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Synthesis and Oligomerization of CpM(CO)₂

Yoshifumi Hashikawa and Yasujiro Murata*



was spontaneously generated together with $[CpIr(CO)]_3$ by the loss of CO. The crystallographic analyses unambiguously determined their unique structures with one and three Ir-Ir bonds, respectively.

Group 9 metal complexes (M = Rh and Ir)

INTRODUCTION

Among group 9 metal complexes, compounds bearing an η^5 cyclopentadienyl ligand (η^{5} -Cp) are the classical ones, which have been extensively utilized in a number of catalytic systems.¹ The representative complexes are formulated as $CpM(CO)_2$, i.e., cyclopentadienyl metal(I) dicarbonyl. As such, $CpCo(CO)_2$ has been employed for catalytic cycloaddition to generate aromatic compounds from corresponding acetylene derivatives.² While $CpCo(CO)_2$ is readily available from commercial suppliers, rhodium and iridium analogues are required to be synthesized in laboratories. Early studies on group 9 metal complexes bearing an η^5 -Cp ligand have demonstrated their lability despite their 18-electron configuration,³ and researchers, therefore, paid their attention to the use of thermodynamically stable complexes having bulkier ligands such as an η^5 -Cp* (η^5 -pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)³ or η^5 -Ind (η^5 -indenyl) groups.⁴ As a consequence, reliable spectroscopic data of the simplest group 9 metal complexes $(CpM(CO)_2)$ are still invisible in this research area, placing an obstacle for the use of these compounds as potential precursors to generate other complexes with 18 valence electrons by ligand exchange⁵ as well as catalysts in C-H activation^{1a} (Figure 1).

More critically, chlorotricarbonyliridium $(IrCl(CO)_3)_{,6}^{,6}$ an iridium source for the synthesis of $CpIr(CO)_{2'}$ can be



Figure 1. Group 9 metal complexes CpM(CO)₂ utilized as catalysts in C-H activation and precursors of other complexes with 18 valence electrons.

purchased from commercial suppliers, albeit being expensive. Otherwise, it can only be prepared through a tedious and lengthy carbonylation process of iridium salts using a specially equipped apparatus.^{7,8} The alternative synthetic route for $CpIr(CO)_2$ and its derivatives was, afterward, developed in 1995 even though the yields of the final step are unstable (8-92%) for the ring-substituted derivatives.⁹ Of particular interest is to gain structural insights into a missing dinuclear complex, i.e., saturated $CpIr(\mu-CO)(CO)_{2,}^{7}$ whereas unsaturated $[Cp*Ir(CO)]_{2}$ has been well-characterized.¹⁰ Herein, we report efficient synthetic protocols and complete characterization data for $CpRh(CO)_2$ and $CpIr(CO)_2$ as well as structures of their unique oligomerization products.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis. Cyclopentadienyl rhodium(I) dicarbonyl CpRh-(CO)₂ was synthesized by a modified Lees and Drolet's method (Figure 2a).¹¹ The rhodium(I) dicarbonyl chloride dimer $[RhCl(CO)_2]_2$ was dissolved in dehydrated hexane to gain a clear yellow solution. After addition of thallium cyclopentadienide (CpTl), the resulting suspension was heated at the reflux temperature for 48 h in the dark under an argon flow. The reaction mixture was then passed through a Celite pad to obtain a yellow solution, which was evaporated under a reduced pressure at temperatures below 15 °C to give the desired $CpRh(CO)_2$ in a 90% isolated yield as an orange oil.

Classically, cyclopentadienyl iridium(I) dicarbonyl CpIr- $(CO)_2$ has been synthesized by the reaction of $IrCl(CO)_3$, which is less commonly available, with either sodium (CpNa)

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Figure 2. Synthesis of (a) CpRh(CO)₂ and (b) CpIr(CO)₂.

