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## Introduction

Since the pioneering work of Winkhaus and Singer in 1967,<sup>1</sup> the chemistry of half-sandwich ( $\eta^6$ -arene)-ruthenium(II) complexes has exponentially expanded, representing nowadays one of the most versatile and widely studied families of organometallic ruthenium complexes.<sup>2</sup> Relevant applications of this type of compounds in catalysis,<sup>3</sup> biomedicine<sup>4</sup> and supramolecular chemistry<sup>5</sup> have been described during the last two

## Half-sandwich ruthenium(II) complexes with tethered arene-phosphinite ligands: synthesis, structure and application in catalytic cross dehydrogenative coupling reactions of silanes and alcohols<sup>†</sup>

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The preparation of the tethered arene-ruthenium(II) complexes [RuCl<sub>2</sub>{ $\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOPR_2$ }] (R = Ph, n = 1 (9a), 2 (9b), 3 (9c); R = <sup>i</sup>Pr, n = 1 (10a), 2 (10b), 3 (10c)) from the corresponding phosphinite ligands R<sub>2</sub>PO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>Ph (R = Ph, n = 1 (1a), 2 (1b), 3 (1c); R = <sup>i</sup>Pr, n = 1 (2a), 2 (2b), 3 (2c)) is presented. Thus, in a first step, the treatment at room temperature of tetrahydrofuran solutions of dimers [{RuCl( $\mu$ -Cl)( $\eta^6$  arene)}] (arene = p-cymene (3), benzene (4)) with 1-2a-c led to the clean formation of the corresponding mononuclear derivatives [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6-p$ -cymene){R<sub>2</sub>PO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>Ph}] (5-6a-c) and [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6$ -benzene){R<sub>2</sub>PO (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>Ph}] (7-8a-c), which were isolated in 66–99% yield. The subsequent heating of 1,2-dichloroethane solutions of these compounds at 120 °C allowed the exchange of the coordinated arene. The substitution process proceeded faster with the benzene derivatives 7-8a-c, from which complexes 9-10a-c were gen erated in 61–82% yield after 0.5–10 h of heating. The molecular structures of [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6-p$ -cymene) (<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>PO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Ph]] (6c) and [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOP^iPr_2$ ] (n = 1 (10a), 2 (10b), 3 (10c)) were unequi vocally confirmed by X-ray diffraction methods. In addition, complexes [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOPR_2$ ] (9-10a-c) proved to be active catalysts for the dehydrogenative coupling of hydrosilanes and alcohols under mild conditions (r.t.). The best results were obtained with [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_3OP^iPr_2$ ]] (10c), which reached TOF and TON values up to 117600 h<sup>-1</sup> and 57 000, respectively.

> decades. A special subset of ( $\eta^{6}$ -arene)-ruthenium(II) complexes are the so-called tethered derivatives (Fig. 1), in which the  $\eta^{6}$ coordinated arene ligand is linked to a pendant donor atom which also coordinates to the metal center (polydentate examples involving two or three  $\sigma$ -donor units are obviously known).<sup>6</sup> In comparison with their non-tethered counterparts, these complexes gain robustness and rigidity from the chelate effect, which has found to be advantageous in the field of homogeneous catalysis as they can be used at higher temperatures, over prolonged reaction periods, and also because they allow a better stereodiscrimination in asymmetric processes.<sup>7</sup>

> A large number of tethered arene-ruthenium( $\pi$ ) complexes featuring C-,<sup>8</sup> N-,<sup>9</sup> O-,<sup>10</sup> S-,<sup>11</sup> As-,<sup>12</sup> and P-donor<sup>6,13</sup> units are currently known, with the latter being by far the most numer-



Fig. 1 Generic structure of tethered arene-ruthenium(II) complexes.

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<sup>†</sup>Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Copies of the NMR spectra of all the ruthenium complexes synthesized in this work and the alkoxysilanes isolated in the catalytic experiments. Kinetic profile of the dehydrogenative cross-coupling reaction of Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiH with MeOH catalyzed by 0.005 mol% of **10c.** CCDC 1958494 (**6c**), 1958495 (**10a**), 1958496 (**10b**) and 1958497 (**10c**). For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: 10.1039/ c9dt04421c

