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# Protonation of metal–metal bonds in nitrosyl-bridged diruthenium complexes

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Dedicated to Professor Helmut Werner on the Occasion of his 80th Birthday.

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#### 1. Introduction

Recently we described the synthesis and molecular structures of some new nitrosyl-bridged dimetal complexes [Ru<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>4</sub>(µ-NO)( $\mu$ -P<sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>)( $\mu$ -P<sup>A</sup>P)] (**1**, P<sup>A</sup>P = diphosphanes and *N*-substituted bis(diphenylphosphanyl)amines, respectively) [1]. The bridging nitrosyl ligands were introduced in the coordinatively unsaturated species  $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-H)(\mu-P^tBu_2)(\mu-P^P)]$  by hydride abstraction using the nitrosylating agent diazald (N-methyl-N-nitroso-p-toluenesulfonamide). At first we found that this reaction principle was successful in the case of the coordinatively unsaturated compound  $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-H)(\mu-P^tBu_2)(\mu-dppm)]$  (dppm = Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>) affording the complex  $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-NO)(\mu-P^tBu_2)(\mu-dppm)]$  (1a). The latter species reacted spontaneously with HBF<sub>4</sub> in diethyl ether dppm)[BF<sub>4</sub> (2a) [2]. Since we observed a general shortening of the metal-metal bonding distance during protonation reactions in dinuclear metal complexes [3], we were also interested in such investigations including the new nitrosyl-bridged compounds  $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-NO)(\mu-P^tBu_2)(\mu-P^P)]$  (P^P = Me\_2PCH\_2PMe\_2, dmpm, **1b**;  $P^P = Ph_2PC(=CH_2)PPh_2$ , dppen, **1c**;  $P^P = Ph_2PN(H)PPh_2$ , dppa, 1d). Oxidative additions of protons towards metal-metal bonds play an important role in studies on bioinorganic model complexes

#### ABSTRACT

The addition reaction of a proton towards the nitrosyl-bridged diruthenium complexes  $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-NO)(\mu-P^fBu_2)(\mu-P^{A}P)]$  (P^P = Me\_2PCH\_2PMe\_2, dmpm, **1b**; P^P = Ph\_2PC(=CH\_2)PPh\_2, dppen, **1c**; P^P = Ph\_2PN(H)PPh\_2, dppa, **1d**) has been investigated. The species **1b–d** exhibit an enhanced metal basicity and react spontaneously with a proton (from HBF<sub>4</sub>) in diethyl ether to afford the corresponding oxidative addition products  $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-NO)(\mu-H)(\mu-P^tBu_2)(\mu-P^{A}P)]BF_4$  (**2b–d**) in good yields. The molecular structures of **2b–d** were confirmed by X-ray diffraction studies revealing a shortening of the metal–metal bond upon protonation in each case.

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including [NiFe] and [Fe<sub>2</sub>] hydrogenases, whereas the nature of metal-metal bonds in such systems seems to be questionable [4]. Very recently some investigations were reported which support the importance of the formation of a metal-metal bond in the light-induced state of [NiFe] hydrogenases [5]. In this paper we report some new results on investigations in the field of protonation reactions of the metal-metal bond in nitrosyl-bridged diruthenium complexes which confirm in these cases furthermore the usually observed bond shortening effect upon the oxidative addition of a proton.

#### 2. Experimental

#### 2.1. General considerations

All manipulations were performed under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen using conventional Schlenk techniques. Solvents were dried over sodium-benzophenone ketyl or molecular sieves and were distilled under argon prior to use. Chemicals were purchased commercially from Aldrich. The ligands dmpm, dppen, and dppa were obtained from ABCR. The compounds **1b–d** were prepared as reported recently [1]. IR spectra were recorded as solid with a JASCO FT/IR-460 plus spectrometer equipped with an ATR unit. NMR spectra were obtained using Jeol Eclipse 270 and 400 instruments operating at 270 and 400 (<sup>1</sup>H) and at 109 and 161 MHz (<sup>31</sup>P), respectively. Chemical shifts are given in ppm from SiMe<sub>4</sub> (<sup>1</sup>H) or





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85%  $H_3PO_4$  (<sup>31</sup>P). Microanalyses (C, H, N) were performed by the Microanalytical Laboratory of the Department of Chemistry, LMU Munich, using a Heraeus Elementar Vario EI instrument.