or thallium (CpTl)¹² cyclopentadienide in high yields (95 and 80%, respectively). Unfortunately, the method analogous to that for $CpRh(CO)_2$ is not applicable since the iridium(I) dicarbonyl chloride dimer $[IrCl(CO)_2]_2$ cannot exist in a monomeric form under dry conditions or in apolar solvents such as pentane and toluene due to polymerization generating $[IrCl(CO)_2]_n$ as dark-black solids.¹³ Alternatively, Blais and Rausch reported the four-step synthesis of $CpIr(CO)_2^9$ in which a square planar 16e complex, cis-chlorodicarbonyl-(pyridine)iridium (cis-[Ir(CO)₂Cl(C₅H₅N)]), was prepared from IrCl₃·3H₂O via three steps¹⁴ and subsequently reacted with CpNa. In 1994, Roberto and co-workers found that $IrCl(CO)_2$ exists as its dimer only in acetonitrile and could be transformed into easily handled cis-[Ir(CO)₂Cl(C₅H₅N)] in the presence of pyridine.¹³ Building on these findings, we prepared $CpIr(CO)_2$ via shorter steps as shown in Figure 2b. To a suspension of the chlorobis(cyclooctene)iridium(I) dimer $[IrCl(coe)_2]_2$ in dehydrated acetonitrile, CO gas was introduced by bubbling for 5 min at room temperature. An excessive amount of pyridine was added to the thus-obtained clear yellow solution containing $[IrCl(CO)_2]_2$ and further stirred for 5 min. After removal of the solvent as well as residual pyridine under a reduced pressure, cis-[Ir(CO)2Cl-(C5H5N)] was obtained as a dark-black oil, which was subsequently refluxed with CpTl in benzene for 36 h under an argon atmosphere. In order to remove unreacted [IrCl- $(CO)_2$ and CpTl, hexane was added, and the resulting mixture was passed through a Celite pad to obtain a yellow solution, which was then evaporated under a reduced pressure at temperatures below 15 °C to give the desired $CpIr(CO)_2$ in a 96% overall yield as an orange oil.

IR Vibrational Modes. These reaction protocols were wellreproducible and scalable (confirmed up to 0.5 g). The structures of CpRh(CO)₂ and CpIr(CO)₂ were determined by comparing IR vibrational frequencies with reported ones (neat).⁷ The dilute solutions (5 vol % in hexane) were used for IR spectroscopy (KBr). The observed bands corresponding to asymmetric and symmetric CO stretching modes matched well within an error of $\pm 8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristic IR	Vibrational	Frequencies	of 5	vol
% CpM(CO) ₂ in Hexane ((KBr)	_		

metal	$CpM(CO)_2 (cm^{-1})$	ref^{7} (cm ⁻¹)
Co	1966, 2029	1965, 2037
Rh	1981, 2045	1987, 2051
Ir	1955, 2032	1957, 2037

NMR Spectroscopy. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of $CpM(CO)_2$ in C_6D_6 are depicted in Figure 3. A little is known

(a) ¹ H NMF M = Co	R (500 MHz) δ 4.39 (s, Cp	(b) ¹³ C NMR (126 MHz)) M = Co	δ 84.55 (s, Cp)
C ₆ HD ₅		ی δ 205.54 (br, CO)	
M = Rh	δ4.86 (s, Cp)	M = Rh	δ 87.85 (d, Cp) (J_{C-Rh} = 3.6 Hz)
		δ 192.36 (d, CO) (J _{C-Rh} = 84.0 Hz)	
M = Ir	δ 4.71 (s, Cp)	M = Ir	δ 83.73 (s, CO)
		δ 173.62 (s, CO)	
πμππημπημη 8 7 δ(4 4 4 5 4 5 4 5 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	- προσματορογιατορογιατορογιατορογιατός το προσματορογιατός που πρωτορογιατός που πρωτορογιατός που που το πρωτ δ (ppm)	120 100 80

Figure 3. (a) 1H (500 MHz) and (b) ^{13}C (126 MHz) NMR spectra of CpM(CO)_2 in C_6D_6.

