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# Some new water-soluble zero-valent tetracarbonyl complexes of molybdenum and tungsten containing carboxylate and sulfonate substituted pyridine ligands

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**Abstract**—Reaction of  $[Mo(CO)_6]$  with 2 equiv. of L  $[L = 3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N, 4-NaO_2CC_5H_4N, 3,4-(NaO_2C)_2 C_5H_3N, 3,5-(NaO_2C)_2C_5H_3N or 3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N]$  in a 1:1 mixture of refluxing toluene and ethanol gave the water soluble bis(ligand) substituted complexes *cis*- $[Mo(CO)_4L_2]$  (1–5). Treatment of *cis*- $[W(CO)_4(pip)_2]$  (pip = piperidine) with 2 equiv. of L  $[L = 3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N, 4-NaO_2CC_5H_4N, 3,4-(NaO_2C)_2C_5H_3N, 3,5-(NaO_2C)_2C_5H_3N or 3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N]$  in a 1:1 mixture of toluene and ethanol at room temperature gave the totally water soluble complexes *cis*- $[W(CO)_4L_2]$  (6–10). © 1997 Elsevier Science Ltd

Keywords: water-soluble; molybdenum(O); tungsten(O); submitted pyridine ligands.

Water-soluble organometallic compounds have become increasingly important in catalytic processes [1,2]. Hitherto, very few zero-valent molybdenum and tungsten complexes of this type have been reported. For example, in 1991 Darensbourg et al. [3] described the synthesis and characterization of [W(CO)<sub>5</sub>{P- $(C_6H_4SO_3Na-3)_3$ ], which contains the water soluble phosphine ligand sodium 3-(diphenylphosphino)benzene sulfonate [4]. In 1993 Darensbourg and Bischoff [5] also described the preparation of the molybdenum complex [Mo(C- $O_{5}$  {P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>-Na)<sub>3</sub>}] and the water soluble bis(ligand) complexes  $cis-[M(CO)_4{P(C_6H_4SO_3-Na)_3}_2]$ (M = Mo, W). In view of the difficulties of preparing water-soluble phosphines [6] we have been using the carboxylate and sulfonate substituted pyridines to prepare the first examples of seven-coordinate water soluble complexes of molybdenum(II) and tungsten(II) [7].

In this paper we describe the synthesis and characterization of a series of 10 water-soluble zero-valent six-coordinate complexes of the type cis-[M(CO)<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub>] [M = Mo or W; L = 3-NaO<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N, 4-NaO<sub>2</sub>C-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N, 3,4-(NaO<sub>2</sub>C)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N, 3,5-(NaO<sub>2</sub>C)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N or  $3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N$ , which contain the substituted pyridine ligands shown in Fig. 1.

### **EXPERIMENTAL**

The reactions described in this paper were carried out using vacuum/Schlenk line techniques. The complex *cis*- $[W(CO)_4(pip)_2]$  (pip = piperidine) was prepared by the published method [8]. All chemicals were purchased from commercial sources.

Elemental analyses (C, H and N) were determined using a Carlo Erba Elemental Analyser MOD 1106 (using helium as a carrier gas). The IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer 1600 FT IR spectrophotometer. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC 250 MHz NMR spectrometer and referenced to SiMe<sub>4</sub>.

 $Cis-[Mo(CO)_4(3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N)_2]$  (1)

To  $[Mo(CO)_6]$  (0.5 g, 1.893 mmol) dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of toluene and ethanol (50 cm<sup>3</sup>) with continuous stirring was added 3-NaO<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N (0.54 g, 3.788 mmol). After the solution was refluxed for 24 h, filtered and solvent removed *in vacuo* the pure

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Pyridine-4-sulfonic Acid, sodium salt

Figure 1. Structures and <sup>1</sup>H NMR proton assignments for the carboxylate and sulfonate substituted pyridine ligands, L

product cis- $[Mo(CO)_4(3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N)_2]$  (1) was isolated (yield = 0.63 g, 67%).

