Formation of New μ -Thioalkylidene and μ -Borohydride Dimolybdenum Complexes from the μ -Alkylidyne Precursor [Mo₂Cp₂(μ -SMe)₃(μ -CCH₂Ph)]

Alan Le Goff, Christine Le Roy, François Y. Pétillon, Philippe Schollhammer,* and Jean Talarmin

UMR CNRS 6521, Chimie, Electrochimie Moléculaires et Chimie Analytique, UFR Sciences et Techniques, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, CS 93837, 29238 Brest-Cedex 3, France

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Summary: The μ -alkylidyne complex $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu$ -SMe)_3(μ -CCH₂-Ph)] (1) reacts with HBF₄ in acetonitrile to give the unstable bis-nitrile species $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu$ -SMe)_2(μ -CCH₂Ph)](NCCH₃)_2]-(BF₄) (2). Treatment with either borohydride or chloride converts 2 into $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu$ -SMe)_2(μ -CCH₂Ph)(μ - κ^1 : κ^1 -BH₄)] (3) or $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu$ -SMe)_2(μ -CCH₂Ph)(μ -Cl)] (4), respectively. Clean evolution of 4 in non-degassed solvent affords the novel μ -thioalkylidene derivative $[Mo_2(O)(Cl)Cp_2(\mu$ -SMe)(μ -MeSCCH₂Ph)](5).

Introduction

Dinuclear (cyclopentadienyl) organometallic molecules incorporating a {Mo₂Cp'₂} core (Cp' = η^{5} -C₅H₅, η^{5} -C₅Me₅, η^{5} -C₅H₄Me) exhibit a rich and original reactivity that continues to be explored in view of developing new tools for molecular activation.¹ We have recently reported the synthesis and the X-ray structure of novel tris-thiolato-bridged dimolybdenum derivatives featuring a μ -alkylidyne group (Chart 1).²

Their structural data and their reactivity suggest that the alkylidyne group weakens the bonding of the thiolate bridge in *trans* position, and even in some cases it could induce the loss of this bridging group.^{2c} In the course of our systematic approach to the activity of sulfur-rich dimolybdenum complexes toward hydrocarbyl substrates we have studied the reactivity of the complex $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(\mu-CCH_2Ph)]$ (1) toward various electrophile and nucleophile reagents in order to compare the effect of a μ -alkylidyne group with that of a bridging thiolate on the reactivity of systems having a dimolybdenum core $\{Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-X)\}$ (X = CCH₂Ph or SMe). We wish to report here some aspects of the reactivity of the μ -alkylidyne, bis-acetonitrile species $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-CCH_2Ph)(MeCN)_2]^+$ (2) toward

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NaBH₄ and (Et₄N)Cl. The formation and the characterization of novel μ -borohydride and μ -thioalkylidene dimolybdenum complexes [Mo₂Cp₂(μ -SMe)₂(μ -CCH₂Ph)(μ - κ :¹ κ ¹-BH₄)] (**3**) and [Mo₂(O)(Cl)Cp₂(μ -SMe)(μ -MeSCCH₂Ph)] (**5**) are reported.

