Journal of Organometallic Chemistry 744 (2013) 74-81

Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Journal of Organometallic Chemistry

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

Yttrium half-sandwich complexes bearing the 2-(*N*,*N*-dimethylamino) ethyl-tetramethylcyclopentadienyl ligand



Lars N. Jende, Cäcilia Maichle-Mössmer, Christoph Schädle, Reiner Anwander*

Institut für Anorganische Chemie, Universität Tübingen, Auf der Morgenstelle 18, D-72076 Tübingen, Germany

A R T I C L E I N F O

Article history: Received 10 April 2013 Received in revised form 2 May 2013 Accepted 3 May 2013

Dedicated to Professor Wolfgang A. Herrmann on the occasion of his 65th Birthday.

Keywords: Alkyl Silylamide Cyclopentadienyl Donor-functionalization Yttrium SiH activation

ABSTRACT

The synthesis of bis(dimethylsilyl)amide and dimethyl half-sandwich complexes of yttrium bearing the 2-(*N*,*N*-dimethylamino)ethyl-tetramethylcyclopentadienyl ligand revealed unusual Si–H activation reactions and *ate* complex formation, respectively. Protonolysis of complex Y[N(SiHMe₂)₂]₃(thf)₂ with cyclopentadiene C₅Me₄HCH₂CH₂NMe₂ (HCp^{NMe2}) at elevated temperature yielded complex Cp^{NMe2}Y [η^2 -SiMe₂(NSiHMe₂)₂](thf) featuring a four-membered metallacycle. The bis(amido) ligand [η^2 -SiMe₂(NSiHMe₂)₂]^{2–} is shown to form via separation of H₂SiMe₂. In contrast, the salt metathesis reaction of YCl₃(thf)₃ with LiN(SiHMe₂)₂ and LiCp^{NMe2} in a 1/2/1 ratio at ambient temperature generated the non-activated complex Cp^{NMe2}Y[N(SiHMe₂)₂]₂, exhibiting a distinct ligand activation at elevated temperatures, as evidenced by a comprehensive NMR spectroscopic study. Application of a sequential salt metathesis protocol involving YCl₃(thf)₃, LiCp^{NMe2}, and LiMe led to the isolation of ate complexes [Cp^{NMe2}YCl₂]₂[LiCl(thf)₂] and [Cp^{NMe2}YMe₂(LiMe)]₂. Aforementioned half-sandwich complexes were all characterized by X-ray structure analyses and the respective silylamido and methyl derivatives are demonstrated to produce the half-sandwich yttrium bis(tetramethylaluminate) complex [Cp^{NMe2AL}M^{Me2}Al(AlMe₄)₂] in the presence of excess trimethylaluminium, by NMR spectroscopic studies.

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1. Introduction

Monocyclopentadienyl or half-sandwich-type complexes emerged as a prolific field in organorare-earth metal chemistry [1]. Particularly, highly reactive alkyl, hydrido, and amido derivatives and their cationic variants have revealed unique catalytic potential in polymerization reactions [1]. Approximately ten years ago, we set out to use tetramethylaluminato ligands as thermally robust alkyls in disguise and found that they are ideally suited to stabilize rare-earth metal half-sandwich complexes [2]. The corresponding complexes Cp^RLn(AlMe₄)₂ represent the first entries of the LLn(III) bis(tetramethylaluminate)-based postmetallocene library (L = monoanionic ancillary ligand), which is currently exploited for 1,3-diene polymerization [3]. Furthermore, donor-functionalized cyclopentadienyl ligands often ensure the formation of monolanthanide complexes via additional intramolecular coordination [1,4]. Amino functionalities are particularly effective for rare-earth metal(III) centres due to a good HSAB match and optimal steric shielding [5]. To date, bis(aluminate) complexes Cp^RLn(AlMe₄)₂ have been synthesized according to two main reaction sequences

* Corresponding author. *E-mail address:* reiner.anwander@uni-tuebingen.de (R. Anwander). (Scheme 1, A and B). While route A exploits the thermal stability of homoleptic tetramethylaluminate complexes Ln(AlMe₄)₃ [6], route B refers to the well-defined bis(dimethylsilyl)amide derivatives Ln [N(SiHMe₂)₂]₃(thf)_x (*extended silylamide route*) [7]. Herein we examined synthesis strategies B and C for assessing the feasibility of yttrium bis(aluminate) complexes Cp^{NMe2}Y(AlMe₄)₂, with Cp^{NMe2} designating η^5 -C₅Me₄CH₂CH₂NMe₂ (1-[2-(*N*,*N*-dimethylamino)-ethyl]-2,3,4,5-tetramethyl-cyclopentadienyl) [8].

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Route B

Aiming at a bis(aluminate) half-sandwich complex with an amino-coordinated yttrium centre, we initially focused on precoordinating the cyclopentadienyl ligand in a η^5 : κ^1 fashion to the rare-earth metal. Thus formed complex Cp^{NMe2}Y[N(SiHMe₂)₂]₂ should engage in a trimethylaluminum-promoted silylamido/aluminato exchange under mild conditions and formation of the corresponding hydrocarbyl complexes [2]. It is noteworthy that very recently half-sandwich rare-earth metal bis(dimethylsilyl)amide complexes were successfully tested in styrene polymerization upon activation with perfluorated organborate salts ([Ph₃C][B(C₆F₅)₄], [PhNMe₂H][B(C₆F₅)₄] [9,10]. However, the activity was low and



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Scheme 1. Protocols considered for the synthesis of complexes Cp^RLn(AlMe₄)₂.

addition of trialkylaluminum was necessary to form a ternary catalyst system of complex/borate/AlR₃ (AlR₃; R = Me, ⁱBu). The protonolysis reaction of yttrium bis(dimethylsilyl)amide complex Y [N(SiHMe₂)₂]₃(thf)₂ [7a] with one equivalent of the N-donor functionalized cyclopentadiene HCp^{NMe2} in toluene at 150 °C yielded the Si–H bond activated complex Cp^{NMe2}Y[η^2 SiMe₂(NSiH-Me₂)₂](thf) (1) in moderate yields (68%) (Scheme 2). As previously observed for the synthesis of half-sandwich complex (C₅Me₅)Y [N(SiHMe₂)₂]₂ [2] the silylamine elimination took place only at elevated temperature (according to an ¹H NMR spectroscopic study the reaction did not occur below 70 °C).

