

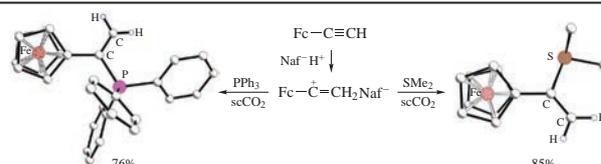
Generation of ferrocenylvinyl cation $\text{CpFeC}_5\text{H}_4\text{-C}^+=\text{CH}_2$ by protonation of ferrocenylacetylene with Nafion and its reactions with SMe_2 and PPh_3 in scCO_2 giving onium salts

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Cation $\text{CpFeC}_5\text{H}_4\text{-C}^+=\text{CH}_2$ was obtained by protonation of $\text{FcC}\equiv\text{CH}$ with Nafion superacid in DMF or scCO_2 and characterized by NMR spectroscopy. The protonation in the presence of SMe_2 or PPh_3 affords new onium derivatives, which were isolated as the tetrafluoroborate salts.

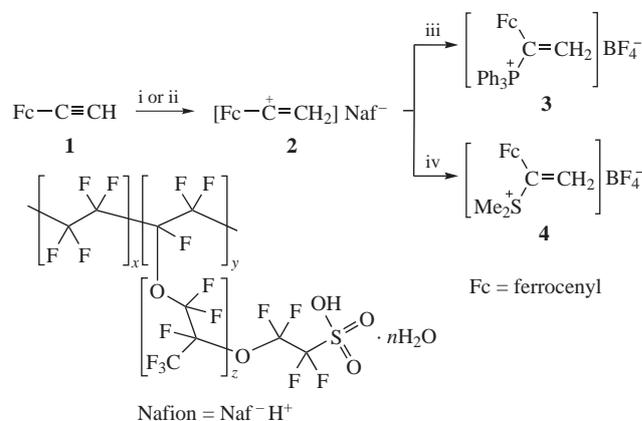


The study of formation and transformations of reactive intermediates including carbocations is an important problem in organic chemistry. A high reactivity of vinylic cations makes quite difficult their studies in solution, in particular, by spectral methods.¹

A series of the α -ferrocenylvinyl cations stabilized by the presence of alkyl substituents² was generated in trifluoroacetic acid and documented by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.^{2(a),(b)} Nevertheless, the lifetime of original signals of the cations was very short due to the rapid addition of the acid converting the vinyl cations into the ferrocenylalkyl ones.^{2(a)}

Herein, we report a method for generation and stabilization of the labile carbocations and their reactions with mononucleophiles exemplified by the unsubstituted ferrocenylvinyl cation, $\text{CpFeC}_5\text{H}_4\text{-C}^+=\text{CH}_2$. A protonation of ethynylferrocene **1** with Nafion,³ a supersulfoacid specially prepared in DMF,[†] afforded

compound $[\text{CpFeC}_5\text{H}_4\text{-C}^+=\text{CH}_2]^+[\text{Naf}]^-$ **2** (Scheme 1). The use of Nafion as the protonating agent increases a stability of labile cations, specifically vinyl ones, in solution, due to a poor nucleophilicity and considerable size of the acid anion sterically shielding the cationic center and thus hindering the addition of the acid to the double bond of the cation.



[†] *General procedure.* Nafion[®] 20 wt% solution of lower aliphatic alcohols–H₂O mix 527122 and Nafion[®]112 film (thickness 0.002 inches) were purchased from Aldrich. The 5% water content was not taken into account on calculation of equivalent proton content in Nafion film. Ethynylferrocene **1** was prepared by known method.⁴ DMF-*d*₇ (99.5%) was distilled from P₂O₅ at reduced pressure (2 Torr). CD₂Cl₂ (D, 99.8%) was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. Tetrafluoroboric acid (54% in diethyl ether) was purchased from Merck. CH₂Cl₂ was distilled from P₂O₅. High purity CO₂ (>99.997%, 0.001% H₂O) was used as received. High pressure pump (Thar Technologies, Inc.) was used and the pressure in the cell was maintained with an accuracy of at least ±0.1 MPa. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance-600 spectrometer at 600.22 MHz for ¹H and 150.92 MHz for ¹³C in DMF-*d*₇, Bruker Avance-400 spectrometer at 400.13 MHz for ¹H, 100.61 MHz for ¹³C (relative to Me₄Si), 128.38 MHz for ¹¹B (relative to H₃BO₃), 161.98 MHz for ³¹P (relative to H₃PO₄) in CD₂Cl₂.