Treatment of 1 with 1 equiv of HBF₄-Et₂O in acetonitrile gave a purple solution of $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-CCH_2Ph)(MeCN)_2]^+$ (2) (Scheme 1). 2 could be isolated as a purple powder after its precipitation by the addition of diethyl ether, but fast decomposition occurred when the solvent was removed. This prevented any storage of 2 as a powder and any further spectroscopic characterization of the isolated powder. The ¹H NMR spectrum of a sample prepared by the addition of 1 equiv of tetrafluoroboric acid to a solution of 1 in CD₃CN, at 298 K, indicated without any ambiguity that 2 has lost a thiolate bridge and has retained a symmetrical bimetallic core, $\{Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-CCH_2Ph)\}^+$. Indeed, this spectrum exhibits a single resonance at 5.30 ppm for the two cyclopendadienyl ligands (intensity 10) and one peak at 1.82 ppm for two SMe bridges (intensity 6). Characteristic signals of the $CH_2-C_6H_5$ group are detected as a singlet at 4.52 ppm (intensity 2) and a multiplet at 7.17 ppm (intensity 5). In addition, the release of free HSMe is detected: a quadruplet at 1.61 ppm for one proton and a doublet at 1.97 ppm for three protons were unambiguously assigned to free HSMe.³ The formation an S-protonated intermediate could not be evidenced by low-temperature NMR experiments. We concede that 2 could not be fully characterized; however its spectroscopic data are enough reliable to formulate with assurance this intermediate as a $\{Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-CCH_2Ph)\}^+$ core stabilized by two coordinated acetonitrile molecules. In similar reactional conditions, the loss of the chloro bridge in $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(\mu-Cl)]$ has been reported to afford the tractable bis(acetonitrile) species $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(MeCN)_2](BF_4)$.⁴ We have also previously shown that a sulfur atom in tris-thiolato-bridged dimolybdenum-(III) complexes could be methylated or protonated and that the

 $[\]ast$ To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail : schollha@univ-brest.fr.

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release of MeSMe or HSMe could arise in acetonitrile solution, giving $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_{4-n}(MeCN)_{2n}]^{n+}$ cations.⁵

A 1.5 equiv amount of sodium borohydride was added to 2 in CH₃CN at room temperature to afford in high yield (90%) the purple borohydride compound [Mo₂Cp₂(*µ*-SMe)₂(*µ*-CCH₂Ph)- $(\mu - \kappa : {}^{1}\kappa^{1} - BH_{4})$] (3) (Scheme 1). No transfer of hydride to one of the acetonitrile ligands was detected. 3 was identified on the basis of its spectroscopic data and of its solid-state structure.

Spectroscopic data of the borohydride bridge are very similar to those observed in other dimolybdenum complexes [Mo₂Cp₂- $(\mu$ -SMe)₃ $(\mu$ - κ :¹ κ ¹-BH₄)]^{6a} and [Mo₂Cp₂ $(\mu$ -SMe)₂ $(\mu$ -NCHMe)- $(\mu - \kappa: {}^{1}\kappa^{1} - BH_{4})]$.^{6b} The ${}^{11}B{}^{1}H{}$ NMR spectrum shows a single broad resonance at -20.1 ppm. A ¹H{¹¹B} NMR spectrum, recorded at 223 K, displays in addition to the expected resonances for the $\{Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-CCH_2Ph)\}$ core a broad, high-field doublet at -9.85 ppm assignable to two equivalent Mo-H-B bridges, and two other broad signals, at -1.09 and 1.04, attributed to the terminal hydrogens bound to the boron atom. A 2D ¹H-¹H {¹¹B} correlation experiment, performed at 188 K in CD₂Cl₂, confirms these assignments (Figure 1).

The broadening and the coalescence at 303 K of the two terminal (B–H) signals when a dichloromethane- d_2 solution of **3** is warmed from 188 to 313 K suggest that the molecule is fluxional in solution: an energy barrier of 55 (± 1) kJ·mol⁻¹ has been estimated.7 It is worth noting that in the same range of temperatures no dynamic process was observed for the thiolate analogue $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(\mu-\kappa^1:\kappa^1-BH_4)]$.^{6a} One possible mechanism for the exchange of the two terminal hydrogens bound to the boron atom in **3** is shown in Chart 2. It may proceed via





Figure 1. 2D $^{1}H-^{1}H{^{11}B}$ NMR spectrum of $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2 (\mu$ -CCH₂Ph $)(\mu$ - κ ¹: κ ¹-BH₄)] (3) recorded at 188 K in CD₂Cl₂ between 2 and -9.5 ppm

Chart 2. Possible Mechanism for the Exchange of the Two Terminal Hydrogens Bound to the Boron Atom in 3



the breaking of one B-H bond, as proposed for the compound $[ZrHCp_2(\kappa^2-H_2BC_5H_{10})]$ to explain the process of exchange between terminal and bridging hydride.⁸ However, it should be noted that the low activation energy (55 kJ·mol⁻¹) calculated for this process would suggest another possible mechanism, which should involve lower energy decoordination instead of cleavage of B-H bonds, as proposed by Riera et al. in a related bridged borohydride dimanganese complex.9 Nevertheless, such a mechanism cannot explain why the two bridging hydrogen atoms do not part in the observed coalescence phenomenon.

