Inorganica Chimica Acta 392 (2012) 91-98

Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Inorganica Chimica Acta

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ica

Mono- and dinuclear luminescent 1,1'-biisoquinoline gold(I) complexes

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 29 March 2012 Accepted 13 June 2012 Available online 23 June 2012

Keywords: Biisoquinoline Gold Gold-gold contact Luminescence Monodentate ligand Bridging ligand

ABSTRACT

Mono- and dinuclear, cationic or neutral gold(I) derivatives $[(biisoq)(AuL)]^{n+}$ (L = PPh₃, n = 1; L = C₆F₅, n = 0), and $[(\mu-biisoq)(AuL)_2]^{n+}$ (biisoq = 1,1'-biisoquinoline; L = PMe₃, PPh₃, PMePh₂, n = 2; L = C₆F₅, n = 0) have been prepared. Aurophilic interactions and steric requirements of the co-ligand L impose the torsion angle between the two isoquinoline units of the flexible, non-planar 1,1'-biisoquinoline ligand, affording different structures. The X-ray molecular structure of the mononuclear complex with PPh₃ confirmed the monodentate mode for the biisoquinoline ligand. In the three X-ray structures solved for dinuclear compounds with bridging biisoquinoline, the torsion angles and the intramolecular gold-gold distances found are, respectively: 65.2° and 3.0739(7) Å for L = PMe₃; 80.10° and 3.785 Å for L = C₆F₅; 95.6° and 4.505 Å for L = PMePh₂. All the phosphine derivatives are luminescent at room temperature in the solid state, with emission maxima in the range 380–422 nm, and emit from 370 to 438 nm at 77 K. They are also emissive in CH₂Cl₂ at 298 K in the range 381–458 nm, whilst they are luminescent at 77 K in the range 382–550 nm. The fluoroaryl derivatives are not emissive.

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1. Introduction

The study of closed shell gold(I) derivatives has revealed the frequent presence of short gold–gold distances, which have been attributed to correlation effects reinforced by relativistic effects and electrostatic contributions. The so-called aurophilic interaction leads to gold–gold distances in the range 2.8–3.6 Å, with strength similar to some hydrogen bonds, in the order 20–50 kJ/ mol [1]. Gold(I) usually forms two-coordinated complexes displaying linear geometry, which facilitates the formation of these gold– gold contacts, provided the steric requirements of the ligands do not hinder the interaction. Many gold(I) compounds, with or without gold–gold contacts, are luminescent in the visible region [2], and some of them have been proposed for applications as chemosensors for cations or anions, or as light-emitting diodes [3].

Ligands incorporating a 1,1'-binaphthyl unit, for instance chiral N-heterocyclic carbenes, have been receiving attention recently because of their application in catalytic asymmetric reactions [4]. These ligands can show optical activity based on the high barrier to rotation about the C–C σ -bond, which gives rise to atropisomers [5]. In particular, 1,1'-biisoquinoline is a diamine with a more extended π -acceptor system than 2,2'-bipyridine, while it has a comparable N σ -donor ability. 1,1'-Biisoquinoline is non-planar, as result of trans-annular steric hindrance between the hydrogen atoms in positions 8 and 8', one on each isoquinoline subunit (see labels in Scheme 1 below). Its lack of planarity might be

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ica.2012.06.024

thought to disfavor its chelating coordination, but in fact this flexible ligand usually acts as chelate in metal complexes, as reported for square planar Rh(I) [6] and Pt(II) [7], or octahedral Os(II) [8], Ru(II) [8,9], and Ir(III) complexes [10]. Potentially 1,1'-biisoquinoline can also act as bridging bidentate and as monodentate ligand, although, among the many reported complexes, only two reports of 1,1'-biisoquinoline acting as a bridging ligand (a dinuclear palladium complex [11] and a series of silver(I) compounds recently described by us [12]), and only one complex where it is acting as monodentate ligand (the X-ray crystal structure of a platinum complex), are found [7a].

The predominant tendency of 1,1'-biisoquinoline to behave as a chelate ligand should be frustrated on metal centers with linear coordination, thus favoring the occurrence of the other bonding modes. In effect, in this paper we report mono- and dinuclear gold(I) compounds with the 1,1'-biisoquinoline ligand acting as monodentate or bridging bidentate, respectively. Most of the complexes are luminescent, both in solution and in the solid state.

