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Mononuclear tungsten(VI) complexes with methylenebis(6-alkylphenol)s

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Abstract

Reaction of monomeric tungsten(VI) complex $[W(eg)_3]$ (1) (eg = 1,2-ethanediolate dianion) with either one or 2 equiv. of 2,2'methylenebis(6-alkylphenol) [alkyl = Me (H_2L^1) , ⁱPr (H_2L^2) , ⁱBu (H_2L^3)] provides heteroleptic complexes [W(eg)₂(Lⁿ)] (2) and [W(eg)(Lⁿ)₂] (3), respectively. Sterically hindered ligand precursor H_2L^3 , which bear bulky *tert*-butyl groups in *ortho*-positions, can form only a complex corresponding to formula 2.

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1. Introduction

Transition metal complexes bearing chelating aryloxide ligands have recently attained increasing interest due to their purpose as accessories in metal-directed organic reactions [\[1\]](#page-5-0). The hard Lewis-base character of the phenoxide group makes these ligands ideal for attaching to the metal ions having high oxidation states (thus hard Lewis-acids). In addition, sterically hindered substituents on *ortho*-positions on the bis(phenolato) ligands allow the close environment of the central metal ion to be tuned without significantly altering the electronic properties of the ligands. As a result, several 1,1?-coupled biphenolates and binaphtholates of W(VI), often with other ligands, have been used productively as catalyst precursors in olefin metathesis reactions [\[1c,2\]](#page-5-0). However, reports on tungsten complexes with bridged bis(phenolate)s are scarce. Heppert's group has reported preparation and spectral characterisation of tung-

sten(VI) complexes $[W(-X)C]_2(mmp)$ and $[W(-X)C]_2(mmp)$ $X|C_2(ebp)|$ $[X=0, NPh-2,6-Me_2; H_2mmp=2,2]$ methylenebis(4,6-dimethylphenol); $H_2ebp = 2,2'-ethyli$ denebis(4,6-di-tert-butylphenol)] [\[3\]](#page-5-0). Nakamura's group has studied complexes of sulfur-bridged bis(phenol)s, and has characterised several crystal structures e.g. $[W(\eta^2\text{-EtC} = \text{CEt})(\text{tbp})\text{Cl}_2]$ (H₂tbp = 2,2'-thiobis(4,6-dimethylphenol) [\[4\]](#page-5-0).

We have earlier prepared several heteroleptic tungsten(VI) complexes employing the reaction of $[W(eg)_3]$ (1) $(eg = 1,2$ -ethanediolate dianion) with methylenebridged bis(phenol)s and found that the composition of complexes depends on the presence of the orthosubstituents of phenoxide moieties. For example, bulky 2,2?-methylenebis(4-methyl-6-tert-butylphenol) can replace only one eg group from 1 to form $[W(biphe)(eg)_2]$, whereas less hindered 2,2'-dihydroxy-1,1'-dinaphtylmethane can substitute two ethanediolato ligands forming $[W(\text{dinap})_2(\text{eg})]$. Furthermore, these complexes can be activated by $Et₂AICI$ to obtain catalyst for olefin metathesis polymerisation of cyclic alkenes [\[5\].](#page-5-0) To have a more detailed knowledge about the preparation and chemical manipulation of tungsten bis(phenoxide) com-

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plexes, we have now studied the syntheses of new monomeric tungsten(VI) complexes with selected ortho-substituted methylenebis(phenolato) ligands.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Synthesis and spectroscopy

The reaction of the ligand precursor $H₂Lⁿ$ with 1 equiv. of tungsten precursor 1 in refluxing toluene solution affords heteroleptic compounds 2 (Scheme 1). The yellow-orange products were purified by column chromatography to obtain air stable orange crystalline solids. These solids are soluble in chlorinated hydrocarbons, ethers and aromatic solvents and can be recrystallised from hot toluene to obtain single crystals for X-ray analyses. Chromatographic purification of 2a and 2b leads also to the isolation of minor amounts of red compounds, which were characterised as 3a and 3b (see below), respectively. Even so, the formation of these further substituted complexes can be prevented carrying out the reactions using slight excess (ca. 10%) of tungsten precursor. In addition, these reactions can be promoted by fractionating out the liberated ethanediol, which makes compounds 2 available in practically quantitative yields (based on ligand).