Purple crystals of **3** were obtained at room temperature from diethyl ether solution. The X-ray analysis of **3** is of poor quality, mainly because of unresolved twinning, but the results are consistent with a structure based on a $\{Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)$ $CCH_2Ph)^+$ core bridged through Mo-H-B bonds by a distorted tetrahedral BH₄⁻ anion (Figure 2). The geometry of the {Mo₂(μ - κ^{1} : κ^{1} -BH₄)} group, in particular the Mo–Mo distance [2.6238(9) Å], is comparable to those in the related complexes $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(\mu-\kappa^1:\kappa^1-BH_4)]^{6a}$ and $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-\kappa^1:\kappa^2-BH_4)]^{6a}$ SMe)₂(μ -N=C(H)Me)(μ - κ^{1} : κ^{1} -BH₄)].^{6b} The Mo····B distances [2.753 and 2.740 Å] in 3 are too long for direct Mo-B bonding.^{6a} Other distances and angles [in particular, Mo-C3, 1.978(7), 1.993(7) Å; Mo1-C3-Mo2, 82.7(3)°] are close to those observed in the μ -alkylidyne derivative [Mo₂Cp₂(μ -SMe)₃- $(\mu$ -CCH₂-*n*Pr)].^{2a} The Cp ligands bend away from the borohydride bridge, adopting a *cis* disposition relative to the Mo-Mo axis with Cp–Mo–Mo angles of 167.6° (Cp = ring centroid), the thiolate Me groups have an *anti* orientation, and the BH₄⁻ group is *trans* to the alkylidyne bridge.

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Figure 2. View of a molecule of $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-CCH_2Ph)-(\mu-\kappa^{1}:\kappa^{1}-BH_4)]$ (**3**) showing 50% probability ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms are drawn as spheres of arbitrary radius. Selected bond lenghts (Å) and angles (deg): Mo1-Mo2, 2.6238(9); Mo1-H1, 1.74(8); Mo2-H2, 1.77(8); B-H1, 1.31(8); B-H2, 1.27(9); B-H3, 1.01(9); B-H4, 1.14(8); Mo1-C3, 1.978(7); Mo2-C3, 1.993(7); Mo1-B, 2.753(9); Mo2-B, 2.740(10); H3-B-H4, 116(6); H3-B-H2, 108(6); H3-B-H1, 109(6); H4-B-H2, 101(6); H4-B-H1, 109(6); H2-B-H1, 114(5); Mo1-C3-Mo2, 82.7(3), Mo1-C3-C4, 139.4(5); Mo2-C3-C4, 137.9(5); B-H1-Mo1, 127.2; B-H2-Mo2, 127.41

