

# Comparative Binding of H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, and Related Ligands to [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> and Other 16e Electrophiles. N<sub>2</sub> Does Not Coordinate, and H<sub>2</sub> Is the Most Versatile Weak Ligand<sup>†</sup>

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The photochemical reaction of Mn(CO)<sub>5</sub>Br with PCy<sub>3</sub> in toluene proceeds with the fast evolution of CO. The complex formed, MnBr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, **1**, readily reacts with NaA (A = B[C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(3,5-CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>) to form the dark green salt [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>][A], **2**, which has an agostic interaction of a cyclohexyl C–H with manganese. The light yellow η<sup>2</sup>-H<sub>2</sub> complex, [Mn(H<sub>2</sub>)(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>][A], **3**, forms at room temperature by placing solutions of **2** under 1 atm of H<sub>2</sub>. The H<sub>2</sub> ligand is labile and readily dissociates when the H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere is removed in vacuo. <sup>31</sup>P NMR clearly shows that at 25 °C under 1 atm of H<sub>2</sub>, **3** exists in equilibrium with **2**. At –78 °C and under <1 atm of H<sub>2</sub>, only **3** is observed. The synthesis of the new tricarbonyl complex [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> provides an excellent system of comparison for the binding of small molecules to similar known 16e fragments such as M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (M = Cr, Mo, W, Re<sup>+</sup>) and M(CO)(dppe)<sub>2</sub> (M = Mo, Mn<sup>+</sup>). The cationic manganese complex **2** appears to give somewhat more stable binding of H<sub>2</sub> than the isoelectronic neutral chromium congener, which would not have been expected on the basis of relative back-bonding ability of the metal centers. Thus it is clear that increased σ-donation more than compensates for decreased back-bonding in the relative metal–H<sub>2</sub> bonding energies. Surprisingly, binding of N<sub>2</sub>, ethylene, or silanes to **2** was not observed in solution even at low temperature and SO<sub>2</sub> binds only weakly. By comparison with other similar systems, it is clear that H<sub>2</sub> becomes an increasingly better ligand than N<sub>2</sub> as the electrophilicity of the metal increases. Thus nonclassical H<sub>2</sub> is a more versatile ligand than most classical ligands in its ability to adjust to a larger range of electronic situations.

## Introduction

We have recently concentrated our efforts on developing unsaturated, highly electrophilic, cationic fragments such as [Mn(CO)(R<sub>2</sub>PC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>PR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, [PtH(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, and [Re(CO)<sub>4</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> for binding of H<sub>2</sub>, silanes, and, potentially, alkanes.<sup>1</sup> The positive charge here favors η<sup>2</sup>-coordination over oxidative addition, and the degree of activation of the H–H bond in these and other cationic or dicationic H<sub>2</sub> complexes is remarkably similar to that in neutral analogues as judged by H–H distance, *J*(HD), and stability. For example, despite their increasing electrophilicity, the isostructural and isoelectronic 16e fragments Mo(CO)(dppe)<sub>2</sub>,<sup>2</sup> [Mn(CO)(dppe)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>,<sup>1a</sup> and

[M(CO)(diphosphine)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (M = Fe, Ru, Os)<sup>3</sup> all bind H<sub>2</sub> with H–H distances near 0.88 Å and *J*(HD) = 32–34 Hz (dppe = Ph<sub>2</sub>PC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>). It is now clear that there is a tradeoff in the H<sub>2</sub> → M σ-donation bonding component, *E*<sub>D</sub>, with the back-donation component, *E*<sub>BD</sub> (Scheme 1); that is, increased electrophilicity at the metal increases σ-donation at the expense of back-bonding, but the effects balance out to enable H<sub>2</sub> to adapt to virtually any electronic situation.

The 16e manganese cations, [Mn(CO)(R<sub>2</sub>PC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>PR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, are also of interest because they have been found to contain multiple agostic interactions,<sup>1a,d</sup> whereas the neutral Mo analogues<sup>4</sup> and the tricarbonyl complexes, M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, (M = Cr, W, Re<sup>+</sup>),<sup>5</sup> all show only one such interaction (Scheme 2).

<sup>†</sup> Dedicated to Professor Warren Roper on his 60th birthday.

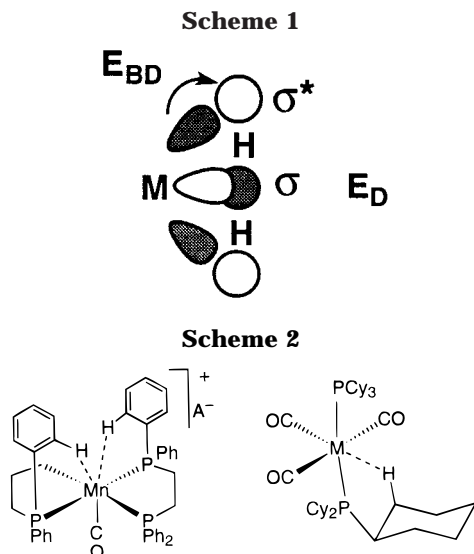
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The cationic rhenium complexes,  $[\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PR}_3)_2]^+$ , were found by Heinekey to coordinate  $\text{H}_2$  as well as or perhaps even better than the neutral analogue,  $\text{W}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PR}_3)_2$ .<sup>5d</sup> We now report here preparation of the first-row manganese congener,  $[\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2]^+$ , to further compare the binding and activation of X–H bonds (X = H,<sup>1–7</sup> Si,<sup>6h,i,o</sup> and Ge<sup>8</sup>) on two ongoing interrelated series of isostructural and isoelectronic 16e complexes,  $\text{M}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PR}_3)_2$  and  $\text{M}(\text{CO})(\text{diphosphine})_2$ , where M = group 6 (neutral),<sup>2,4,5a,b,6,8</sup> group 7 (cationic),<sup>1,5c,d,7</sup> and group 8 (dicationic, diphosphine).<sup>3</sup> All 16e members of the group 6–7 series are now known except the Cr and  $\text{Re}^+$  diphosphines and the Tc<sup>9</sup> complexes. All give  $\text{H}_2$  complexes except  $\text{W}(\text{CO})(\text{dppe})_2$ <sup>10</sup> and  $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})(\text{R}_2\text{PC}_2\text{H}_4\text{-PR}_2)_2$  (R = alkyl), which oxidatively add  $\text{H}_2$  because of the higher electron richness of these fragments.

