sup>a</sup>

compd	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
formula	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>11</sub> Os <sub>3</sub> W	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>13</sub> Os <sub>3</sub> W
mol wt	1274.88	1330.91
cryst syst	orthorhombic	monoclinic
space group	<i>Pbca</i>	<i>P2<sub>1</sub>/n</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	18.392(8)	12.417(4)
<i>b</i> (Å)	19.453(4)	12.468(5)
<i>c</i> (Å)	33.906(9)	21.896(3)
$\beta$ (deg)		95.26(3)
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	12 131(7)	3376(2)
<i>Z</i>	16	4
<i>D<sub>c</sub></i> (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2.792	2.619
<i>F</i> (000)	9068	2379
2 $\theta$ (max) (deg)	45.0	50.0
<i>hkl</i> ranges	0–19, 0–20, 0–36	-14 to 14, 0–14, 0–26
cryst size (mm)	0.30 × 0.40 × 0.50	0.05 × 0.20 × 0.25
$\mu$ (Mo K $\alpha$ ) (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	164.62	147.95
transmission: max, min	1.000, 0.607	1.000, 0.371
no. of data in refinement	3653 with $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$	3064 with $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$
no. of atoms and params	124, 758	66, 416
weight modifier, <i>g</i>	0.000 01	0.0001
max $\Delta/\sigma$ ratio	0.045	0.020
<i>R<sub>F</sub></i> , <i>R<sub>w</sub></i>	0.054; 0.051	0.041; 0.039
GOF	1.52	1.39
<i>D</i> map, max/min (e/Å <sup>3</sup> )	+2.42/-2.19	+1.79/-1.58

<sup>a</sup> Features common to all determinations: Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer,  $\lambda$ (Mo K $\alpha$ ) = 0.7107 Å; function minimized  $\sum(w|F_o - F_c|^2)$ ; weighting scheme  $w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F_o) + |g|F_o^2$ ; GOF =  $[\sum w|F_o - F_c|^2 / (N_o - N_v)]^{1/2}$  ( $N_o$  = number of observations;  $N_v$  = number of variables).

**Table 2.** Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (deg) of **1** (Esd's in Parentheses)

W–Os(1)	2.981(2)	W–Os(2)	3.014(2)
W–Os(3)	2.603(3)	Os(1)⋯Os(2)	3.841(3)
Os(1)–Os(3)	2.891(2)	Os(2)–Os(3)	2.938(3)
W–O(10)	1.76(2)	W–O(11)	1.76(3)
Os(1)–O(10)	2.10(2)	Os(2)–O(11)	2.16(2)
Os(1)–C(10)	2.13(4)	Os(2)–C(10)	2.34(3)
Os(2)–C(11)	2.33(4)	C(10)–C(11)	1.11(5)

$\angle$ W–O(10)–Os(1)	101(1)	$\angle$ W–O(11)–Os(2)	100(1)
$\angle$ Os(1)–C(10)–C(11)	163(3)	$\angle$ C(10)–C(11)–C(12)	156(4)

