Addition of NH3 to the Cluster Complexes $M_3H(\mu-H)(CO)_{11}$ (M = Ru, Os)

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The reactions of ammonia with either $Ru_3H(\mu-H)(\mu\text{-}CO)(CO)_{10}$ (I) or $Os_3H(\mu\text{-}H)(CO)_{11}$ (II) in CD₂Cl₂ solutions yield $[NH_4]^+[M_3(\mu\text{-}H)(\mu\text{-}CO)(CO)_{10}]^-$ (M = Ru, Os). When the reactions are followed at low temperature (183 K) by means of 1H, 13C, and 15N NMR spectroscopy, it is possible to detect the formation of kinetic products which are derived from the addition of an ammonia molecule to a carbonyl carbon atom. In the Ru case ammonia is bonded to the bridging carbonyl carbon atom and maintains its wholeness. In the Os system a carbamoyl moiety is formed by transfer of one hydrogen from $NH₃$ to the oxygen atom of the carbonyl group to form an O-H bond. The NMR observation of the latter functionality is prevented by the occurrence of a fast proton exchange with the excess of free $NH₃$ present. Two isomers of this carbamoyl-containing species can be detected; the structural difference between them is based only on which carbonyl has undergone the ammonia attack.

Introduction

Studies on the reactivity of ammonia and related amines have received limited attention in cluster chemistry. Only in the cases of the reactions with the coordinatively unsaturated $\mathrm{Os}_3(\mu\text{-H})_2(\text{CO})_{10}$ cluster^{1a} and $\text{Os}_3(\mu\text{-H})(\text{CO})_9(\mu_3\text{-}\eta^2\text{-C}_9\text{H}_6\text{N})$,^{1b} with the lightly stabilized $\text{Os}_3(\text{CO})_{11}(\text{NCCH}_3)$, ^{1c, d} and with the reactive saturated cluster $\mathrm{Os}_3(\mu\text{-H})(\text{CO})_9(\text{C}=\text{N}(\text{CH}_2)_3)^2$ has direct coordination of ammonia to the metallic center been found. In the last case a solid-state structure of the complex has been reported. In other cases the amines give either nucleophilic attack or oxidative addition reactions. Kaesz and co-workers investigated the reaction of dimethylamine with $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$ and found that it produces the $Ru_3(\mu-H)[\mu-\eta^2-OCN(CH_3)_2](CO)_{10}$ cluster compound.3 Whereas the latter reaction occurs under very mild conditions (it starts at 243 K), the analogous reaction with aniline occurs in refluxing benzene and yields the amido-bridged complex Ru3(*µ*-H)(*µ*-*η*2-NHPh)- (CO)10. ⁴ Finally, several examples of nucleophilic attack of ammonia and other amines to alkynyl, allenyl, and allyl ligands coordinated to the cluster frameworks have been reported.⁵

We decided to investigate the reactivity of $NH₃$ and related amines with $Ru_3H(\mu-H)(\mu-CO)(CO)_{10}$ (I) and $Os₃H(u-H)(CO)₁₁$ (**II**) (Chart 1)⁶⁻⁸ in order to assess which of the possible reactions (H_2 or CO substitution,

nucleophilic attack at a carbonyl carbon atom, or acidbase reaction) takes place in these systems. Furthermore, since **I** displays a bridging carbonyl ligand whereas **II** possesses all terminal carbonyl groups, we were interested in determining if such a structural difference had any effect on the reactivity of the complexes. The reactions were followed up also at low temperature in order to get more insight into the understanding of the initial reaction steps.

Results and Discussion

When NH_3 gas is flowed into CD_2Cl_2 solutions containing **I** or **II** at room temperature, a net transformation into $[NH_4]^+[M_3(\mu\text{-}H)(\mu\text{-}CO)(CO)_{10}]^-$ (M = Ru, Os) occurs (Scheme 1). Their characterization was carried

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out on the basis of the comparison of their elemental analysis and IR and 13 C and ¹H NMR spectra with literature data.10 Minor differences have been observed for the chemical shifts of the bridging ¹³C-carbonyl and 1H-hydride resonances, as a consequence of the different counterions.

