

Unprecedented Zwitterionic Iminium–Chalcogenide Bridging Ligands in Diiron Complexes

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The diiron vinyliminium complexes $[\text{Fe}_2\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{-}\eta^3\text{-C(R')=CHC=N(Me)(R)}\}(\mu\text{-CO})(\text{CO})(\text{Cp})_2][\text{SO}_3\text{-CF}_3]$ [$\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, **1a**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, **1b**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$, **1c**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, **1d**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Bu}^n$, **1e**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, **1f**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, **1g**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$, **1h**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Bu}^n$, **1i**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, **1j**; $\text{R} = p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-CN}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, **1m**; $\text{R} = p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-OMe}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, **1n**; $\text{Tol} = 4\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-Me}$; $\text{Xyl} = 2,6\text{-Me}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$] react with elemental sulfur or selenium, in the presence of NaH, to give the zwitterionic vinyliminium compounds $[\text{Fe}_2\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{-}\eta^3\text{-C(R')=C(E)C=N(Me)(R)}\}(\mu\text{-CO})(\text{CO})(\text{Cp})_2]$ [$\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, $\text{E} = \text{S}$, **2a**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, $\text{E} = \text{S}$, **2b**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$, $\text{E} = \text{S}$, **2c**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $\text{E} = \text{S}$, **2d**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Bu}^n$, $\text{E} = \text{S}$, **2e**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, $\text{E} = \text{Se}$, **3a**; $\text{R} = \text{Xyl}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, $\text{E} = \text{Se}$, **3b**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, $\text{E} = \text{Se}$, **3c**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, $\text{E} = \text{Se}$, **3d**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$, $\text{E} = \text{Se}$, **3e**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Bu}^n$, $\text{E} = \text{Se}$, **3f**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $\text{E} = \text{Se}$, **3g**]. Similarly, the reaction of **1a** with $\text{Me}_3\text{NO/NaH}$ results in the formation of $[\text{Fe}_2\{\mu\text{-C(Me)C(O)CN(Me)(Xyl)}\}(\mu\text{-CO})(\text{CO})(\text{Cp})_2]$ (**4**), in which the bridging ligand is better described as a bis-alkylidene. The reactions of **1a,c** with S_8/NaH afford also the five-membered metallacycles $[\text{Fe}(\text{Cp})(\text{CO})\{\text{C}_\alpha(\text{NMe(Xyl)})\text{C}_\beta(\text{H})\text{C}_\gamma(\text{R}')\text{S}\}]$ [$\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, **6a**; $\text{R}' = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$, **6b**], as secondary products, in about 15% yield. Conversely, complexes $[\text{Fe}_2\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{-}\eta^3\text{-C(R')=CHC=N(Me)(R)}\}(\mu\text{-CO})(\text{CO})(\text{Cp})_2][\text{SO}_3\text{-CF}_3]$, **1f–h,m,n**, react with S_8/NaH , giving selectively the five-membered metallacycles $[\text{Fe}(\text{Cp})(\text{CO})\{\text{C(R')C(H)C}\{\text{N(Me)(R)}\}\text{S}\}]$ [$\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, **7a**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, **7b**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$, **7c**; $\text{R} = p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-CN}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, **7d**; $\text{R} = p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-OMe}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, **7e**]. The molecular structures of **2b**· CH_2Cl_2 , **3a**, **4**, **6a**, and **7b** have been determined by X-ray diffraction studies.

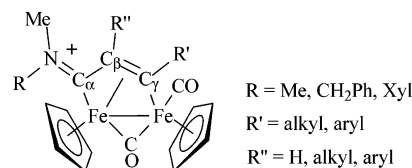
Introduction

Dinuclear transition metal complexes, providing multisite interactions between the metal aggregate and coordinated molecules, offer unique possibilities of substrate activation, which cannot be expected in mononuclear complexes.¹ In particular, complexes with two adjacent metal atoms are particularly effective in the activation and transformation of C_3 -bridged fragments, including μ -allyls² and μ -allenyls.³ Our interest in the area has been focused on the chemistry of bridging vinyliminium complexes $[\text{Fe}_2\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{-}\eta^3\text{-C(R')=C(R'')C=N(Me)(R)}\}(\mu\text{-CO})(\text{CO})(\text{Cp})_2][\text{SO}_3\text{CF}_3]$ (Chart 1)⁴ and of their diruthenium counterparts.⁵

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(2) Selected examples include: (a) Dyke, A. F.; Knox, S. A. R.; Naish, P. J.; Taylor, G. E. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1980**, 803. (b) Sumner, C. E., Jr.; Collier, J. A.; Pettit, R. *Organometallics* **1982**, *1*, 1350. (c) Eisenstadt, A.; Efraty, A. *Organometallics* **1982**, *1*, 1100. (d) Adams, P. Q.; Davies D. L.; Dyke, A. F.; Knox, S. A. R.; Mead, K. A.; Woodward, P. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1983**, 222. (e) Knox, S. A. R.; McPherson, K. A.; Orpen, A. G. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1990**, *400*, 255. (f) Casey, C. P.; Niccolai, G. P. *Organometallics* **1994**, *13*, 2527. (g) Akita, M.; Hua, R.; Nakanishi, S.; Tanaka, M.; Moro-oka, Y. *Organometallics* **1997**, *16*, 5572. (h) Kaneko, J.; Suzuki, T.; Isobe, K.; Maitlis P. M. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1998**, *554*, 155. (i) Rowsell, B. D.; McDonald, R.; Ferguson, M. J.; Cowie, M. *Organometallics* **2003**, *22*, 2944.

Chart 1



It has been evidenced that the bridging vinyliminium ligand is a versatile substrate, accessible to a variety of transformations, obtained by reaction with nucleophiles, including hydride,⁶ acetylides,⁷ and organolithium reagents.⁸ Further possible transformations of the bridging C_3 unit have been found, owing

(3) (a) Wojcicki, A. *Inorg. Chem. Commun.* **2002**, *5*, 82. (b) Doherty, S.; Corrigan, J. F.; Carty A. J.; Sappa, E. *Adv. Organomet. Chem.* **1995**, *37*, 39. (c) Doherty, S.; Hogarth, G.; Waugh, M.; Clegg, W.; Elsegood, M. R. *J. Organometallics* **2000**, *19*, 5696. (d) Doherty, S.; Hogarth, G.; Waugh, M.; Clegg, W.; Elsegood, M. R. *J. Organometallics* **2000**, *19*, 4557. (e) Doherty, S.; Hogarth, G.; Waugh, M.; Scalan, T. H.; Clegg, W.; Elsegood, M. R. *J. Organometallics* **1999**, *18*, 3178. (f) Doherty, S.; Elsegood, M. R. *J. Organometallics* **1997**, *16*, 3221.

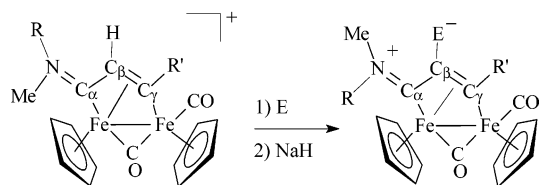
(4) (a) Albano, V. G.; Busetto, L.; Marchetti, F.; Monari, M.; Zacchini, S.; Zanotti, V. *Organometallics* **2003**, *22*, 1326. (b) Albano, V. G.; Busetto, L.; Marchetti, F.; Monari, M.; Zacchini, S.; Zanotti, V. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2004**, *689*, 528.

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(6) (a) Albano, V. G.; Busetto, L.; Marchetti, F.; Monari, M.; Zacchini, S.; Zanotti, V. *Organometallics* **2004**, *23*, 3348. (b) Albano, V. G.; Busetto, L.; Marchetti, F.; Monari, M.; Zacchini, S.; Zanotti, V. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2005**, *690*, 837.

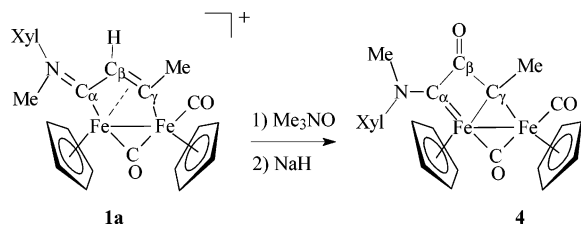
(7) Busetto, L.; Marchetti, F.; Zacchini, S.; Zanotti, V. *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2006**, 285.