ous. However, the vast majority of examples involves phosphine-type ligands, typically containing two- or three carbon spacers connecting the phosphorus atom and the arene group.<sup>6,13</sup> The use of other phosphorus donors remains almost unexplored. In this regard, complexes A,<sup>14</sup> B<sup>15</sup> and C<sup>16</sup> are the only ruthenium(II) complexes incorporating  $n^6$ -arene- $\kappa^1$ -phosphinite ligands quoted to date in the literature (see Fig. 2).<sup>17–19</sup> Interestingly, while the synthesis of complexes A and B was accomplished in two steps from the corresponding phosphinite ligand and appropriate dimeric precursor, *i.e.* [{RuCl(µ-Cl)  $(\eta^6-C_6H_5CO_2Me)_2$  or  $[{RuCl(\mu-Cl)(\eta^6-p-cymene)}_2]$ , via initial cleavage of the chloride bridges by the phosphinite and subsequent intramolecular exchange of the arene on the resulting  $\kappa^{1}(P)$  mononuclear adducts, <sup>14,15</sup> compounds [RuCl<sub>2</sub>{ $\eta^{6}:\kappa^{1}(P)$ - $C_6H_5CH_2CH_2CH_2OPR_2$  (C) were generated in modest yield (25-44%) by reacting the 3-phenylpropanol-ruthenium(II) derivative  $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(O)-C_6H_5CH_2CH_2CH_2OH\}]$  with the corresponding chlorophosphine R<sub>2</sub>PCl in the presence of base.17,20

In this contribution, an alternative and more efficient synthesis of complexes C, as well as that of related species containing shorter carbon spacers between the oxygen atom and the phenyl group, *i.e.* compounds [RuCl<sub>2</sub>{ $\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5CH_2CH_2OPR_2$ }] and [RuCl<sub>2</sub>{ $\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5CH_2OPR_2$ }] (R = Ph, <sup>i</sup>Pr), is presented employing the preformed phosphinites as starting materials. In addition, all the tethered complexes were evaluated as potential catalysts for the dehydrogenative cross-coupling of hydrosilanes with alcohols, showing excellent activities under mild conditions.<sup>21</sup>

### Results and discussion

Our investigations started with the preparation of the phosphinite ligands  $Ph_2PO(CH_2)_nPh$  (n = 1 (1a), 2 (1b), 3 (1c)) and  ${}^iPr_2PO(CH_2)_nPh$  (n = 1 (2a), 2 (2b), 3 (2c)). They were obtained in 50–77% yield by following the route described by Mukaiyama and co-workers,<sup>22</sup> based on the initial deprotonation of the corresponding primary alcohol with <sup>*n*</sup>BuLi in tetrahydrofuran, and subsequent addition of chlorodiphenylphosphine or chlorodiisopropylphosphine to the resulting alcoholate solution (Scheme 1).

With compounds  $R_2PO(CH_2)_nPh$  (1-2a-c) in hands, we next explored their coordination to ruthenium. In particular, we initially synthesized the mononuclear complexes  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-p-cymene)\{R_2PO(CH_2)_nPh\}]$  (5-6a-c) and  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-benzene)\{R_2PO(CH_2)_nPh\}]$ 



Fig. 2 Structure of the  $\eta^6$ -arene- $\kappa^1$ -phosphinite-ruthenium(11) complexes A-C.



Scheme 1 Synthesis of the phosphinite ligands R<sub>2</sub>PO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>Ph (1-2a-c).

 $(CH_2)_nPh$ ] (**7-8a-c**), featuring a  $\kappa^1$ -(*P*) coordination of the ligands,<sup>23</sup> by treatment of the corresponding dimeric precursor [{RuCl( $\mu$ -Cl)( $\eta^6$ -arene)}<sub>2</sub>] (arene = *p*-cymene (3), benzene (4))<sup>24</sup> with 2.7 equivalents of **1-2a-c** (Scheme 2). The reactions, which were performed in tetrahydrofuran at room temperature, afforded **5-8a-c** as air-stable orange solids in 66–90% yield. As a consequence of the lower solubility of dimer [{RuCl( $\mu$ -Cl)( $\eta^6$ -benzene)}<sub>2</sub>] (4) in THF with respect to its *p*-cymene analogue 3, longer reaction times were systematically required in the syntheses of the benzene derivatives **7-8a-c** (12 h *vs.* 1 h in the case of **5-6a-c**).

As expected, the formation of all these complexes could be conveniently monitored by  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$  NMR spectroscopy, the spectra showing a slight shift of the phosphorus signal to high fields ( $\Delta\delta$  from -1.1 to -3.6 ppm) in comparison to the corresponding uncoordinated R<sub>2</sub>PO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>Ph ligand (see Table 1). The  ${}^{1}H$  and  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectra obtained also exhibited signals in accordance with the proposed formulations, and satisfactory elemental analyses were in all the cases obtained (see details in the Experimental section).