Treatment of a solution of 2 in CH₂Cl₂ with an excess of Et₄NCl at room temperature afforded in valuable yield (60%) the purple, air-sensitive, chloro-bridged compound [Mo₂Cp₂- $(\mu$ -SMe)₂ $(\mu$ -CCH₂Ph) $(\mu$ -Cl)] (4) (Scheme 1). The ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of **4** is typical of a complex with a {Mo₂- $Cp_2(\mu$ -SMe)₂(μ -CCH₂Ph)} framework. It exhibits a single resonance at 5.40 ppm for the two cyclopentadienyl ligands, two peaks, between 1.5 and 2.0 ppm, for the two SMe bridges, and the expected set of resonances of a benzyl group, PhCH₂- [4.97 (s, 2H) and 7.00–7.26 (m, 5H)]. Attempts to obtain elemental analyses and single crystals of 4 were unsuccessful due to its high instability. A striking feature of our work was the reproducible evolution of 4 in non-degassed solvent to give cleanly the oxo species $[Mo_2(O)(Cl)Cp_2(\mu-SMe)(\mu-MeSCCH_2Ph)]$ (5) (Scheme 1). 5 has been characterized by NMR and IR spectroscopy, microanalysis, and single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. The ¹H NMR pattern of complex 5 indicates the presence in the molecule of two cyclopentadienyl rings, two SMe, and a CH₂C₆H₅ group. The IR spectrum in KBr pellets shows a band at 818 cm⁻¹, which is characteristic of ν (M=O), and elemental analyses are consistent with the formula C₂₀H₂₃ClO- Mo_2S_2 . These data are fully compatible with the results of a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study of 5. The recrystallization of 5 from diethyl ether at room temperature afforded brown crystals. The molecule contains {CpMoCl} and {CpMo=O} units bridged by a SMe group and a $\eta^1(C):\eta^2(C,S)$ -thioalkylidene ligand {MeSCCH₂Ph}, which results from an intramolecular C-S coupling between one SCH₃ thiolate group and the bridging carbon atom of the alkylidyne (C3-S1, 1.775(10) Å). The bridging coordination mode of the thioalkylidene group is not



Figure 3. View of a molecule of $[Mo_2(O)(Cl)Cp_2(\mu$ -SMe)(μ -MeSCCH₂Ph)] (**5**) showing 50% probability ellipsoids. Selected bond lenghts (Å) and angles (deg): Mo1–Mo2, 2.7680(14); Mo2–O, 1.698(6); Mo2–S2, 2.365(3); Mo2–C3, 2.133(10); Mo1–Cl, 2.507(3); Mo1–S2, 2.372(3); Mo1–S1, 2.442(3); Mo1–C3, 2.094-(10); C3–C4, 1.529(13); C3–S1, 1.775(10); Mo2–Mo1–Cl, 114.43(7); Mo1–Mo2–O, 107.8(2); Mo1–C3–Mo2, 81.8(4); Mo1–C3–C4, 134.4(7); Mo2–C3–C4, 128.3(7); S1–C3–C4, 117.0(7); S1–Mo1–S2, 114.17(10); S2–Mo1–C3, 103.7(3); S2–Mo2–C3, 102.7(3).

unusual,¹⁰ it is σ -bonded to Mo1 and Mo2 atoms through the C3 atom (Mo2–C3, 2.133(10) Å; Mo1–C3, 2.094(10) Å) and σ -bonded to Mo1 through the S1 atom (Mo1–S1, 2.442(3) Å). The Mo–Mo bond length (2.7680(14) Å) is consistent with a bond order of 2 required by the usual electron-counting rule, with the presence of two bridging groups.¹¹ The Mo–O and Mo–Cl distances (1.698(6) and 2.507(3) Å, respectively) are typical of terminal Mo=O and Mo–Cl bonds.¹¹Several examples of dimolybdenum cyclopentadienyl complexes featuring oxo ligands have been reported,^{11,12} but it is worth noting that in the clean transformation of **4** into **5** the incoming oxygen induces the formation of a C–S bond, giving rise to the thioal-kylidene ligand and the opening of the chloro bridge. The formation of **a** nucleophile to a bridging alkylidyne carbon or on

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intramolecular rearrangements of μ -alkylidyne complexes.^{10a} This reaction is similar to previous results that we have reported concerning C–C and C–S couplings, induced by reaction of electron-donating substrates such as RNC, CS₂, and RCCH with alkyne complexes [Mo₂Cp₂(μ -SMe)₃(μ -RCCH)](BF₄).¹³ In addition, this reaction points out the reactional versatily of such μ -alkylidyne complexes. They react with a proton in CH₂Cl₂ to give cationic alkylidene compounds [Mo₂Cp₂(μ -SMe)₃(μ -CHCH₂R)](BF₄),^{2a} but on the other hand the formation of **5** in this work reveals the possibility of nucleophilic addition to the bridging carbon.