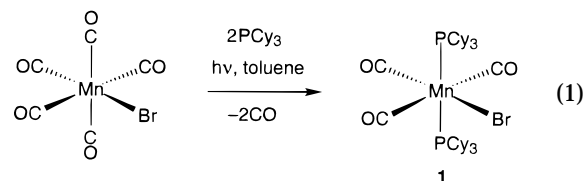
A general past observation is that  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2$  coordinate to the same transition metal fragments. In several systems that will be discussed below,  $\text{H}_2$  binds more

strongly than  $\text{N}_2$ , and in some cases this is due to an entropic advantage for  $\text{H}_2$ . However, a few cationic fragments were noted not to form isolatable  $\text{N}_2$  complexes in solution at room temperature,<sup>1b,11</sup> even under 3 atm of  $\text{N}_2$  in the case of  $[\text{Re}(\text{CO})_2(\text{triphos})]^+$ .<sup>11b</sup> These observations were very qualitative (equilibrium binding possibly occurs), but we are now able to make a more informative correlation between the relative binding abilities of  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ , and other  $\pi$ -acceptor ligands on the large array of group 6–8 neutral and cationic complexes. The first-row cationic  $[\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2]^+$  is one of the most electrophilic complexes in this series, and as will be shown, also demonstrates little or no propensity to bind  $\text{N}_2$  and related ligands compared to  $\text{H}_2$ . It appears that electrophilic cationic systems clearly favor  $\text{H}_2$  binding, while coordination of  $\text{N}_2$  and even stronger  $\pi$ -acceptors such as  $\text{SO}_2$  is weak or nonexistent on positively charged fragments. Although  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2$  are generally considered to be “weak” ligands with binding enthalpies similar to ethers and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (pure  $\sigma$ -donors), the highly amphoteric nature of  $\text{H}_2$  bonding to transition metals ( $\sigma$ -base and/or  $\pi$ -acid) makes  $\text{H}_2$  much more versatile than  $\text{N}_2$  and virtually any other ligand.

## Results and Discussion

### Synthesis and Structure of $\text{MnBr}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2$

**1.** The synthetic precursor *trans*- $\text{MnBr}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2$ , **1**, is prepared by photochemical reaction of  $\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}$  with  $\text{PCy}_3$ , which proceeds with rapid evolution of CO (eq 1).



The reaction is complete within 15 min, and the yield of analytically pure yellow product is 32%. Complexes of this type with other phosphines have previously been prepared by thermal displacement of CO,<sup>12</sup> e.g. reflux in chloroform for 16–24 h. Attempts to prepare **1** by refluxing  $\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}$  and excess  $\text{PCy}_3$  in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  resulted in a metal carbonyl complex inseparable from the excess phosphine. Complex **1** isolated from eq 1 was characterized by NMR, IR, and X-ray crystallography.  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands were observed at 1885(s), 1925(s), and 2015(m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in KBr, which compare favorably with those for the  $\text{PPr}^i_3$  analogue<sup>12a</sup> in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  solution (1887(m), 1932-(s), and 2019(w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). These are consistent with a mer-CO arrangement.<sup>12c</sup>  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR in toluene showed a single resonance at  $\delta$  46.44 in accord with a *trans*-phosphine structure (comparable data for other congeners were not found). X-ray crystallography confirmed this structure, which contains a center of inversion (Figure 1, Tables 1 and 2). The closest other known structure of this type is for *trans*- $\text{MnBr}(\text{CO})_3$ -

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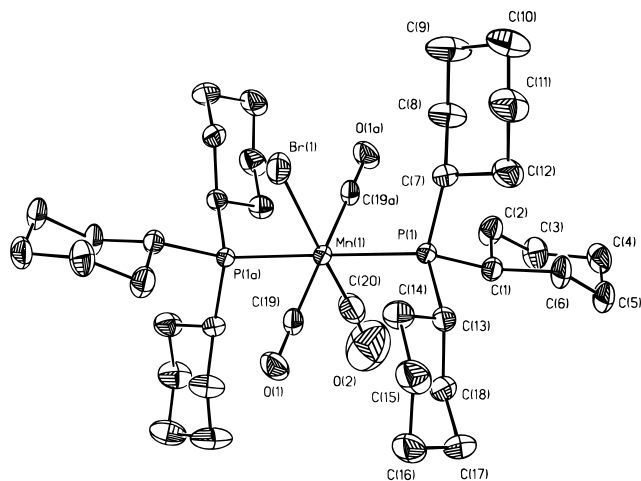
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**Figure 1.** ORTEP diagram for MnBr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (50% probability ellipsoids).

**Table 1. Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for Mn(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>3</sub>Br, 1**

formula	C <sub>39</sub> H <sub>66</sub> BrMnO <sub>3</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
cryst size, mm	0.21 × 0.21 × 0.08
temp, K	293(2)
wavelength, Å	0.710 73
space group	triclinic, P $\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> , Å	9.852(2)
<i>b</i> , Å	10.492(2)
<i>c</i> , Å	11.011(2)
$\alpha$ , deg	115.80(3)
$\beta$ , deg	108.01(3)
$\gamma$ , deg	91.98(3)
<i>Z</i>	1
$\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.510
2 $\theta$ range, deg	2.80–24.99
no. of reflns collected	3838
no. of independent reflns	3216 ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> = 0.0341)
final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0466, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0953
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0831, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1116

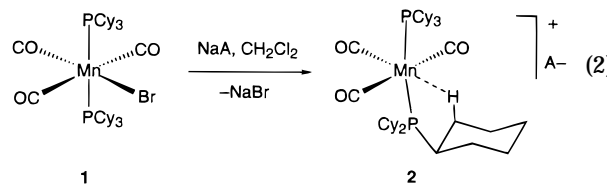
**Table 2. Selected Bond Lengths [Å] and Angles [deg] for MnBr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 1**

Mn(1)–C(20)	1.691(14)
Mn(1)–C(19)	1.841(4)
Mn(1)–P(1)	2.3965(13)
Mn(1)–Br(1)	2.512(3)
O(1)–C(19)	1.141(4)
O(2)–C(20)	1.25(2)
C(20)–Mn(1)–C(20)#1	180.0(1)
C(20)–Mn(1)–C(19)#1	88.1(4)
C(20)–Mn(1)–C(19)	91.9(4)
C(19)#1–Mn(1)–C(19)	180.0
C(20)–Mn(1)–P(1)#1	88.1(4)
C(19)–Mn(1)–P(1)#1	87.98(12)
C(20)–Mn(1)–P(1)	91.9(4)
C(19)–Mn(1)–P(1)	92.02(12)
P(1)#1–Mn(1)–P(1)	180.0
C(20)–Mn(1)–Br(1)	178.3(3)
C(19)#1–Mn(1)–Br(1)	86.88(13)
P(1)#1–Mn(1)–Br(1)	89.26(4)
C(19)–Mn(1)–Br(1)	93.12(13)
P(1)–Mn(1)–Br(1)	90.74(4)

[P(OMe)<sub>2</sub>Ph]<sub>2</sub>, which contains smaller phosphonite ligands instead of PCy<sub>3</sub> and disorder in the Br ligand.<sup>13</sup> The Mn–Br distance in **1** is 2.512(3) and 2.528(8) Å in the latter, while the respective Mn–P distances are 2.3965(13) and 2.264(8) Å (av). The much longer M–P

distances in **1** no doubt result from a combination of steric and electronic differences between the P-donor ligands.

**Synthesis and Structure of [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>][A], 2.** **1** readily reacts (eq 2) with NaA (A = B[C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(3,5-CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>) to form in 80% yield the dark green cationic complex [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>][A], **2**.