Scheme 1



	R	R'	E	
1a	Xyl	Me	S	2a
1b	Xyl	Tol	S	2b
1c	Xyl	CO ₂ Me	S	2c
1d	Xyl	CH ₂ OH	S	2d
1e	Xyl	Bu ⁿ	S	2e
1a	Xyl	Me	Se	3a
1b	Xyl	Tol	Se	3b
1f	Me	Me	Se	3c
1g	Me	Tol	Se	3d
1h	Me	CO ₂ Me	Se	3e
1i	Me	Bu ⁿ	Se	3f
1l	Me	CH ₂ OH	Se	3g

Scheme 2



to the acidic character of the C_β-H in the vinyliminium ligand.⁹ Proton removal generates reactive intermediates, which rearrange, resulting in the formation of mono-, di-, or tetranuclear complexes. The former have been identified as metalla-2-aminocyclopenta-1,3-dien-5-one and σ -alkynyl μ -aminocarbyne diiron complexes, respectively, whereas the tetranuclear compounds are generated by dimerization of the parent complexes, involving C–C bond formation between the C_β positions of two μ -vinyliminium ligands.⁹

Herein we report on the successful attempt to trap the reactive deprotonated intermediates by reactions with elemental sulfur or selenium, or with Me₃NO, resulting in the functionalization of the C_β position with a group 16 heteroatom.

Results and Discussion

The diiron vinyliminium complexes [Fe₂{ μ - η^1 : η^3 -C(R')=CHC=N(Me)(R)}(μ -CO)(CO)(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃] (**1a–l**) react with elemental sulfur or selenium, in the presence of NaH in THF solution, generating the zwitterionic vinyliminium complexes **2a–e** and **3a–g**, respectively (Scheme 1).

The analogous complex [Fe₂{ μ -C(Me)C(O)CN(Me)(Xyl)}(μ -CO)(CO)(Cp)₂] (**4**) (Scheme 2), containing oxygen instead of sulfur or selenium, has been obtained, albeit in modest yields (30%), by reacting **1a** with NaH in the presence of Me₃NO.

The compounds **2**, **3**, and **4** have been purified by chromatography and characterized by IR and NMR spectroscopy and elemental analysis. Moreover, the molecular structures of **2b**, **3a**, and **4** have been determined by X-ray diffraction studies: the ORTEP molecular diagrams are shown in Figures 1–3, whereas relevant bond lengths and angles are reported in Table

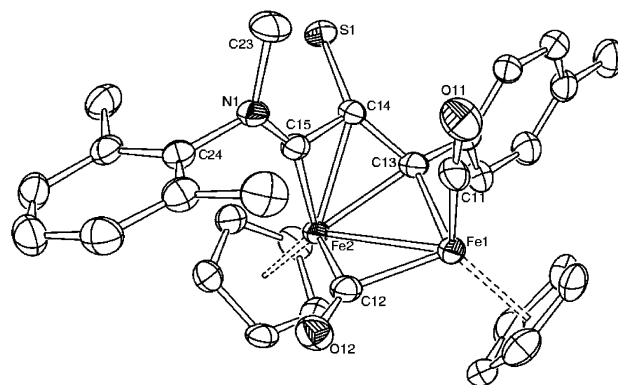


Figure 1. Molecular structure of [Fe₂{ μ - η^1 : η^3 -C(Tol)=C(S)C=N(Me)(Xyl)}(μ -CO)(CO)(Cp)₂] (**2b**), with key atoms labeled (all H atoms have been omitted). Displacement ellipsoids are at the 30% probability level. Only the main image of the disordered Tol group is reported.

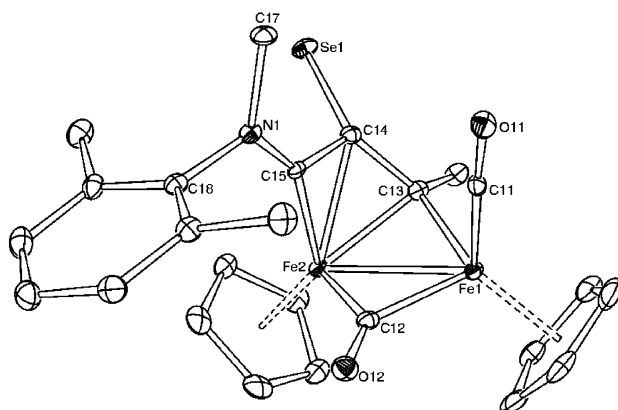


Figure 2. Molecular structure of [Fe₂{ μ - η^1 : η^3 -C(Me)=C(Se)C=N(Me)(Xyl)}(μ -CO)(CO)(Cp)₂] (**3a**), with key atoms labeled (all H atoms have been omitted). Displacement ellipsoids are at the 30% probability level.

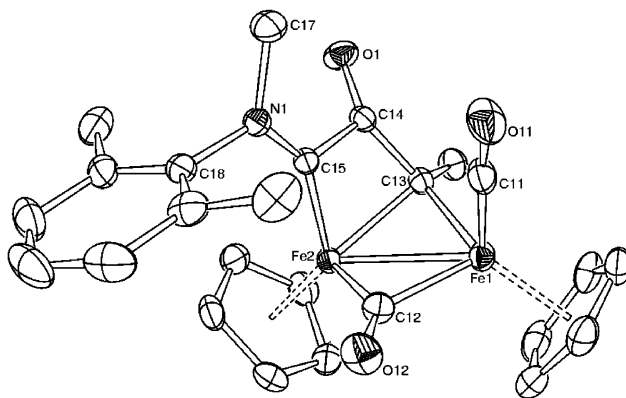


Figure 3. Molecular structure of [Fe₂{ μ - η^1 : η^2 -C(Me)C(O)CN(Me)(Xyl)}(μ -CO)(CO)(Cp)₂] (**4**), with key atoms labeled (all H atoms have been omitted). Displacement ellipsoids are at the 30% probability level.

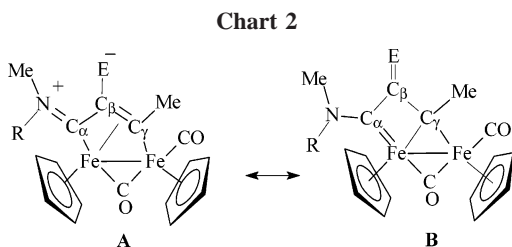
1, where they are compared to those of the cationic vinyliminium complex *cis*-[Fe₂{ μ - η^1 : η^3 -C(Me)=C(Me)C=N(Me)(Xyl)}(μ -CO)(CO)(Cp)₂]⁺ (**5**).^{4b} The three complexes **2b**, **3a**, and **4** display a bridging [μ -C(R')C(E)CN(Me)(Xyl)] ligand, which can be better discussed by considering two alternative structures (Chart 2). In the first (A), the ligand is described as a zwitterionic vinyliminium, which is μ - η^1 : η^3 coordinated. This type of

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Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) for **2b**, **3a**, and **4**, Compared to *cis*-[Fe₂{μ-η¹:η³-C(Me)=C(Me)C=N(Me)(Xyl)}{μ-CO(CO)(Cp)₂}⁺ (**5**)

	2b	3a	4	5^a
Fe(1)–Fe(2)	2.5489(9)	2.5409(12)	2.5403(8)	2.562(1)
Fe(1)–C(11)	1.744(5)	1.752(4)	1.747(3)	1.750(9)
Fe(1)–C(12)	1.916(5)	1.911(4)	1.953(3)	1.894(8)
Fe(2)–C(12)	1.918(4)	1.921(4)	1.882(3)	1.944(8)
Fe(1)–C(13)	1.988(4)	1.966(4)	1.979(2)	1.955(7)
Fe(2)–C(13)	2.040(4)	2.034(4)	2.017(2)	2.035(7)
Fe(2)–C(14)	2.151(4)	2.158(3)	2.330(2)	2.080(7)
Fe(2)–C(15)	1.860(4)	1.864(3)	1.874(2)	1.839(7)
C(11)–O(11)	1.155(6)	1.150(4)	1.147(3)	1.150(9)
C(12)–O(12)	1.182(6)	1.181(4)	1.172(3)	1.181(9)
C(13)–C(14)	1.430(6)	1.435(5)	1.446(3)	1.39(1)
C(14)–C(15)	1.440(6)	1.431(5)	1.487(3)	1.43(1)
C(15)–N(1)	1.307(5)	1.307(4)	1.310(3)	1.314(8)
C(14)–X	1.736(4)	1.899(3)	1.254(3)	1.52(1)
Fe(1)–C(13)–C(14)	121.3(3)	120.3(3)	129.03(16)	121.8(5)
C(13)–C(14)–C(15)	111.8(3)	112.6(3)	106.31(18)	115.5(6)
C(14)–C(15)–Fe(2)	80.2(3)	80.7(2)	86.97(13)	77.9(4)
C(14)–C(15)–N(1)	129.9(4)	132.4(3)	126.03(19)	131.3(7)

^a See ref 4b.