In addition, single crystals of  $[\text{RuCl}_2(\eta^6-p\text{-cymene})\{^i\text{Pr}_2\text{PO}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{Ph}\}]$  (6c) suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis could be obtained by slow diffusion of *n*-hexane into a saturated solution of the complex in tetrahydrofuran, thus allowing to unequivocally confirm the structures proposed for **5-8a-c**. An ORTEP-type view of the molecule is shown in Fig. 3 along with selected bonding parameters. The complex features a typical three-legged piano-stool geometry, with the ruthenium atom surrounded by the  $\eta^6$ -bonded *p*-cymene ring, two chlorides, and the phosphorus atom of the phosphinite ligand. The Ru-Cl bond lengths (2.404(1) and 2.410(1) Å) and Cl(1)-Ru-Cl(2) angle (85.83(2)°) fall within the expected range for [RuCl\_2( $\eta^6$ -*p*-



Scheme 2 Synthesis of the arene-ruthenium(II) complexes 5-8a-c.

Comp.	$\delta_{ m P}$	Comp.	$\delta_{ m P}$	Comp.	$\delta_{ m P}$	Comp.	$\delta_{ m P}$
1a	114.5	5a	111.6	7a	111.2	9a	158.6
1b	112.6	5 <b>b</b> <sup>b</sup>	110.1	7 <b>b</b>	109.0	9b	121.5
1c	112.1	5c <sup>b</sup>	109.5	7 <b>c</b>	109.3	<b>9c</b> <sup>b</sup>	119.3
2a	154.5	6a	151.9	8a	150.9	10a	206.2
2b	152.2	6b	150.7	8b	148.5	10b	159.8
2c	151.4	6c	150.3	8c	148.0	10c	156.3

Table 1 ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR data for the phosphinite ligands 1-2a-c and the ruthenium(II) complexes 5-10a-c and the ruthenium(II)

<sup>*a*</sup> Unless otherwise stated, the spectra were recorded in  $CDCl_3$  at r.t.  $\delta_P$  in ppm. <sup>*b*</sup> Spectra recorded in  $CD_2Cl_2$  at r.t.



**Fig. 3** ORTEP-type view of the structure of complex **6c** showing the crystallographic labelling scheme. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): Ru–C\* = 1.712(2); Ru–Cl(1) = 2.404(1); Ru–Cl(2) = 2.410(1); Ru–P(1) = 2.351(1); P(1)–O(1) = 1.619(2); P(1)–C(11) = 1.839(2); P(1)–C(14) = 1.850(1); O(1)–C(17) = 1.452(2); C\*–Ru–P(1) = 126.78(2); C\*–Ru–Cl(1) = 124.95(2); C\*–Ru–Cl(2) = 124.43(1); Cl(1)–Ru–Cl(2) = 85.83(2); Cl(1)–Ru–P(1) = 90.01(2); Cl(2)–Ru–P(1) = 93.21(2); Ru–P(1)–O(1) = 105.28(5); Ru–P(1)–C(11) = 121.12(7); Ru–P(1)–C(14) = 114.88(7); C(11)–P(1)–C(14) = 103.60(9); C(11)–P(1)–O(1) = 104.15(9); C(14)–P(1)–O(1) = 106.57(9); P(1)–O(1)–C(17) = 127.5(1); C\* denotes the centroid of the *p*-cymene unit (C(2), C(3), C(4), C(5), C(6) and C(7)).

cymene)(PR<sub>3</sub>)]-type complexes, and the Ru–P(1) and P(1)–O(1) distances (2.351(1) and 1.619(2) Å, respectively) are comparable to those recently found by Balakrishna and co-workers in the solid-state crystal structure of the related phosphinite-ruthenium( $\pi$ ) derivative [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\pi^6$ -*p*-cymene)(Ph<sub>2</sub>POCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>{1,2,3-N<sub>3</sub>C(Ph)C(H)})] (Ru–P = 2.301(1) Å and P–O = 1.615(2) Å).<sup>25</sup>

Complexes **5-8a-c** were found to be perfectly stable in solution at room temperature for long periods, not observing, regardless of the solvent employed, the displacement of the *p*-cymene or benzene ligands. In the search of suitable experimental conditions for the generation of the corresponding tethered complexes, we performed a series of experiments with  $CH_2Cl_2$ , tetrahydrofuran, 1,2-dichloroethane and toluene solutions of  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-p-cymene)\{Ph_2PO(CH_2)_nPh\}]$  (**5a-c**) at different temperatures. We could only observe the selective formation of the desired complexes  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOPPh_2]]$  (**9a-c**) working in 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE) at 120 °C (reactions performed in a sealed tube).<sup>26</sup> However, the conversions were very low ( $\leq$ 30%) even after 48 h of heating. To our delight, employing the same experimental conditions, the more labile character of the Ru-benzene *vs*. Ru-

cymene bond<sup>24,27</sup> allowed the high yield preparation of compounds **9a–c** from [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6$ -benzene){Ph<sub>2</sub>PO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>Ph}] (7**a–c**) (Scheme 3). Interestingly, the reactions times needed for the complete consumption of the starting materials were found to be strongly influenced by the number of carbon atoms connecting the phosphinite and phenyl units, with a time increasing with the spacer's length (from 2 h for 7**a** to 10 h for 7**c**).