The reactions of complexes $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(\mu-X)]$ (X = SMe, PPh₂, CCH₂Ph) toward sodium borohydride also demonstrate the influence of the bridging ligands on the activity of these dimolybdenum systems and particularly the *trans*-influence of some bridges. Indeed, the complex $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(\mu-\kappa^1)]$: κ^{1} -BH₄)] has been isolated from the reaction of [Mo₂Cp₂(μ -SMe)₃(μ -Cl)] with NaBH₄.^{6a} If the thiolate bridge in *trans* position to the μ -chloride is replaced by a phosphido group, the formation of the μ -borohydride analogue is not observed and the reaction of $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-PPh_2)(\mu-Cl)]$ with NaBH₄ leads to the hydride compound $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2(\mu-PPh_2)(\mu-PPh_$ H)].^{6b} This result suggests strongly that the PPh₂ bridge is able to induce the cleavage of a B-H bond in the borohydride anion. On the other hand, the fluxional behavior of 3 reveals that the alkylidyne bridge is able either to weaken a B-H bond but not to break it or to labilize the Mo-H bonds. Such a labilization is not observed if the hydrocarbyl bridge is replaced by a thiolate group. Indeed, the complex $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(\mu-\kappa^1:\kappa^1-BH_4)]$ does not present in similar conditions such a dynamic behavior. In addition, the instability of complexes $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_2 (\mu$ -CCH₂Ph)(CH₃CN)₂]⁺ and [Mo₂Cp₂(μ -SMe)₂(μ -CCH₂Ph)- $(\mu$ -Cl)] compared to their analogues of the tris-thiolato-bridged series suggests also a *trans* influence of the alkylidyne bridge. Finally, the results reported here may suggest new strategies to synthesize original dimolybdenum thio-alkylidene molecules.

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. Literature methods were used for the synthesis of $[Mo_2Cp_2(\mu-SMe)_3(\mu-CCH_2Ph)]$ (1).^{2a} Other reagents were purchased from the usual commercial suppliers and used as received. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Nicolet-Nexus FT IR spectrophotometer from KBr pellets. Chemical analyses were performed by the Service de Microanalyse ICSN–CNRS, Gif sur Yvette (France). The NMR spectra (¹H, ¹¹B) were recorded in CD_2Cl_2 , $CDCl_3$, or CD_3CN solutions with a Bruker AMX 400 spectrometer and were referenced to $SiMe_4$ (¹H) and BF_3 – Et_2O (¹¹B). 2D experiments were carried out on a Bruker DRX 500 spectrometer.

Preparation of 2. To a blue solution of **1** (130 mg, 0.23 mmol) in MeCN (20 mL) was added 32 μ L (1 equiv) of H[BF₄]•Et₂O. The solution readily turned purple. After the mixture was stirred for 15 min at ambient temperature, the volume was reduced under vacuum and diethyl ether was added to precipitate a purple powder. This powder was collected by filtration and immediately used.

Reaction of 2 with NaBH₄: Synthesis of 3. A purple powder of **2** was prepared from **1** (130 mg, 0.23 mmol) as described above, and it was immediately added to a solution of NaBH₄ (14 mg, 0.37 mmol) in CH₃CN (10 mL). This mixture was stirred for 20 min,

then the solvent was removed in vacuo. **3** was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 20 mL). The solvent was removed in vacuo from the pooled extracts. The residue was washed with cold pentane, and **3** was obtained as a purple powder (110 mg, 90%). Crystals of **3** were obtained at room temperature from CH₂Cl₂–Et₂O solution. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν (B–H) 2458 (m), 2367 (m), 2340 (m), 2060 (f), 1923 (f). ¹H{¹¹B} NMR (CDCl₃, 223 K) : δ 6.92–7.29 (m, 5H, C₆H₅), 5.37 (s, 10H, C₅H₅), 4.99 (s, 2H, CCH₂Ph), 1.81 (s, 3H, SCH₃), 1.47(s, 3H, SCH₃), -1.09 and 1.04 (2s, 1H + 1H, Mo₂-(μ -H)₂BH₂), -9.85 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 12.5 Hz, Mo₂(μ -H)₂BH₂). ¹¹B-{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 223 K): δ –20,1 (s, br, *B*H₄). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₇BMo₂S₂·CH₂Cl₂: C, 40.74; H, 4.72; B, 1.75. Found: C, 40.40; H, 4.98; B, 2.49.