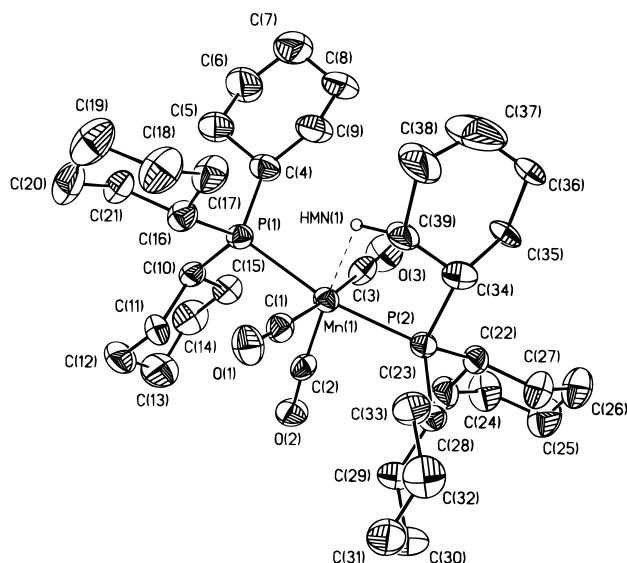


<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> shows a singlet at  $\delta$  51.6 compared to similar resonances at  $\delta$  63.6 and 27.2 for the neutral Cr<sup>6b</sup> and cationic Re<sup>5c,d</sup> analogues, respectively. Chemically equivalent phosphines at room temperature have previously been observed in these systems because of the highly fluxional nature of their agostic interactions.<sup>6m</sup> Variable-temperature <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (25 to –90 °C, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of **2** also shows only the one singlet ( $\delta$  50.5 ppm at –90 °C), unlike the Mo, W, and Re<sup>+</sup> analogues that give decoalescence below 0 °C to a new weaker resonance with an AB pattern in addition to the (shifted) main singlet.<sup>5d,6m</sup> One proposed rationale for the appearance of the AB signal centered on the existence of hindered rotation of the bulky PCy<sub>3</sub> ligands about the M–P bonds, resulting in a conformer with inequivalent P atoms. However this explanation now appears to be less likely since the smaller first-row metal should have even closer contacts between cyclohexyl groups on opposite sides of the metal (M–P distances are 2.35 Å for Mn and 2.48 Å for W). On the other hand, the fluxionality in the agostic interaction and the overall internal dynamics in this and related systems are exceedingly complex, a fact that is not usually emphasized. There are 24 hydrogens on 12  $\beta$ -carbons on six Cy rings that potentially can interact with the metal. There can be synchronous or asynchronous rotation of eight chemical bonds (2 M–P and 6 P–C) and conformational changes (chair-boat) in the Cy rings. Multiple agostic interactions could occur in solution. Thus, equivalency or inequivalency in the phosphorus atoms could result from any number of temperature-dependent factors here. The rationale<sup>6m</sup> that the AB signal is due to a nonagostic geometric isomer with inequivalent phosphines for the second- and third-row systems but (apparently) not the first-row also remains a possibility.

Low-temperature <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (–75 °C, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of **2** shows no CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> binding to the Mn center, as also found for the Re analogue. In contrast, the more electron-rich neutral group 6 analogues react irreversibly with halogenated solvents, presumably forming oxidative addition products. Crystals of **2** are air sensitive and slowly form the tetracarbonyl complex *trans*-[Mn(CO)<sub>4</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>][A] upon exposure to air for more than 5 min or so, analogous to the group 6 systems. The tetracarbonyl shows  $\nu$ (CO) at 1981 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Nujol) and a <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) resonance at  $\delta$  59.3. Storage of **2** at room temperature under He gives approximately 10% disproportionation to the latter, but the crystals were stable for weeks at –30 °C in the drybox freezer.

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**Figure 2.** ORTEP diagram for the cation of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2][\text{A}]^+\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (50% probability ellipsoids). Relevant distances (Å) and angles (deg): Mn(1)–C(1), 1.865(8); Mn(1)–C(2), 1.761(7); Mn(1)–C(3), 1.839(9); Mn(1)–P(2), 2.317(2); Mn(1)–P(1), 2.391(2); P(2)–Mn(1)–P(1), 168.94(8); C(28)–P(2)–Mn(1), 122.5(2); C(34)–P(2)–Mn(1), 98.0(3); C(22)–P(2)–Mn(1), 116.3(3); C(39)–C(34)–P(2), 106.4(6).

**Table 3.** Metal–Agostic Distances for  $[\text{M}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2]^{0,+}$

fragment	M···H, Å	M···C, Å
Cr(CO) <sub>3</sub> (PCy <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	2.240(1)	2.884(1)
$[\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2]^+$	2.01(9)	[2.65(3), 2.849(14)] <sup>a</sup>
	[1.880, 2.072] <sup>a</sup> (idealized)	
$[\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2]^+$		2.89(5)
W(CO) <sub>3</sub> (PCy <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	2.27 (idealized)	2.945(6)

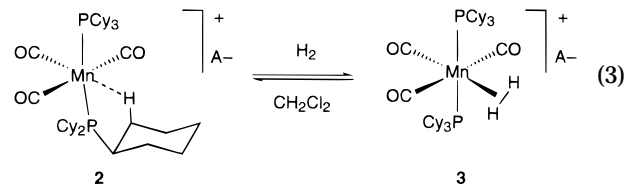
<sup>a</sup> For disordered carbon positions C39' and C39, respectively.

By comparison the Cr analogue of **2** is more stable, although Cr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PPri<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, which contains the slightly less bulky PPr<sub>3</sub>, could not even be isolated upon H<sub>2</sub> removal from Cr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PPr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>),<sup>6d</sup> demonstrating that there is a fine line of stability here.

X-ray crystallography of **2**·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (Figure 2) shows a relatively strong agostic interaction of a cyclohexyl C–H bond with manganese very similar to those in the Cr, W, and Re<sup>+</sup> analogues. The P–Mn–P angle, 168.94(8)°, and the C(34)–P(2)–Mn(1) angle, 98.0(3)°, are both smaller than normal to facilitate the agostic interaction. There is an unusual type of disorder present in a few of the atom positions in the structure, including the agostic carbon (C39, C39') resulting in a high R1 = 0.1025 (see Supporting Information), but it was possible to refine the H atom of the proton attached to it (all other H's were fixed). The refined Mn···H distance is 2.01(9) Å, while the idealized positions are 1.880 (Mn–H39') and 2.072 Å (Mn–H39) for C39–H39 and C39'–H39' set to 0.96 Å. These distances are significantly shorter than that in the Cr analogue, 2.240(1) Å. The M···C distances are 2.65(3) (Mn–C39') and 2.849(14) Å (Mn–C39) versus 2.884(1) and 2.89(5) Å for the Cr and Re<sup>+</sup> analogues (Table 3). Thus the agostic interaction appears to be stronger in the cationic group 7 system than in the neutral group 6 system, although differences in van der Waals radii and other factors may play a role here. Presumably stronger σ-donation from the C–H bond to the more electrophilic cations is occurring. In

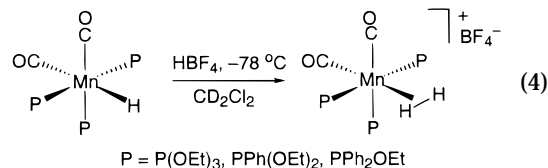
the diphosphine system,  $[\text{Mn}(\text{CO})(\text{R}_2\text{PC}_2\text{H}_4\text{PR}_2)_2]^+$ , multiple agostic interactions (two for R = Ph, four for R = Et) are present, and the Mn···H distances are much longer (>2.9 Å).<sup>1a,d</sup> The more rigid chelating phosphine substituents are apparently more constrained in their ability to approach the tight coordination sphere of the first-row metal, so the unsaturated metal obtains smaller amounts of electron density from more than one CH bond.