One may conclude that the observed behavior simply consists of extraction by the base $NH₃$ of one proton from the dihydride metal carbonyl derivatives to yield the monohydride carbonyl anions.

To get more insight into the reaction pathways which lead to the formation of the $[NH_4]^+[M_3(\mu-H)(\mu-CO)$ - $(CO)_{10}$ ⁻ (M = Ru, Os) species, we investigated these reactions directly in the NMR tube at 183 K. Also at this temperature the reactions eventually yield $[NH_4]^+$ $[M_3(\mu-H)(\mu\text{-CO})(CO)_{10}]^-$, but there is clear evidence for the formation of kinetic products in both reactions. These derivatives are sufficiently stable at low temperature to allow their full characterization by ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{13}C$, and ¹⁵N NMR spectroscopy. Although the two final products are isostructural,⁹ there are noticeable structural differences between the kinetic species found in the two reactions.

Low-Temperature Reaction of I with NH3 and Related Amines. The intermediate (**IA**) from the reaction between **I** and NH_3 (100 Torr) at 183 K is characterized by three absorptions in the 1H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 183 K) at 2.18 (3H, broad), -11.7 (1H, ${}^{2}J_{\rm H,{}^{1}\rm H}$ = 2.0 Hz), and -16.1 ppm (1H, broad, half-
height width 5.5 Hz), respectively. The broadening of height width 5.5 Hz), respectively. The broadening of the coordinated $NH₃$ resonance at 2.18 ppm and of the hydride signal at -16.1 ppm does not appear to be associated with unresolved $J^I_{H,^I_H}$ couplings between them, since it cannot be reduced by selectively decoupling one signal while observing the other one. On the other hand, irradiation of the hydride signal at -16.1 ppm causes the merging of the doublet at -11.7 ppm into a sharp singlet. When the hydride NMR regions of **I** and **IA** are compared, it is evident that the interaction with $NH₃$ produces a larger variation in the bridging hydride chemical shift with respect to the terminal one. Furthermore, the spin-lattice relaxation time T_1 of the former is slightly shorter than that of the latter (2.09 s for the bridging hydride and 2.76 s for the terminal hydride at 183 K) and suggests a closer interaction of the ammonia protons with the bridging hydride.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of **IA** (CD₂Cl₂, 183 K, Figure 1) shows 10 terminal carbonyl resonances at 203.7, $202.4, 199.1$ (² J^{13} C,¹H_{term} = 13.6 Hz), 198.8 (² J^{13} C,¹H_{term} =

Figure 1. ${}^{13}C{^1H}$ NMR spectrum of **IA** (CD₂Cl₂, 183 K; i denotes impurities.

13.6 Hz), 196.4, 195.4, 194.0 (${}^{2}J^{13}C,{}^{1}H_{bridge} = 13.2$ Hz), 188.1, 186.6, and 185.6 ppm, respectively, and a broad signal at 279.9 ppm (half-height width 25.7 Hz) typical of a bridging carbonyl. The overall patterns of hydride and carbonyl NMR regions are similar to the corresponding spectra of the parent complex **I**. This suggests that **IA** is the product resulting from the simple addition of NH₃ to **I**; i.e., the molecular formula $Ru_3H(\mu-H)(\mu-H)$ CO $(CO)_{10}$ (NH₃) can be assigned to **IA**.

By using $15NH_3$ as reagent, it is possible to detect the $15N$ NMR absorption (CD₂Cl₂, 183 K) of bound NH₃ at -421.6 ppm (quartet, $1J_1s_{\rm N,1H} = 70.0$ Hz), which is about
45 npm upfield than that of free ammonia 45 ppm upfield than that of free ammonia.

In a ¹³C, ¹⁵N doubly enriched sample a ¹J¹⁵_N,¹³C value of 10.0 Hz can be observed in the ¹⁵N NMR spectrum, whereas no $^{1}J_{^{15}\text{N},^{13}\text{C}}$ is detected in the ¹³C NMR spectrum. This odd result suggests that the $15N-13C$ coupling deals with the broad bridging CO resonance. In fact, if the coupling involved any other CO group, it would also be detected in the 13C NMR spectrum, since all the terminal CO resonance line widths are <5 Hz.