Complexes 3a and 3b were prepared in quantitative yields by reacting 1 equiv. of 1 with 2.2 equiv. of appropriate bis(phenol)s in refluxing toluene. However, ligand precursor H_2L^3 can replace only one of eg ligands around tungsten centre leading to the formation of 2b. We tried to carry out this reaction also in other highboiling solvents, e.g. chlorobentsene and *p*-chlorotoluene, but bulky tert-butyl groups in the ortho-positions of phenoxide rings can obviously prevent further substitution of eg ligands, which complies with our earlier observations [\[5\]](#page-5-0). Red, air-stable, crystalline solids of 3 were obtained by column chromatography followed by crystallisation from acetonitrile-toluene (3a) or acetonitrile (3b).

The ${}^{1}H$ NMR spectra of complexes 2 and 3 show typical resonances for ethanediolato groups in addition to the signals for aromatic protons and alkyl substituents of phenolic ligands. As puckered eight-membered rings in 2,2?-methylenebis(phenoxide) chelates can undergo slow flipping on the NMR timescale, the methylene protons in the chelate backbone are typically diastereotopic at ambient temperature $[6-8]$ $[6-8]$. The diastereotopic methylene protons in the chelate rings of studied compounds are separated by ca. 1.5 ppm showing doublets at ca. 3.3 and 5.0 ppm for 2 at ca. 3.5 and 5.0 ppm for 3, respectively.

2.2. Crystallography

The solid-state structures of four new compounds were verified by X-ray studies. Complexes 2a and 2b (shown in [Fig. 1\(](#page-2-0)a and b), respectively; for 2b only one of two molecules in the asymmetric unit is presented) have rather similar overall structure, which can be compared with other $[W(biphe)(eg)_2]$ compounds (see [Table 1](#page-3-0).) [\[5\].](#page-5-0) As bonding parameters of the aliphatic eg ligands are not so sensitive to the distortions than are those for the phenolato ligands, the eg ligand has only a minor role in the following discussion.

The W-O(1) and W-O(2) distances, the O(1)–W– $O(2)$, W- $O(1)$ - C_{arom} and W- $O(2)$ - C_{arom} angles seem to be the most sensitive parameters for the ligand geometry variations. For example, the $W-O(1)$ and $W-O(2)$ distances are 1.887 (4) and 1.907(4) Å for 2a and 1.879(4) and 1.912(4) Å for 2b while the relevant distances in $[W(bino)(eg)_2]$ (bino = 1,1'-coupled binaphtholato) are $1.930(8)$ and $1.908(2)$ Å. Apparently, the methylene bridge can act as a hinge between phenyl groups in 2a and 2b, which makes these ligands more flexible, whereas if phenyl groups are directly bonded to each other as in $W(bino)(eg)$ the ligand is more rigid and it normally distorts the coordination sphere around W(VI). Related effect is also clearly seen when comparing the $O(1)$ -W(1)-O(2) and W-O-C_{aryl} bond angles in 2a and 2b and $[W(bino)(eg)_2]$. The $O(1) - W(1) - O(2)$ angles are 86.20(17) and 87.8(2)°, the W(1)–O(1)–C(1)

Scheme 1. (i) H₂bisphenol/PhMe/reflux; (ii) 2H₂bisphenol/PhMe/reflux.

Fig. 1. Molecular structure of $[W(\text{eg})_2(L^1)]$ (2a). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids have been drawn at 30% probability level. (b) Molecular structure of $[W(\text{eg})_2(L^2)]$ (2b). Only one of the two molecules in the asymmetric unit is depicted. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids have been drawn at 30% probability level.

angles are $146.3(4)^\circ$ and $146.2(4)^\circ$ and the W(1)-O(2)-C(13) angles are $138.9(4)^\circ$ and $133.4(4)^\circ$ for 2a and 2b, respectively. The relevant angles in $[W(bino)(eg)_2]$ are 84.6(3)^o, 130.1(7)^o and 127.1(7)^o, respectively [\(Table 1\)](#page-3-0).