**Synthesis and Properties of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{H}_2)(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2][\text{A}]$ , **3**.** The light yellow H<sub>2</sub> complex  $[\text{Mn}(\text{H}_2)(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2][\text{A}]$ , **3**, readily forms at room temperature by placing solutions of **2** under 1 atm of H<sub>2</sub> (eq 3).



The H<sub>2</sub> ligand is labile and readily dissociates when the H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere is removed in vacuo to regenerate the dark green solution of **2**. At room temperature this cycling could be applied three times with no observable decomposition. That there is an equilibrium between the agostic complex and the H<sub>2</sub> complex is proven unequivocally by the <sup>31</sup>P NMR experiments. At –78 °C and under <1 atm of H<sub>2</sub>, a singlet is observed at δ 63.29 for the H<sub>2</sub> complex in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. However at 25 °C two peaks are observed, one at δ 63.47 (for the hydrogen complex) and the other at δ 51.6 (for the agostic complex). Under 0.8 atm of H<sub>2</sub> at 35 °C, the dark green solution of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2]^+$  turned immediately to pale yellow, and 72% of the latter is coordinated by H<sub>2</sub> from integration of <sup>31</sup>P NMR resonances. At –10 °C, 95% of the complex is bound to H<sub>2</sub>.

The importance of the low-interacting B[C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(3,5-CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub> anion in complexes **2** and **3** is underscored by the recent work of Albertin<sup>7</sup> on similar systems containing phosphite ligands. In this case the hydrides MnH(CO)<sub>n</sub>(P)<sub>5–n</sub> (n = 2, 3) were protonated as in eq 4 with strong acids with coordinating anions such as HBF<sub>4</sub> and triflic acid.



In eq 4 the resulting H<sub>2</sub> complexes were unstable above 0 °C and could not be isolated, although NMR data showed H<sub>2</sub> binding at low temperature. The tricarbonyl complexes were even more unstable, and H<sub>2</sub> instantly evolved on protonation at low temperature. The use of triflic acid resulted in isolation of triflate complexes Mn(η<sup>1</sup>-OSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>)(CO)<sub>3</sub>(P)<sub>2</sub>. Clearly the anion immediately displaced transiently bound H<sub>2</sub>, which was never observed. Although 16e  $[\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_n(\text{P})_{5–n}]^+$  complexes were claimed to have been isolated as yellow BPh<sub>4</sub><sup>–</sup> salts and postulated to have an agostic interaction based on <sup>31</sup>P NMR data, crystallographic evidence was not obtained to rule out anion coordination. Pro-

**Table 4. Comparison of Small Molecule Binding Relative<sup>a</sup> to H<sub>2</sub> on Various Metal Fragments in Approximate Order of Decreasing Electrophilicity**

metal fragment	$\pi$ -acceptor strength				
	SO <sub>2</sub>	silanes	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	Et <sub>2</sub> O/CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>
[ <i>trans</i> -PtH(PR <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	no			no	stronger
[Fe(CO)(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>				no	
[Re(CO) <sub>4</sub> (PR <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>1</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>		weak	stronger	no	stronger
[Mn(CO) <sub>3</sub> (PR <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	reversible	no (-70 °C)	no (-70 °C)	no (-58 °C)	no
[Re(CO) <sub>3</sub> (PR <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>				weaker	no
[Re(CO) <sub>2</sub> (triphos)] <sup>+</sup>				no (3 atm)	
[Mn(CO)(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	reversible	no (-70 °C)		weaker	no
[RuCl(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>				no	no
Cr(CO) <sub>5</sub>	strong	stronger	stronger <sup>b</sup>	weaker	
Cr(CO) <sub>3</sub> (PR <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		no		weaker <sup>c</sup>	no
W(CO) <sub>3</sub> (PR <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	strong	OA <sup>d</sup>	yes	stronger	no
Mo(CO)(dppe) <sub>2</sub>	strong	yes <sup>e</sup>	yes	stronger	no
TcCl(dppe) <sub>2</sub>				yes	no

<sup>a</sup> Weaker or stronger than H<sub>2</sub> in terms of  $\Delta G$  of binding at room temperature. Terminology: *strong* = irreversible coordination; *no* = binding not observed at ambient temperature and pressure; *yes* = similar to H<sub>2</sub> binding but relative stabilities not determined; blank entry = not reported. <sup>b</sup> Cr(CO)<sub>5</sub>(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) has been isolated as a solid (Banister, J. A.; Lee, P. D.; Poliakov, M. *Organometallics* **1995**, *14*, 3876. <sup>c</sup> At pressures above 1 atm. <sup>d</sup> OA = oxidative addition. <sup>e</sup> Complex rearranges to isomer with silane *cis* to CO.

tonation with H(OEt)<sub>2</sub>A would probably give stable H<sub>2</sub> and agostic complexes here with no possibility of anion interaction.

The H<sub>2</sub> binding to [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> is similar to that in the neutral congener Cr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> that also gave equilibria between agostic and dihydrogen complexes in toluene solution. Similar chemical shift differences were seen in the <sup>31</sup>P NMR for the latter ( $\delta$  63.6 for agostic versus  $\delta$  73.5 for H<sub>2</sub> complex).<sup>6b</sup> However, hydrogen gas pressures upward of 20 atm were required to drive the equilibrium completely to the H<sub>2</sub> complex at room temperature, and very little binding occurred at atmospheric pressure. Thus the cationic manganese system appears to give somewhat more stable binding of H<sub>2</sub> than the isoelectronic neutral chromium complex. This would never have been expected solely on the basis of relative back-bonding ability of the metal centers, which should be far lower for the positively charged manganese. Thus it is clear that increased  $\sigma$ -donation more than compensates for decreased back-bonding. The  $J$ (HD) coupling for the HD isotopomer of **3** is 33 Hz and is 35 Hz for Cr(HD)(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PPR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>,<sup>6d</sup> indicating that the H–H bond is actually longer (0.87–0.89 Å based on  $J$ (HD)<sup>14</sup>) and held more strongly in the Mn cation than in neutral Cr(H<sub>2</sub>)(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (R = Cy, 0.85 Å (solid NMR<sup>6d</sup>); R = Pr<sup>i</sup>, 0.84–0.85 Å<sup>14</sup>). This increasing (or nearly equal) binding strength with increasing positive charge has also been seen in the [M(CO)(dppe)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>*n*+</sup> (*n* = 0–2) systems as stated in the Introduction.  $J$ (HD) for the dicarbonyl phosphite complex [Mn(H<sub>2</sub>)(CO)<sub>2</sub>-{P(OEt)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> is also 33 Hz,<sup>7</sup> once again demonstrating as we have previously shown<sup>1d</sup> that the nature of the *cis*-ligand set does not have significant influence on H<sub>2</sub> activation in comparison to that of the *trans* ligand (CO).

**Comparison of H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and Other Small Molecule Coordination to **2** and Other Fragments.** Several other small molecules were reacted with **2** in order to compare relative binding abilities of this cationic fragment with isoelectronic fragments, including neutral species. At the same time, relative coordi-

nation strengths of various common ligands can be assessed on the various fragments. Most surprisingly, the normally strong ligand SO<sub>2</sub>,<sup>15</sup> which is a stronger  $\pi$ -acceptor than CO, was found to be very weakly bound. Not only was an SO<sub>2</sub> complex unable to be isolated as a solid, it was only detectable as an equilibrium species by <sup>31</sup>P NMR, and IR frequencies for SO stretches could not be determined. At room temperature, addition of 0.8 atm of SO<sub>2</sub> (excess) to **2** in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> gave a mixture of **2** (51.6 ppm) and SO<sub>2</sub> complex (56.9 ppm) in a ratio of 1/0.7. When cooled to -40 °C, conversion to the SO<sub>2</sub> complex was complete, but in comparison, SO<sub>2</sub> *irreversibly* binds to the neutral M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> analogues at room temperature.<sup>15c</sup> Steric factors should not play a role here since SO<sub>2</sub> prefers electronically to lie in the plane between the bulky phosphines to receive maximum back-donation.