about ¹H chemical shifts of the title compounds: Rh, 5.48 ppm (C_6D_6) ;¹⁵ Ir, 4.19 $(C_6D_6)^7$ and 5.46 ppm $(CDCl_3)$.⁹ Our observation, however, largely differs from reported ones: Rh, 4.86 ppm; Ir, 4.71 ppm. Note that all complexes did not show concentration dependence for the ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts in our study. The trend of ¹H signals (δ (Cp): Rh > Ir > Co) was explainable by the strength of the Pauling's electronegativity: Rh (2.28) > Ir (2.20) > Co (1.88),¹⁶ reflecting a relativistic effect.¹⁷ In contrast, the observed carbonyl signals follow a descending order of Co (205.54 ppm) > Rh (192.36 ppm) > Ir (173.62 ppm). This correlates with calculated M-CO binding energies: Co (25.9 kcal/mol) < Rh (29.8 kcal/ mol) < Ir (52.3 kcal/mol) at the M06-2X level of theory with basis sets of LanL2DZ for metals and 6-31G(d,p) for the rest. The carbonyl ligands in $CpCo(CO)_2$ were observed as a broadened signal in the ¹³C NMR spectrum due to strong quadrupolar interactions with the adjacent ⁵⁹Co atom, while those in $CpRh(CO)_2$ were detected as a doublet signal weakly coupled with 103 Rh $(I = -1/2, J_{C-Rh} = 84.0 \text{ Hz})$.

Crystallization of CpTI. For the synthesis of $CpM(CO)_2$ (Figure 2), CpTI purchased from commercial suppliers are readily available without further purification even though the powdery sample is usually colored with gray. To avoid contamination, it can be purified with a hot hexane solution to obtain colorless needle crystals. The crystals prepared by sublimation had been initially considered to adopt a space group of *Cc* in terms of similar cell parameters to an indium analogue,¹⁸ which was later corrected as C2/c.¹⁹ Upon

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comparing the thermal ellipsoids between the crystal obtained from a tetrahydrofuran solution²⁰ and that from the hot hexane solution, the latter one was less disordered with an R_1 factor of 1.58%. As was reported previously, the Cp anions and Tl cations were confirmed to be alternately arranged as a zigzag chain with a Cp–Tl distance of 2.762 Å and a Cp–Tl–Cp angle of 129.10° (Figure S10).

Oligomerization. The synthesized complexes, CpM- $(CO)_2$, can be stored under an inert atmosphere of N₂ at 4 °C over two years despite forming precipitates in a tiny amount during storage. The supernatant, however, worked well for the common ligand exchange reactions with olefins²¹ and did not show significant change in ¹H NMR and IR spectra. Upon seeing the precipitates, we noticed the presence of single crystals, revealing their structures as oligomers by X-ray crystallography (vide infra). Such dimerization was previously known to occur by light irradiation to CpRh(CO)₂.²² The structure of the product, i.e., $(CpRh)_2(\mu-CO)(CO)_2$, is the same as that obtained as wine-red block crystals by spontaneous dimerization (Figure 4a). This reaction is



Figure 4. Oligomerization of (a) $CpRh(CO)_2$ and (b) $CpIr(CO)_2$.

probably promoted by the inevitable contamination of oxygen.²³ Since the statement, by Fischer and Brenner in 1962, that $CpIr(CO)_2$ is unable to be dimerized upon exposure to light or air as opposed to $CpRh(CO)_{2J}^{7}$ a saturated CpIr(I)dimer, i.e., $(CpIr)_2(\mu$ -CO)(CO)_2, has long been a missing complex. Under harsh and specifically tuned conditions, $Cp*Ir(CO)_2$ is known to undergo dimerization to give unsaturated dimer $[Cp*Ir(CO)]_2$.¹⁰ Only a few papers have predicted a saturated dimeric structure without definitive evidence.²⁴ Our observation undoubtedly confirmed that $CpIr(CO)_2$ could be dimerized to generate $(CpIr)_2(\mu$ - $CO)(CO)_2$ as orange block crystals by aging over time (Figure 4b). Herein, we fit the last piece of a class of dinuclear group 9 metal complexes bearing η^5 -Cp ligands ((CpM)₂(μ -CO)- $(CO)_2$). To our surprise, a $[CpM(CO)]_3$ -type trimer was also formed as blackish-green platelet crystals from the same mother liquor of $CpIr(CO)_2$. This complex had been prepared only from $CpIr(CO)H_2$ via trimerization of the 16e complex CpIr(CO) generated in situ by the thermal elimination of H_2 .^{24a}

Crystallography. The crystal structures of $(CpRh)_2(\mu$ -CO)(CO)₂ and $(CpIr)_2(\mu$ -CO)(CO)₂ confirmed a *trans*disposition of the CO ligands (Figure 5a,b). The bond angles and M-CO bond lengths are comparable between Rh (4d) and Ir(5d) complexes due to relativistic contraction of inner-



