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# Reactions of bromine-bridged cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide) anion with arenes and nucleophiles

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#### ABSTRACT

The generation of Br-bridged complex of cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide) (8,8'- $\mu$ -Br-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>) and its reactions with arenes and some nucleophiles were studied. The complex 8,8'- $\mu$ -Br-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub> can be generated *in situ* via the action of 8-monobromo derivative of cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide) and AlX<sub>3</sub> (X = Cl, Br) in different aromatic solvents. This unstable complex was characterized by <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy for the first time. Its reactions with an appropriate arene led to [8-Br-8'-Ar-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup> species even without addition of an activating Lewis base. Reactions of 8,8'- $\mu$ -Br-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with *S*- and *N*-nucleophiles (thioxane, morpholine) in benzene afforded the corresponding charge-compensated derivatives (8-Br-8'-Y-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>) as well as [8-Br-8'-Ar-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup> species.

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#### 1. Introduction

Functionalized derivatives of cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide)(-I) (COSAN, **1**, Fig. 1) are of increased interest for many aspects of fundamental [1,2] and applied chemistry [3].

Representative applications include extraction agents [4,5], HIV protease inhibitors [6], boron labels of DNA fragments [7] and many others [8–10]. Highly stable metallacarboranes [3,3'-M(1,2-C\_2B\_9H\_{11})\_2]<sup>-</sup> (M = Fe, Co, Ni) are also known to be promising substrates for the preparation of molecular semiconductor materials [11,12]. Recently electroconductive properties of tetrathiafulvalenium salts of cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide)(-I) and its derivatives have been investigated [13–16]. Substituents in the boron cages in metallacarborane units play a crucial role in electroconductivity of these salts. Introduction of halogene substituents into the boron cage have improved electroconductivity of tetrathiafulvalenium salts of COSAN [17].

Bridged cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide)(-I) derivatives are prospective building-blocks for the preparation of various functionalized cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollides)(-I) with different substituents in the boron cages. Thus, reactions of iodonium-bridged complex 8,8'-µ-I-

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jorganchem.2016.04.014 0022-328X/© 2016 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved. 3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**2**, Fig. 1) with various nucleophiles (Nu) and arenes (Ar) have resulted in various 8, 8'- disubstitutes species [8-I-8'-Nu-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] and [8-I-8'-Ar-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] respectively [18–23].

In contrast with compound **2**, until now a little has been known about the reactivity of  $8,8'-\mu$ -Br- $3,3'-Co(1,2-C_2B_9H_{10})_2$  (**3**). Plešek et al. [23] have communicated the generation of this unstable complex *in situ* from [(8-Br- $1,2-C_2B_9H_{10})-3,3'-Co(1',2'-C_2B_9H_{11})]^-$ ([**4**]<sup>-</sup>) and AlCl<sub>3</sub> in benzene. Its reactions with Me<sub>2</sub>S and 1,4-dioxane have resulted in B-Br bridged bond cleavage leading to corresponding disubstituted species.

Herein we report reactions of generated in situ  $8,8'-\mu$ -Br-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**3**) with benzenes and nucleophiles and the synthesis of novel heterosubstituted derivatives of cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide).

#### 2. Results and discussion

Recently we have reported an effective high-yield synthesis of iodonium-bridged derivative of COSAN **2** directly from cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide) (**1**), AlCl<sub>3</sub> and iodine [**21**]. However, our attempts to use this approach (using bromine) to prepare title complex **3** failed. Reaction of **1** with AlCl<sub>3</sub> in benzene led to a complex mixture of chlorinated derivatives of cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide). The replacement of AlCl<sub>3</sub> by AlBr<sub>3</sub> led to 8,8'-dibromo derivative of







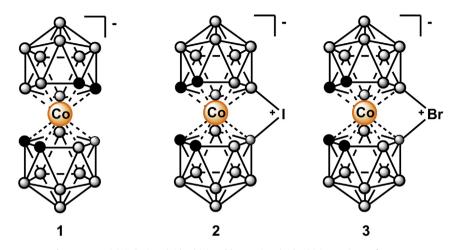


Fig. 1. COSAN (1), iodonium-bridged (2) and bromonium-bridged (3) complexes of COSAN.

cobalt bis(1,2-dicarbollide)(-I) as the main product.

Following the procedure of Plešek [23] we found that title bromonium complex **3** can be successfully generated *in situ* from Cs [**4**] in various aromatic solvents. Our modified procedure was as follows. Compound Cs[**4**] was refluxed in dry arene with an excess of AlCl<sub>3</sub> or AlBr<sub>3</sub>. The color of the orange suspension turned to red and formation of complex **3** was stated by TLC. Then a reaction mixture was passed through dry silica gel under argon to remove the rest of Cs[**4**] and inorganic materials. As a result, a solution of pure complex **3** in respective arene was obtained. Before our investigation, generation of **3** in benzene has been reported [23,24], but the only evidence of its existence was a TLC. We carried out reaction of Cs[**4**] and AlCl<sub>3</sub> in benzene/benzene-d<sub>6</sub> 10/1 v/v as described above and characterized title compound **3** by <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H}-and <sup>11</sup>B-NMR technique (Fig. 2).