Concerning the preparation of their diisopropylphosphinite counterparts, *i.e.* compounds  $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOP^iPr_2\}]$ (10a-c), we found that they can be conveniently accessed employing both  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-p-cymene)]^{i}Pr_2PO(CH_2)_nPh]$  (6a-c) and  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-benzene)\{^iPr_2PO(CH_2)_nPh\}]$  (8a-c) as starting materials, with only minor differences in yields and reaction times between them (see Scheme 4). The greater reactivity of these derivatives in comparison to that of compounds 5a-c and 7a-c can be ascribed to the higher electron density of the metal center, which labilizes the ruthenium-arene bond through back-donation from the occupied d ruthenium orbitals to the empty  $\pi^*$  arene ones.<sup>28</sup> On the other hand, although to a lesser extent, the effect of the length of the spacer on the reaction rates was also observed in these cases. The  $\eta^6$ : $\kappa^1(P)$ coordination of the phosphinite ligands was reflected in the <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra of complexes **9-10a-c** by a downfield shift of the phosphorus signals with respect to those of their nontethered precursors ( $\Delta \delta$  = 6–56 ppm; see Table 1). The greatest deshielding effect was observed for  $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P) C_6H_5CH_2OPR_2$  (R = Ph (9a), <sup>i</sup>Pr (10a)), which according to the X-ray data (see below) contain the more strained chelate ring.<sup>29</sup> The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 9-10a-c confirmed the coordination of the pendant phenyl unit of the phosphinite ligands to ruthenium, displaying three well-separated signals: two triplets at  $\delta_{\rm H}$  6.15–6.49 and 5.76–6.12 ppm and one doublet at  $\delta_{\rm H}$  5.09-5.54 ppm with integrated intensities of 1:2:2 and mutual  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  coupling constants of 4.5–6.0 Hz, assigned to the



Scheme 3 Synthesis of the tethered arene-ruthenium(II) complexes 9a-c.



Scheme 4 Synthesis of the tethered arene-ruthenium(11) complexes 10a–c.

para, meta and ortho protons, respectively. The chemical equivalence of the ortho and meta carbons was also evidenced in the <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra, which featured in all the cases four signals for the  $\eta^6$ -coordinated phenyl group in the  $\delta_C$  range 84.5–108.8 ppm (see details in the Experimental section).

To confirm the spectroscopic information and to have a better insight into the structure of the complexes synthesized, X-ray diffraction studies were carried out on  $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5CH_2OP^iPr_2\}]$  (10a),  $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5CH_2CH_2OP^iPr_2\}]$  (10b) and  $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5CH_2CH_2OP^iPr_2\}]$  (10c). Views of the molecular structures, along with selected bonding distances and angles, are shown in Fig. 4–6. All the complexes exhibit the expected pseudo-octahedral three-legged pianostool geometry with the ruthenium atoms bound to two chlor-



Fig. 4 ORTEP-type view of the structure of complex **10a** showing the crystallographic labelling scheme. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): Ru–C\* = 1.694(1); Ru–Cl(1) = 2.420(1); Ru–Cl(2) = 2.414(1); Ru–P(1) = 2.303(1); P(1)–O(1) = 1.641(3); P(1)–C(8) = 1.847(4); P(1)–C(11) = 1.828(4); O(1)–C(7) = 1.445(5); C\*–Ru–P(1) = 120.22(3); C\*–Ru–Cl(1) = 125.30(3); C\*–Ru–Cl(2) = 128.19(3); Cl(1)–Ru–Cl(2) = 85.77(4); Cl(1)–Ru–P(1) = 95.56(4); Cl(2)–Ru–P(1) = 91.87(4); Ru–P(1)–O(1) = 106.0(1); Ru–P(1)–C(8) = 117.7(1); Ru–P(1)–C(11) = 122.2(1); C(8)–P(1)–C(11) = 104.5(2); C(8)–P(1)–O(1) = 104.2(2); C(11)–P(1)–O(1) = 99.3(2); P(1)–O(1)–C(7) = 107.2(3); C\* denotes the centroid of the  $\eta^6$ -coordinated arene unit (C(1), C(2), C(3), C(4), C(5) and C(6)).