Similar reactions of  $[Mo(CO)_6]$  with 2 equiv. of L  $[L = 4-NaO_2CC_5H_4N, 3,4-(NaO_2C)_2C_5H_3N, 3,5-(NaO_2C)_2C_5H_3N$  or  $3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N]$  in a 1 : 1 mixture of refluxing toluene and ethanol for 24 h gave the complexes *cis*- $[Mo(CO)_4L_2]$  (2–5).

 $Cis-[W(CO)_4(3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N)_2]$  (6)

To cis-[W(CO)<sub>4</sub>(pip)<sub>2</sub>] (0.5 g, 1.073 mmol) dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of toluene and ethanol (50 cm<sup>3</sup>) with continuous stirring was added 3-NaO<sub>2</sub>C-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N (0.31 g, 2.146 mmol). After the solution was stirred for 24 h, the reaction mixture was filtered and solvent removed *in vacuo* to give the pure product *cis*-[W(CO)<sub>4</sub>(3-NaO<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)<sub>2</sub>], **6** (yield = 0.52 g, 83%).

Similar reactions of cis-[W(CO)<sub>4</sub>(pip)<sub>2</sub>] with 2 equiv. of L [L = 4-NaO<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N, 3,4-(NaO<sub>2</sub>C)<sub>2</sub> C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N, 3,5-(NaO<sub>2</sub>C)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N or 3-NaO<sub>3</sub>SC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N] in a 1:1 mixture of toluene and ethanol at room temperature for 24 h gave the complexes cis-[W(CO)<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub>] (7-10).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The reaction of  $[Mo(CO)_6]$  with 2 equiv. of L [L = 3-NaO<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N, 4-NaO<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N, 3,4-(NaO<sub>2</sub>C)<sub>2</sub>  $C_5H_3N$ , 3,5-(NaO<sub>2</sub>C)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N or 3-NaO<sub>3</sub>SC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N] in a 1:1 mixture of refluxing toluene and ethanol for 24 h affords the new zero-valent complexes *cis*-[Mo(CO)<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub>] (1–5). The complexes were fully characterized by elemental analysis (C, H and N; Table 1), IR spectroscopy (Table 2) and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy (Table 3). The complexes are air-stable when in the solid state, but less stable in solution. The complexes are insoluble in methanol, dichloromethane and acetone, but are totally soluble in water.

Complexes 1–5 showed four carbonyl stretching frequencies in their IR spectra in the region 1870–2074 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which indicates that the complexes, as expected, have the substituted pyridine ligands *cis* to each other. For example, complex 1 shows four carbonyl stretching bands at 2072, 1985, 1935 and 1901 cm<sup>-1</sup>. A carbonyl (C=O) stretching band was also observed in the IR spectra at approximately 1730 cm<sup>-1</sup> for complexes 1–4, whereas the complex *cis*-[Mo(CO)<sub>4</sub>(3-NaSO<sub>3</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)<sub>2</sub>] (5) has an (S=O) stretch at 1219 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to grow suitable single crystals for X-ray crystallography of complexes 1–5, however, it is very likely the structure of 1–5 will be with *cis*-ligands as shown in Fig. 2.

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the complexes 1–5 were recorded in  $D_2O$ . The proton assignments are given on the ligands in Fig. 1. For example, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR

Complex	Yield (%)	Colour	C(%)	H(%)	N(%)
1, $cis$ -[Mo(CO) <sub>4</sub> (3-NaO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>5</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N) <sub>2</sub> ]	67	Brown	37.8 (38.6)	2.2 (1.6)	5.3 (5.6)
2, $cis-[Mo(CO)_4(4-NaO_2CC_5H_4N)_2]$	75	Brown	38.2 (38.6)	1.4 (1.6)	5.4 (5.6)
3, $cis-[Mo(CO)_{4}{3,4-(NaO_{2}C)_{2}C_{5}H_{3}N}_{2}]$	58	Orange	33.5 (34.3)	1.7 (1.0)	4.4 (4.5)
4, $cis$ -[Mo(CO) <sub>4</sub> {3,5-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N} <sub>2</sub> ]	71	Orange	35.3 (34.3)	1.3 (1.0)	4.8 (4.5)
5, $cis - [Mo(CO)_4(3 - NaO_3SC_5H_4N)_2]$	64	Red	28.8 (29.5)	2.1 (1.4)	4.5 (4.9)
6, $cis-[W(CO)_4(3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N)_2]$	83	Red	33.2 (32.8)	1.6 (1.4)	4.5 (4.8)
7, $cis-[W(CO)_4(4-NaO_2CC_5H_4N)_2]$	79	Red	32.4 (32.8)	1.9 (1.4)	5.4 (4.8)
8, $cis-[W(CO)_{4}{3,4-(NaO_{2}C)_{2}C_{3}H_{3}N}_{2}]$	60	Black	29.2 (30.1)	1.2 (0.9)	3.9 (3.9)
9, $cis-[W(CO)_4 \{3,5-(NaO_2C)_2C_3H_3N\}_2]$	67	Orange	30.0 (30.1)	0.8 (0.9)	4.6 (3.9)
10. $cis-[W(CO)_4(3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N)_3]$	71	Red	25.8 (25.5)	1.6 (1.2)	3.9 (4.3)

Table 1. Physical and analytical data<sup> $\alpha$ </sup> for the complexes cis-[M(CO)<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub>] (1-10)

"Calculated values in parentheses.

Table 2. IR data for the complexes cis-[M(CO)<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub>] (1-10)<sup>*a,b*</sup>

Complex	ν(C≡O) (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	v(C=O)/v(S=O) (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
1	2072 (w), 1985 (w), 1935 (m), 1901 (sh)	1712 (s)
2	2074 (m), 2015 (s), 1984 (sh), 1890 (s)	1734 (s)
3	2068 (w), 2014 (w), 1992 (sh), 1899 (s)	1725 (s)
4	2028 (w), 1972 (s), 1955 (s), 1870 (sh)	1714 (s)
5	2066 (m), 1994 (s), 1919 (s), 1899 (sh)	1219 (m) <sup>t</sup>
6	2029 (w), 2005 (m), 1935 (sh), 1880 (s)	1744 (s)
7	2073 (m), 1980 (s), 1964 (sh), 1900 (s)	1732 (s)
8	2074 (s), 1984 (s), 1916 (s), 1874 (s)	1708 (sh)
9	2072 (w), 1978 (m), 1920 (m), 1895 (m)	1738 (s)
10	2070 (m), 2003 (sh), 1947 (m), 1872 (s)	1232 (s) <sup>b</sup>

"Spectra measured as KBr discs.

 ${}^{b}\nu$  (S=O) stretching frequency.



Figure 2. Proposed structure for the six-coordinate complexes cis- $[M(CO)_4L_2]$  (M = Mo or W; L = substituted pyridine).

Complex	<sup>1</sup> H NMR ( $\delta$ ) ppm
1	8.8 (s, $2H_a$ , $3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N$ ), 8.4 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, $2H_b$ , $3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N$ ), 8.1 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, $2H_c$ , $3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N$ ), 8.1 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz,
2	$CC_{5}\Pi_{4}N_{1}$ , 7.5 (III, 2 $\Pi_{4}$ , 5-NaO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>5</sub> $\Pi_{4}N_{1}$ ) 8.4 (d. $I = 7.1$ Hz, 4H, 4-NaO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>5</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N), 7.5 (d. $I = 7.1$ Hz, 4H, 4-NaO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>5</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N)
3	8.6 [s, 2H <sub>a</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 8.3 [d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H <sub>b</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.2 [d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C, 3+(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C,
4	$[1.80_{1}C_{2}C_{3}T_{3}T_{3}T_{3}]$ 8.8 [d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 2H, 3.5-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.9 [d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 4H <sub>b</sub> , 3.5-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N]
5	9.0 (m, $2H_a$ , $3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N$ ), 8.9 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, $2H_b$ , $3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N$ ), 8.7 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, $2H_c$ , $3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N$ ), 7.4 (s, $2H_c$ , $3-NaO_4SC_5H_4N$ ), 7.4 (s, $2H_c$
6	9.0 (s, $2H_a$ , $3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N$ ), 8.6 (m, $2H_b$ , $3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N$ ), 8.4 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, $2H_c$ , $3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N$ ), 7.6 (m $2H_a$ , $3-NaO_2CC_5H_4N$ )
7	(1, 1) $(1, 2)$ $($
8	8.8 [s, 2H <sub>a</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 8.6 [d, 8.2 Hz, 2H <sub>b</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N], 7.5 [d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H <sub>c</sub> , 3,4-(NaO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N]
9 10	8.6 [d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, $2H_a$ , $3,5-(NaO_2C)_2C_3H_3N$ ], 7.5 [d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, $4H_b$ , $3,5-(NaO_2C)_2C_3H_3N$ ] 9.2 (s, $2H_a$ , $3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N$ ), 8.7 (m, $2H_b$ , $3-NaO_3SC_3H_4N$ ), 8.3 (m, $2H_c$ , $3-NaO_3SC_5H_4N$ ), 7.8 (m, $2H_d$ , $3-NaO_3SC_3H_4N$ )