The <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **3** constituted of 4 signals with an intensity ratio of 4:8:4:2. This pattern is in agreement with structure of **3**. In the <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum of **3** a signal at  $\delta = 2.3$  ppm split into a singlet at  $\delta = 2.3$  ppm and a shoulder of a doublet at  $\delta = 3.2$  ppm. Thus, a signal at  $\delta = 2.3$  ppm can be definitely assigned as B(8)-Br<sup>+</sup>-B(8') of the complex **3**. This signal is shifted 5.6 ppm to the higher field compared to the signal of B(8)-Br in the starting material Cs[**4**] [25] The chemical shifts of BH groups in the <sup>11</sup>B-NMR spectrum of **3** were close to the data of iodonium bridged complex of COSAN **2** [23]. Our efforts to isolate compound **3** in solid state failed.

Treatment of a solution of **3** in benzene, generated from Cs[**4**] and AlBr<sub>3</sub>, with POEt<sub>3</sub> followed by 5 min reflux led to [8-Br-8'-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>- $3,3'-Co(1,2-C_2B_9H_{10})_2]^{-}$  ([5]). Then benzene was removed and the rest was treated by a saturated solution of CsClaq to precipitate rough Cs[5]. Purification by column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/  $CH_3CN$ , 10/1 v/v) afforded pure Cs[5] with 7% yield (Scheme 1). The same entry, but generating 3 from Cs[4] with AlCl<sub>3</sub> in benzene, led to the same product Cs[5] with 26% yield. The conversion of 3 to [5] proceeded within 5 h at the room temperature and without an addition of Lewis base. In this case Cs[5] of analytical purity was obtained by simple precipitation as Cs-salt, purification by column chromatography was not required. This experiment has indicated, that Br-bridged complex 3 seems to be more active towards benzene compared to I-bridged complex of COSAN 2. Complex 2 has been inert towards benzene even at heating with UV-irradiation and its phenylation reaction has taken place only in the presence of a Lewis base [18].

Compound **[5]**<sup>-</sup> has been communicated previously **[24]**, but not characterized. In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Cs**[5]** five signals were

observed. The phenyl group was represented by singlet at  $\delta = 7.30$  and two doublets at  $\delta = 7.18$  and 7.10 ppm. Signals of CH-groups of the dicarbollide ligands were detected at  $\delta = 4.55$  and 3.73 ppm. In the <sup>11</sup>B-NMR spectrum of Cs[**5**] a pattern of 10 signals with an intensity ratio of 11:11:11:6:22:22:11 was observed. Two singlets at  $\delta = 12.0$  and  $\delta = 6.4$  ppm were assigned as B(8')-C and B(8)-Br respectively. In the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Cs[**5**] signal of *ipso*-C-B(8') was observed as a characteristic broad signal at  $\delta = 148.6$  ppm.

Generation of bromonium complex **3** from Cs[**4**] in toluene with AlBr<sub>3</sub> followed by a work up with POEt<sub>3</sub> and then with saturated solution of CsCl<sub>aq</sub> resulted in 13% yield of 8-bromo-8'-tolyl derivative Cs[8-Br-8'-CH<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (Cs[**6a**,**b**]) (Scheme 1). This product was a mixture of *m*- (Cs[**6a**]) and *p*- (Cs [**6b**]) isomers in a ratio of 3:2 according to <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum. In the case of iodonium compound **2** all three possible *o*-, *m*- and *p*-isomers have been obtained in reaction with toluene in a ratio of 5:3:2 [18].

The reaction in toluene with AlCl<sub>3</sub> led to the isomers Cs[**6a**,**b**] in a same ratio of 3:2, however the yield was much higher (45%). This experiment was carried out at the room temperature, compound **3** was formed in 4 h, its complete conversion into Cs[**6a**,**b**] took additional 2 h and occurred without addition of POEt<sub>3</sub>.

In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Cs[**6a,b**] two doublets ( $\delta = 7.18$ , 6.99 ppm, both J = 7.6) corresponding to p-isomer were observed. A pattern consisting of a singlet at  $\delta = 7.12$  ppm, a multiplet at  $\delta = 7.07$  and a doublet at  $\delta = 6.99$  ppm corresponded to m-isomer. The signals of two CH<sub>3</sub>-groups were detected at  $\delta = 2.26$  ppm (p-isomer) and  $\delta = 2.22$  ppm (m-isomer). A pattern in the <sup>11</sup>B-NMR spectrum of Cs[**6a,b**] was typical for 8-bromo-8'-aryl species (cf. experimental). In the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Cs[**6a,b**] two broad signals at *ipso*-C atoms of both isomers were observed at  $\delta = 148.5$  and 145.4 ppm.

These experiments demonstrated that bromonium complex of cobalt bis(dicarbollide) **3** can be generated from 8-monobromo derivative Cs[**4**] *in situ* and then arylated by aromatic solvent used. Optional conditions for the preparation of **3** include carrying out a reaction of Cs[**4**] with AlCl<sub>3</sub>. Perhaps, the use an excess of more active AlBr<sub>3</sub> increases decomposition of **3**. As a result, dramatic decrease of the yields of complex **3** took place according to the yields of [8-Br-8'-Ar-3,3'-Co(1,2-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup> calculated from starting Cs[**4**].

Indeed, generation of the complex **3** from Cs[**4**] in *o*-xylene with AlCl<sub>3</sub> followed by treatment with POEt<sub>3</sub> resulted in 28% isolated yield of a single isomer  $[8-Br-8'-(3,4-(CH_3)_2C_6H_4)-3,3'-Co(1,2-C_2B_9H_{10})_2]^-$  (Cs[**7**]) (Scheme 1). In contrast, the same entry but

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