Single crystals of **1** suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were grown from saturated toluene solutions at -35 °C (space group *P*-1, Fig. 1). The yttrium centre is η^{5} : κ^{1} coordinated by the N-donor substituted cyclopentadienyl ligand via the Cp ring and the nitrogen atom. The dianionic bisamido ligand [SiMe₂(NSiHMe₂)₂]²⁻ coordinates in a η^{2} fashion via the two nitrogen atoms, while an additional thf molecule completes the coordination sphere of the yttrium centre.

The geometry of complex 1 is best described as distorted trigonal bipyramidal, with the nitrogen atoms N1 and N3 in the apical position disclosing an angle of 145.2° at the metal centre, while the centroid of the cyclopentadienyl together with the nitrogen atom N2 and the oxygen atom of the thf molecule are in the equatorial positions with angles close to trigonal planar (118.0, 120.1 and 121.5°). Interestingly, both Si–H units are oriented towards the electrophilic Y^{3+} centre, but Y···HSi β -agostic interactions can be ruled out since the Y···H distances are longer than 3.7 Å. The absence of such secondary interactions is also evidenced by the lack of Si-H stretching vibrations at lower frequencies (2000–1800 cm⁻¹) [11]. The most striking feature of complex **1** is the generation of the chelating (dimethylsilylene)-bis(dimethylsilylamido) ligand itself, although such Si-H bond activation along with the formation of a new Si-N bond under elimination of H₂SiMe₂ has been observed previously. In 2009, Yuen and Marks observed the generation of a bidentate



Scheme 2. Synthesis of the bisamido yttrium half-sandwich complex 1.



Fig. 1. ORTEP view of the molecular structure of **1.** Atomic displacement parameters are set at the 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms (except for SiH) are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for **1**: $Y-Cp_{cent} = 2.381$, Y-O = 2.388(4), Y-N1 = 2.629(3), Y-N2 = 2.249(3), Y-N3 = 2.276(3), SI-N2 = 1.719(3), Si3-N3 = 1.719(3), Si2-N2 = 1.694(4), Si2-N3 = 1.683(3), N1-Y-N2 = 93.8(1), N2-Y-N3 = 71.6(1), N1-Y-N3 = 145.2(1), N1-Y-O = 77.5(1), O-Y-N3 = 83.8(1), $Cp_{cent}-Y-N2 = 120.1(1)$, $Cp_{cent}-Y-O = 118.0(1)$, O-Y-N2 = 121.5(1).

amido-amine ligand during a transamination protocol, utilizing Nd $[N(SiMe_3)_2]_3$ and $HN(SiHMe_2)_2$ for the synthesis of $Nd[N(SiHMe_2)_2]_3$. The formation of monoanionic [SiMe₂(NSiHMe₂)(NHSiHMe₂)]⁻ ligand was confirmed by a ligand exchange reaction with a binucluear lanthanum complex and subsequent X-ray diffraction analysis (Chart 1, A) [12]. The same divalent ligand as present in complex 1 was reported by Buffet and Okuda in 2011, to result from a protonolysis reaction of Sc[N(SiHMe₂)₂]₃(thf) with Me₃[12]aneN₄ in C_6D_6 at 80 °C (Chart 1, **B**) [13]. Very recently, Chen et al. were able to isolate the cationic amidinate scandium amide complex [(PhC{N- $2,6^{-i}Pr_2C_6H_3_2)Sc(N{SiHMe_2}{SiMe_2N(SiHMe_2)_2})(thf)_2[B(C_6F_5)_4]$ (Chart 1, C) [10a]. Treatment of the corresponding amidinate scandium bis(dimethylsilyl)amide complex with $[Ph_3C][B(C_6F_5)_4]$ in an aromatic solvent initiated the unexpected Si-H activation, but single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction could only be obtained after addition of thf.

The metrical parameters of the bidentate bis(amido) (**1** and **B**) and amido-amine (**A**) are illustrated in Chart 2. The position of the hydrogen atoms is given by the torsion angle (H–Si–N–M, underlined) and bond lengths are set in brackets (Å).

The previously assumed elimination of dimethylsilane (during the synthesis of compound **B**), could be unambiguously proven by ¹H and ¹H—¹H COSY NMR spectroscopy in our reaction, showing a sharp septet at 4.03 ppm for the Me₂SiH₂ protons which couples with the triplet at 0.07 ppm of the Me_2SiH_2 protons. Furthermore, the ¹H NMR spectrum of complex **1** showed the expected set of signals for the coordinated Cp^{NMe2} ligand. The two aminomethyl groups appear as a singlet at 1.95 ppm and the four methyl groups of the four ethylene-bridge protons are found as two multiplets at 2.42 and 2.57 ppm. The Si*H* protons of the bis(amido) ligand are detected at 5.18 ppm, while the silyl methyl groups give a broad signal at 0.54 ppm (ESI, Fig. S1).

Efforts to synthesize the half-sandwich yttrium bis(dimethylsilyl)amide complex by applying a one-pot salt metathesis protocol, that is subsequent addition of $\text{LiCp}^{\text{NMe2}}$ and two Download English Version:

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