The data in [Table 1](#page-3-0) confirms, that the modification of the skeleton of the bis(phenolato) ligands (thus size of the chelate ring) results substantially more effects on the coordination sphere of the tungsten(VI) ion than altering the substituents in the aromatic ligand in the $[W(biphe)(eg)_2]$ type compounds.

The angles of the dihedral planes described by atoms C(1)–C(6) and C(8)–C(13) are 75.9(2)° 2a and 75.2(2)° for 2b $(75.3(2)°$ for the other molecule in the asymmetric unit).

The principal structures of the compounds 3a (1/ $2)C_7H_8$ and 3b (shown in [Fig. 2\(](#page-4-0)a and b)) are quite similar, although compound 3a crystallizes with a half molecule of toluene. The overall bonding parameters are rather similar to those found earlier for other bis(phenoxide) derivatives of 1, thus the influence of the substituents in bis(phenoxide) moieties is quite small [\[5\]](#page-5-0). However, large deviations are seen in several bonding parameters of comparable bonds. For example the W-O(3) bond distance in 3a is 1.851(4) Å (the W-O(3)–C_{aryl} angle is 161.1(4)^o) and the W–O(2) bond distance in [W(binap)₂(eg)] is 1.942(4) Å (the W-O(2)- C_{aryl} angle is 128.6(4)^o) ([Table 2](#page-3-0)).

The dihedral angle between the planes defined by atoms $C(1) - C(6)$ and $C(8) - C(13)$ is 77.9(2)° and the angle between the analogous planes of other ligand is $69.1(2)°$ for 3a. In 3b, there are two identical ligands in the complex and the dihedral angle between the planes is $68.0(2)$ °.

A bidentate ligand bond to the metal ion creates a puckered ring with two different conformations (δ and λ). Symbols Δ and Λ are used to describe the absolute configuration of dissymmetric complex, when dissymmetry is due to chelate ring distributions [\[9\]](#page-5-0). In the solid state, 2a and both molecules of 2b in the asymmetric unit adopt a $\Delta(\lambda \lambda)$ configuration and both 3a (1/ 2)C₇H₈ and 3b adopt a $\Delta(\lambda \lambda \delta)$ configuration (δ with eg). The simulated OCCO torsion angle in the phenolato ligands has been calculated using $OC \cdot CO$ unit, which for example in 2a includes the atoms $O(1)$, $C(1)$, $C(13)$, O(2). A general trend in all trisdiolato complexes of tungsten(VI) seems to be that the five-membered WOCCO ring (formed by eg ligand) distorts toward planar conformation as in now studied compounds the OCCO torsion angles vary from $24.1(10)^\circ$ to $43.0(5)^\circ$. Comparable five-membered rings formed by neutral ligands are typically more puckered, e.g. in $Co(en)_3^3$ ⁺ $(en = 1,2$ -diaminoethane) the ligand has a torsion angle of ca. 55° [\[9\].](#page-5-0)

3. Conclusion

Reaction of monomeric tungsten(VI) complex $[W(eg)_3]$ (eg = ethanediolate dianion) with either 1 or 2 equiv. of 2,2'-methylenebis(6-alkylphenol) [alkyl = Me (H_2L^1) , ^{*i*}Pr (H₂L²), ^{*t*}Bu (H₂L³)] provides heteroleptic complexes [W(eg)₂(Lⁿ)] and [W(eg)(Lⁿ)₂], respectively. Sterically hindered ligand precursor H_2L^3 , which bear bulky tert-butyl groups, can form only a complex corresponding to the former formula. Variation of the substituents does not show substantial effects on the

^a From one of two similar molecules in the asymmetric unit.
^b Compound 2 in Ref. [\[5a\]](#page-5-0).
^c Compound 5a in Ref. [\[5b\].](#page-5-0)
^d Compound 5a in Ref. [5b].