coordination has been discussed in previous publications⁴ and shows analogies to the closely related dinuclear propargyl iron derivatives described by Knox.¹⁰ The positive charge is delocalized over the whole vinyliminium, whereas the negative charge is localized on the heteroatom E. Alternatively, the ligand can be viewed as bridging bis-alkylidene μ - η^1 : η^2 coordinated (**B**); in this case, C_β is not bonded to the metal and C_β=E has a double-bonded character. The bonding parameters for both **2b** and **3a** are very similar to those of the vinyliminium **5**, and therefore, they can be mainly represented by the zwitterionic form (**A**). In agreement with this, all three carbon atoms C(13), C(14), and C(15) (C_γ, C_β, and C_α, respectively) are bonded to Fe(2) [Fe(2)–C(13) 2.040(4) and 2.034(4) Å; Fe(2)–C(14) 2.151(4) and 2.158(3) Å; Fe(2)–C(15) 1.860(4) and 1.864(3) Å, for **2b** and **3a**, respectively]. Moreover, both C(13)–C(14) [1.430(6) and 1.435(5) Å, for **2b** and **3a**, respectively] and C(14)–C(15) [1.440(6) and 1.431(5) Å] interactions show some double-bond character, whereas C(14)–S(1) [1.736(4) Å] and C(14)–Se(1) [1.899(3) Å] are essentially single bonds. Conversely, the structure of **4** is better represented by the bis-alkylidene form (**B**), even though some contribution of the zwitterionic structure (**A**) has to be considered. In particular, the Fe(2)–C(14) distance [2.330(2) Å] is considerably elongated with respect to **2b** and **3a**, suggesting a very weak interaction that better agrees with a μ - η^1 : η^2 coordination. Also the C(13)–C(14) [1.446(3) Å] and C(14)–C(15) [1.487(3) Å] interactions are slightly longer than in **2b** and **3a**, indicating a reduced double-bond character. Conversely, the C(14)–O(1) interaction [1.254(3) Å] is an almost pure C(sp²)=O double bond, as found in organic ketones.

The IR spectra (in dichloromethane solution) of **2** and **3** exhibit two bands due to the terminal and bridging carbonyls (e.g., for **2a** at 1961 and 1790 cm⁻¹, respectively). These ν -(CO) occur at higher frequencies compared to those of **4** (at

1945 and 1777 cm⁻¹). Finally, ν (C_βO) is found for **4** (in KBr) at 1465 cm⁻¹, in agreement with its partial double-bond character.

The NMR spectra of **2** and **3** indicate the presence in solution of single species, although several isomers might exist owing to the mutual positions of the Cp ligands (*cis*–*trans*) and to the orientation of the N substituents, when these are not equivalent (*E*–*Z* isomers). NOE investigations indicate that all the compounds are *cis* and that complexes **2** and **3a,b**, in which the N substituents are Me and Xyl, adopt a *Z* configuration (Xyl pointing far from C_β), as found in the solid state for **2b**, **3a**, and **4**. This indicates that the formation of **2**, **3**, and **4** from **1** is accompanied by inversion of the configuration at the nitrogen center, since the parent complexes **1** exist in solution mainly in the *E* form.^{4a} It is worth noting that the *Z* configuration is preferred when the C_β substituent is more sterically demanding than H: indeed, *Z* is the dominant configuration in the vinyliminium complexes [Fe₂{μ-η¹:η³-C(R')=C(R')C=N(Me)-(Xyl)}{μ-CO(CO)(Cp)₂}⁺ (R' = alkyl or aryl).^{4b} In a similar manner, the presence of a heteroatom (O, S, Se) on the C_β induces the iminium substituents to assume a *Z* configuration.

The C_α resonance, in the ¹³C NMR spectra of the complexes containing S or Se, is found at δ ca. 230 ppm, as expected for a μ -vinyliminium complex. For the same species, the C_γ carbon resonates in the range δ 179–207 ppm, in accordance with its alkylidene character. The resonance of C_β is observed at δ ca. 110 ppm in the sulfides **2**, whereas it is upfield shifted (i.e., δ ca. 90 ppm) in the selenides **3**. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of **4** is significantly different from those of **2** and **3**, in agreement with the prevalence of the bis-alkylidene form (**B**, Chart 2). In particular, C_α is downfield shifted (δ 258.9 ppm), as expected for a terminal aminocarbene; also C_β resonates at lower field (δ 156.9 ppm), because of its carbonyl nature.

The formation of **2**–**4** presumably proceeds via deprotonation of C_β–H of the vinyliminium ligand. Although deprotonated intermediate species have been not identified, it appears reasonable that proton removal would leave an electron-rich C_β carbon, susceptible to oxidation by elemental sulfur or selenium or by Me₃NO. It has to be remarked that, in the absence of any of these reagents, the treatment with NaH produces rearrangements of the vinyliminium complexes, affording binuclear alkynyl products or mononuclear and tetranuclear derivatives, previously described.⁹ Since none of these compounds have been detected among the reaction products, it is evident that sulfur, selenium, or Me₃NO efficiently traps the reactive intermediates generated by C_β–H deprotonation.

Hydrogen replacement, in the μ -vinyliminium ligand, by a group 16 element (O, S, Se), described above, deserves some further comments. The bridging ligand evidences a dipolar character, particularly in complexes containing S and Se. The observed charge separation suggests a description of the ligand as a betaine. Mesoionic betaines are usually stabilized by a large delocalization of both positive and negative charge in the cyclic aromatic structures in which they are embedded.¹¹ Conversely, in **2** and **3**, stabilization to the dipolar organic frame is provided by metal coordination, according to the bridging modes described above (Chart 2). It is worth noting that dipolar iminium thiolates of the type [(R^I)(R^{II})N=C_α(R)C_β(S)=C_γ(R^{III})-

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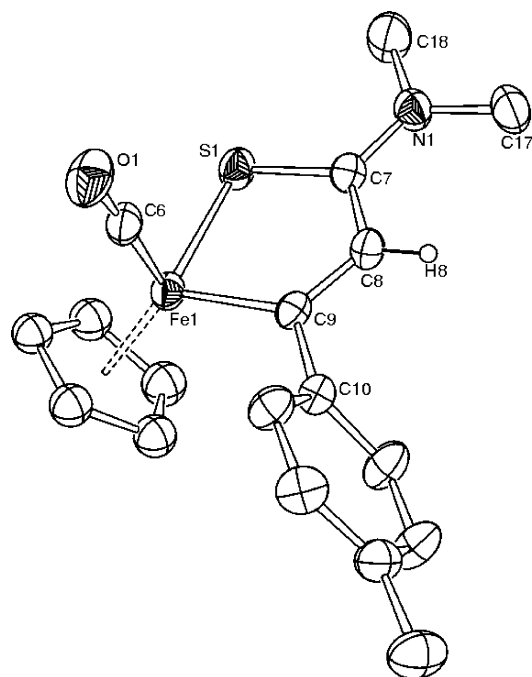
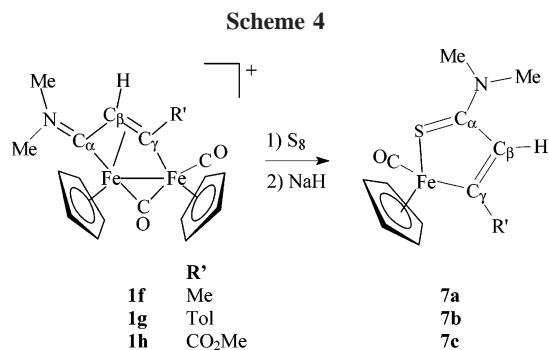


Figure 5. Molecular structure of $[\text{Fe}(\text{Cp})(\text{CO})\{\text{C}(\text{Tol})\text{C}(\text{H})\text{C}(\text{NMe}_2)\text{S}\}]$ (**7b**), with key atoms labeled (all H atoms, except H(8), have been omitted). Displacement ellipsoids are at the 30% probability level. Only the main image of the disordered Cp ligand is reported.

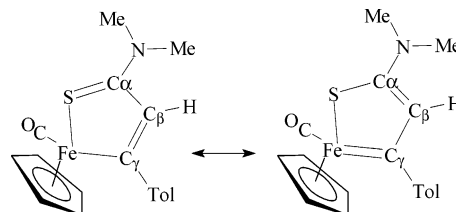
Completely different pathways are observed by reacting the complexes **1f–h** with elemental sulfur, in the presence of sodium hydride. In fact, the mononuclear species $[\text{Fe}(\text{Cp})(\text{CO})\text{C}(\text{R}')\text{C}(\text{H})\text{C}\{\text{N}(\text{Me})(\text{R})\}\text{S}]$ ($\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Me}$, **7a**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{Tol}$, **7b**; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, $\text{R}' = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$, **7c**) are formed (Scheme 4).