Figure 5. Single-crystal X-ray structures of (a) $(CpRh)_2(\mu$ -CO)- $(CO)_2$, (b) $(CpIr)_2(\mu$ -CO) $(CO)_2$, and (c) $[CpIr(CO)]_3$. Thermal ellipsoids are shown in 50% probability.

core s orbitals for the latter, thus falling into the same space group of $P\overline{1}$ with similar cell parameters. Upon counting the cluster valence electrons (CVE) for $(CpM)_2(\mu$ -CO)(CO)_2 (34e), the metals should obey the linear orientation with an M–M bond according to the Wade–Mingos–Lauher rule,²⁵ which agreed well with the crystal structures showing Rh–Rh (2.6798(9) Å) and Ir–Ir (2.6980(11) Å) bonds. In a similar manner, [CpIr(CO)]₃ with CVE of 48e adopts a form close to an equilateral triangle constituted of Ir₃ with intermetallic distances of 2.6920(10), 2.6694(9), and 2.6760(10) Å, which are slightly shortened when compared with those in (CpIr)₂(μ -CO)(CO)₂. In this structure, one of the Cp rings faces to an opposite side across the triangular plane, rendering it C_s symmetry.

Different from oligomers being in a solid state under ambient conditions (Figure 4), mononuclear complexes $CpM(CO)_2$ exist as a liquid (Figure 2). The solid-state structures of the pristine complexes have been, therefore, unavailable. By carefully testing the melting point, $CpIr(CO)_2$ was found to be frozen at less than 11-14 °C. Thus, a hexane solution of $CpIr(CO)_2$ was prepared, and single crystals were grown by slow evaporation at 4 °C. As the result, colorless platelet crystals were obtained. Since these crystals underwent a phase transition at -173 °C, X-ray diffraction analysis was performed at -10 °C. The structure of CpIr(CO)₂ was then unambiguously determined as shown in Figure 6. Note that Co



Figure 6. Single-crystal X-ray structure of $CpIr(CO)_2$: (a) side and (b) top views. Thermal ellipsoids are shown in 50% probability.

and Rh analogues were not crystallized under similar conditions presumably due to rather lower melting points. The M–CO bond lengths of CpIr(CO)₂ (1.845(9) and 1.851(8) Å) are comparable to those of M–(η^2 -CO) in (CpIr)₂(μ -CO)(CO)₂ (1.853(12) and 1.848(12) Å). Upon seeing the packing structure, CH/ π interactions between the Cp rings were found in addition to short contacts between the carbonyl oxygens and the adjacent Cp protons.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we demonstrated the reproducible and scalable synthesis of $CpRh(CO)_2$ and $CpIr(CO)_2$, the latter of which was, for the first time, characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. By comparing NMR spectra, both ¹H and ¹³C signals corresponding to the Cp ring in $CpIr(CO)_2$ showed a relativistic effect on chemical shifts, which are explainable by the Pauling's electronegativity. The spontaneous oligomerization of $CpRh(CO)_2$ and $CpIr(CO)_2$ was also investigated crystallographically. Even though $CpIr(CO)_2$ has been known to be thermodynamically stable as opposed to the Rh analogue, we found the formation of metal clusters including dimers and trimers, in which the former one was isostructural to the Rh analogue owing to the relativistic contraction of inner-core s orbitals.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR measurements were carried out at room temperature with a JEOL JNM ECA500 instrument. The NMR chemical shifts were reported in ppm with reference to residual protons and carbons of C_6D_6 (δ 7.15 ppm in ¹H NMR and δ 128.00 ppm in ¹³C NMR). APCI (atmospheric pressure chemical ionization) mass spectra were measured on a Bruker micrOTOF-Q II. IR spectra were taken with a Shimadzu IR-Affinity 1S.

Hexane was purchased from Kanto Chemical Co., Inc. Acetonitrile, pyridine, and benzene were purchased from FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Corporation. $[RhCl(CO)_2]_2$ and $[IrCl(coe)_2]_2$ (coe: cyclooctene) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC. Thallium cyclopentadienide (CpTl) was purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.