### 2.2. Synthesis of $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-NO)(\mu-H)(\mu-P^tBu_2)(\mu-P^{-}P)]BF_4$ (P^P = dmpm, **2b**; dppen, **2c**; dppa, **2d**)

In a typical experiment, a solution of the corresponding complex **1b–d** (0.22 mmol) in diethyl ether (15 mL) was treated with HBF<sub>4</sub> (51% in diethyl ether, 0.22 mmol, 59.2  $\mu$ L) at room temperature. After rigorous stirring for 1 h the yellow-green precipitate was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether, and dried in vacuo. Yellow-green crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were grown in each case by slow diffusion of diethyl ether into a dichloromethane solution of the complex salt at room temperature overnight.

**2b**: Yield: 120 mg (87%). *Anal.* Calc. for  $C_{17}H_{33}BF_4NO_5P_3Ru_2$  (713.32): C, 28.62; H, 4.66; N, 1.96. Found: C, 28.36; H, 4.69; N, 2.15%. IR (solid):  $\nu$  (CO): 2060 m, 2029s, 2012s, 1978vs;  $\nu$  (NO): 1539vs. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  1.89–1.85 (m, 6H, PCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.63 (d, 9H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 15.3 Hz, *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>), 1.65–1.60 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.52–1.45 (m, 6H, PCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.10 (d, 9H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 15.0 Hz, *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>), -9.63 (m, 1H,  $\mu$ -H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  170.9 (t, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 129.0 Hz,  $\mu$ -P<sup>r</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>), 23.7 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 129.0 Hz,  $\mu$ -dmpm).

**2c**: Yield: 176 mg (83%). *Anal.* Calc. for  $C_{38}H_{41}BF_4NO_5P_3Ru_2$  (973.61): C, 46.88; H, 4.24; N, 1.44. Found: C, 47.16; H, 4.19; N, 1.35%. IR (solid):  $\nu$  (CO): 2038s, 2006s;  $\nu$  (NO): 1547s. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  7.60–7.09 (m, 20H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 6.54 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 21.4 Hz,=CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.77 (d, 9H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 15.9 Hz, *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>), 1.18 (d, 9H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 15.3 Hz, *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>), -8.37 (dt, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 13.8 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 23.2 Hz,  $\mu$ -H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (109 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  169.8 (t, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 133.8 Hz,  $\mu$ -P<sup>r</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>), 37.0 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 133.8 Hz,  $\mu$ -dppen).

**2d**: Yield: 167 mg (78%). *Anal.* Calc. for  $C_{36}H_{40}BF_4N_2O_5P_3Ru_2$  (962.59): C, 44.92; H, 4.19; N, 2.91. Found: C, 45.16; H, 4.39; N, 3.05%. IR (solid):  $\nu$  (CO): 2068s, 2036vs, 2026vs, 1989s;  $\nu$  (NO): 1595vs. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  7.62–7.36 (m, 20H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 4.00 (br, 1H, NH), 1.69 (d, 9H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 15.5 Hz, *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>), 1.15 (d, 9H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 15.6 Hz, *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>), -8.67 (m, 1H,  $\mu$ -H). <sup>31</sup>P[<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (109 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  188.5 (t, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 140.9 Hz,  $\mu$ -P<sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>), 83.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 140.9 Hz,  $\mu$ -dppa).

#### 2.3. X-ray structural determination

Suitable single crystals for X-ray diffraction were selected by means of a polarization microscope, mounted on the tip of a glass fiber, and investigated on an Oxford XCalibur (**2b**) and a Bruker Nonius-Kappa CCD diffractometer (**2c** and **2d**), respectively, using Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). The structures were solved by direct methods (SHELXS) [6] and refined by full-matrix least-squares calculations on  $F^2$  (SHELXL-97) [7]. The positions of the hydrido ligands have been located from the difference map. Details of the crystal data, data collection, structure solution, and refinement parameters of compounds **2b**, **2c**, and **2d** are summarized in Table 1.

#### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Synthesis and characterization of compounds

Very recently we reported the synthesis and molecular structures of some new nitrosyl-bridged complexes  $[Ru_2(CO)_4$  $(\mu-NO)(\mu-P^tBu_2)(\mu-P^{-}P)]$  (P^P = Me\_2PCH\_2PMe\_2, dmpm, **1b**; P^P = Ph\_2PC(=CH\_2)PPh\_2, dppen, **1c**; P^P = Ph\_2PN(H)PPh\_2, dppa, **1d**) [1]. As described previously for some closely related unsaturated complexes bearing the hydrido ligand instead of the nitrosylbridging group [3], we examined in a similar manner the protonation reaction towards the Ru–Ru bond of **1b–d** with tetrafluoridoboric acid (see Scheme 1).