Compounds **7a–c** have been characterized on the basis of spectroscopic data, and the molecular structure of **7b** has been determined by X-ray crystallography (Figure 5 and Table 3). The iron atom is pseudo-tetrahedrally coordinated to a Cp, a CO, and a chelating vinyl thiopropargylamide ligand, and the resulting five-membered ring can be described as a 1-metalla-5-thiacyclopenta-2,4-diene. In agreement with this, both $\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{S}(1)$ [1.706(2) Å] and $\text{C}(8)\text{—}\text{C}(9)$ [1.361(3) Å] interactions show a considerable double-bond character. The $\text{Fe}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(9)$ interaction [1.937(2) Å] is shorter than a pure vinyl $\sigma\text{-Fe—C}(\text{sp}^2)$ bond and suggests some π -back-donation from the metal. Taking this into consideration, the molecule can be alternatively described as a 1-metalla-5-thiacyclopenta-1,3-diene (Chart 3); in agreement with this, also the $\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{C}(8)$ interaction [1.426(3) Å] displays some double-bond character. The ring is perfectly planar [mean deviation from the $\text{Fe}(1)\text{—}\text{S}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{C}(8)\text{—}\text{C}(9)$ least-squares plane 0.0084 Å] and also the NMe_2 group lies in

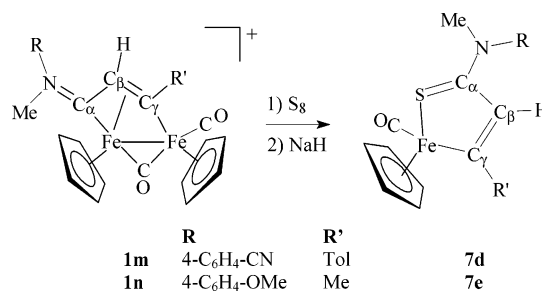
Table 3. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) for $[\text{Fe}(\text{Cp})(\text{CO})\{\text{C}(\text{Tol})\text{C}(\text{H})\text{C}(\text{NMe}_2)\text{S}\}]$ (**7b**)

$\text{Fe}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(6)$	1.724(2)	$\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{C}(8)$	1.426(3)
$\text{C}(6)\text{—}\text{O}(1)$	1.155(3)	$\text{C}(8)\text{—}\text{C}(9)$	1.361(3)
$\text{Fe}(1)\text{—}\text{S}(1)$	2.2489(9)	$\text{C}(9)\text{—}\text{Fe}(1)$	1.937(2)
$\text{S}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(7)$	1.706(2)	$\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{N}(1)$	1.338(3)
$\text{N}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(17)$	1.459(4)	$\text{N}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(18)$	1.460(4)
$\text{S}(1)\text{—}\text{Fe}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(9)$	84.68(7)	$\text{C}(8)\text{—}\text{C}(9)\text{—}\text{Fe}(1)$	120.73(16)
$\text{Fe}(1)\text{—}\text{S}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(7)$	100.63(8)	$\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{N}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(17)$	122.3(2)
$\text{S}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{C}(8)$	115.23(17)	$\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{N}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(18)$	121.1(2)
$\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{C}(8)\text{—}\text{C}(9)$	118.7(2)	$\text{C}(17)\text{—}\text{N}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(18)$	116.5(2)
$\text{S}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{N}(1)$	121.73(18)	$\text{N}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{C}(8)$	123.0(2)
$\text{C}(8)\text{—}\text{C}(9)\text{—}\text{C}(10)$	116.40(19)	$\text{Fe}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(9)\text{—}\text{C}(10)$	122.87(15)

Chart 3. Resonance Forms for **7b**



Scheme 5



this plane [dihedral angles $\text{C}(8)\text{—}\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{N}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(17)$ $-1.3(4)^\circ$ and $\text{C}(8)\text{—}\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{N}(1)\text{—}\text{C}(18)$ $-179.0(3)^\circ$]. The observed coplanarity as well as the perfect sp^2 hybridization of $\text{N}(1)$ [sum of angles $359.9(3)^\circ$] indicates some π -interaction between the five-membered ring and NMe_2 [$\text{C}(7)\text{—}\text{N}(1)$ 1.338(3) Å]. All these data indicate that the five-membered ring is essentially aromatic.

It is not obvious why, for **7a–c**, sulfur addition occurs at the C_α instead of at the C_β carbon, as in the complexes of types **2** and **3**. A possible explanation is related to the presence of less sterically demanding iminium substituents, in place of Xyl. The latter has been demonstrated to act as a “protecting group” and inhibits addition at the iminium carbon (C_α) for steric reasons. To evidence possible electronic effects, in addition to steric effects, the investigation has been extended to the complexes **1m** and **1n** (Scheme 5), displaying the *para*-methoxy and *para*-cyano phenyl substituent, respectively. Since **1m** and **1n** are novel compounds, details on their syntheses, from the corresponding isocyanide diiron precursors, are given in the Experimental Section.

Again, both **1m** and **1n** react with NaH/S_8 , generating the corresponding metallacycles (Scheme 5). Therefore, steric effects are dominant, and only the Xyl substituent prevents the reaction from taking place at the iminium carbon. However, it has to be remarked that the reactions of **1f–i** with selenium occur exclusively at the C_β carbon (Scheme 1, compounds **3c–g**), despite the presence of methyls as substituents at the iminium nitrogen. This observation indicates that the nature of the heteroatom also affects the reaction outcome.

Finally, the reactions outlined in Schemes 3, 4, and 5 represent interesting and versatile syntheses of five-membered thiametallacycles containing iron; to the best of our knowledge, only a few of these molecules have been structurally characterized.¹⁴

Conclusions

The reactions of diiron vinyliminium complexes, containing an acidic C_β–H hydrogen, with NaH in the presence of elemental S or Se or with Me₃NO, respectively, provide a general entry to the hydrogen replacement with the corresponding group 16 element, affording complexes of the type [Fe₂{μ-C(R')C(E)CN(Me)(R)}(μ-CO)(CO)(Cp)₂]. The bridging ligand in the latter can be described either as a zwitterionic μ-η¹:η³ vinyliminium or as a μ-η¹:η² bis-alkylidene (Chart 3, structures **A** and **B**, respectively). The zwitterionic form better describes the vinyliminium ligand containing S or Se, whereas the bis-alkylidene form prevails when the oxygen atom is present.

On the other hand, the study has evidenced that the iminium carbon (C_α) and the C_γ of the vinyliminium ligand are also susceptible to reacting with sulfur, leading to the fragmentation of the dinuclear complexes and the formation of five-membered metallacycles, which include the vinyliminium ligand and a S atom.

Whereas C_γ–S bond formation appears rather limited and unpredictable, the addition of sulfur to the iminium carbon (C_α) occurs selectively, when the C_α position is not sterically protected by the presence of the Xyl substituent.

Finally, the results herein presented reinforce our findings on the very rich chemistry of bridging diiron vinyliminium complexes. In particular, the preparation of the new zwitterionic iminium thiolate (selenolate) ligands promises further developments in the synthesis of new highly functionalized organic frames, bridging Fe atoms.

Experimental Section

General Procedures. All reactions were routinely carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere, using standard Schlenk techniques. Solvents were distilled immediately before use under nitrogen from appropriate drying agents. Chromatography separations were carried out on columns of deactivated alumina (4% w/w water). Glassware was oven-dried before use. Infrared spectra were recorded at 298 K on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 2000 FT-IR spectrophotometer, and elemental analyses were performed on a ThermoQuest Flash 1112 Series EA instrument. ESI-MS spectra were recorded on Waters Micromass ZQ 4000 with samples dissolved in CH₃CN. All NMR measurements were performed at 298 K on a Mercury Plus 400 instrument. NMR signals due to a second isomeric form (where it has been possible to detect and/or resolve them) are italicized. The chemical shifts for ¹H and ¹³C were referenced to internal TMS. The spectra were fully assigned via ¹H,¹³C correlation measured using gs-HSQC and gs-HMBC experiments.¹⁵ NOE measurements were recorded using the DPGSE-NOE sequence.¹⁶ All the reagents were commercial products (Aldrich) of the highest purity available

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and used as received. [Fe₂(CO)₄(Cp)₂] was purchased from Strem and used as received. **1a–I** were prepared by published methods.⁴

Synthesis of [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(R)}(μ-CO)(CO)₂(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃] (R = 4-C₆H₄CN, R' = 4-C₆H₄OMe). The isocyanide CN(4-C₆H₄-CN) (154 mg, 1.20 mmol) and [Fe₂(CO)₂(μ-CO)₂(Cp)₂] (650 mg, 1.84 mmol) were dissolved in MeCN (35 mL). The solution was stirred at boiling temperature for 8 h. Then, the solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) and treated with CF₃SO₃CH₃ (1.30 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Chromatography on an alumina column, with MeOH as eluent, afforded [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄CN)}(μ-CO)(CO)₂(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃]. Yield: 371 mg, 50%. Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇F₃Fe₂N₂O₆S: C, 44.69; H, 2.77; N, 4.53. Found: C, 44.71; H, 2.82; N, 4.55. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(C≡N) 2122 (m), ν(CO) 2023 (vs), 1992 (s), 1840 (s), ν(μ-CN) 1552 (m) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.97–7.71 (m, 4 H, C₆H₄); 5.49, 4.80 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.59 (s, 3 H, NMe). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 326.8 (μ-C); 252.7 (μ-CO); 208.5, 207.2 (CO); 152.8, 134.6, 126.7 (C₆H₄); 120.9 (C₆H₄CN); 90.5, 90.1 (Cp); 57.2 (NMe).