Fig. 5 ORTEP-type view of the structure of complex **10b** showing the crystallographic labelling scheme. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): Ru–C\* = 1.713(1); Ru–Cl(1) = 2.414(1); Ru–Cl(2) = 2.421(1); Ru–P(1) = 2.306(1); P(1)–O(1) = 1.630(2); P(1)–C(9) = 1.843(3); P(1)–C(12) = 1.834(3); O(1)–C(8) = 1.443(3); C\*–Ru–P(1) = 126.29(2); C\*–Ru–Cl(1) = 123.99(2); C\*–Ru–Cl(2) = 127.51(2); Cl(1)–Ru–Cl(2) = 87.17(2); Cl(1)–Ru–P(1) = 92.43(2); Cl(2)–Ru–P(1) = 87.55(2); Ru–P(1)–O(1) = 111.04(7); Ru–P(1)–C(9) = 114.76(9); Ru–P(1)–C(12) = 116.73(9); C(9)–P(1)–C(12) = 107.9(1); C(9)–P(1)–O(1) = 104.8(1); C(12)–P(1)–O(1) = 99.9(1); P(1)–O(1)–C(8) = 116.3(1); C\* denotes the centroid of the  $\eta^{6}$ -coordinated arene unit (C(1), C(2), C(3), C(4), C(5) and C(6)).



Fig. 6 ORTEP-type view of the structure of complex **10c** showing the crystallographic labelling scheme. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): Ru–C\* = 1.723(1); Ru–Cl(1) = 2.417(1); Ru–Cl(2) = 2.417(1); Ru–P(1) = 2.356(1); P(1)–O(1) = 1.621(2); P(1)–C(10) = 1.847(3); P(1)–C(13) = 1.838(3); O(1)–C(9) = 1.448(4); C\*-Ru–P(1) = 131.96(2); C\*-Ru–Cl(1) = 122.09(2); C\*-Ru–Cl(2) = 126.64(2); Cl(1)-Ru–Cl(2) = 87.36(3); Cl(1)-Ru–P(1) = 90.47(3); Cl(2)-Ru–P(1) = 84.89(3); Ru–P(1)–O(1) = 112.99(8); Ru–P(1)–C(10) = 115.1(1); Ru–P(1)–C(13) = 116.4(1); C(10)–P(1)–C(13) = 106.8(1); C(10)–P(1)–O(1) = 103.0(1); C(13)–P(1)–O(1) = 100.3(1); P(1)–O(1)–C(9) = 116.9(1); C\* denotes the centroid of the  $\eta^6$ -coordinated arene unit (C(1), C(2), C(3), C(4), C(5) and C(6)).

ide anions, and to the phosphorus atom and tethered phenyl ring of the respective phosphinite ligand. The Ru–Cl, Ru–P and Ru–C\* distances are almost identical (±0.05 Å) in the three structures, and very similar to those found for the non-tethered complex [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6$ -*p*-cymene){<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>POCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph}] (6c) discussed above (see Fig. 3). Concerning the interligand angles Cl(1)–Ru–Cl(2), Cl(1)–Ru–P(1) and Cl(2)–Ru–P(1), and those between the centroid of the  $\eta^6$ -coordinated phenyl ring C\* and the legs, the most noticeable difference was the increase in

11.7° of the C\*–Ru–P(1) angle when passing from  $[RuCl_2{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5CH_2OP^iPr_2}]$  (10a) to  $[RuCl_2{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5CH_2OP^iPr_2}]$  (10c). Interestingly, a detailed inspection of the Ru–C bond distances indicated that the  $\eta^6$ -coordinated phenyl ring is, in all the complexes, slightly inclined (not completely perpendicular to the Ru–C\* axis), with the free end of the ring being further away from the ruthenium atom. This inclination decreases with increasing the spacer's length (*e.g.* Ru–C(1) bond distances of 2.284(2), 2.264 (3) and 2.242(3) Å for 10a, 10b and 10c, respectively). In addition, contrary to the case of 10b and 10c, the C(7) carbon in 10a was found to deviate significantly from the mean C(1)-to-C(6) plane (–0.222(5) Å). Taken together, these observations indicate a higher strain of the chelate ring in 10a vs. 10b,c.

On the other hand, very similar P(1)–O(1) bond lengths were observed in the three structures, with values (1.621(2)–1.641(3) Å) comparable to those previously found in the structures of the tethered complexes **A** and **B** (1.633(2) and 1.625(2) Å, respectively; see Fig. 2) or in that of the non-tethered derivative [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6$ -p-cymene){<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>POCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph}] (**6c**) (1.619(2) Å). On the contrary, the Ru–P–O and P–O–C angles were affected by the spacer's length, increasing from 106.0(1)° and 99.3(8)° to 112.99(8)° and 116.9(1)°, respectively, when passing from [RuCl<sub>2</sub>{ $\eta^6$ : $\kappa^1(P)$ -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OP<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>}] (**10a**) to [RuCl<sub>2</sub>{ $\eta^6$ : $\kappa^1(P)$ -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OP<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>}] (**10c**).