The complexes **1b-d** reacted spontaneously with HBF<sub>4</sub> in diethyl ether at room temperature with precipitating the products as yellow-green crystals. Thus the complex salts  $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-NO)(\mu-H)(\mu-P^rBu_2)(\mu-P^{-}P)]BF_4$  (**2b-d**) were obtained in good yields which were characterized by analytical and spectroscopic methods.

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compounds **2b–d** exhibited resonances corresponding to the phosphanido group and the bridging diphosphane ligands (see Experimental). Beside these signals in each case a signal according to the bridging hydrido ligand was observed. However the chemical shifts were found at values between -8.37 and -9.63 ppm, whereas usually these signals were observed at -13 to -15 ppm in our complexes, e.g., [3]. A similar deshielding effect of the hydrido resonances was described by other authors in dimanganese complexes containing bridging hydrido ligands across nitrosyl groups [8]. However, for comparative purposes, such examples are relatively rare. The <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra showed the characteristic triplet/doublet pattern indicative of the symmetrical arrangement of the phosphorus-containing ligands.

The protonation of the metal-metal bond can be considered as an oxidative addition reaction, therefore the oxidation state of the ruthenium atoms changes formally from +I to +II. Therefore a decrease in the electron density at the metal atoms causes a shift of the terminal carbonyl bands in the IR spectra to higher wave numbers. In the average the values for 1b (1940), 1c (1939), and 1d (1988) were shifted to 2020 (2b), 2022 (2c), and 2030 (2d) cm<sup>-1</sup> confirming this increase in the oxidation state. Consequently the same trend is observed in the shift of the v (NO) bands. Thus the values for 1b (1488), 1c (1490), and 1d (1551), respectively, were shifted to 1539 (2b), 1547 (2c), and 1595 (2d) cm<sup>-1</sup>. The latter trend was also observed on going from [Ru<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>4</sub>(µ-NO)(µ- $P^{t}Bu_{2}(\mu-dppm)$ ] (dppm =  $Ph_{2}PCH_{2}PPh_{2}$ , **1a**), v (NO) = 1467 cm<sup>-1</sup>, to  $[\operatorname{Ru}_2(\operatorname{CO})_4(\mu-H)(\mu-\operatorname{NO})(\mu-\operatorname{P}^t\operatorname{Bu}_2)(\mu-\operatorname{dppm})]BF_4,$ v (NO) = 1547 cm<sup>-1</sup>. [2] and reported in a corrected manner in [1]. Moreover, for a comparative purpose, the values of the found v (NO) bands in our neutral diruthenium complexes 1b and 1c are in good dppm] (1471 cm<sup>-1</sup>) [8].

#### 3.2. Molecular structures of 2b, 2c, and 2d in the crystal

Suitable single crystals for X-ray diffraction studies of the new compounds were grown as described in the experimental section. Yellow-green crystals of compound **2b** belonging to the monoclinic space group  $P2_1/c$  were obtained. The asymmetric unit contains one complex cation and the tetrafluoridoborate as the counter ion. Fig. 1 shows a selected ORTEP view of the cationic complex of **2b**, selected bond lengths and angles are given in the caption.

The molecular structure of the cation in **2b** is closely related to that in the complex salt  $[Ru_2(CO)_4(\mu-H)(\mu-NO)(\mu-P^tBu_2)(\mu-dppm)]BF_4$  [2]. The dimetal core is bridged by the phosphanido group, the dmpm, the nitrosyl ligand, and the hydrido ligand, respectively. The complex cation in **2b** affords an electron count of 34 VE and, in the sense of the 18e rule, it should exhibit a metal–metal bonds. Thus the Ru–Ru distance found in **2b** is in good agreement with this. A comparison of the Ru–Ru distances between **1b** and **2b** revealed a shortening of the M–M bond upon protonation on going from **1b**, d(Ru-Ru) = 2.7516(6) [1] to **2b**, d(Ru-Ru) = 2.7401(5) Å.

The cationic complex **2c** crystallzied as its tetrafluoridoborate salt in the monoclinic space group  $P_{2_1/c}$  with four molecules in the unit cell. The asymmetric unit contains the complex cation and the tetrafluoridoborate as the counter ion. A selected view of

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