

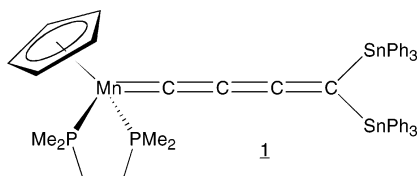
ORGANOMETALLICS

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Editor's Page

Our cover molecule, the half-sandwich manganese C_4 cumulene complex **1**, was prepared by Professor Heinz Berke of the University of Zürich, the senior author of the review in this issue of *Organometallics*, and co-workers by a remarkable two-reaction sequence involving first the reaction of $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5\text{Mn}(\eta^6\text{-cycloheptatriene})$ with the butadiyne $\text{Ph}_3\text{SnC}\equiv\text{CC}\equiv\text{CSnPh}_3$ and $\text{Me}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PMe}_3$ in toluene at $50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Irradiation of the product, the vinylidene complex



$\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5(\text{Me}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PMe}_2)\text{Mn}=\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{SnPh}_3)(\text{C}\equiv\text{CSnPh}_3)$, in benzene at $20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ resulted in formation of **1**. This product, isolated as remarkably stable green crystals, was characterized structurally by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study (*Chem. Commun.* **2003**, 2006).

The review by Venkatesan, Blacque, and Berke, "Metallacumulenes as Potential Electron Reservoir Devices", describes many other very interesting and often unusual half-sandwich mono- and dinuclear manganese complexes that have been prepared in recent years in Professor Berke's laboratories, with the aim of obtaining single-electron devices such as electron reservoirs and molecular wires. This involved innovative synthetic chemistry: preparation of such complexes, their spectroscopic and structural characterization, and studies of their reactivity, including their oxidative coupling. Professor Berke spent a year (in 1977) at Cornell University with Roald Hoffmann; thus, it is no surprise that extensive computational results also are reported.

Professor Berke obtained his Ph.D. under the guidance of Professor Ekkehard Lindner at the University of Tübingen in 1974. He spent the years 1974–1988 at the University of Konstanz, where he completed his Habilitation in 1981 and afterward remained on the chemistry faculty. Since 1988, he has been Professor of Chemistry at the University of Zürich, where, at present, he is Director of the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry. Professor Berke's very active and outstanding research over the years has been quite varied, involving studies of transition-metal hydride complexes, homogeneous catalysis, in particular homogeneous hydrogenation and hydrosilylation, transition-metal-mediated C–C coupling reactions, metal nitrosyl chemistry, organorhenium complexes, and metallacumulene complexes. Aspects of his research in the last area are the subject of the interesting and stimulating review in this issue of *Organometallics*. Professor Berke's interests do not reside entirely in modern organotransition-metal chemistry, as the title of one of his recent papers, published in *Angewandte Chemie*, shows: "Chemistry in Ancient Times: The Development of Blue and Purple Pigments".

The cover molecule figure was kindly provided by Professor Berke.

Dietmar Seyferth
Editor

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