Finally, the catalytic potential of the tethered complexes  $[\operatorname{RuCl}_2{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOPR_2}]$  (9-10a-c) was investigated. As the catalytic reaction we choose the cross dehydrogenative coupling of hydrosilanes and alcohols (Scheme 5), a process of high interest since it represents an attractive method for the preparation of useful alkoxysilane reagents.<sup>21,30</sup> Also of note is the fact that this process is gaining relevance in the field of hydrogen storage and production.<sup>31</sup> Several studies have shown the utility of ruthenium-based catalysts in this type of transformations,<sup>32</sup> including the arene-ruthenium(II) complexes [{RuCl( $\mu$ -Cl)( $\eta^6$ -*p*-cymene)}<sub>2</sub>] (3)<sup>32b,c,f</sup> and [RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6$ -*p*-cymene)(NHC)] (11; NHC = 1-methyl-3-(pyren-1-ylmethyl)-imidazol-2-ylidene).<sup>32g</sup> However, we would like to remark here that there are no previous precedents about the use of tethered-type derivatives.

Initial experiments were performed using dimethylphenylsilane and methanol as model substrates, employing the latter also as the solvent. Thus, in a typical experiment, the corresponding ruthenium complex **9-10a-c** (0.1 mol%) was added under inert atmosphere to a 5 M solution of Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiH in MeOH at room temperature, monitoring the course of the reaction by gas chromatography (GC) at 5 minutes intervals. The results obtained are collected in Table 2.

To our delight, all the complexes showed a remarkable activity leading to the complete conversion of the starting

R₃Si−H + H−OR' <u>cat.</u> R₃Si−OR' + H₂

Scheme 5 The catalytic cross dehydrogenative coupling of silanes and alcohols.

Table 2Dehydrogenativecouplingofdimethylphenylsilanewithmethanolcatalyzedbycomplexes $[RuCl_2(\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOPR_2)]$ (9-10a-c)<sup>a</sup>

	H 9-10a-c (0. Ph Me Me		.001-0.1 mol%) → DH / r.t.	Ph - Ne + H <sub>2</sub>	
Entry	Catalyst	mol% Ru	Time (min)	$\operatorname{Conv.}^{b}(\%)$	$\operatorname{Yield}^{b}(\%)$
1	9a	0.1	10	>99	99
2	9b	0.1	5	>99	99
3	9c	0.1	5	>99	99
4	10a	0.1	5	>99	99
5	10b	0.1	5	>99	99
6	10c	0.1	5	>99	98 $(85)^c$
7	9a	0.01	120	>99	99
8	9b	0.01	100	>99	98
9	9c	0.01	50	>99	98
10	10a	0.01	70	>99	98
11	10b	0.01	40	>99	98
12	10c	0.01	5	>99	98
13	10c	0.005	60	>99	98
14	10c	0.001	2880	60	57

<sup>*a*</sup> Reactions were performed under argon atmosphere employing 5 mmol of Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiH and 1 mL of MeOH. <sup>*b*</sup> Determined by GC. Differences between conversions and yields correspond to the disiloxane Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiOSiPhMe<sub>2</sub>. <sup>*c*</sup> Isolated yield after work-up (see the Experimental section).

silane after only 5-10 min (entries 1-6). The selectivity of the process was also very high in all the cases, the desired methoxydimethyl(phenyl)silane being formed in ≥98% GC yield. Only trace amounts of a byproduct, *i.e.* the disiloxane Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiOSiPhMe<sub>2</sub>, were detected by GC.<sup>33</sup> In a second set of experiments, performed with ruthenium loadings of 0.01 mol%, differences in activity were observed between the complexes (entries 7-12), thus allowing to establish some structure-activity relationships. In particular, the following trends were observed: (i) the activity increases with the length of the spacer within the two series of complexes and (ii) the catalytic performances shown by the diisopropylphosphinite derivatives 10a-c were higher than those of their corresponding diphenylphosphinite counterparts 9a-c (entries 10 vs. 7, 11 vs. 8 and 12 vs. 9).<sup>34,35</sup> In particular, the best results were obtained with  $[\operatorname{RuCl}_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(\operatorname{CH}_2)_3\operatorname{OP}^i\operatorname{Pr}_2\}]$  (10c), which was able to generate the alkoxysilane Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiOMe in 98% GC-yield after only 5 min (entry 12), thereby leading to TOF and TON values of 117 600 h<sup>-1</sup> and 9800, respectively. Reduction of the catalyst loading to 0.005 mol% still produced Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiOMe in 98% yield after 1 h (entry 13; TON of 19 600; a kinetic profile of this reaction is given in the ESI file<sup>†</sup>), but further decrease to 0.001 mol% led to an incomplete transformation with a maximum 57% yield after 48 h (entry 14; TON of 57 000). Remarkably, the effectiveness shown by complex  $[\operatorname{RuCl}_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_3OP^iPr_2\}]$  (10c) in this reaction compares favorably with that reported for [{RuCl( $\mu$ -Cl)( $\eta^6$ p-cymene) $_{2}$  (3) (91% yield of Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiOMe after 5 min employing a ruthenium loading of 1 mol%; TOF =  $1092 \text{ h}^{-1}$ )<sup>32c</sup>  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-p-cymene)(NHC)]$  (11) (>99%) and vield