On the basis of these spectroscopic data, we suggest that in the $Ru_3H(\mu-H)(\mu-CO)(CO)_{10}(NH_3)$ adduct the ammonia nitrogen is bound to the bridging carbonyl carbon atom (Chart 2). The close similarity in the 13 C chemical shifts and ${}^2J^{13}C, {}^1H$ values in **I** and **IA** is consistent with the maintainance of the basic structural features of **I** upon formation of the adduct.

The cause of the broadening of the bridging CO resonance is not clear. There may be a contribution from unresolved ${}^{2}J^{13}C_{1}^{13}C_{1}$ couplings, but this seems to be a minor effect, since it would have been detected in some of the terminal carbonyl resonances as well. Another possibility is the effect of the quadrupolar 14N nucleus. However, this explanation has to be ruled out since no significant change in the bridging CO resonance line width is detected in the ¹⁵N-containing isotopomer.

Tentatively, we may relate the peculiar broadening of the bridging CO and hydride ligands to the asym-

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i denotes impurities.

metric environment on the two sides of the bridging moieties. One may envisage that the process of sticking the ammonia molecule to $Ru₃H(\mu-H)(\mu-CO)(CO)₁₀$ affords several structures having similar energy: this would give rise to a dispersion of chemical shifts, i.e. to the observed broadening of the bridging ligand signals.

Since a higher acidic character has been associated with the bridging hydrides rather than with the terminal ones, 10 it seems reasonable to suggest that the proton abstraction to form the $\mathrm{NH_4^+}$ cation involves the bridging hydride ligand, whose coordination site is then replaced by the transformation of the terminal hydride into a bridging one.

To establish the effect of the ligand basicity on the reaction, we carried out the reactions of **I** with some substituted amines and we found that the ease of formation of $[LH]^+[Ru_3(\mu\text{-}H)(\mu\text{-}CO)(CO)_{10}]^-$ (L = amine) depends on the basicity of the amine. In the group NH₃, $NH₂Et$, NHEt₂, NEt₃ the reactivity follows the order NEt_3 > $NHEt_2$ > NH_2Et > NH_3 . Only in the case of $NH₂Et$ is the reaction slow enough to allow the detection of an intermediate species analogous to **IA** (1H NMR: -16.50 ppm for the bridging hydride and -11.81 ppm for the terminal one). On the other hand, the less basic aniline reacts only at higher temperature, thus preventing the detection of the intermediate species. The formation of simple adducts between **I** and amines then appears strongly dependent upon a fine-tuning between the nitrogen atom basicity and the ability of the system to give rise to multiple interactions between the entering amine and the other ligands on the triruthenium surface.

Low-Temperature Reaction of II with NH3 and Related Amines. As recently shown,⁶ I displays a bridging carbonyl ligand, whereas **II** possesses all terminal carbonyl groups.7 In light of the results reported above for $Ru_3H(\mu-H)(\mu\text{-}CO)(CO)_{10}$, it was interesting to assess the behavior of $\rm Os_3H(\mu-H)(CO)_{11}$ with $NH₃$.

When 500 Torr of NH_3 is added to a CD_2Cl_2 solution of **II** at 183 K, the **IIA** derivative is immediately formed.

Its ¹H NMR spectrum (CD_2Cl_2 , 183 K) shows four equally intense signals at 8.0, 6.95, -10.83 , and -19.9 ppm, respectively. When $15NH_3$ is used, the two lowfield signals appear as doublets with $^1J_{\rm ^{15}N, ^{1}H}$ values of 90.1 and 80.0 Hz, respectively.

Ten 13CO signals (which account for 11 carbonyl groups) are observed in the ¹³C NMR spectrum $(CD_2$ -Cl₂, 183 K, Figure 2) at 189.3 (${}^{2}J^{13}C^{13}C = 34.3$ Hz), 187.9 $(^{2}J_{13}C_{13}C = 34.4$ Hz), 187.1 (2 CO), 181.8 $(^{2}J_{13}C_{11}H_{\text{term}} =$ $(\mathcal{L}^{13}C,^{13}C - 34.4 \text{ Hz})$, 167.1 (2 CO), 161.8 $(\mathcal{L}^{13}C,^{11}H_{\text{term}} - 25.6 \text{ Hz})$, 178.9, 176.8, 175.6, 175.3, 174.2, and 173.1

 $(^{2}J^{13}C, ^{1}H_{bridge} = 19.9$ Hz) ppm, respectively. The detection
of a large two-bond coupling between an equatorial of a large two-bond coupling between an equatorial carbonyl and the bridging hydride suggests the occurrence of a strong asymmetry in the layout of the latter ligand along the Os-Os bond.