Nearly as surprising, no evidence for *any* N<sub>2</sub> binding to **2** under 0.8 atm of <sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub> was seen by <sup>15</sup>N NMR in CD<sub>2</sub>-Cl<sub>2</sub> solution, even when the temperature was lowered to -58 °C, which favors binding of weak external ligands here (the 10 kcal/mol entropic advantage that internal agostic CH binding holds over external ligand binding is reduced at lower temperatures). Only a strong signal for free N<sub>2</sub> was observed, whereas for [Mn(CO)(dppe)<sub>2</sub>-(N<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>] the expected two resonances for end-on-coordinated N<sub>2</sub> were clearly observed by this method at -73 °C up to room temperature.<sup>1a</sup> The complete lack of N<sub>2</sub> binding to **2** is also surprising because the Re congener, [Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, was 50% coordinated by N<sub>2</sub> (0.8 atm) at room temperature.<sup>5c</sup>

The explanation for the above disparity goes beyond the simple rationale that third-row metals are better  $\pi$ -donors than first-row metals and N<sub>2</sub> is a moderate  $\pi$ -acceptor. In this regard it is particularly informative to compare H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, and other ligand coordination on a large array of cationic and neutral fragments. Table 4 lists relevant 16e fragments, all of which bind H<sub>2</sub>, in roughly estimated decreasing order of electrophilicity and whether they bind N<sub>2</sub> and other common ligands discussed below. In some cases direct comparisons to

(14) Calculated from and bracketed by the empirical relationships  $r_{\text{HH}} = 1.42 - 0.0167J(\text{HD})$  (Maltby, P. A.; Schlaf, M.; Steinbeck, M.; Lough, A. J.; Morris, R. H.; Klooster, W. T.; Koetzle, T. F.; Srivastava, R. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, *118*, 5396) and  $r_{\text{HH}} = 1.44 - 0.0168J(\text{HD})$  (Luther, T. A.; Heinekey, D. M. *Inorg. Chem.* **1998**, *37*, 127).

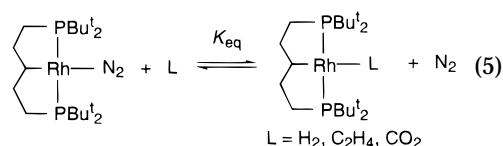
(15) (a) Ryan, R. R.; Kubas, G. J.; Moody, D. C.; Eller, P. G. *Struct. Bonding (Berlin)* **1981**, *46*, 47. (b) Kubas, G. J. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1994**, *27*, 183. (c) Kubas, G. J.; Jarvinen, G. D.; Ryan, R. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1983**, *105*, 1883.

the binding strength of H<sub>2</sub> can be made (denoted by "weaker" or "stronger"). As mentioned in the Introduction, N<sub>2</sub> also does not coordinate to the 16e dicarbonyl complex, [Re(CO)<sub>2</sub>(triphos)]<sup>+</sup>, at room temperature under 3 atm N<sub>2</sub>. This fragment is believed to have an agostic interaction trans to one of the phosphine arms. The H<sub>2</sub> ligand replaces the agostic interaction and is moderately labile in the solid state, but the complex is isolatable. In the neutral M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> system, coordination of H<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> is far more competitive and is nearly isoenergetic. N<sub>2</sub> binding to Cr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was not seen in solution at room temperature, but partial coordination occurred when the pressure of N<sub>2</sub> was raised to ca. 2 atm and higher (100% binding required 100 atm).<sup>6a</sup> Thermodynamic measurements showed that H<sub>2</sub> binding to Cr was stronger, but by only about 1 kcal/mol in terms of Δ*G* and primarily for entropic reasons; Δ*H* actually favors N<sub>2</sub> binding by 2 kcal/mol here. Entropy can play a large role in weakly coordinating ligands because *TΔS* can rival Δ*H* in magnitude, and as the temperature is lowered, the relatively small absolute entropy of H<sub>2</sub> increasingly favors binding of H<sub>2</sub> as compared to other ligands.<sup>6n</sup> For the cationic [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> congener however, H<sub>2</sub> binding is clearly favored *enthalpically* over N<sub>2</sub> since at -58 °C there is essentially no N<sub>2</sub> coordination and complete H<sub>2</sub> coordination, while for Cr partial binding of both H<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> is observed spectroscopically at ca. 2 atm of the gases. The entropy effect could not be responsible for this difference.

For the diphosphine system [Mn(CO)(R<sub>2</sub>PC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>PR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, direct competition studies show that H<sub>2</sub> binds stronger than N<sub>2</sub>. However the thermodynamic difference is not as dramatic as for **2** since the complex with R = Et binds N<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) completely at room temperature, while the less electron-rich R = Ph analogue still coordinates to a 37% extent.<sup>1a,d</sup> Since **2** is more electrophilic than the latter, the obvious trend is that H<sub>2</sub> becomes an increasingly better ligand than N<sub>2</sub> as the electrophilicity of the metal increases and back-donation decreases. Conversely, for the most electron-rich system considered in this paper, Mo(CO)(dippe)<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> clearly binds more strongly than H<sub>2</sub>.<sup>2,6g</sup> This disparity in relative coordinating abilities results from N<sub>2</sub> being a very poor σ-donor<sup>16</sup> and a good π-acceptor, though slightly weaker than H<sub>2</sub>,<sup>16b,d</sup> as shown both theoretically and experimentally (mainly by Mossbauer studies). The data in Table 4 demonstrate that N<sub>2</sub> is clearly a poorer σ-donor than the very weak bases Et<sub>2</sub>O and dichloromethane, both of which form fairly robust complexes with the highly electrophilic [Re(CO)<sub>4</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> and [PtH(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> fragments.<sup>1b,c</sup> Theoretical calculations that include charge decomposition analysis of W(CO)<sub>5</sub>L show that for L = H<sub>2</sub> the contribution from σ-donation is 0.349e versus only 0.027e for N<sub>2</sub>, while back-donation is 0.107e for N<sub>2</sub> versus 0.129e for H<sub>2</sub>.<sup>16d</sup> It is apparent that N<sub>2</sub> can only be stabilized on a metal center by π-back-donation, even

in actinide complexes<sup>17</sup> such as [(NN')<sub>3</sub>U]<sub>2</sub>(μ<sub>2</sub>-η<sup>2</sup>:η<sup>2</sup>-N<sub>2</sub>), for which DFT calculations show that back-donation to side-on-bound N<sub>2</sub> is the *only* significant U–N<sub>2</sub>–U interaction.<sup>16e</sup> Therefore, cationic organometallic electrophiles may simply not provide enough π-back-donation to stabilize N<sub>2</sub> binding relative to neutral electrophiles, and N<sub>2</sub> cannot compensate for this loss by increasing its σ-donation as effectively as H<sub>2</sub> can. For the much more electron-rich Mo(CO)(dippe)<sub>2</sub> fragment on the other hand, back-donation to H<sub>2</sub> accounted for roughly two-thirds of the bond strength (versus two-thirds σ-donation for Mo(CO)<sub>5</sub>),<sup>18</sup> showing how easily H<sub>2</sub> reverses its bonding capability. Thus nonclassically bound H<sub>2</sub> is a more versatile ligand than N<sub>2</sub> and indeed many other classically coordinated ligands in its ability to adjust to a larger range of electronic situations.