 $Me_2PhSiOMe$  after 10 min employing a ruthenium loading of 0.1 mol%; TOF = 6000 h^{-1}).  $^{32g}$ 

The scope of  $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(\textit{P})\text{-}C_6H_5(CH_2)_3OP^iPr_2\}]$  (10c) was next explored varying the nature of the alcohol (Scheme 6). For convenience, we decided to use a catalyst loading of 0.1 mol% in all the experiments. The results obtained showed that the efficiency of this ruthenium catalyst is markedly influenced by the steric constrains associated to the substrates. Thus, although the reactions of dimethylphenylsilane with other primary alcohols also generated the corresponding alkoxysilanes in high yield (>92% by GC, with isolated yields  $\geq$ 84%), longer reaction times were systematically required.

The cross dehydrogenative coupling of Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiH with 2-propanol was also satisfactorily achieved after 2 h employing 0.1 mol% of **10c**, but when bulkier secondary alcohols (2-butanol or cycloheptanol) were employed, an increase in the catalyst loading to 1 mol% was required to generate the corresponding alkoxysilanes in high yield (employing 0.1 mol% of **10c** incomplete reactions were observed even after 24 h). An increase of the ruthenium loading to 1 mol% was also needed in the reaction of Me<sub>2</sub>PhSiH with propargyl alcohol, for which a surprisingly clean transformation occurred without any side-reaction associated with the activation of the terminal C=C bond.<sup>36</sup> The effect of sterics on the activity of complex



Scheme 6 Dehydrogenative coupling of  $Me_2PhSiH$  with different alcohols catalyzed by 10c.



Scheme 7 Dehydrogenative coupling of  ${\rm Et}_3{\rm SiH}$  and  ${\rm Ph}_3{\rm SiH}$  with methanol catalyzed by 10c.

**10c** was also evidenced in the dehydrogenative coupling reactions of triethylsilane and triphenylsilane with methanol (Scheme 7), requiring, when compared to  $Me_2PhSiH$ , a longer reaction time in the first case, and an increase of the catalyst loading in the second, to obtain the desired alkoxysilanes in high yields.

## Conclusions

In summary, we have synthesized and structurally characterized a series of half-sandwich ruthenium(II) complexes featuring tethered arene-phosphinite ligands, species underrepresented to date in the literature. The synthesis of compounds  $[\operatorname{RuCl}_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOPR_2\}]$  (9-10a-c) was easily accomplished in two steps from the readily accessible phosphinite ligands  $R_2PO(CH_2)_nPh$  and dimers [{ $RuCl(\mu-Cl)(\eta^6-arene)$ }] (arene = *p*-cymene, benzene). Given the greater lability of the benzene vs. p-cymene ligand, the use of dimer [{RuCl( $\mu$ -Cl)( $\eta^6$ benzene)}2] resulted in general more convenient, allowing faster arene exchange processes. The catalytic utility of complexes  $[\operatorname{RuCl}_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(\operatorname{CH}_2)_n\operatorname{OPR}_2\}]$  (9-10a-c) was also demonstrated, finding that they are able to promote efficiently and under mild conditions the cross dehydrogenative coupling of hydrosilanes and alcohols. To the best of our knowledge, the involvement of tethered species in this catalytic transformation is unprecedented. Interestingly, the most active complex found in this study, namely  $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_3OP^iPr_2\}]$ (10c), was more effective than other ( $\eta^6$ -arene)-ruthenium( $\pi$ )type catalysts previously described.

## Experimental

#### General methods

Synthetic procedures were performed under an atmosphere of dry argon using vacuum-line and standard Schlenk or sealed-tube techniques. Organic solvents were dried by standard methods and distilled under argon before use.<sup>37</sup> All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification with the exception of the phosphinite ligands  $R_2PO(CH_2)_nPh$  (1-2a-c),<sup>22</sup> and the ruthenium(II) complexes [{RuCl(µ-Cl)(η<sup>6</sup>-arene)}<sub>2</sub>] (arene = *p*-cymene (3), benzene (4)) and

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[RuCl<sub>2</sub>( $\eta^6$ -*p*-cymene)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)],<sup>24</sup> which were prepared by following the methods reported in the literature. NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C on Bruker DPX-300 or AV400 instruments. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} and <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts were referenced to the residual signal of deuterated solvent. All data are reported in ppm downfield from (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Si. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR chemical shifts were referenced to 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as external standard. DEPT experiments have been carried out for all the compounds reported in this paper. GC measurements were made on a Hewlett Packard HP6890 apparatus (Supelco Beta-Dex<sup>TM</sup> 120 column, 30 m length, 250 µm diameter). Elemental analyses were provided by the Analytical Service of the Instituto de Investigaciones Químicas (IIQ-CSIC) of Seville. For column chromatography, Merck silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh) was employed.