Table 2

Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [\degree] for $3a \cdot (1/2)C_7H_8$, 3b and $[W(\text{binap})_2(\text{eg})]$

	$3a \cdot (1/2)C_7H_8$ 3b		[W(binap) ₂ (eg)] $^{\rm a}$	
$W-O(1)$	1.886(4)	1.883(3)	1.911(4)	
$W-O(2)$	1.917(4)	1.919(3)	1.942(4)	
$W-O(3)$	1.851(4)	1.883(3)	1.904(4)	
$W-O(4)$	1.909(4)	1.919(3)	1.903(4)	
$W-O(5)$	1.909(4)	1.921(3)	1.902(5)	
$W-O(6)$	1.908(4)	1.921(3)	1.889(4)	
$O(1) - W - O(2)$	86.89(15)	85.02(11)	84.7(2)	
$O(3)-W-O(4)$	89.47(17)	85.02(11)	84.9(2)	
$O(1) - W - O(3)$	170.73(16)	169.21(18)	1629(2)	
$O(2) - W - O(5)$	169.31(16)	167.17(12)	162.3(4)	
$O(4) - W - O(6)$	164.91(15)	167.17(12)	161.3(2)	
$C(1)-O(1)-W$	145.4(4)	146.9(3)	141.3(4)	
$C(n) - O(2) - W$	134.0(3)	133.0(2)	128.6(4)	
$C(n) - O(3) - W$	161.1(4)	146.9(3)	131.3(4)	
$C(n) - O(4) - W$	141.9(3)	133.0(2)	138.7(4)	

^a Compound 4 in Ref. [\[5a\]](#page-5-0).

overall solid-state structures of these new compounds. However, the different degrees of shielding (depends on the bulkiness of substituents) of $WO₆$ unit may lead to the different reactivity in further reactions.

4. Experimental

Starting materials 1 [\[10\]](#page-5-0) and H_2L^n [\[11\]](#page-5-0) were prepared according to the literature. Other chemicals and solvents were from commercial origins and were used without subsequent purification. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-200 spectrometer. IR spectra were measured on a Mattson Galaxy FTIR spectrometer as Nujol mulls. Elemental analyses were obtained using a Perkin-Elmer CHNS-Analyzer 2400. Analytical sam-

ples were kept in vacuo at $40\degree$ C for 2 h prior to elemental and spectral analyses.

4.1. Syntheses of $2a-2c$

Tungsten precursor 1 (1.10 mmol) was heated with H_2L^n (1.00 mmol) in 60 ml of toluene at reflux temperature for 4 h to form a red solution. The H_2 eg that formed during reaction was removed as toluene azeotrope. Remaining solvent was evaporated and orange solid residue was column chromatographed (silica/ CH_2Cl_2) to give complex 2 as orange crystalline solids. Single crystals for X-ray measurements were obtained from hot toluene.

4.1.1. $[W(eg)_2(L^1)]$ (2a)

Yield: 458 mg (87%, based on ligand). IR: 1262(s), 1221(s), 1201(s), 1175(m), 1059(vs), 1032(vs, br), 947(w), 924(m), 901(s), 887(vs), 812(vs), 799(w), 777(m), 758(s), 733(m), 716(m), 656(s), 625(vs), 586(s), 534(s), 515(m). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.12 (m, 4H, aromatics), 6.90 (m, 2H, aromatics), 5,60 (m, 4H, $-OCH_2CH_2O$ –), 5,32 (m, 4H, $-OCH_2CH_2O$ -), 5.30 (d, $J = 12$, 1H, $-CH_2$ -), 3.25 $(d, J=13, 1H, -CH₂-), 2.19$ (s, 12H, CH₃). Found: C, 39.1; H, 4.7. $C_{16}H_{22}O_6W$ requires C, 38.9; H, 4.5%.