An exception to the general observation that N<sub>2</sub> tends to be a slightly better ligand than H<sub>2</sub> on neutral complexes is shown in eq 5.<sup>19</sup>



In cyclohexane solution, the H<sub>2</sub> binding is measured to be 1.24 kcal/mol more favorable than N<sub>2</sub> binding, possibly because of the slightly better back-bonding ability of H<sub>2</sub> versus N<sub>2</sub> to the electron-rich Rh center here. Surprisingly, N<sub>2</sub> binding is more favorable than ethylene binding by 1.57 kcal/mol, but this is no doubt a result of the steric demands of the bulky phosphines. Not surprisingly, CO<sub>2</sub> is the weakest ligand here, and very few transition metal fragments that bind H<sub>2</sub> also coordinate CO<sub>2</sub>. Dioxygen is also rarely found on the same fragment as H<sub>2</sub>,<sup>20</sup> although the reason is that O<sub>2</sub> usually oxidizes the low-valent fragments that favor H<sub>2</sub> binding.

Comparisons of the H<sub>2</sub> ligand to other types of ligands, including pure σ-donors, further support the versatility of the H<sub>2</sub> ligand. For example, [Re(CO)<sub>4</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> binds Et<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> moderately strongly to give isolatable complexes that are more stable than the H<sub>2</sub> complex.<sup>1c</sup> However, H<sub>2</sub> gains the bonding advantage over such weak σ-donors on more electron-rich neutral systems such as M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, Mo(CO)(R<sub>2</sub>PC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>PR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, and most other group 6–10 fragments which do not bind ethers or CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> in stable fashion. In these cases, the increased back-donation strengthens H<sub>2</sub> binding considerably but pure σ-bases cannot receive this. Thus H<sub>2</sub> is the perfect ligand because it is effectively *amphoteric*, i.e., essentially both a Lewis acid and a Lewis base like SO<sub>2</sub>, with which there is an excellent parallel. Just as SO<sub>2</sub> is the most versatile coordinating agent toward both transition metal and main-group compounds,<sup>15</sup> H<sub>2</sub> is perhaps the most adaptable "weak" ligand. Virtually

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every known unsaturated transition metal fragment either molecularly binds or oxidatively adds H<sub>2</sub>. The primary difference between H<sub>2</sub> (and other nonclassical ligands) and classical ligands such as SO<sub>2</sub> is that electron donation originates from a *bonding* electron pair to give a three-center interaction. SO<sub>2</sub> is a stronger  $\pi$ -acceptor, but H<sub>2</sub> is not too far behind, closely followed by ethylene, then N<sub>2</sub>.<sup>6m</sup>

The main rival to H<sub>2</sub> is ethylene and other olefins which generally coordinate somewhat stronger to the same fragments as H<sub>2</sub> and bind to metals in the classic Dewar–Chatt–Duncanson  $\pi$ -bonding model, which is quite analogous to metal–H<sub>2</sub> bonding. However, from <sup>31</sup>P NMR evidence, ethylene does not coordinate to **2** even at –70 °C, and disproportionation to *trans*-[Mn(CO)<sub>4</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>][A] occurs instead (CO is a strong “sixth ligand” here). It is very likely that ethylene cannot bind in the electronically preferred geometry (parallel to the P–Mn–P axis as in the W analogue<sup>6m</sup>) for steric reasons (smaller first-row metal coordination sphere). Perhaps the tetracarbonyl results from rapid decomposition of an unstable adduct with an off-axis geometry. All of the group 6 and 7 M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> species are indeed prone to slow disproportionation in solution, which conceivably may be promoted by equilibrium displacement of the agostic interaction by weak ligands or solvent. However, for reactions of **2** with N<sub>2</sub>, silanes, and SO<sub>2</sub>, much less [Mn(CO)<sub>4</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> was formed.

Like H<sub>2</sub>, silanes form  $\sigma$ -complexes with a wide range of fragments, although the Si–H bond is a slightly better acceptor than H–H and oxidatively adds more readily.<sup>6h,i,m</sup> Also, silane coordination to first-row octahedral group 6 and 7 metals appears to be much weaker than to second- and third-row metals, and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> does not form a stable complex with **2** down to –75 °C from <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P NMR evidence. Similarly, silane coordination was unobserved to [Mn(CO)(dppe)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> and even neutral Cr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>,<sup>1d,6m</sup> but silanes were found to coordinate to [Re(CO)<sub>4</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup><sup>1c</sup> and even oxidatively add to W(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.<sup>6m</sup> Thus silane binding and activation is much more variable than that for H<sub>2</sub>, which coordinates in a more predictable fashion throughout first- to third-row metals. This is mainly a result of the increased complexity of the R<sub>3</sub>Si–H ligand where substituents are present on Si that can influence activation both electronically and sterically (important for smaller first-row metals), and reversal of trends can even occur depending on electrophilicity of the metal fragment.<sup>6o</sup> Silanes and also N<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> coordinate as well or better than H<sub>2</sub> to CpMn(CO)<sub>2</sub>, which is both less sterically crowded and less electrophilic than **2**.

It must be kept in mind that the CO ligand *trans* to L in the neutral and cationic M(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(L) and M(CO)(R<sub>2</sub>PC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>PR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(L) systems has a strong *trans* influence;<sup>6m,9</sup> that is, H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, and other  $\pi$ -acceptors L must compete with CO for back-donation and are less activated. For example, H–H distances are usually <0.9 Å and *J*(HD) is >30 Hz for all complexes where CO is *trans* to H<sub>2</sub>. However, for systems with *trans* ligands that are primarily electron donors such as chloride and phosphine, e.g., [Re(CO)<sub>2</sub>(triphos)]<sup>+</sup>, the above bonding trends still hold. Both H<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> bind similarly to second-row TcCl(dppe)<sub>2</sub>,<sup>9</sup> while H<sub>2</sub> binding is again favored over N<sub>2</sub> on the more electrophilic [RuCl-

(dppe)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> cationic congener.<sup>11a</sup> The  $\pi$ -donating chloride ligand generally has a low *trans* influence and is a weak field ligand, and TcCl(dppe)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>) consequently has an elongated H–H bond, >1 Å. Another cationic system under intense study in regard to alkane activation is [PtXL<sub>2</sub>(L')]<sup>+</sup> where X = H, Me, Ph; L = phosphine or amine; and L' = labile ligand.<sup>1b,21</sup> The X ligands here also have a strong *trans-donor* effect. We have shown that the [PtH(PPr<sup>i</sup>)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> fragment does not coordinate N<sub>2</sub>, yet gives stable H<sub>2</sub> binding at –40 °C (H<sub>2</sub> dissociates on warming).<sup>1b</sup> Interestingly even SO<sub>2</sub> does not bind to this feebly back-bonding, highly electrophilic fragment, although weak bases readily give isolatable, air-stable [PtX(PR<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(L)]<sup>+</sup> for L = Et<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

A last consideration is why N<sub>2</sub> and silanes are much poorer ligands toward *cationic* electrophiles than neutral electron-poor fragments such as Cr(CO)<sub>5</sub> which bind N<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, and silanes at either low temperatures or high pressures (130 atm) with very similar enthalpies of dissociation (16–17 kcal/mol).<sup>22</sup> For silanes, steric factors may prevail (the cations have bulky phosphines). However this should not be relevant for N<sub>2</sub>, and the much lower propensity to coordinate to *positively charged* organometallic electrophiles could be related to polarizability effects, i.e., soft/hard ligand properties. However from guided ion-beam mass spectrometric evidence, both H<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> interact equally well with very hard naked metal ions such as Fe<sup>+</sup> to form [Fe(L)<sub>*n*</sub>]<sup>+</sup> species, where polarizability is a large factor.<sup>23</sup> Therefore, we are left with the conclusion that cationic organometallic electrophiles are weaker  $\pi$ -donors than M(CO)<sub>5</sub> fragments.