*Preparation of 2 in solution (Nafion–DMF-*d*₇).* A solution of Nafion (*d* = 1.049, equiv. wt. 1.100; 0.05 equiv. H⁺) (0.1 ml, 0.15 mmol) was transferred into a flask and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. All further operations were performed under argon. The residue was dried *in vacuo* (2 Torr) over P₂O₅ excluding its darkening at 56 °C for 18 h. Then, dry (no water signals in the ¹H NMR spectrum) DMF-*d*₇ (1 ml, distilled *in vacuo* over P₂O₅ and kept over molecular sieves 3 Å for 30 days) was added. The solid residue dissolved completely within 20–24 h and the resulting solution was transferred into a NMR tube containing **1** (0.07 g, 0.3 mmol). At the final step, the mixture was shaken vigorously.

Scheme 1 Reagents and conditions: i, Naf⁺H⁺, scCO_2 ; ii, Naf⁺H⁺, DMF; iii, PPh₃, scCO_2 , then HBF₄·Et₂O, CH₂Cl₂; iv, SMe₂, scCO_2 , then HBF₄·Et₂O, CH₂Cl₂.

Dissolution of alkyne **1** at room temperature in Nafion/DMF affords a mixture of compounds **1** (a signal of the acetylene proton at δ 3.67 ppm), **2** and acetylferrocene (methyl group at δ 2.40 ppm has the cross peak with the carbon atom of the carbonyl group at δ 200.91 ppm in 2D-HMBC spectra, see Figure S1 in Online Supplementary Materials) in a ratio of 8.6:1:1.2. The signals of compound **2** can be observed for 12–14 h. The excess of acetylene **1** is necessary to maintain the concentration of the cation sufficient to register its ¹³C NMR spectrum, because the concentration of the cation was decreasing during the NMR experiment as a result of a slow reaction of the cation with the residual water (after drying the Nafion samples) which was tightly bound to the sulfonic groups.

The assignments of the signals in the NMR spectra were made based on the cumulative data of one and two dimensional NMR

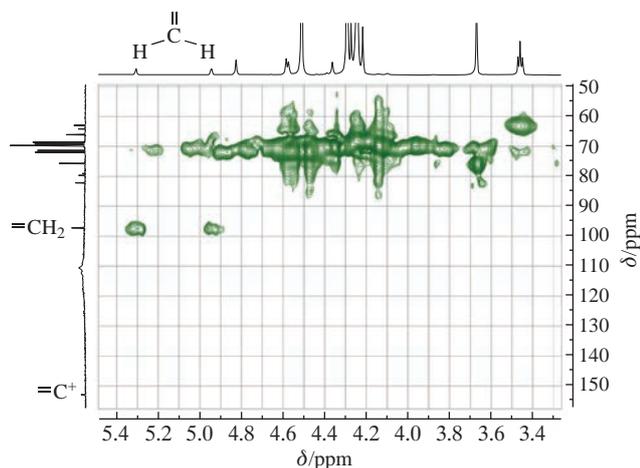


Figure 1 A fragment of the 2D-HMOC spectrum (600 MHz, DMF-*d*₇) of compounds **1**, **2**, and acetylferrrocene.

experiments (Figure 1). The signals of the vinyl group in compound **2** in the region characteristic of vinyl hydrogens^{2(a)} are observed (δ 4.94 and 5.30 ppm) as the doublets (2J 2.0 Hz) and have cross peaks with the carbon atoms of the vinyl group at δ 153.5 ($-C^+=$) and 97.3 ppm ($=CH_2$). For the 2D-HMBC and 2D-HMOC NMR spectra of salt **2**, see Figure S1, S2, Online Supplementary Materials.