Complex [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄OMe)}(μ-CO)(CO)₂(Cp)₂][SO₃-CF₃] was prepared by the same procedure described for [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄CN)}(μ-CO)(CO)₂(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃], by using CN(4-C₆H₄OMe) and [Fe₂(CO)₂(μ-CO)₂(Cp)₂]. Yield: 86%. Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₀F₃Fe₂NO₇S: C, 44.33; H, 3.23; N, 2.25. Found: C, 44.25; H, 3.18; N, 2.19. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(CO) 2022 (vs), 1991 (s), 1837 (s), ν(μ-CN) 1537 (m) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.90–7.08 (m, 4 H, C₆H₄); 5.50, 4.83 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.58 (s, 3 H, NMe); 3.90 (s, 3 H, OMe). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 324.3 (μ-C); 254.5 (μ-CO); 208.6, 207.6 (CO); 159.6, 143.8, 126.4, 115.1 (C₆H₄); 90.3, 90.0 (Cp); 57.4 (NMe); 55.6 (OMe).

Synthesis of [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(R)}(μ-CO)(CO)(NCMe)(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃] [R = 4-C₆H₄CN, 4-C₆H₄OMe]. Complex [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄CN)}(μ-CO)(CO)₂(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃] (200 mg, 0.324 mmol) was dissolved in MeCN (15 mL) and treated with Me₃NO (32 mg, 0.427 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred for 20 min and filtered on a Celite pad. Solvent removal, under reduced pressure, gave a brown residue of [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄CN)}(μ-CO)(CO)(NCMe)(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃]. Yield: 153 mg, 75%. Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₀F₃Fe₂N₃O₅S: C, 45.67; H, 3.19; N, 6.66. Found: C, 45.75; H, 3.12; N, 6.68. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(C≡N) 2118 (m), ν(CO) 1984 (vs), 1820 (s) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.98–7.28 (m, 4 H, C₆H₄); 5.11, 4.97, 4.43 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.60 (s, 3 H, NMe); 1.98 (s, 3 H, NCMe). Isomer ratio (*E/Z*) 3:1. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 338.4 (μ-C); 264.3 (μ-CO); 211.3 (CO); 145.4–127.2 (C₆H₄ and NCMe); 117.8 (C₆H₄CN); 89.0, 88.5, 87.4, 86.9 (Cp); 56.3, 53.7 (NMe); 4.92, 4.18 (NCMe).

Complex [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄OMe)}(μ-CO)(CO)(NCMe)(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃] was prepared by the same procedure described for [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄CN)}(μ-CO)(CO)(NCMe)(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃], by reacting [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄OMe)}(μ-CO)(CO)₂(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃] with Me₃NO in MeCN. Yield: 80%. Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₃F₃Fe₂N₂O₆S: C, 45.31; H, 3.64; N, 4.40. Found: C, 45.22; H, 3.61; N, 4.17. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(CO) 1985 (vs), 1817 (s), ν(μ-CN) 1527 (m) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.65–7.06 (m, 4 H, C₆H₄); 5.08, 4.94, 4.45, 4.29 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.87, 4.57 (s, 3 H, NMe); 3.90, 3.89 (s, 3 H, OMe); 2.01, 1.99 (s, 3 H, NCMe). Isomer ratio (*E/Z*) 1:1. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 336.4, 336.3 (μ-C); 265.9, 265.8 (μ-CO); 211.7, 210.9 (CO); 159.3, 159.1, 144.1, 143.6, 126.4, 115.0, 114.9 (C₆H₄); 130.2, 129.7 (NCMe); 88.6, 88.3, 87.0, 86.7 (Cp); 56.5, 55.7 (NMe); 55.6, 55.5 (OMe); 3.91 (NCMe).

Synthesis of [Fe₂{μ-η¹:η³-C_γ(R')=C_β(H)C_α=N(Me)(R)}(μ-CO)(CO)(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃] [R = 4-C₆H₄CN, R' = Tol, **1m; R = 4-C₆H₄OMe, R' = Me, **1n**; Tol = 4-C₆H₄-Me].** Complex [Fe₂{μ-CN(Me)(4-C₆H₄CN)}(μ-CO)(CO)(NCMe)(Cp)₂][SO₃CF₃] (150 mg, 0.238 mmol) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and treated with HC≡CTol (0.40 mmol). The solution was stirred at reflux temperature for 4 h. Chromatography on an alumina column, with

MeOH as eluent, afforded **1m**. Yield: 134 mg, 80%. Anal. Calcd for $C_{31}H_{25}F_3Fe_2N_2O_5S$: C, 52.72; H, 3.57; N, 3.97. Found: C, 52.66; H, 3.66; N, 4.01. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(C\equiv N)$ 2119 (s), $\nu(CO)$ 1994 (vs), 1814 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1601 (s) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.95–7.11 (m, 8 H, C_6H_4CN and C_6H_4Me); 5.32, 5.30, 5.09, 4.90 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.50 (s, 1 H, $C_{\beta}H$); 4.39, 3.69 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.45, 2.42 (s, 3 H, C_6H_4Me). *E/Z* ratio 4:1. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 253.5 (μ -CO); 232.6 (C_{α}); 209.4 (CO); 206.3 (C_{γ}); 153.1 (ipso- C_6H_4Me); 148.0 (ipso- C_6H_4CN); 137.6–122.2 (C_6H_4CN and C_6H_4Me); 117.4 (C_6H_4CN); 91.9, 91.7, 88.0, 88.4 (Cp); 55.1 (C_{β}); 55.4, 45.9 (NMe); 21.1 (C_6H_4Me).

Compound **1n** was prepared by reacting $[Fe_2\{\mu-CN(Me)(p-C_6H_4OMe)\}(\mu-CO)(CO)(NCMe)(Cp)_2][SO_3CF_3]$ (150 mg, 0.236 mmol) with a large excess of $HC\equiv CMe$, at room temperature for 12 h.

1n (yield: 79%). Anal. Calcd for $C_{25}H_{24}F_3Fe_2NO_6S$: C, 47.27; H, 3.81; N, 2.21. Found: C, 47.39; H, 3.97; N, 2.15. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1991 (vs), 1812 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1640 (w) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.52–6.77 (m, 4 H, C_6H_4OMe); 5.31, 5.25, 5.11, 4.77 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.97, 4.53 (s, 1 H, $C_{\beta}H$); 4.24, 3.57 (s, 3 H, NMe); 3.91, 3.75 (s, 3 H, OMe); 3.89, 3.81 (s, 3 H, $C_{\gamma}Me$). *E/Z* ratio 2:1. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 255.9 (μ -CO); 230.0, 229.1 (C_{α}); 209.9, 209.5 (CO); 208.4 (C_{γ}); 159.8, 159.5 (ipso- C_6H_4OMe); 153.1 (ipso- C_6H_4Me); 139.1, 136.2, 126.0, 122.6, 114.5, 114.3 (C_6H_4OMe); 90.4, 90.3, 88.0, 87.8 (Cp); 55.4 (OMe); 54.0, 53.8 (C_{β}); 53.7, 46.5 (NMe); 42.4, 42.2 ($C_{\gamma}Me$).