Clearly more theoretical guidance is needed for these cationic systems, as has been carried out recently for H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, and CO on the neutral fragments Fe(CO)<sub>4</sub> and group 6 M(CO)<sub>5–*n*</sub>P<sub>*n*</sub>.<sup>18,24</sup> As pointed out by Hoffmann,<sup>24a</sup> the reason CO is such an excellent and ubiquitous ligand is the balance between its good donating and accepting capabilities and its innate molecular stability. It is clear that the H<sub>2</sub> ligand offers these same advantages, albeit on a lower scale energetically. Interestingly, theoretical calculations<sup>24c</sup> have recently shown that the first CO dissociation energy from [M(CO)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>*n*</sup> (M = group 4–9 metal; *n* = –2 to +3) is unexpectedly *higher* for the cationic complexes because  $\sigma$ -donation from CO increases, just as H<sub>2</sub> greatly increases its  $\sigma$ -donation to cationic systems.

## Conclusions

The electrophilic and sterically crowded cationic [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> fragment (**2**) has been found to bind H<sub>2</sub> but not N<sub>2</sub>, ethylene, or silanes, even at –70 °C.

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Remarkably, the normally strong SO<sub>2</sub> ligand is bound only weakly in equilibrium with **2**, which attests to the poor back-bonding ability of **2**. The relatively strong internal agostic C–H interaction in **2** thus appears to be more resistant to displacement by external ligands than similar neutral and cationic fragments with agostic interactions. There is also a clear overall trend that electrophilic cationic systems highly favor H<sub>2</sub> binding over N<sub>2</sub> and even stronger ligands such as SO<sub>2</sub>. Although H<sub>2</sub> is generally considered to be a “weak” ligand, the amphoteric nature of H<sub>2</sub> bonding to transition metals makes H<sub>2</sub> much more versatile than N<sub>2</sub>, olefins, silanes, and virtually any other ligand. Dihydrogen is thus able to coordinate (or oxidatively add) to a wider array of transition metal fragments, particularly cationic species, than even most “strong” ligands. On the other hand, N<sub>2</sub> is an exceedingly poor electron donor, even toward strong electrophiles, where it is much more feeble than the weakest known ligands, e.g., CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The complete lack of binding to **2** and other electron-poor cationic complexes indicates that N<sub>2</sub> apparently can only be stabilized on a metal center by a high degree of  $\pi$ -back-donation, even in actinide complexes,<sup>16e,17</sup> offering indirect experimental evidence for the controversial existence of back-donation from f-elements. In light of this and computations that show  $\eta^2$ -N<sub>2</sub> is favored over  $\eta^1$ -N<sub>2</sub> in Ni(PH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(N<sub>2</sub>),<sup>16f</sup> it is surprising that  $\eta^2$ -N<sub>2</sub> is not more common and is virtually unknown in mono-nuclear complexes. These new viewpoints on the bonding of N<sub>2</sub> and other small molecule ligands discussed in this paper are quite relevant to their chemical and biochemical transformations (e.g., structure and function of enzymes such as nitrogenase and hydrogenase<sup>25</sup>) and an important topic for further study. The principles derived from H<sub>2</sub> coordination can be extended to other  $\sigma$ -ligands, particularly alkane binding which could be enhanced on cationic electrophilic centers such as Pt(II) species that are under current scrutiny in regard to Shilov activation of methane.<sup>21</sup>

## Experimental Section

**General Procedures.** All manipulations were performed either under a helium atmosphere in a Vacuum Atmospheres drybox or under an argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques unless otherwise specified. Toluene and hexane were distilled from Na under Ar. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was distilled under Ar from CaH<sub>2</sub>. Anhydrous EtOH was stored over activated molecular sieves and was deoxygenated by bubbling Ar through the solvent prior to use. Solvents for preparation of the agostic complex were vacuum transferred from P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, or Na/K alloy, hexane prior to use. All gases except SO<sub>2</sub> (anhydrous grade) and ethylene were of UHP grade. Ethylene was polymerization grade, purified by passage through an Oxisorb-Glas column. PhSiH<sub>3</sub> was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. HD gas was acquired from Isotec. Na[A] was prepared according to literature methods.<sup>26</sup> All solids were weighed out in the drybox under a He atmosphere. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 550 spectrometer or a Varian Unity 300. <sup>1</sup>H chemical shifts were referenced to the residual solvent resonance relative to TMS; <sup>31</sup>P chemical shifts were referenced to external 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. Infrared spectra were recorded on a BioRad FTS-40 FT-IR

spectrometer. Elemental analyses (C, H, and N) were performed by Oneida Research Services, Inc., or in house (complex **2**).

**Preparation of MnBr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, **1**.** In the drybox, MnBr(CO)<sub>5</sub> (1.065 g, 3.874 mmol) and PCy<sub>3</sub> (2.178 g, 7.766 mmol) were placed into a 200 mL Schlenk flask, and about 150 mL of toluene was added. This orange solution was transferred by cannula into a photochemical reactor and irradiated for 15 min with a medium-pressure Hg lamp through a water-jacketed quartz immersion well, cooled to 5 °C. During irradiation the solution was stirred, gas was seen to form, and the system was flushed with argon using an oil bubbler. The resulting yellow solution was removed from the reaction vessel, toluene solvent was removed in vacuo, and the resulting solid residue was taken up in 15 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and filtered. On addition of 15 mL of EtOH, a yellow precipitate formed. The volume was reduced to approximately 2 mL, and approximately 4–6 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added to the flask. The yellow solid persisted. Precipitation was completed by the addition of 15 mL of EtOH. The yellow solid (0.678 g) was collected and washed with 30 mL of hexane. A second crop (0.347 g) was crystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/EtOH to give a total yield of 0.975 g, 32%. The essentially analytically pure product gave excellent elemental analysis (% found(theory)): C, 59.85-(60.07); H, 8.46(8.53); N, 0.00(0.00). IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>, KBr,  $\nu$ (CO)): 1885-(s), 1925(s), 2015(m). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (toluene, 25 °C):  $\delta$  2.46–1.25 (m, Cy). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (toluene, 25 °C):  $\delta$  46.44(s). Suitable X-ray quality crystals were obtained from a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution by layering with ethanol.