**Table 3.** Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (deg) of **3** (Esd's in Parentheses)

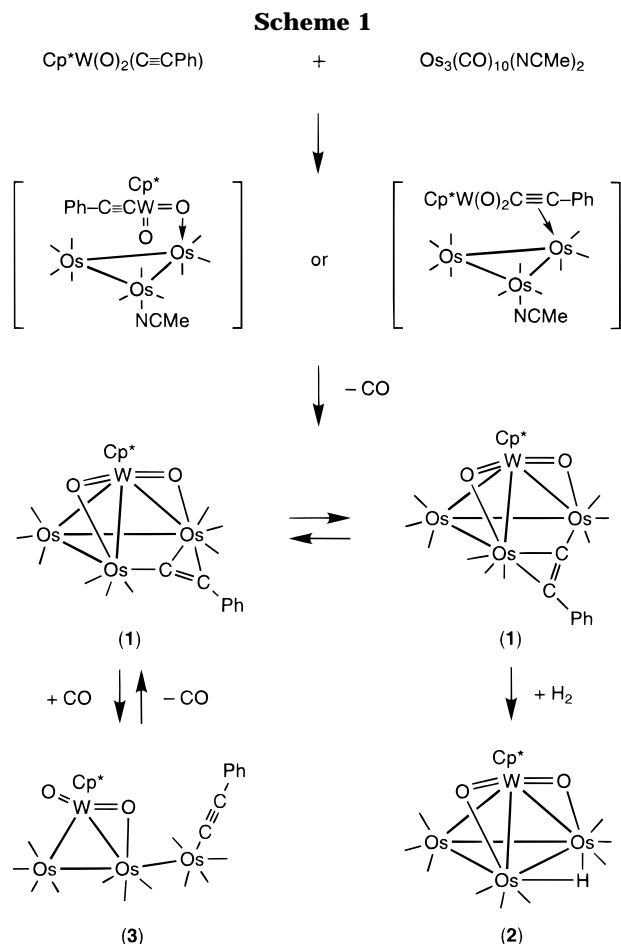
W–Os(1)	2.723(1)	W–Os(2)	2.942(1)
Os(1)–Os(2)	2.933(1)	Os(2)–Os(3)	2.880(1)
W–O(12)	1.71(1)	W–O(13)	1.83(1)
Os(2)–O(13)	2.15(1)	Os(3)–C(12)	2.08(2)
C(12)–C(13)	1.20(3)		

$\angle$ Os(1)–Os(2)–Os(3)	174.12(4)	$\angle$ Os(3)–C(12)–C(13)	176(2)
$\angle$ W–O(13)–Os(2)	95.1(5)	$\angle$ O(12)–W–O(13)	106.8(6)
$\angle$ Os(1)–W–O(12)	99.0(4)	$\angle$ Os(2)–W–O(12)	97.9(3)

## Results and Discussion

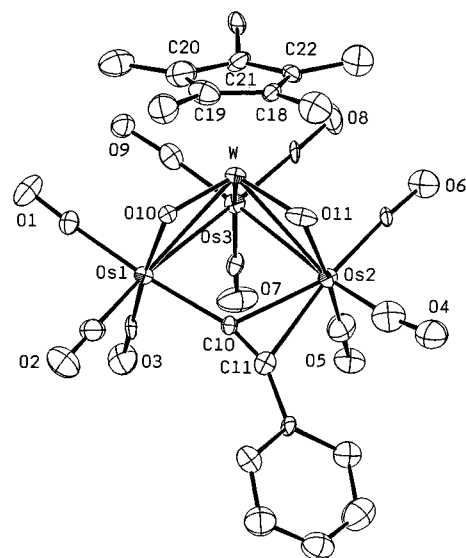
As indicated in Scheme 1, the heterometallic acetylide cluster compound (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)W(*μ*-O)<sub>2</sub>Os<sub>3</sub>(*μ*-CCPh)(CO)<sub>9</sub> (**1**), which possesses two edge-bridging oxo ligands, was prepared by addition of the mononuclear acetylide precursor (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)W(O)<sub>2</sub>(CCPh) to the bis(acetonitrile) complex Os<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>10</sub>(NCMe)<sub>2</sub>. This high-yield conversion to the isolated 1:1 adduct clearly shows the effective coordination of the acetylide ligand to an Os atom of the triosmium triangle at the initial stage of reaction, which is evidenced by the facile coordination of alkyne to Os<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>10</sub>(NCMe)<sub>2</sub>.<sup>8</sup> We anticipate that the electron-withdrawing capability of the (C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)W(O)<sub>2</sub> fragment decreases the relative energy of the acetylide  $\pi^*$ -orbitals

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and therefore increases the metal-to-acetylide ligand back- $\pi$ -bonding, serving as the key factor in improving the yields with respect to the poor yields ( $\sim 11\%$ ) for the similar cluster-building reactions using  $(\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5)\text{W}(\text{CO})_3(\text{CCPh})$  and  $\text{Os}_3(\text{CO})_{10}(\text{NCMe})_2$ .<sup>9</sup> The second possibility involves the prior coordination of the oxo ligand lone pair with the triosmium framework, which then induces the subsequent capping of the acetylide ligand. This reaction pathway is supported by examples in the literature where coordination of a lone pair is the initial step in the reaction of  $\text{Os}_3(\text{CO})_{10}(\text{NCMe})_2$  with donor molecules and where C-H and C-X bonds are also activated.<sup>10</sup> We cannot differentiate these two possibilities at present; however, it is certain that the transformation was completed by the cleavage of the W-C(acetylide)  $\sigma$ -bonding and generation of the observed Os-C(acetylide)  $\sigma$ -interaction and strengthening of the bonding between the  $(\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5)\text{W}(\text{O})_2$  fragment and the triosmium framework.