4.1.2. $[W(eg)_2(L^2)]$ (2b)

Yield: 480 mg (92%, based on ligand). 1264(s), 1229(s), 1207(s), 1185(m), 1172(s), 1055(vs), 1030(vs), 947(w), 924(m), 905(s), 881(s), 812(vs), 791(w), 770(m), 731(m), 716(m), 650(s), 625(vs), 566(s), 534(m), 515(m). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.10 (m, 4H, aromatics), 6.85 (m, 2H, aromatics), 5.59 (m, 4H, $-OCH₂CH₂O-$), 5.35 (m, 4H, $-OCH_2CH_2O$ -), 5.28 (d, $J=12$, 1H, $-CH_2$ -),3.44 (m, 2H, $-CH(CH_3)_2$), 3.28 (d, $J = 12$, 1H, $-CH_2-$), 1.21 $(m, 12H, CH_3)$. Found: C, 47.0; H, 5.3. C₂₃H₃₀O₆W requires C, 47.1; H, 5.2%.

Fig. 2. Molecular structure of $[\text{W(eg)}(L^1)_2] \cdot (1/2)C_7H_8$ (3a $\cdot (1/2)C_7H_8$). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids have been drawn at 30% probability level. (b) Molecular structure of $[W(eg)(L^2)_2]$ (3b). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids have been drawn at 30% probability level.

4.1.3. $[W(eg)_2(L^3)]$ (2c)

Yield: 532 mg (86%, based on ligand). 1263(vs), 1250(vs), 1223(vs), 1186(m), 1059(vs), 1113(w), 1072(vs), 1045(vs), 1024(vs), 943(w), 924(m), 901(vs), 846(w), 838(w), 791(m), 760(s), 756(m), 703(m), 650(vs), 611(vs), 561(m), 530(s), 507(m). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 7.08 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.71 (m, 4H, ArH), 5.60 (m, 2H, $-OCH_2$ -), 5.50 (m, 4H, $-OCH_2$ -), 5.30 (d, $J=13$,

1H, $-CH_2$, 5.08 (m, 2H, $-OCH_2$), 3.26 (d, $J = 14$, 1H, $-CH_2$, 1.30 (s, 9H, $C(CH_3)_3$), 1.24 (s, 9H, $C(CH_3)$ ₃). Found: C, 48.6; H, 5.6. C₂₅H₃₄O₆W requires C, 48.9; H, 5.6%.

4.2. Syntheses of 3a and 3b

Tungsten precursor 1 (1.00 mmol) was heated with H_2L^n (2.20 mmol) in 60 ml of toluene at reflux temperature to form an intense red solution. The H_2 eg that formed was removed by azeotropic distillation with toluene during 4 h. The solvent was evaporated and orange solid residue was column chromatographed (silica/ CH_2Cl_2) to obtain red crystalline product. Single crystals were grown from acetonitrile-toluene $(3a)$ or acetonitrile (3b).

4.2.1. $[W(eg)(L^1)_2]$ (3a)

Yield: $612 \text{ mg } (88\%, \text{ based on tungsten})$. $1269(s)$, 1211(vs), 1175(m), 1055(vs), 949(m), 901(s), 885(vs), 797(m), 771(m), 756(s), 733(m), 712(m), 625(vs), 594(m), 517(m). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.10 (s, 8H, aromatics), 6.72 (m, 4H, aromatics) 5.57 (m, 4H, $- OCH_2CH_2O$ -), 4.95 (d, $J=12$, 2H, $-CH_2$ -), 3,45 $(d, J=13, 2H, -CH₂-), 2.36$ (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.30 (s, 6H, CH₃). Found: C, 55.0; H, 4.7. $C_{32}H_{32}O_6W$ requires C, 55.2; H, 4.6%.