2. Experimental

IR spectra were recorded on a FT 1720X Perkin-Elmer spectrophotometer (4000–400 cm⁻¹) using KBr pellets. ¹H, ¹⁹F and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AC-300, ARX-300 or AV-400 instruments in CDCl₃ solutions (if no other solvent is stated); chemical shifts are quoted relative to SiMe₄ (external, ¹H), CFCl₃ (external, ¹⁹F) and 85% H₃PO₄ (external, ³¹P). ¹H NMR labels are in Scheme 1. Elemental analyses were performed with a Perkin-Elmer 2400 microanalyzer. Emission and excitation spectra



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at 298 and 77 K were measured in the solid state as finely pulverized KBr mixtures, and in deoxygenated CH_2Cl_2 solutions in quartz tubes with a Perkin-Elmer LS-55 spectrofluorimeter. UV–Vis absorption spectra were recorded at 297 K on a Shimadzu UV-2550. Literature methods were used to prepare 1,1'-biisoquinoline [9f], [AuCl(PRR'₂)] [13], and [Au(C₆F₅)(tht)] [14].

2.1. Synthesis of $[(\mu-biisoq){Au(PRR'_2)}_2](CF_3SO_3)_2$; $R = R' = Me \ 2a$, Ph **2b**; R = Me, $R' = Ph \ 2c$

To an acetone solution (20 mL) of [AuCl(PRR'₂)] (0.17 mmol; R = R' = Me 52 mg, Ph 84 mg; R = Me, R' = Ph 74 mg) was added Ag(CF₃SO₃) (44 mg, 0.17 mmol), and the reaction stirred for 60 min protected from the light. AgCl was filtered off, and the corresponding biisoquinoline (22 mg, 0.085 mmol) was added to the solution. After stirring for 1 h, the suspension was concentrated to ca. 5 mL. Addition of diethyl ether afforded compounds 2a-2c as white solids. Yield of 2a: 61 mg, 65%. Anal. Calc. for C, 28.38; H, 2.75; N, 2.55. Found: C, 28.65; H, 2.67; N, 2.83%. ¹H NMR: δ 1.45 (d, *J*_{HP} = 10.5 Hz, 18H, Me), 7.48 (d, *J*_{HH} = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H⁸), 7.65 (t, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 7.8 Hz, 2H, H⁷), 8.11 (t, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H⁶), 8.13 (d, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H⁵), 8.20 (d, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 5.7 Hz, 2H, H⁴), 8.95 (d, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 5.7 Hz, 2H, H³). ¹⁹F NMR: δ –78.3 (s). ³¹P{¹H} NMR: δ –11.2 (s). IR (KBr): 1274, 638 (CF₃SO₃) cm⁻¹. Yield of **2b**: 81 mg, 65%. Anal. Calc. for C, 45.66; H, 2.87; N, 1.90. Found: C, 45.32; H, 2.77; N, 1.80%. ¹H NMR: δ 7.0–7.5 (m, 32H, Ph + H⁸), 7.75 (t, J_{HH} = 7.9 Hz, 2H, H⁷), 8.11 (t, J_{HH} = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H⁶), 8.08 (d, J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H⁵), 8.27 (d, J_{HH} = 6.1 Hz, 2H, H⁴), 9.15 (d, J_{HH} = 6.1 Hz, 2H, H³). ¹⁹F NMR: δ -78.3 (s). ³¹P{¹H} NMR: δ 28.5 (s). IR (KBr): 1260, 640 (CF₃SO₃) cm⁻¹. Yield of **2c**: 79 mg, 69%. Anal. Calc. for C, 40.96; H, 2.84; N, 2.08. Found: C, 40.61; H, 2.89; N, 2.0%. ¹H RMN: δ 2.04 (d, $J_{\rm HP}$ = 11.3 Hz, 6H, Me), 7.1–7.5 (m, 22H, Ph + H⁸), 7.70 (t, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H⁷), 7.95 (t, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 7.8 Hz, 2H, H⁶), 8.08 (d, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H⁵), 8.26 (d, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 6.2 Hz, 2H, H⁴), 9.2 (d, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 6.2 Hz, 2H, H³). ¹⁹F NMR: δ –78.3 (s). ³¹P{¹H} NMR: δ 13.9 (s). IR (KBr): 1260, 637 (CF₃SO₃) cm⁻¹.

2.2. Synthesis of [(biisoq){Au(PPh₃)}](CF₃SO₃) 1b

To an acetone solution (20 mL) of $[AuCl(PR_3)]$ (84 mg, 0.17 mmol) was added Ag(CF₃SO₃) (44 mg, 0.17 mmol), and the reaction stirred for 90 min protected from the light. AgCl was filtered off, and the corresponding biisoquinoline (44 mg, 0.17 mmol) was added to the solution. After stirring for 1 h, the suspension was concentrated to ca. 5 mL. Addition of hexane afforded compounds **1b** as a white solid. Yield of **1b**: 118 mg, 80%. *Anal.* Calc. for C,

51.40; H, 3.15; N, 3.24. Found: C, 51.08; H, 3.27; N, 2.92%. ¹H NMR: δ 6.9–7.6 (m, 17H, Ph + H⁸), 7.63 (t, *J*_{HH} = 7.9 Hz, 2H, H⁷), 7.87 (t, *J*_{HH} = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H⁶), 8.05 (d, *J*_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H⁵), 8.10 (d, *J*_{HH} = 6.2 Hz, 2H, H⁴), 8.75 (d, *J*_{HH} = 6.2 Hz, 2H, H³). ¹⁹F NMR: δ – 78.3 (s). ³¹P{¹H} NMR: δ 29.7 (s). IR (KBr): 1266, 639 (CF₃SO₃) cm⁻¹.