According to the X-ray diffraction analysis, complex **1** was crystallized in an asymmetric unit possessing two crystallographically distinct but structurally similar molecules. A perspective view of one of these molecules



**Figure 1.** Molecular structure and atomic labeling scheme of the complex  $(\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5)\text{W}(\mu\text{-O})_2\text{Os}_3(\mu\text{-CCPh})(\text{CO})_9$  (**1**) with thermal ellipsoids shown at the 30% probability level.

is depicted in Figure 1. The molecule contains a  $\text{WOs}_3$  butterfly core in which the tungsten atom is capped by a  $\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5$  functional group, while each of the osmium atoms is linked to three terminal CO ligands. An unusual feature is the bridging oxo ligands, which are located on the two W-Os bonds of nearly equal length (2.981(2) and 3.014(2) Å). The bond lengths to the oxo ligands (average W-O = 1.76(3) Å, Os-O = 2.13(3) Å) are similar to that of the  $\text{W}=\text{O}\rightarrow\text{Os}$  bonding mode,<sup>11</sup> and the average Os-O distance is slightly longer than the Os-O distance (2.06(2) Å) in  $\text{Os}_6(\mu_3\text{-O})(\mu_3\text{-CO})(\text{CO})_{18}$ ,<sup>12</sup> and  $[\text{Os}(\mu_3\text{-O})(\text{CO})_3]_4$ .<sup>13</sup> In addition, the W-Os(3) distance (2.603(3) Å) is significantly shorter than the other W-Os distances which support the bridging oxo ligands. In fact, this W-Os distance is the shortest W-Os single bond ever observed in the related W-Os carbonyl cluster complexes.<sup>14</sup> We believe that this unusually short W-Os distance is caused by a combined effect of the contraction of the atomic radius for the tungsten atom due to the greater formal nuclear charge and the lack of a bridging oxo ligand.

The Os(1)⋯Os(2) distance (3.841(3) Å) is clearly out of the range expected for an Os-Os single bond; e.g., the average Os-Os distance in  $\text{Os}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$  is 2.877(1) Å.<sup>15</sup> The acetylide ligand is linked to the Os(1) and the Os-

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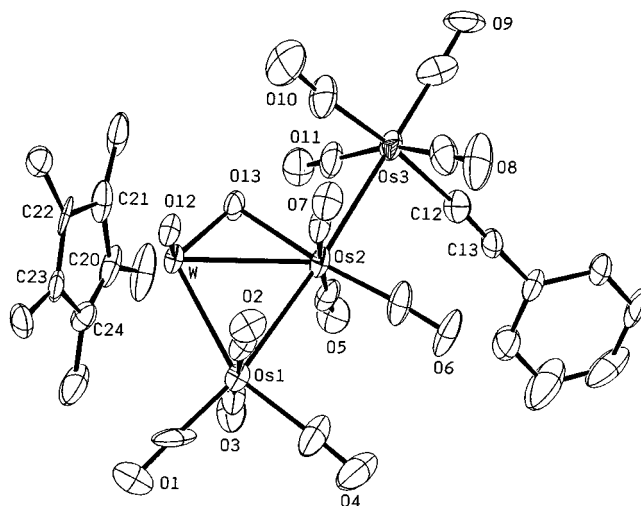
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(2) atoms via  $\sigma$ -bonding and  $\pi$ -interaction, respectively. Such a  $\mu_2$ - $\eta^2$  bonding interaction of an acetylide ligand has been observed in a few acetylide cluster complexes,<sup>16</sup> but complex **1** indicates an uncommon instance where the acetylide fragment spans two nonbonding metal atoms with nearly identical  $\pi$ -bonding distances: Os(2)–C(10) = 2.34(3) Å and Os(2)–C(11) = 2.33(4) Å. Moreover, the acetylide ligand undergoes a facile  $\sigma \rightarrow \pi$ ,  $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$  rearrangement in solution (Scheme 1). This is suggested by the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, which exhibited five sharp CO resonances at  $\delta$  186.8 ( $J_{WC} = 9$  Hz), 185.1, 178.3, 172.8, and 169.5 in the ratio 1:2:2:2:2 at room temperature, suggesting the presence of a dynamic plane of mirror symmetry which bisects the whole molecule. This behavior is consistent with the fluxionality of edge-bridging alkenyl or acetylide ligands,<sup>17</sup> which also showed similar  $\sigma \rightarrow \pi$ ,  $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$  exchanging between the two metal sites. When the temperature was lowered to 183 K, the CO signals at  $\delta$  185.1, 178.3, and 169.5 split to form three pairs of very broad signals at  $\delta$  187.0 and 182.8, 178.8 and 175.7, and 170.8 and 166.8. From the coalescence temperature of 198 K, an estimated  $\Delta G^\ddagger$  value of 9 kcal/mol is obtained for the activation energy barrier, which is slightly lower than that observed in the prior cases (10–12 kcal/mol),<sup>16a</sup> where the acetylide ligand undergoes exchange across two bonded metal atoms.