The $15N$ NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 183 K) consists of a doublet of doublets centered at -231.2 ppm $(^1J_{15}N_{1}M$ doublet of doublets centered at $-z$ 51.2 ppm (\cdot *J*¹_{N,}¹H = 80 Hz, 90.1 Hz) in addition to the free 15 NH₃ signal at -376.2 ppm. Unexpectedly, the latter signal appears as a broad singlet in the proton-coupled spectrum.

Under lower ammonia pressure (200 Torr) at the same temperature, another species (**IIA**′) can be detected, which slowly evolves to **IIA**. The **IIA**′ spectroscopic properties suggest that it is an isomer of **IIA**. In fact, its ¹H NMR spectrum (CD_2Cl_2 , 183 K) shows four signals at 6.35 (1H, $\frac{1}{1}$ ¹, $\frac{1}{1}$ _{15N,} $\frac{1}{1}$ = 80.5 Hz), 5.87 (1H, $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{5}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{5}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ \frac $= 86.4$ Hz), -9.7 (1H), and -18.2 (1H) ppm, respectively. Although several carbonyl resonances can be detected, the low yield of **IIA**′ does not allow a complete assignment of its 13C NMR spectrum. A doublet of doublets centered at -234.0 ppm $(^{1}J^{15}N, ^{1}H = 80.5, 86.4$ Hz)
annears in the proton-coupled ¹⁵N NMR spectrum appears in the proton-coupled 15N NMR spectrum.

The 1 H absorptions in the range 5.8–8.0 ppm together with the 1H-15N coupling pattern for either **IIA** or **IIA**′ strongly suggest that the attack of NH₃ at Os₃H(μ -H)- $(CO)_{11}$ leads to the formation of a carbamoyl-type arrangement. Since the 13C resonance for such an arrangement is expected to be found in the 170-¹⁸⁰ ppm range,¹¹ it follows that one of the observed ^{13}C signals could be assigned to the carbamoyl functionality. On the basis of these findings, one may envisage three possible structures for a carbamoyl-containing system (Chart 3).

Structure **a** can be discarded, because three hydride resonances should be observed for it. On the other

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Figure 3. (a) Effect of the ammonia pressure upon the 13 C chemical shifts of **IIA**. (b) Variation of the carbamoyl carbon chemical shift.

hand, to support the occurrence of a **b**-type species one would need to observe the OH resonance, but we were unable to detect such a signal. Eventually, if structure **c** was the one occurring, it would display the NH_4^+ resonances in the 1H and 15N NMR spectra, but this is not the case.

More insight into the assignment of a structure to **IIA** could be obtained by the observation that a change in the ammonia pressure causes a selective effect on one 13CO resonance of **IIA**, whose chemical shift goes from 175.4 to 174.3 ppm as the ammonia pressure increases from 200 to 500 Torr (Figure 3). Almost no effect is detected on the remaining 10 CO resonances.

On the basis of these considerations one may assign to **IIA** (and **IIA**′) a structure **d**, intermediate between **b** and **c**, i.e. an ion pair in fast exchange with free ammonia (Chart 4), and assign the resonance at 174.3/ 175.4 ppm to the carbamoyl carbon.

The occurrence of such a structure would account both for the lack of observation of any OH signal (i.e. it scrambles with the three protons on the NH₃ molecule) and for the fact that the ${}^{1}H$ and ${}^{15}N$ NMR signals for free ammonia appear invariably as broad singlets. Interestingly, a **d**-type arrangement was suggested some years ago to account for the 2:1 stoichiometry found for adducts formed in the reaction between Fe- (CO) ₅ and primary and secondary amines.¹²

Now, the structural difference between **IIA** and **IIA**′ is based only on which carbonyl has undergone the ammonia attack.