2.3. Synthesis of $[(\mu-biisoq){Au(C_6F_5)}_2]$ **2d** and $[(biisoq){Au(C_6F_5)}]$ **1d**

To a dichloromethane solution (20 mL) of $[Au(C_6F_5)(tht)]$ (81 mg, 0.18 mmol) was added the stoichiometric amount of the biisoquinoline (23 mg, 0.09 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred for 1 h and concentrated to ca. 5 mL. Addition of hexane afforded the mixture of compounds **2d–1d** as a light yellow solid in 1:2 M ratio. ¹H NMR of **2d**: δ 7.41 (d, J_{HH} = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H⁸), 7.69 (t, J_{HH} = 7.8 Hz, 2H, H⁷), 8.00 (t, J_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H⁶), 8.18 (d, J_{HH} = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H⁵), 8.29 (d, J_{HH} = 5.7 Hz, 2H, H⁴), 8.82 (d, J_{HH} = 5.7 Hz, 2H, H³). ¹⁹F NMR of **2d**: δ –116.59 (m, 4F, F_o–Au), –159.87 (t, N = 18.1 Hz, 2F, F_p–Au), –163.53 (m, 4F, F_m–Au). ¹H NMR of **1d**: δ 7.48 (d, J_{HH} = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H⁸), 7.56 (t, J_{HH} = 7.8 Hz, 2H, H⁷), 7.85 (t, J_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H⁶), 8.04 (d, J_{HH} = 5.7 Hz, 2H, H⁴), 8.06 (d, J_{HH} = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H⁵), 8.74 (d, J_{HH} = 5.7 Hz, 2H, H³). ¹⁹F NMR of **1d**: δ –116.59 (m, 4F, F_o–Au), –160.50 (t, N = 18.1 Hz, 2F, F_p–Au), –163.86 (m, 4F, F_m–Au).

2.4. Crystal structure determination of compounds 1b, 2a, 2c and 2d

Crystals of 1b, 2c and 2d were obtained by slow diffusion of hexane into a dichloromethane solution, whilst crystals of 2a were obtained by slow diffusion of diethyl ether/ethanol into a chloroform solution, always at -18 °C. The crystal was mounted on a glass fiber and transferred to a Bruker SMART CCD diffractometer. Crystal data and details of data collection and structure refinement are given in Table 1. Cell parameters were retrieved using SMART [15] software and refined with SAINT [16] on all observed reflections. Data reduction was performed with the SAINT software and corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects. Absorption corrections were based on multiple scans (program sADABS) [17]. The structure was refined anisotropically on F^2 [18]. All non-hydrogen atomic positions were located in difference Fourier maps and refined anisotropically. The hydrogen atoms were placed in their geometrically generated positions. In the structure of **2c** a water molecule between two positions was included (their H were not added); the CF₃ of one anion is incipiently disordered. The structure of 2d contains some disordered solvent in the channels, and we were unable to properly model it.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Synthesis and characterization

The reaction of the 1,1'-biisoquinoline with appropriate gold(I) precursors, prepared in situ, yielded compounds of the types **1** or **2**, according to Scheme 1.

Thus, using $[Au(CF_3SO_3)(PR_2R')]$, prepared in situ from $[AuCl(PR_2R')]$ and $Ag(CF_3SO_3)$, and an Au:1,1'-biisoquinoline 2:1 ratio, the dicationic complexes **2a–c**, with CF_3SO_3 as counter-anion (**2a**: R = R' = Me; **2b**: R = R' = Ph; **2c**: R = Ph, R' = Me), were obtained. Using an Au:1,1'-biisoquinoline 1:1 ratio, the monocationic complex **1b** was obtained. Compounds **1b** and **2a–c** are air-stable white solids at room temperature and were characterized by elemental analysis, and by IR and NMR spectroscopy.

The dicationic complexes **2a**–**c** show in their ¹H NMR spectra a phosphine:biisoquinoline 2:1 ratio, and only six chemically non-equivalent biisoquinoline protons, as expected for two equivalent

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