A considerable stability of salt **2** in the Nafion solution allowed us to speculate on the possible generation of cation **2** using the Nafion film⁵ (sulfopolymer) as the protonating agent in supercritical carbon dioxide (scCO₂)^{3(e)} followed by subsequent transformations. scCO₂ was chosen for having some advantages,⁶ *i.e.* the absence of gas–liquid mass transfer limitations, relatively high rates of molecular diffusion and heat transfer, and the possibility of molecular interactions with the dissolved reacting species.⁷

Indeed, the reaction between compound **1** and the Nafion film in scCO₂ in the presence of PPh₃ or SMe₂ as the nucleophiles resulted in new onium ferrocene derivatives, complexes **3** and **4** (see Scheme 1), isolated as the tetrafluoroborates in 76 and 85% yields, respectively. The molecular formulas of complexes **3** and **4** were elucidated by NMR spectroscopy[†] (¹H, ¹³C, ³¹P, ¹¹B, 2D-HSQC for **3** and ¹H, ¹³C, ¹¹B, 2D-HSQC for **4**; see Online Supplementary Materials) along with the single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis[§] (Figure 2). The C(11) carbon atom is in the plane of the Cp ligand (the deviation is 0.02 Å in **3** and

[†] For **3**: ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ : 4.11 (m, 2H, C₅H₄), 4.21 (s, 5H, C₅H₅), 6.16 (d, 1H, =CH₂, ³J_{HP} 16.0 Hz), 7.25 (d, 1H, =CH₂, ³J_{HP}^{trans} 36.0 Hz), 7.6–7.7 (m, 6H, *o*-H_{Ph}), 7.7–7.8 (m, 6H, *m*-H_{Ph}), 7.93 (t, 1H, 3H, *p*-H_{Ph}, ³J_{HH} 6.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ : 70.1 (2C, C₅H₄), 70.3 (2C, C₅H₅), ³J_{CP} 3.2 Hz), 70.49 (5C, C₅H₅), 81.5 (C_i, C₅H₄, ²J_{CP} 13.1 Hz), 117.2 ($-CP^+=$, ¹J_{CP} 30.4 Hz), 130.4 (6C, *m*-C_{Ph}, ³J_{CP} 10.1 Hz), 131 (3C, *i*-C_{Ph}, ¹J_{CP} 59.4 Hz) 134.4 (6C, *o*-C_{Ph}, ²J_{CP} 8.0 Hz), 135.6 (3C, *p*-C_{Ph}, ⁴J_{CP} 2.3 Hz), 139.9 ($=CH_2$, ²J_{CP} 8.0 Hz). ³¹P NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ : 22.19. ¹¹B NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ : -1.12, see Figures S3–S7, Online Supplementary Materials.

For **4**: ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ : 3.13 (6H, Me), 4.33 (5H, C₅H₅), 4.58 (4H, C₅H₄), 6.24 (H, =CH₂, ²J_{HH} 2.4 Hz), 6.48 (H, =CH₂, ²J_{HH} 2.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ : 27.7 (2C, Me), 68.4 (2C, C₅H₄), 70.5 (5C, C₅H₅), 71.2 (2C, C₅H₄), 78.09 (C_i, C₅H₄), 123.3 ($=CH_2$), 136.1 ($-CS^+=$). ¹¹B NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ : -1.1, see Figures S8–S11, Online Supplementary Materials.

[§] Crystal data for **3**·BF₄⁻: C₃₀H₂₆F₄BPF_e, *M* = 560.14, dark red crystals, orthorhombic, space group *P*2₁2₁2₁, *a* = 9.5948(6), *b* = 16.1709(10) and *c* = 16.2431(10) Å, *V* = 2520.2(3) Å³, *d*_{calc} = 1.476 g cm⁻³, *Z* = 4, μ (MoK α) = 7.10 cm⁻¹, *T* = 120(2) K, $2\theta_{max}$ = 56°, *R*₁ = 0.0611 for 5169 reflections with *I* > 2 σ (*I*), and *wR*₂ = 0.1213 for all 6038 unique reflections (*R*_{int} = 0.0763). Flack parameter 0.05(3).