With respect to the reactivity of **1**, the acetylide ligand can be easily removed upon treatment with dihydrogen, giving the compound  $(C_5Me_5)W(\mu-O)_2Os_3(CO)_9(\mu-H)$  (**2**), in which the metal skeleton now adopts a tetrahedral arrangement with a hydride spanning the unique Os–Os edge (Scheme 1). The mass spectrum of **2** gave a strong molecular ion. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed one high-field signal at  $\delta$  –15.71 for the hydride ligand. The five CO signals at  $\delta$  192.6, 184.0, 174.7, 172.0, and 169.1 with the expected 1:2:2:2:2 ratio were observed in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, suggesting the existence of  $C_s$  symmetry. Most importantly, the IR  $\nu(CO)$  spectrum showed a CO stretching pattern which is identical with that of the structurally characterized Cp complex  $CpW(\mu-O)_2Os_3(CO)_9(\mu-H)$ .<sup>18</sup> Thus, these spectroscopic data provide unambiguous confirmation for the proposed structure.

In addition to the hydrogenation reaction discussed, we also examined the reaction of **1** with carbon monoxide in order to better understand its reactivity. Thus, we isolated the spiked triangular complex  $(C_5Me_5)W-$



**Figure 2.** Molecular structure and atomic labeling scheme of the complex  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)(\mu-O)Os_3(CCPH)(CO)_{11}$  (**3**) with thermal ellipsoids shown at the 30% probability level.

$(O)(\mu-O)Os_3(CO)_{11}(CCPh)$  (**3**), which is produced by addition of two CO molecules (Scheme 1), and a small amount of acetylide complex  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2(CCPH)$ , presumably produced by unwanted cluster degradation. Complex **3** was characterized by spectroscopic methods and by an X-ray diffraction study (Figure 2). The key features involve the formation of a terminal acetylide group on the Os(3) atom and the shifting of one edge-bridging oxo ligand to the terminal mode, which is somewhat related to that observed in the cluster  $(C_5Me_5)W(O)_2Ru_4(CO)_{10}(\mu_4-PPh)(CCPh)$ .<sup>19</sup> Again, the unbridged W–Os(1) distance (2.723(1) Å) is the shortest metal–metal bond within the whole molecule (W–Os(2) = 2.942(1) Å, Os(1)–Os(2) = 2.933(1) Å, and Os(2)–Os(3) = 2.880(1) Å), a consequence related to the smaller atomic radius for the tungsten atom at the higher oxidation state. Finally, thermolysis of **3** in toluene afforded **1** in high yield. This reactivity pattern suggests that both the acetylide and the terminal oxo ligands are good multiple electron donors,<sup>7</sup> which are capable of stabilizing the cluster by compensating the unsaturation created by CO elimination, via edge-bridging (i.e.  $\mu$ - $\eta^2$ -CCPh and  $\mu$ -O modes) through donation of their  $\pi$ -electrons and lone-pair electrons, respectively.

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**Supporting Information Available:** Tables of atomic coordinates and the corresponding anisotropic thermal parameters for complexes **1** and **3** (12 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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