4.2.2. $[W(eg)(L^2)_2]$ (3b)

Yield: 757 mg (94%, based on tungsten). 1271(s), 1229(s),1213(vs), 1175(m), 1072(s), 1055(vs), 955(m), 901(s), 887(vs), 795(m), 771(m), 758(s), 739(m), 722(m), 621(vs), 590(m), 515(m). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.10 (8H, s, aromatics), 6.80 (4H, m, aromatics) 5.58 (m, 4H, $-OCH_2CH_2O-$), 5.10 (d, 2H, $J=12, -CH_2-$), 3,48 (m, 4H, $-CH(CH_3)_2$), 3,44 (d, $J = 13$, 2H, $-CH_2$), 1.21 (s, 12H, $-CH(CH_3)_2$), 1,19 (s, 12H, $-CH(CH_3)_2$). Found: C, 59.2; H, 5.8. $C_{40}H_{48}O_6W$ requires C, 59.4; H, 6.0%.

Crystal data for compounds $2a-3b$, along with other experimental details, are summarised in [Table 3.](#page-5-0) The crystallographic data were collected at 173 K on a Nonius Kappa CCD area-detector diffractometer using graphite monochromatised Mo K α radiation ($\lambda =$ 0.71073 A). The data collection was performed using φ and ω scans. The data were processed using DENZO-SMN v0.93.0 [\[12\]](#page-5-0). SHELXA [\[13\]](#page-5-0) absorption correction was applied for the data of all compounds

The structures were solved by direct methods using the SIR-92 program [\[14\]](#page-5-0) and full-matrix least-squares refinements on F^2 were performed using the SHELXL-97 program [\[15\].](#page-5-0) All heavy atoms were refined anisotropically. The CH hydrogen atoms were included at the fixed distances with fixed displacement parameters from their host atoms. Figures were drawn with ORTEP-3 for Windows [\[16\].](#page-5-0)

Table 3 Crystal data and experimental details of the structure determination of $2a-3b$

	2a	2 _b	$3a \cdot (1/2)C_7H_8$	3 _b
Formula	$Cr16H22O6W$	$C_{23}H_{36}O_6W$	$C_{35.5}H_{36}O_6W$	$C_{40}H_{48}O_6W$
$M_{\rm r}$	530.22	586.32	742.49	808.63
Crystal	monoclinic	triclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
system				
Space group	$P2_1/n$ (14)	$P\bar{1}$ (2)	C2/c	C2/c
(no.)				
a(A)	8.3697(3)	9.2680(2)	25.4847(4)	12.8773(4)
b(A)	25.2663(9)	13.1542(2)	13.5182(2)	14.5047(5)
$c(\AA)$	9.0952(3)	18.4518(5)	19.5823(4)	18.9984(6)
α (°)	90	100.2491(6)	90	90
β (°)	110.781(2)	91.5157(7)	104.6210(10)	101.067(2)
δ (°)	90	91.2994(9)	90	90
$U(\AA^3)$	1798.25(11)	2211.99(8)	6527.78(19)	3482.6(2)
Z	$\overline{4}$	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	8	$\overline{4}$
$D_{\rm calc}$	1.958	1.761	1.511	1.542
$(g \text{ cm}^{-1})$				
μ (MO K α)	64.57	52.58	35.82	33.64
$\rm (cm^{-1})$				
Observed	3109	7733	6534	4286
reflections				
$R_{\rm int}$	0.0443	0.0510	0.0597	0.0561
Parameters	235	541	389	219
R_1	0.046	0.060	0.061	0.063
	(0.030) ^a	(0.040)	(0.039)	(0.043)
wR_2	0.066	0.090	0.100	0.074
	(0.061)	(0.063)	(0.092)	(0.068)

 $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c||/\sum |F_o|$. $wR_2 = {\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/\sum [w(F_o^2)^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}}$ and $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$, where $P = (2F_c^2 + F_o^2)$

^a Values in parentheses for reflections with $I > 2.0\sigma(I)$.

5. Supplementary data

Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structures reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication No. CCDC-198063-4 for 2b and 3b along with CCDC-205480-1 for 2a and 3a, respectively. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44-1223-336033; email: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or www: [http://](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk) [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk\)](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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