As one goes from NH_3 to NH_2E t and $NHEt_2$, the reactivity increases, as expected on the basis of the increased nitrogen atom basicity. The 1H NMR spectra (CD2Cl2, 183 K) of the formed **IIA**-type intermediates show absorptions in the hydride region at -10.53 and -19.87 ppm in the case of NH₂Et and at -9.67 and -19.04 ppm in the case of NHEt₂. Conversely, NEt₃ does not react at all, even at 298 K. This fact might suggest that a necessary requisite for promoting the reactions with **II** is the presence on the amine nitrogen atom of at least one proton, which can be transferred to the carbonyl oxygen atom to form the intermediate carbamoyl functionality. Anyway, another factor that may be considered to account for the lack of nucleophilic attack at the carbonyl moiety is the increased strain of NEt_3 .

Conclusions

In summary, it is worth noting that the reactions of NH3 with **I** and **II** at low temperature lead to kinetic products of the same molecular formula, corresponding to the addition of the entering ligand to the cluster. In **IA** the ammonia maintains its wholeness, whereas in the **IIA/IIA**′ isomers one hydrogen is transferred from $NH₃$ to an oxygen atom to form an O-H bond. In principle, H2 elimination from **IIA/IIA**′-type structures might be possible, leading to the formation of a μ - η ²formamido cluster analogous to that reported from the reaction of dimethylamine with $Ru_3(CO)_{12}.^3$ We have no evidence for the occurrence of this transformation: the **IIA/IIA**′ species behave like **IA** and favor the formation of $[NH_4]^+[Os_3(\mu-H)(\mu-CO)(CO)_{10}]^-$.

The lack of any reaction between NH_3 and $M_3(CO)_{12}$ $(M = Ru, Os)$ even at room temperature¹³ could be explained by a reduced electrophilicity of the carbonyl carbon atoms in these compounds with respect to the $M_3H(\mu\text{-}H)(CO)_{11}$ species. Nevertheless, if the electrophilicity difference was so important in determining the reactivity with NH_3 , $Ru_3H(\mu-H)(CO)_{11}$ should react more easily than $\mathrm{Os}_3\mathrm{H}(\mu\text{-H})(CO)_{11}$, due to the presence of the bridging carbonyl (whose carbon atom is more electrophilic than that of a terminal carbonyl), but this is not the case. Since hydride ligands have been shown to be able to form hydrogen bonds, 14 we think that the formation of such interactions between the entering $NH₃$ (or amine) molecule and the hydride ligands may also

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play a role in the early reaction steps, perhaps facilitating the $NH₃$ (or amine) approach to the clusters.

Experimental Section

All solvents were stored over molecular sieves and purged with nitrogen before use.

I and **II** were prepared according to the published methods.6,15 13CO-enriched samples were synthesized by using 13Cenriched (about 40%) $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$ and $Os_3(CO)_{12}$, obtained by direct exchange of ¹³CO (300 Torr) with $M_3(CO)_{12}$ (200 mg) in cyclohexane at 343 K and in *n*-octane at 393 K, respectively, for 3 days in 250 mL sealed vials.

 $13CO$ (99% enriched) and $15NH_3$ (99.9% enriched) were purchased from EURISO-TOP (Saint Aubain, France); ¹⁴NH₃ was purchased from SIAD (Bergamo, Italy).

For the reactions with ammonia, 0.6 mL of a 2.7 \times 10⁻² mM solution of **I** or **II** were transferred into 5 mm resealable NMR tubes having a total volume of 3 mL. The solutions were frozen, the air was pumped off, and the desired amount of NH₃ was added. The reaction mixtures were then allowed to reach 183 K inside the NMR spectrometer. For the reactions with substituted amines (10-fold excess) a similar procedure was used.

The $[LH]^+[M_3(\mu\text{-}H)(\mu\text{-}CO)(CO)_{10}]^-$ (M = Ru, Os; L = amine) compounds were obtained by carrying out the reactions at 298 K. The solutions containing these products were then evaporated. The salts were recrystallized from methanol at 200 K, isolated as pure compounds, washed with methanol, and dried under vacuum (yield 62-79%). They were characterized on the basis of the IR (CH₃CN solutions) and NMR (CD₂Cl₂ solutions, 183 K) spectra and by elemental analysis.