Synthesis of $[Fe_2\{\mu-\eta^1:\eta^3-C(R')=C(E)C=N(Me)(R)\}(\mu-CO)(CO)(Cp)_2]$ ($R = Xyl, R' = Me, E = S, 2a; R = Xyl, R' = Tol, E = S, 2b; R = Xyl, R' = CO_2Me, E = S, 2c; R = Xyl, R' = CH_2OH, E = S, 2d; R = Xyl, R' = Bu^n, E = S, 2e; R = Xyl, R' = Me, E = Se, 3a; R = Xyl, R' = Tol, E = Se, 3b; R = Me, R' = Me, E = Se, 3c; R = Me, R' = Tol, E = Se, 3d; R = Me, R' = CO_2Me, E = Se, 3e; R = Me, R' = Bu^n, E = Se, 3f; R = Me, R' = CH_2OH, E = Se, 3g$). A mixture of **1a** (202 mg, 0.319 mmol) and S_8 (300 mg, 1.17 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was treated with NaH (38 mg, 1.60 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 30 min, then it was filtered on an alumina pad. Solvent removal gave a residue that was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and chromatographed on alumina: the band corresponding to **2a** was collected using THF as eluent. The product was obtained as a green powder upon solvent removal. Yield: 118 mg, 72%. Anal. Calcd for $C_{25}H_{25}Fe_2NO_2S$: C, 58.28; H, 4.89; N, 2.72. Found: C, 58.24; H, 4.96; N, 2.71. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1961 (vs), 1790 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1602 (w) cm^{-1} . IR (KBr pellets): $\nu(CS)$ 689 (w) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.38–7.21 (m, 3 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$); 4.97, 4.29 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.03 (s, 3 H, $C_{\gamma}Me$); 3.59 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.61, 2.11 (s, 6 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 264.0 (μ -CO); 234.6 (C_{α}); 212.0 (CO); 199.6 (C_{γ}); 142.2 (ipso- $Me_2C_6H_3$); 135.5, 134.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4 ($Me_2C_6H_3$); 113.1 (C_{β}); 89.7, 89.3 (Cp); 45.7 (NMe); 38.9 ($C_{\gamma}Me$); 18.4, 17.9 ($Me_2C_6H_3$).

Compounds **2b–e** and **3a–g** were prepared by the same procedure described for **2a**, by reacting S (or Se) and NaH with **1b–i**, respectively. Crystals of **2b** and **3a** suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by CH_2Cl_2 solutions layered with petroleum ether (bp 40–60 °C), at –20 °C.

2b (yield 80%; color: green). Anal. Calcd for $C_{31}H_{29}Fe_2NO_2S$: C, 62.97; H, 4.94; N, 2.37. Found: C, 63.01; H, 4.90; N, 2.29. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1963 (vs), 1790 (s), $\nu(CN)$ 1599 (m) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.59–7.24 (7 H, MeC_6H_4 and $Me_2C_6H_3$); 4.59, 4.55 (s, 10 H, Cp); 3.69 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.65, 2.16 (s, 3 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$); 2.45 ppm (s, 3 H, MeC_6H_4). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 264.3 (μ -CO); 235.3 (C_{α}); 212.7 (CO); 196.1 (C_{γ}); 153.9 (ipso- MeC_6H_4); 142.2 (ipso- $Me_2C_6H_3$); 135.6–126.2 (MeC_6H_4 and $Me_2C_6H_3$); 112.8 (C_{β}); 90.5, 89.3 (Cp); 45.6 (NMe); 21.3 (MeC_6H_4); 18.5, 17.9 ppm ($Me_2C_6H_3$).

2c (yield: 75%; color: green). Anal. Calcd for $C_{26}H_{25}Fe_2NO_4S$: C, 55.84; H, 4.51; N, 2.50. Found: C, 55.91; H, 4.37; N, 2.52. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1972 (vs), 1799 (s), 1701 (m), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$

1599 (w) cm^{-1} . IR (KBr pellets): $\nu(CS)$ 687 (w) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.39–7.22 (m, 3 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$); 4.91, 4.54 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.19 (s, 3 H, CO_2Me); 3.64 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.60, 2.08 (s, 6 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 261.7 (μ -CO); 236.5 (C_{α}); 211.6 (CO); 180.3, 179.0 (CO_2Me and C_{γ}); 142.4 (ipso- $Me_2C_6H_3$); 135.3, 134.3, 129.2, 129.1, 128.6 ($Me_2C_6H_3$); 115.4 (C_{β}); 90.6, 89.1 (Cp); 52.2 (CO_2Me); 46.0 (NMe); 18.2, 17.8 ($Me_2C_6H_3$).

2d (yield: 80%; color: green). Anal. Calcd for $C_{25}H_{25}Fe_2NO_3S$: C, 56.52; H, 4.74; N, 2.64. Found: C, 56.51; H, 4.83; N, 2.50. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1967 (vs), 1789 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1599 (w) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.39–7.24 (m, 3 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$); 6.85 (dd, $^3J_{HH} = 4.76$ Hz, 1 H, OH); 6.02, 5.95 (dd, $^2J_{HH} = 12.99$ Hz, $^3J_{HH} = 4.76$ Hz, 2 H, CH_2OH); 4.99, 4.52 (s, 10 H, Cp); 3.57 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.57, 2.10 (s, 6 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 262.6 (μ -CO); 236.5 (C_{α}); 212.1 (CO); 201.2 (C_{γ}); 141.2 (ipso- $Me_2C_6H_3$); 135.5–128.7 ($Me_2C_6H_3$); 88.9, 88.8 (Cp); 73.0 (CH_2); 45.7 (NMe); 18.1, 17.7 ($Me_2C_6H_3$).

2e (yield: 77%; color: green). Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{31}Fe_2NO_2S$: C, 60.34; H, 5.61; N, 2.51. Found: C, 60.26; H, 5.54; N, 2.48. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1961 (vs), 1789 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1604 (w) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.37–7.20 (m, 3 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$); 4.97, 4.32 (s, 10 H, Cp); 3.77, 2.77 (m, 2 H, $C_{\gamma}CH_2$); 1.85, 1.72 (m, 4 H, $C_{\gamma}CH_2CH_2CH_2$); 3.57 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.62, 2.09 (s, 6 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$); 1.18 (m, 3 H, $C_{\gamma}CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 264.5 (μ -CO); 233.7 (C_{α}); 212.3 (CO); 206.7 (C_{γ}); 142.1 (ipso- $Me_2C_6H_3$); 135.6, 134.7, 128.9, 128.5 ($Me_2C_6H_3$); 109.9 (C_{β}); 89.8, 89.0 (Cp); 51.7, 33.6, 23.9 (CH_2); 45.6 (NMe); 18.3, 17.9 ($Me_2C_6H_3$); 14.4 ($C_{\gamma}CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$).

3a (yield: 85%, color: green). Anal. Calcd for $C_{25}H_{25}Fe_2NO_2Se$: C, 53.42; H, 4.48; N, 2.49. Found: C, 53.36; H, 4.47; N, 2.52. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1965 (vs), 1793 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1604 (w) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.36–7.21 (m, 3 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$); 4.99, 4.30 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.13 (s, 3 H, $C_{\gamma}Me$); 3.57 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.67, 2.10 (s, 6 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 262.7 (μ -CO); 228.9 (C_{α}); 211.8 (CO); 202.1 (C_{γ}); 141.7 (ipso- $Me_2C_6H_3$); 135.9, 134.6, 128.9, 128.6 ($Me_2C_6H_3$); 90.7 (C_{β}); 90.5, 89.4 (Cp); 46.6 (NMe); 41.5 ($C_{\gamma}Me$); 18.3, 18.1 ($Me_2C_6H_3$).

3b (yield: 85%, color: red). Anal. Calcd for $C_{31}H_{29}Fe_2NO_2Se$: C, 58.34; H, 4.58; N, 2.19. Found: C, 58.36; H, 4.47; N, 2.31. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1967 (vs), 1793 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1605 (w) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.54–7.21 (m, 7 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$ and C_6H_4Me); 4.59, 4.54 (s, 10 H, Cp); 3.65 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.69, 2.12 (s, 6 H, $Me_2C_6H_3$); 2.43 (s, 3 H, C_6H_4Me). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 262.6 (μ -CO); 229.5 (C_{α}); 212.3 (CO); 199.2 (C_{γ}); 154.7 (ipso- C_6H_4Me); 141.7 (ipso- $Me_2C_6H_3$); 135.9, 134.8, 134.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 125.7 ($Me_2C_6H_3$ and C_6H_4Me); 90.6, 90.2 (Cp); 89.6 (C_{β}); 46.9 (NMe); 21.3 (C_6H_4Me); 18.5, 18.1 ($Me_2C_6H_3$).

3c (yield: 82%, color: green). Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{19}Fe_2NO_2Se$: C, 45.80; H, 4.06; N, 2.97. Found: C, 45.77; H, 4.12; N, 3.03. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1968 (vs), 1783 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1657 (m) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 4.99, 4.56 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.02 (s, 3 H, $C_{\gamma}Me$); 3.76, 3.33 (s, 6 H, NMe). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 265.9 (μ -CO); 226.1 (C_{α}); 211.0 (CO); 199.7 (C_{γ}); 91.2 (C_{β}); 90.4, 89.0 (Cp); 45.1, 44.6 (NMe); 41.1 ($C_{\gamma}Me$).