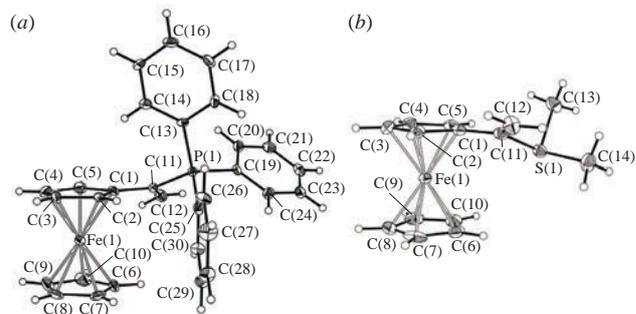


Figure 2 (a) Molecular structure of salt **3** (thermal ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level). Selected bond lengths (Å): Fe–C 2.035(5)–2.053(6) (\langle 2.044), C(1)–C(2) 1.443(7), C(1)–C(5) 1.436(7), C(2)–C(3) 1.421(7), C(3)–C(4) 1.404(9), C(4)–C(5) 1.420(8), C(1)–C(11) 1.474(7), C(11)–C(12) 1.321(8), P(1)–C(11) 1.807(5); selected angles (°): C(12)–C(11)–C(1) 122.9(5), C(12)–C(11)–P(1) 119.2(4), C(1)–C(11)–P(1) 117.9(4). (b) Molecular structure of salt **4** (thermal ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level). Selected bond lengths (Å): Fe–C 2.030(2)–2.056(2) (\langle 2.039), C(1)–C(2) 1.435(3), C(1)–C(5) 1.432(3), C(2)–C(3) 1.417(3), C(3)–C(4) 1.414(3), C(4)–C(5) 1.424(3), C(1)–C(11) 1.465(3), C(11)–C(12) 1.320(3), S(1)–C(11) 1.800(2); selected angles (°): C(12)–C(11)–C(1) 126.3(2), C(12)–C(11)–S(1) 120.8(2), C(1)–C(11)–S(1) 112.9(2).

0.01 Å in **4**) and has a planar surrounding [the sum of the angles at the C(11) atom in both compounds is 360.0°]. The C(1)–C(11) and C(11)–C(12) bond lengths in both compounds virtually coincide with the standard values of ordinary C_{sp²}–C_{sp²} and double C_{sp²}=C_{sp²} bond lengths (1.478 and 1.321 Å),⁸ respectively. Thus, one may state that there is neither contribution of the fulvene-type structure in the cations nor additional coordination of the exocyclic unsaturated fragment to the ferrocene iron atom.

Both compounds crystallize in the chiral space groups (*P*2₁2₁2₁ for **3** and *P*2₁ for **4**) and their absolute configurations were determined based on anomalous scattering. The compounds differ in the orientation of the substituents at the C(11) atom relative to the Cp ring of ferrocene [the C(2)–C(1)–C(11)–C(12) torsion angle is 155.4° in **3** and 21.7° in **4**].

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Online Supplementary Materials

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi: 10.1016/j.mencom.2017.07.015.

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Crystal data for **4**·BF₄⁻: C₁₄H₁₇F₄SBF_e, *M* = 359.99, dark red crystals, monoclinic, space group *P*2₁, *a* = 7.3644(4), *b* = 10.3950(6) and *c* = 9.9962(6) Å, β = 92.161(1)°, *V* = 764.69(8) Å³, *d*_{calc} = 1.563 g cm⁻³, *Z* = 2, μ (MoK α) = 11.52 cm⁻¹, *T* = 120(2) K, $2\theta_{max}$ = 60°, *R*₁ = 0.0332 for 3768 reflections with *I* > 2 σ (*I*), and *wR*₂ = 0.0572 for all 4446 unique reflections (*R*_{int} = 0.0356). Flack parameter 0.023(17).

Crystal data were collected with a Bruker SMART APEX II diffractometer [λ (MoK α) = 0.71073 Å]. All calculations were performed using SHELXTL program package.⁹

CCDC 1523012 and 1523013 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre *via* <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk>.

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