All reactions were carried out under an Ar atmosphere. Unless otherwise noted, materials purchased from commercial suppliers were used without further purification. **Computational Methods.** All calculations were conducted using the Gaussian 09 program. All structures at the stationary states were optimized at the M06-2X level of theory with basis sets of LanL2DZ for metals and 6-31G(d,p) for the rest without any symmetry assumptions and confirmed by the frequency analyses at the same level of theory.

Synthesis of CpRh(CO)₂. The rhodium(I) dicarbonyl chloride dimer $[RhCl(CO)_2]_2$ (250 mg, 0.643 mmol) was placed into a two-neck 300 mL flask and degassed through three vacuum-Ar cycles. Dehydrated hexane (150 mL, 4.29 mM) was added to gain a clear yellow solution. After addition of CpTl (1.73 g, 6.44 mmol, and 10.0 equiv), the resulting suspension was heated at the reflux temperature for 48 h in the dark under an argon flow (oil bath). The reaction mixture was then passed through a Celite pad to obtain a yellow solution, which was evaporated under a reduced pressure at temperatures below 15 °C to give the desired CpRh(CO)₂ (258 mg, 1.15 mmol) in a 90% isolated yield as an orange oil.

For CpRh(CO)₂, IR (KBr) ν : 1981, 2045 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 4.86 (s, 5H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 192.36 (d, J_{C-Rh} = 84.0 Hz), 87.85 (d, J_{C-Rh} = 3.6 Hz); HRMS (APCI) m/z: [2 M-2CO]^{•-} calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂Rh₂, 391.8791; found, 391.8810.

Synthesis of Cplr(CO)₂. The chlorobis(cyclooctene)iridium(I) dimer [IrCl(coe)₂]₂ (500 mg, 0.558 mmol) was placed into a two-neck 100 mL flask and degassed through three vacuum-Ar cycles. Dehydrated acetonitrile (90.0 mL, degassed by Ar bubbling for 30 min prior to use) was added to the suspension. CO gas was then introduced by bubbling for 5 min at room temperature. An excessive amount of pyridine (3.00 mL) was added to the thus-obtained clear yellow solution containing $[IrCl(CO)_2]_2$ and further stirred for 5 min. After removal of the solvent as well as residual pyridine under a reduced pressure, cis-[Ir(CO)₂Cl(C₅H₅N)] was obtained as a dark-black oil (442 mg), which was transferred into a two-neck 50 mL flask containing CpTl (331 mg, 1.23 mmol, and 1.10 equiv) and degassed through three vacuum-Ar cycles. Dehydrated benzene (10.0 mL, degassed by Ar bubbling for 20 min prior to use) was added and refluxed for 36 h under an argon atmosphere (oil bath). In order to remove unreacted $[IrCl(CO)_2]_2$ and CpTl, hexane was added, and the resulting mixture was passed through a Celite pad to obtain a yellow solution, which was then evaporated under a reduced pressure at temperatures below 15 °C to give the desired $CpIr(CO)_2$ (336 mg, 1.07 mmol) in a 96% overall yield as an orange oil.

For CpIr(CO)₂, IR (KBr) ν : 1955, 2032 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 4.71 (s, 5H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 173.62, 83.73; HRMS (APCI) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₇H₆IrO₂, 314.9997; found, 314.9990.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsomega.1c05739.

Detailed experimental procedures, characterization data, and computational results (PDF)

Crystallographic data for CpTl (CIF) Crystallographic data for [CpIr(CO)]₃ (CIF)

Crystallographic data for $CpIr(CO)(CO)_2$ (CIF)

Crystallographic data for $CpRh(CO)(CO)_2$ (CIF)

Crystallographic data for $CpIr(CO)_2$ (CIF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 2099705 ($[CpIr(CO)]_3$), 2099704 ($(CpIr)_2(\mu$ -CO)-(CO)₂), 2099707 (CpTI), and 2099706 ($(CpRh)_2(\mu$ -CO)-(CO)₂) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www. ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data request/cif.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

Yasujiro Murata – Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto 611-0011, Japan; orcid.org/0000-0003-0287-0299; Email: yasujiro@scl.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Author

Yoshifumi Hashikawa – Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto 611-0011, Japan; Occid.org/ 0000-0001-7834-9593

Complete contact information is available at: https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acsomega.1c05739

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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