3d (yield: 88%, color: green). Anal. Calcd for $C_{24}H_{23}Fe_2NO_2Se$: C, 52.59; H, 4.23; N, 2.56. Found: C, 52.62; H, 4.18; N, 2.62. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1970 (vs), 1783 (s), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1657 (m) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.52, 7.38 (d, 4 H, $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$ Hz, MeC_6H_4); 4.81, 4.60 (s, 10 H, Cp); 3.81, 3.38 (s, 6 H, NMe); 2.41 (s, 3 H, MeC_6H_4). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 265.8 (μ -CO); 227.0 (C_{α}); 211.3 (CO); 196.9 (C_{γ}); 154.5 (ipso- MeC_6H_4); 134.4, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 125.2 (MeC_6H_4); 90.8 (C_{β}); 90.2, 90.0 (Cp); 45.0, 44.8 (NMe); 21.2 (MeC_6H_4).

3e (yield: 82%, color: brown). Anal. Calcd for $C_{19}H_{19}Fe_2NO_4Se$: C, 44.23; H, 3.71; N, 2.71. Found: C, 44.30; H, 3.67; N, 2.65. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1978 (vs), 1793 (s), 1701 (m), $\nu(C_{\alpha}N)$ 1654 (m) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 4.90, 4.78 (s, 10 H, Cp); 4.14 (s,

Table 4. Crystal Data and Experimental Details for 2b·CH₂Cl₂, 3a, 4, 6a, and 7b

	2b·CH ₂ Cl ₂	3a	4	6a	7b
formula	C ₃₂ H ₃₁ Cl ₂ Fe ₂ NO ₂ S	C ₂₅ H ₂₅ Fe ₂ NO ₂ Se	C ₂₅ H ₂₅ Fe ₂ NO ₃	C ₁₉ H ₂₁ FeNOS	C ₁₈ H ₁₉ FeNOS
fw	676.24	562.12	499.16	367.28	353.25
T, K	293(2)	100(2)	296(2)	295(2)	293(2)
λ, Å	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
cryst syst	monoclinic	triclinic	monoclinic	orthorhombic	triclinic
space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i>	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>	<i>Pbca</i>	<i>P</i> 1
<i>a</i> , Å	8.4612(17)	8.3952(17)	10.498(2)	12.947(3)	9.5043(19)
<i>b</i> , Å	16.310(3)	8.8375(18)	13.149(3)	16.041(4)	10.032(2)
<i>c</i> , Å	22.242(4)	17.233(3)	16.805(3)	17.013(5)	10.085(2)
α, deg	90	76.57(3)	90	90	113.79(3)
β, deg	98.27(3)	82.09(3)	101.91(3)	90	102.08(3)
γ, deg	90	61.98(3)	90	90	95.94(3)
cell volume, Å ³	3037.6(11)	1097.2(4)	2269.8(8)	3533.3(16)	841.2(3)
<i>Z</i>	4	2	4	8	2
<i>D</i> _c , g cm ⁻³	1.479	1.701	1.461	1.381	1.395
μ, mm ⁻¹	1.230	3.003	1.304	0.975	1.021
<i>F</i> (000)	1392	568	1032	1536	368
cryst size, mm	0.22 × 0.18 × 0.13	0.26 × 0.22 × 0.15	0.23 × 0.18 × 0.14	0.18 × 0.14 × 0.11	0.31 × 0.25 × 0.18
θ limits, deg	1.55–25.03	1.22–30.51	1.98–30.51	2.35–25.00	2.24–27.88
no. of reflns collected	26 500	13 026	300 582	23 768	9469
no. of indep reflns	5358 [<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0831]	6670 [<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0685]	6919 [<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0669]	3119 [<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.1638]	4009 [<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0256]
no. of data/restraints/ params	5358/271/458	6670/146/284	6919/0/284	3119/1/215	4009/46/201
goodness on fit on <i>F</i> ²	0.977	0.987	1.001	1.325	1.040
<i>R</i> ₁ (<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>))	0.0498	0.0536	0.0435	0.1156	0.0425
<i>wR</i> ₂ (all data)	0.1409	0.1448	0.1188	0.2183	0.1201
largest diff peak and hole, e Å ⁻³	0.563/−0.476	1.671/−1.173	0.582/−0.484	0.718/−0.505	0.563/−0.506

3 H, CO₂Me); 3.71, 3.37 (s, 6 H, NMe). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 262.9 (μ-CO); 227.6 (C_α); 210.3 (CO); 181.1 (C_γ); 178.4 (CO₂-Me); 92.8 (C_β); 91.6, 88.8 (Cp); 52.2 (CO₂Me); 45.4, 44.8 (NMe).

3f (yield: 83%, color: brown). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₅Fe₂NO₂-Se: C, 49.06; H, 4.90; N, 2.72. Found: C, 49.12; H, 4.85; N, 2.78. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(CO) 1965 (vs), 1782 (s), ν(C_αN) 1654 (m) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 5.01, 4.61 (s, 10 H, Cp); 3.74, 2.79 (m, 2 H, C_γCH₂); 3.68, 3.35 (s, 6 H, NMe); 1.80, 1.70 (m, 4 H, C_γ-CH₂CH₂CH₂); 1.21 (m, 3 H, C_γCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 264.9 (μ-CO); 226.8 (C_α); 211.3 (CO); 199.1 (C_γ); 91.9 (C_β); 89.5, 89.1 (Cp); 51.5, 33.9, 24.6 (CH₂); 45.4, 43.9 (NMe); 13.7 (C_γCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃).

3g (yield: 76%, color: green). Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₉Fe₂NO₂-Se: C, 45.80; H, 4.06; N, 2.97. Found: C, 44.69; H, 3.99; N, 2.90. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(CO) 1973 (vs), 1787 (s), ν(C_αN) 1654 (m) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 6.13 (m, 1 H, OH); 5.92, 5.65 (m, 2 H, CH₂-OH); 4.93, 4.65 (s, 10 H, Cp); 3.66, 3.18 (s, 6 H, NMe). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 263.1 (μ-CO); 225.4 (C_α); 214.0 (CO); 200.2 (C_γ); 90.1 (C_β); 89.4, 88.5 (Cp); 69.4 (CH₂); 45.1, 44.5 (NMe).

Synthesis of [Fe₂{μ-η¹:η²-C₇(Me)C_β(O)C_αN(Me)(Xyl)}(μ-CO)(CO)(Cp)₂] (4). A THF solution (20 mL) of **1a** (250 mg, 0.395 mmol) was treated with Me₃NO (148 mg, 1.97 mmol) and NaH (96 mg, 4.00 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 1 h, then it was filtered on an alumina pad. Solvent removal and chromatography on alumina gave a green band corresponding to **4**, collected by using a mixture of THF and MeOH as eluent (19:1, v:v). Yield: 58 mg, 29%. Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were collected by a diethyl ether solution layered with petroleum ether (bp 40–60 °C), at −20 °C. Anal. Calcd for C₂₅H₂₅Fe₂NO₃: C, 60.15; H, 5.05; N, 2.81. Found: C, 60.18; H, 4.93; N, 2.87. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(CO) 1945 (vs), 1777 (s), ν(C_αN) 1550 (m) cm⁻¹. IR (KBr pellets): ν(C_βO) 1465 (m) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.33–7.10 (m, 3 H, Me₂C₆H₃); 4.88, 4.22 (s, 10 H, Cp); 3.59 (s, 3 H, C_γMe); 3.44 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.34, 2.10 (s, 6 H, Me₂C₆H₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 275.7 (μ-CO); 258.9 (C_α); 219.2 (CO); 184.5 (C_γ); 156.9 (C_β); 143.2 (ipso-Me₂C₆H₃); 138.7, 136.0, 129.3, 128.7, 128.1 (Me₂C₆H₃); 88.5, 86.6 (Cp); 46.3 (NMe); 35.0 (C_γMe); 18.1, 17.5 (Me₂C₆H₃).