 $M = Ru$, $L = NH_3$: ¹H, δ -12.98; ¹³C, δ 189.9 (2C), 196.1 $(2C), 199.2 (2C, ²J₁₃C, ¹H = 13.8 Hz), 201.5 (2C), 208.2 (1C), 208.8$

(1C), 289.8 (1C); IR (v_{CO} , cm⁻¹), 2074 (vw), 2017 (vs), 1985 (s), 1705 (w), 1948 (m). Anal. Found: C, 20.71; H, 0.65; N, 2.07. Calcd for $C_{11}H_5NO_{11}Ru_3$: C, 20.96; H, 0.80; N, 2.22.

 $M = Ru$, $L = NH₂Et: {}^{1}H$, δ -13.00; IR (v_{CO} , cm⁻¹), 2074 (vw), 2017 (vs), 1986 (s), 1705 (w), 1947 (m). Anal. Found: C, 23.93; H, 1.33; N, 2.21. Calcd for $C_{13}H_8NO_{11}Ru_3$: C, 23.75; H, 1.23; N, 2.13.

 $M = Ru$, $L = NHEt_2$: ¹H, δ -13.24; IR (v_{CO} , cm⁻¹), 2076 (vw), 2016 (vs), 1985 (s), 1710 (w), 1945 (m). Anal. Found: C, 26.39; H, 1.90; N, 2.13. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂NO₁₁Ru₃: C, 26.28; 1.76; N, 2.04.

 $M = Ru$, $L = NEt_3$: ¹H, δ -13.11; IR (v_{CO} , cm⁻¹), 2074 (vw), 2015 (vs), 1984 (s), 1706 (w), 1947 (m). Anal. Found: C, 28.78; H, 2.17; N, 2.01. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{15}NO_{11}Ru_3$: C, 28.62; H, 2.26; N, 1.96.

 $M = Os$, $L = NH_3$: ¹H, δ -14.20; ¹³C, δ 172.2 (2C), 175.5 (2C), 179.5 (2C, ² J^{13} C,¹H = 13.0 Hz), 181.1 (1C), 182.9 (1C), 183.4
(2C), 274.6 (1C): IR (y_{CO} , cm⁻¹), 2039 (w), 2019 (s), 1998 (s) (2C), 274.6 (1C); IR ($ν_{CO}$, cm⁻¹), 2039 (w), 2019 (s), 1998 (s), 1950 (m), 1662 (w). Anal. Found: C, 14.89; H, 0.70; N, 1.66. Calcd for C₁₁H₅NO₁₁Os₃: C, 14.72; H, 0.56; N, 1.56.

 $M = Os$, $L = NH₂Et$: ¹H, $\delta = -14.24$; IR (v_{CO} , cm⁻¹), 2038 (w), 2020 (s), 1998 (s), 1952 (ms), 1661 (w). Anal. Found: C, 16.79; H, 0.80; N, 1.41. Calcd for C₁₃H₈NO₁₁Os₃: C, 16.88; H, 0.87; N, 1.51.

 $M = Os$, $L = NHEt_2$: ¹H, $\delta = -14.36$; IR (v_{CO} , cm⁻¹), 2040 (w), 2018 (s), 1997 (s), 1951 (m), 1662 (w). Anal. Found: C, 18.75; H, 1.21; N, 1.35. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}NO_{11}Os_3$: C, 18.91; H, 1.27; N, 1.47.

The NMR spectra were obtained on a JEOL EX-400 instrument, operating at 399.65, 100.25, and 40.40 MHz for 1H, 13C, and ¹⁵N observation, respectively. The scale reference for ¹⁵N measurements was given with respect to nitromethane (*δ* 0).

The assignments of the ${}^{13}C-{}^{1}\overline{H}$ couplings to terminal vs bridging hydrides were done by selective decouplings.

The nonselective inversion recovery pulse sequence¹⁶ was used to measure the T_1 values.

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