Reaction of 2 with Et₄NCI: Synthesis of 4. Similarly, a purple powder of **2** was prepared from **1** (120 mg, 0.21 mmol) and was added to a solution of Et₄NCI (33 mg, 0.42 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). This mixture was stirred for 30 min, then the solvent was removed in vacuo. **4** was extracted with diethyl ether (4×15 mL). The solvent was removed in vacuo from the pooled extracts. The residue was washed with cold pentane, and **4** was obtained as a purple powder (70 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 7.26–7.00 (m, 5H, C₆H₅), 5.40 (s, 10H, C₅H₅), 4.97 (s, 2H, CCH₂Ph), 1.79 (s, 3H, SCH₃), 1.58 (s, 3H, SCH₃). The high instability of **4** prevented any elemental analysis.

Evolution of 4 in Non-degassed Solvent: Synthesis of 5. A solution of 4 (50 mg,0.09 mmol) in non-degassed diethyl ether (10 mL) was stirred overnight (15 h). The solvent was then removed, and the residue was washed with cold pentane (2 × 10 mL). 5 was obtained as a yellow powder (30 mg, 60%). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν -(Mo=O) 818 (s). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 8.00–7.50 (m, 5H, C₆H₅), 5.47 (s, 5H, C₅H₅), 5.09 (s, 5H, C₅H₅), 4.60 (d, 1H, ²J_{HH} = 17 Hz, CCH₂Ph), 3.76 (d, 1H, ²J_{HH} = 17 Hz, CCH₂Ph), 2.41 (s, 3H, SCH₃), 2.26 (s, 3H, SCH₃). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₃ClOMo₂S₂: C, 42.08; H, 4.06; Cl, 6.21. Found: C, 41.41; H, 4.08; Cl, 5.53.

Crystallographic Data. X-ray crystal data for **3**: C₂₀H₂₇BMo₂S₂, fw = 534.23, monoclinic, space group *P*2₁/*c*, *a* = 8.5218(7) Å, *b* = 30.503(2) Å, *c* = 7.8636(6) Å, *β* = 94.602(7)°, *V* = 2035.3(3) Å³, *T* = 170 K, *Z* = 4, *d*_{calcd} = 1.743 g/cm³; 4926 unique, absorption-corrected intensities with θ (Mo K α) < 25.0°. *R*(*F*) = 0.0807 for 4926 reflections with *I* > 2*σ*(*I*) and *wR*(*F*²)(all data) = 0.1290 after refinement of 240 parameters. $|\Delta \rho| < 1.318$ e Å⁻³. X-ray crystal data for **5**: C₂₀H₂₃ClMo₂OS₂, fw = 570.83, monoclinic, space group *C*2/*c*, *a* = 30.947(4) Å, *b* = 8.3832(8) Å, *c* = 17.010(3) Å, *β* = 112.995(15)°, *V* = 4062.4(9) Å³, *T* = 170 K, *Z* = 8, *d*_{calcd} = 1.867 g/cm³; 2092 unique, absorption-corrected intensities with θ (Mo K α) < 25.0°. *R*(*F*) = 0.0611 for 2092 reflections with *I* > 2*σ*(*I*) and *wR*(*F*²)(all data) = 0.0986 after refinement of 235 parameters. $|\Delta \rho| < 0.607$ e Å⁻³.

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Supporting Information Available: For **3** and **5** tables giving details of structure determination, non-hydrogen atomic positional parameters, all bond distances and angles, anisotropic parameters, and hydrogen atomic coordinates. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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