The unrecrystallized solid in addition to the bands due to the product also showed infrared bands at 1943, 1900, and 1844 cm<sup>-1</sup>. These bands were not observed in the pure recrystallized product.

**Preparation of [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>][A], **2**.** In a glovebox, Na[A] (0.114 g, 0.129 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of MnBr(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.100 g, 0.128 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL). After stirring for 10 min, the dark green reaction mixture was filtered through Celite to remove precipitated NaBr, and hexanes (5 mL) were added to the filtrate. Storage at room temperature for 1 h provided dark green crystals of **2** (0.159 g, 80% yield). Crystals of a mono-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solvate suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained by diffusion of hexanes into a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of **2** at room temperature. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>72</sub>H<sub>80</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>F<sub>24</sub>O<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>BMn: C, 52.48; H, 4.89; N, 0.00. Found: C, 52.56; H, 5.00; N, 0.01. FT-IR (Nujol),  $\nu$ (CO): 2048(w), 1962(s), 1942(s), 1933(sh). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  1.0–2.6 (m, 66H, Cy), 7.53 (s, 4H, A), 7.73 (s, 8H, A). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  51.6.

**Reaction of **2** with SO<sub>2</sub>.** A sample of **2** (0.010 g) was transferred to a J-Young NMR tube and dissolved in 0.5 mL of CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The tube was placed on a vacuum line, frozen, pumped down, and back-filled to 0.8 atm of SO<sub>2</sub> (the ambient atmospheric pressure is near 600 Torr). The yellow-green solution was warmed to room temperature and the tube closed off. At room temperature the <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) showed a mixture of the agostic (51.6 ppm) and SO<sub>2</sub> (56.9 ppm) complexes present at a ratio of 1/0.7, respectively. When cooled to –40 °C, all was converted to the SO<sub>2</sub> complex. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (–40 °C, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  7.73 (s, 8H, A), 7.55 (s, 4H, A), 1.0–2.7 (m, 66H, Cy). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (–40 °C, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  57.1. The reaction with SO<sub>2</sub> was completely reversible, and when the volatiles were removed from the NMR sample under vacuum and the green residue was dissolved in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, only the signal 51.7 ppm for the agostic complex was observed in the <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR.

**Reaction of **2** with C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, PhSiH<sub>3</sub>, and <sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub>.** In a similar fashion, approximately 1.5 equiv of ethylene was added to a frozen CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of **2**. The NMR tube was kept cold and inserted into a precooled probe at –70 °C. Proton and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were recorded at this temperature as well as –40, 0, and 20 °C, but only free ethylene was observed in

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the <sup>1</sup>H spectra. In the <sup>31</sup>P spectra, **2** plus *trans*-[Mn(CO)<sub>4</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>][A] (58.9 ppm) was seen at -70 °C. As the solution was warmed to room temperature, the reaction mixture turned colorless, and the ratio of the latter to **2** increased until it finally became 1/0.

In the drybox, a large excess of PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (0.1 mL) was added to a CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of **2** (10 mg) in an NMR tube, and the olive green color of the reaction mixture persisted. <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments showed no peaks attributable to  $\sigma$ -bound Si-H or the oxidative addition product at room temperature or at -70 °C, and the <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra showed only a sharp peak for unreacted **2**.

For reaction of **2** with 0.8 atm of <sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub> as above for ethylene, no signals indicative of coordination were seen at -58 °C in the <sup>15</sup>N NMR. Only the signal for free <sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub> was observed.

**Formation of [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>)]<sup>+</sup>[A].** Reactions of **2** with H<sub>2</sub> (0.8 atm) were run as above, and the color of the solution turned immediately from green to pale yellow. The sample was characterized by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P NMR at -78 °C and also 25 °C, at which temperature the H<sub>2</sub> complex existed in equilibrium with **2**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  -8.43 (br, 2H), 2.50-0.17 (m, Cy), 4.59 (br, free H<sub>2</sub>), 7.57 (s, 4H), 7.73 (s, 8H). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (-78 °C):  $\delta$  -8.56 (br, 2H, 277 Hz), 1.95-0.07 (m, 66H), 5.21 (br, free H<sub>2</sub>), 7.53 (s, 4H), 7.72 (s, 8H). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (25 °C):  $\delta$  63.47 (s, H<sub>2</sub> complex), 51.25 (s, **2**). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (-78 °C):  $\delta$  63.29 (s, H<sub>2</sub> complex).

**Formation of [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(HD)]<sup>+</sup>[A].** Analogous to the formation of [Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>)]<sup>+</sup>[A], HD gas was used instead of H<sub>2</sub> gas. At 300 K, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  7.72, (8H, s, ortho-Ar'); 7.56, (4H, s, para-Ar'); 2.51-1.13, (66H, m, PCy<sub>3</sub>); -8.46 (1H, t ( $J$  = 33 Hz, Mn-HD)). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  58.9.

**X-ray Structure Determination of 1.** A yellow parallelepiped was mounted on a thin glass fiber using silicone grease. The crystal, which was mounted from a pool of mineral oil bathed in argon, was immediately placed under a liquid N<sub>2</sub> stream on a Siemens P4/PC diffractometer. The radiation used was graphite-monochromatized Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.710 69 Å). The lattice parameters were optimized from a least-squares calculation on 25 carefully centered reflections of high Bragg angle. Reflections were collected using  $\omega$  scans with a 0.86° scan range. Three check reflections monitored every 97 reflections showed no systematic variation of intensities. Lattice determination and data collection were carried out using XSCANS Version 2.10b software. All data reduction,

including Lorentz and polarization corrections, and structure solution and graphics were performed using SHELXTL PC Version 4.2/360 software. The structure refinement was performed using SHELX 93 software.<sup>27</sup> The data were corrected for absorption using the ellipsoid option in the XEMP facility of SHELXTL PC. Data collection parameters are given in Table 1.

The structure was solved in space group  $P\bar{1}$  using direct methods. The manganese, bromine, and phosphorus atoms were identified from the direct methods solution. Subsequent Fourier synthesis revealed all remaining atoms. Due to the inversion symmetry of the molecule, two trans sites were modeled as one-half occupancy bromine and one-half occupancy carbonyl. The secondary and tertiary carbon hydrogen atoms were fixed in positions of ideal geometry, with C-H distances of 0.97 and 0.98 Å, respectively. All hydrogen atoms were refined using the riding model in the HFIX facility in SHELXL 93 and had their isotropic temperature factors fixed at 1.2 times the equivalent isotropic  $U$  of the carbon atom they were bonded to. The final refinement included anisotropic thermal parameters on all non-hydrogen atoms and converged to R1 = 0.0466 and wR2 = 0.0953.<sup>28</sup>

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**Supporting Information Available:** X-ray data for **1** and **2** (23 pages). See any current masthead page for ordering information and Internet access instructions.

OM980560V

(27) XSCANS and SHELXTL PC are products of Siemens Analytical X-ray Instruments, Inc., 6300 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53719. SHELX-93 is a program for crystal structure refinement written by G. M. Sheldrick, University of Göttingen, Germany, 1993.

(28) R1 =  $\sigma|F_o| - |F_c|/|F_o|$  and wR2 =  $[\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/\sum[w(F_o^2)^2]]^{1/2}$ . The parameter  $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + 0.0473P^2 + 0.1733P]$ .

(29) SMART, Version 4.210; Bruker Analytical X-ray Systems, Inc.: 6300 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53719, 1996.