Table 3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data for the complexes cis-[M(CO)<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub>] (1–10)<sup>*a*</sup>

"aSpectra recorded in  $D_2O$  (+25°C) and referenced to SiMe<sub>4</sub>.

spectrum of *cis*-[Mo(CO)<sub>4</sub>(3-NaO<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)<sub>2</sub>] (1) has two doublet resonances at 8.4 (H<sub>b</sub>) and 8.1 ppm (H<sub>c</sub>), a singlet at 8.8 ppm (H<sub>a</sub>) and a multiplet at 7.3 ppm (H<sub>d</sub>), all of which can be attributed to the pyridine protons. The complex *cis*-[Mo(CO)<sub>4</sub>(4-NaO<sub>2</sub>C-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)<sub>2</sub>] (2) has resonances at 8.4 (H<sub>a</sub>) and 7.5 ppm (H<sub>b</sub>), both of which are doublets. The pyridine protons for complex 3 has three resonances in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum at  $\delta = 8.6$  (H<sub>a</sub>), 8.3 (H<sub>b</sub>) and 7.2 ppm (H<sub>c</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 4 has two doublet resonances at 8.8 (H<sub>a</sub>) and 7.9 ppm (H<sub>b</sub>). Complex 5 has four resonances in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum at 9.0 (H<sub>a</sub>), 8.9 (H<sub>b</sub>), 8.7 (H<sub>c</sub>) and 7.4 ppm (H<sub>d</sub>) due to the pyridine protons.

Treatment of cis-[W(CO)<sub>4</sub>(pip)<sub>2</sub>] (pip = piperidine) with 2 equiv. of L [L = 3-NaO<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N, 4-NaO<sub>2</sub>C-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N, 3,4-(NaO<sub>2</sub>C)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N, 3,5-(NaO<sub>2</sub>C)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N or 3-NaO<sub>3</sub>SC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N] in a 1 : 1 mixture of toluene and ethanol for 24 h yields the new zero-valent complexes cis-[W(CO)<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub>] (**6–10**). The complexes have been characterized by elemental analysis (Table 1), IR spectroscopy (Table 2) and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy (Table 3). The complexes have very similar stability and solubilities to their molybdenum analogues 1–5.

The IR spectra of complexes **6–10** are similar to those of complexes **1–5**. Each complex showed four carbonyl stretching bands in the region 2074–1872 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which suggests that the complexes have *cis*geometry, as shown in Fig. 2. The complexes **6–9** have a single  $\nu$ (C=O) stretch at approximately 1725 cm<sup>-1</sup>, whilst the complex **10** has an S=O stretch at 1232 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the complexes **6–10** as expected showed similar resonances to the complexes 1-5. Several unsuccessful attempts to grow suitable single crystals for X-ray crystallography were made, however, IR spectroscopy confirms the expected *cis*-stereochemistry as shown in Fig. 2.

In conclusion, we have described a high yield synthesis of ten new water-soluble octahedral complexes of the type cis-[M(CO)<sub>4</sub>L<sub>2</sub>], which have the commercially available and low-priced carboxylate and sulfonate substituted pyridine ligands which enable the complexes to be soluble in water. We are currently exploring the catalytic activity of these complexes.

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