



Coordination Chemistry Reviews

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Review

Benzannulated homologues of cyclopentadienide as ligands in organometallic chemistry

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ABSTRACT

Organometallic coordination chemistry is dominated by the pervasive cyclopentadienide (Cp^-) ligand and its benzannulated derivatives indenide (Ind^-) and fluorenide (Flu^-). However, in the past decades a diverse coordination chemistry involving higher benzannulated homologues has developed. In this review, the synthesis and electronic structure of π -extended Cp-ligands will be discussed, as well as the

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factors that affect complex stability. An overview of known transition metal complexes containing both 'classic' benzannulated Cp-ligands, and 'non-classic' ligands derived from polycyclic arenes will be given.

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1. Introduction

Benzannulation of aromatic compounds leads to extended π -systems which are of decisive importance for novel materials, finding application in organic electronics and photo physics. On the other hand, the cyclopentadienide anion (Cp^-) is the ligand system that mainly stimulated the development of organometallic chemistry beginning with the discovery of ferrocene in the early 1950s

[1]. It is therefore not astonishing, that benzannulated cyclopentadienides have attracted the attention of chemists from the very beginning of organometallic chemistry. The most simple members of this series, indenide (Ind^-) and fluorenide (Flu^-) have found to be introduced as ligands for (transition) metal complexes already in the late 1950s and early 1960s [1,2]. Their coordination chemistry as well as the application of the derived metal compounds e.g. in catalysis were covered by a series of review articles [3,4] and therefore shall not be matter of this review.

We here will focus on the organometallic chemistry of benzofluorenes, benzindenes and related Cp-analog ligands (Chart 1a) as well as of selected non-classic anionic π -ligands (Chart 1b). The extended π -systems of these ligands give rise to interesting physical properties that were elucidated by means of experiment and theory. These properties and central aspects of ligand and complex synthesis will be outlined. To keep the scope of this manuscript manageable, the coordination chemistry of anionic fullerenes [5], carboranes [6], and uncharged η^6 -arene complexes [7] have not been included.

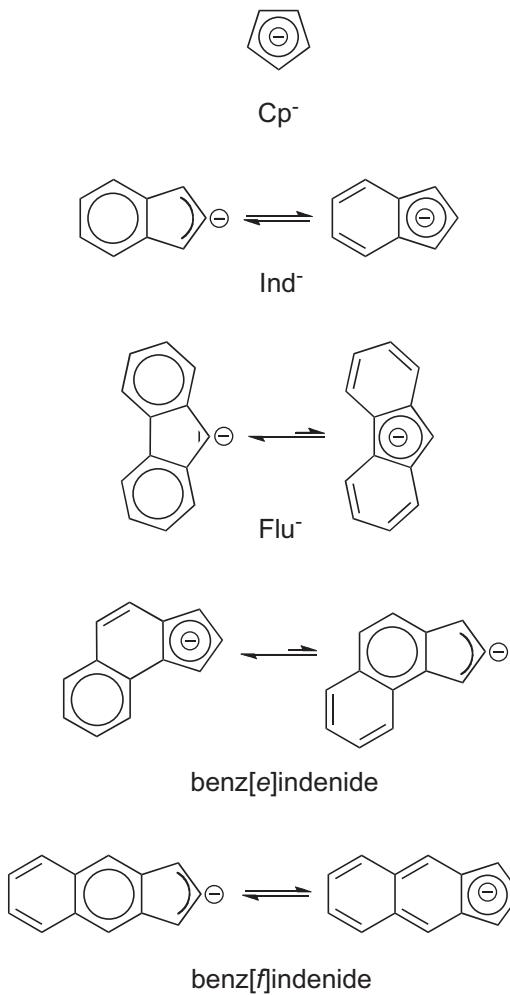
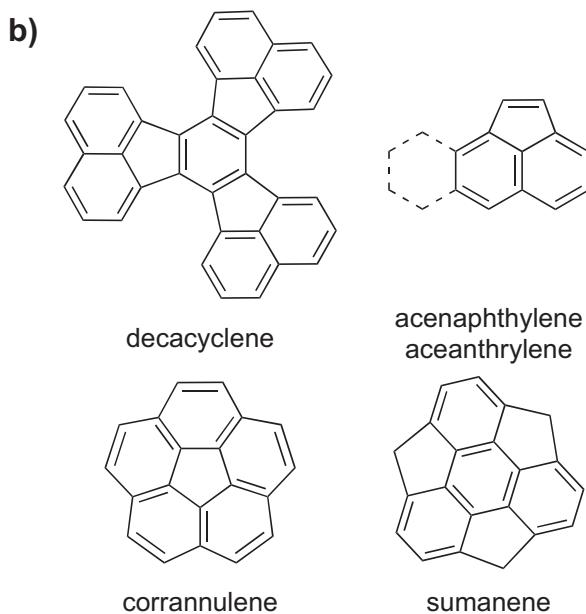
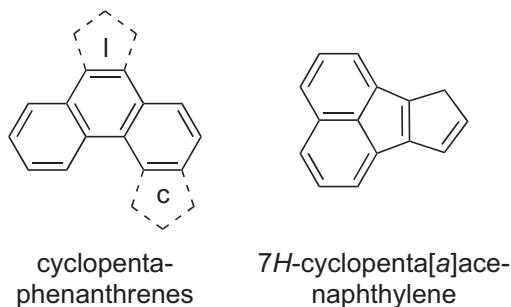
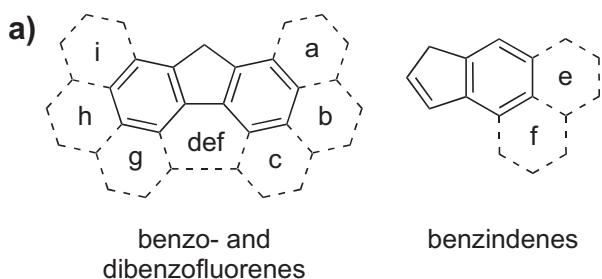


Chart 1. Organometallic ligand structures covered in this survey. (a) 'Classic' Cp-analogs. The letters correspond to benzo-rings annulated at the respective position according to the rules of nomenclature. (b) Examples for other ligand structures.

Scheme 1. Aromatic resonance structures of Cp-anions.

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