Synthesis of [Fe(Cp)(CO){C_α{N(Me)(Xyl)}C_β(H)C_γ(R')S}] (R' = Me, **6a; R' = CO₂Me, **6b**).** Compound **6a** was obtained as

secondary product in the reaction of **1a** with S₈/NaH described above and isolated by chromatography as an orange band by using CH₂Cl₂ as eluent. Yield: 18 mg, 15%. Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by a CDCl₃ solution layered with *n*-pentane, at −20 °C. Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₁FeNOS: C, 62.13; H, 5.76; N, 3.81. Found: C, 62.22; H, 5.84; N, 3.72. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(CO) 1932 (vs), ν(C_βC_γ) 1516 (w) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.17–7.10 (3 H, Me₂C₆H₃); 5.83 (s, 1 H, C_βH); 4.69 (s, 5 H, Cp); 3.61 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.24 (s, 3 H, C_γMe); 2.24, 2.03 (s, 6 H, Me₂C₆H₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 249.6 (C_α); 217.3 (CO); 198.0 (C_γ); 145.3 (ipso-Me₂C₆H₃); 133.2, 132.9, 129.0, 128.6, 127.5 (Me₂C₆H₃); 131.6 (C_β); 82.9 (Cp); 47.3 (NMe); 26.0 (C_γMe); 19.6 (Me₂C₆H₃).

Compound **6b** was obtained as secondary product in the reaction of **1c** with S₈/NaH described above and isolated by chromatography as a gray band by using diethyl ether as eluent. Yield: 17%. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁FeNO₃S: C, 58.40; H, 5.15; N, 3.41. Found: C, 58.30; H, 5.02; N, 3.51. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(CO) 1946 (vs), 1712 (m), ν(C_βC_γ) 1512 (w) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.81, 6.79 (s, 1 H, C_βH); 7.18–7.10 (3 H, Me₂C₆H₃); 4.77, 4.14 (s, 5 H, Cp); 3.85, 3.71 (s, 3 H, CO₂Me); 3.69, 3.53 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.37, 2.32, 2.24, 2.00 (s, 6 H, Me₂C₆H₃). *E/Z* ratio 2:1. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): δ 253.0, 248.3 (C_α); 215.7 (CO); 179.1 (C_γ); 164.0 (CO₂Me); 149.1, 141.5 (ipso-Me₂C₆H₃); 136.8–127.8 (Me₂C₆H₃); 135.6, 134.7 (C_β); 83.4, 82.9 (Cp); 52.6, 52.5 (CO₂Me); 48.2, 43.8 (NMe); 18.4, 18.0, 17.7, 17.3 (Me₂C₆H₃).

Synthesis of [Fe(Cp)(CO){C(R')C(H)C(N(Me)(R))S}] (R = Me, R' = Me, **7a; R = Me, R' = Tol, **7b**; R = Me, R' = CO₂-Me, **7c**; R = *p*-C₆H₄-CN, R' = Tol, **7d**; R = 4-C₆H₄OMe, R' = Me, **7e**).** Compound **1f** (75 mg, 0.137 mmol) was dissolved in THF (10 mL), and S₈ (450 mg, 1.76 mmol) was added. The mixture was treated with NaH (33 mg, 1.38 mmol) and stirred for 45 min. Then, the mixture was filtered on alumina. Solvent removal and chromatography on alumina, with CH₂Cl₂ as eluent, afforded **7a** as a red fraction. Yield: 37 mg, 84%. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₅-FeNOS: C, 57.00; H, 5.45; N, 5.05. Found: C, 57.12; H, 5.39; N, 5.11. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν(CO) 1924 (vs), ν(C=C) 1527 (s) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆): δ 7.10 (s, 1 H, C_βH); 4.58 (s, 5 H, Cp); 3.40, 3.32 (s, 6 H, NMe); 2.79 (s, 3 H, C_γMe). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (acetone-*d*₆): δ 247.2 (C_γ); 218.0 (CO); 200.3 (C_α); 134.3 (C_β); 82.9 (Cp); 41.7, 41.6 (NMe); 38.4 (C_γMe). ESI-MS (ES⁺): 277 *m/z*.

Complexes **7b–e** were obtained by the same procedure described for **7a**, by reacting S_8/NaH with **1g**, **1h**, **1m**, and **1n**, respectively. Crystals of **7b** suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by a diethyl ether solution, layered with *n*-pentane, at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

7b (yield: 85%; color: orange). Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{19}FeNOS$: C, 61.20; H, 5.42; N, 3.96. Found: C, 61.25; H, 5.44; N, 4.02. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1925 (vs), $\nu(C=C)$ 1526 (m) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.25, 7.11 (d, 4 H, $^3J_{HH} = 8.05$ Hz, MeC_6H_4); 7.11 (s, 1 H, $C_\beta H$); 4.41 (s, 5 H, Cp); 3.48, 3.31 (s, 6 H, NMe); 2.35 (s, 3 H, MeC_6H_4). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 244.3 (C_γ), 217.5 (CO), 199.7 (C_α), 153.9 (ipso- MeC_6H_4); 136.0, 128.1, 124.8 (MeC_6H_4); 133.8 (C_β); 83.5 (Cp); 43.2, 42.6 (NMe); 21.1 (MeC_6H_4).

7c (yield: 88%; color: orange). Anal. Calcd for $C_{13}H_{15}FeNO_3S$: C, 48.62; H, 4.71; N, 4.36. Found: C, 48.71; H, 4.69; N, 4.25. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1944 (vs), 1693 (m), $\nu(C=C)$ 1536 (s) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR (acetone- d_6): δ 7.22 (s, 1 H, $C_\beta H$); 4.58 (s, 5 H, Cp); 3.73 (s, 3 H, CO_2Me); 3.47, 3.40 (s, 6 H, NMe). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (acetone- d_6): δ 221.7 (C_γ); 216.9 (CO); 201.2 (C_α); 179.3 (CO_2Me); 134.0 (C_β); 82.8 (Cp); 50.6 (CO_2Me); 43.0, 42.5 (NMe).

7d (yield: 75%; color: orange). Anal. Calcd for $C_{24}H_{20}FeN_2OS$: C, 65.46; H, 4.58; N, 6.36. Found: C, 65.57; H, 4.62; N, 6.28. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(C\equiv N)$ 2217 (w), $\nu(CO)$ 1934 (vs), $\nu(C=C)$ 1604 (s) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.66–7.03 (m, 8 H, CNC_6H_4 and MeC_6H_4); 6.88 (s, 1 H, $C_\beta H$); 4.44 (s, 5 H, Cp); 3.74 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.29 (s, 3 H, MeC_6H_4). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 249.9 (C_γ), 216.5 (CO), 200.6 (C_α), 153.4 (ipso- MeC_6H_4); 150.0 (ipso- CNC_6H_4); 135.9 (C_β); 133.5, 128.1, 126.3, 124.7 (MeC_6H_4); 118.0 (C_6H_4CN); 83.8 (Cp); 43.3 (NMe); 21.0 (MeC_6H_4).

7e (yield: 76%; color: brown). Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{19}FeNO_2S$: C, 58.55; H, 5.19; N, 3.79. Found: C, 58.57; H, 5.22; N, 3.66. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu(CO)$ 1926 (vs), $\nu(C=C)$ 1607 (m) cm^{-1} . 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.10, 6.90 (m, 4 H, C_6H_4); 6.69 (s, 1 H, $C_\beta H$); 4.61 (s, 5 H, Cp); 3.82 (s, 3 H, OMe); 3.65 (s, 3 H, NMe); 2.79 (s, 3 H, $C_\gamma Me$). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 249.0 (C_γ); 217.1 (CO); 201.5 (C_α); 158.5, 139.6 (ipso- C_6H_4OMe); 136.5 (C_β); 126.7, 114.5 (C_6H_4OMe); 82.8 (Cp); 55.4 (OMe); 43.5 (NMe); 38.9 ($C_\gamma Me$).

X-ray Crystallography. Crystal data and collection details for **2b**· CH_2Cl_2 , **3a**, **4**, **6a**, and **7b** are reported in Table 4. The diffraction experiments were carried out on a Bruker SMART 2000 diffractometer (for **2b**· CH_2Cl_2 , **3a**, **4**, and **7b**) and on a Bruker Apex II diffractometer (for **6a**), equipped with a CCD detector using Mo $K\alpha$ radiation. Data were corrected for Lorentz polarization and absorption effects (empirical absorption correction SADABS).¹⁷ Structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares based on all data using F^2 .¹⁸ Non-H atoms were refined anisotropically, unless otherwise stated. H atoms were placed in calculated positions, except H(8) in **6a** and **7b**, which were located in the Fourier map. H atoms were treated isotropically using the 1.2-fold U_{iso} value of the parent atom except methyl protons, which were assigned the 1.5-fold U_{iso} value of the parent C atom. The Tol group and the CH_2Cl_2 molecule in **2b**· CH_2Cl_2 and Cp ligand in **7b** are disordered. Disordered atomic positions were split and refined using one occupancy parameter per disordered group.

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Supporting Information Available: Crystallographic data for compounds **2b**· CH_2Cl_2 , **3a**, **4**, **6a**, and **7b** in CIF format. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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