General procedure for the preparation of complexes  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6 - p\text{-cymene})\{R_2PO(CH_2)_nPh\}]$  (R = Ph, *n* = 1 (5a), 2 (5b), 3 (5c); R = <sup>i</sup>Pr, *n* = 1 (6a), 2 (6b), 3 (6c)) and  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6 \text{-benzene})\{R_2PO(CH_2)_nPh\}]$  (R = Ph, *n* = 1 (7a), 2 (7b), 3 (7c); R = <sup>i</sup>Pr, *n* = 1 (8a), 2 (8b), 3 (8c))

A suspension of the corresponding dimer [{RuCl( $\mu$ -Cl)( $\eta^6$ - $\operatorname{arene}_{2}$  (arene = *p*-cymene (3), benzene (4); 0.3 mmol) and phosphinite ligand R<sub>2</sub>PO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>Ph (1-2a-c; 0.8 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was stirred for 1 (starting from 3) or 12 h (starting from 4) at room temperature. The resulting solution was then evaporated to dryness, the oily residue formed dissolved in the minimum amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (ca. 5 mL), and the product precipitated by adding 20 mL of a diethyl ether/ hexane mixture (1:1 v/v). The same precipitation procedure was repeated twice more and the reddish orange solid was finally washed with diethyl ether (5 mL) and dried in vacuo. Characterization data for the resulting complexes 5-8a-c are as follows: (5a): Yield: 0.298 g (83%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta =$ 111.6 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.03–7.96 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.43–7.32 (m, 11H, Ph), 5.25 and 5.20 (d, 2H each,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 5.9$ Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 4.86 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} = 5.1$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.69 (sept, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.9 Hz, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 1.83 (s, 3H, Me), 1.08 (d, 6H,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{HH}}$  = 6.9 Hz, CH*Me*<sub>2</sub>) ppm.  ${}^{13}\text{C}\{{}^{1}\text{H}\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 137.8 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{PC} = 8.5$  Hz,  $C_{ipso}$  of Ph), 136.3 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC} = 48.4$  Hz,  $C_{ipso}$  of PPh), 132.5 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 11.1 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 130.9 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of PPh), 128.5 and 127.0 (s, CH<sub>ortho</sub> and CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 127.9 (d, *J*<sub>PC</sub> = 10.2 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 127.8 (s,  $CH_{para}$  of Ph), 111.9 and 97.6 (s, C of *p*-cymene), 90.6 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 3.4 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 87.5 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 5.5 Hz, CH of p-cymene), 68.5 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 30.1 (s, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 21.8 (s, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 17.5 (s, Me) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>31</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 58.20, H 5.22; found: C 57.93, H 5.33. (5b): Yield: 0.272 g (74%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$  NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 110.1 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.87–7.81 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.43–7.28 (m, 11H, Ph), 5.16 and 5.04 (d, 2H each,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 3.95 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} = 5.1$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.96 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.53 (sept, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.9 Hz, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 1.74 (s, 3H, Me), 1.08 (d, 6H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.9 Hz, CHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 138.7 (s, C<sub>ipso</sub> of Ph), 136.5 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 48.0 Hz, C<sub>ipso</sub> of PPh), 132.4 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 10.8 Hz,

CHortho or CHmeta of PPh), 130.7 (s, CHpara of PPh), 129.3 and 128.5 (s,  $CH_{ortho}$  and  $CH_{meta}$  of Ph), 127.7 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 10.1 Hz, CHortho or CHmeta of PPh), 126.6 (s, CHpara of Ph), 110.9 and 98.0 (s, C of *p*-cymene), 90.1 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 3.5 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 87.7 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 5.4 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 68.0 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 4.0 Hz,  $OCH_2$ , 37.1 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{PC}$  = 7.6 Hz,  $CH_2Ph$ ), 30.2 (s,  $CHMe_2$ ), 21.6 (s, CHMe2), 17.2 (s, Me) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>33</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 58.83, H 5.43; found: C 58.75, H 5.37. (5c): Yield: 0.327 g (87%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$  NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 109.5 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.95–7.89 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.43–7.20 (m, 11H, Ph), 5.24 and 5.17 (d, 2H each,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 5.7$  Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 3.82–3.77 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.76 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5$  Hz,  $CH_2Ph$ ), 2.61 (sept, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.9$  Hz,  $CHMe_2$ ), 2.03–1.96 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.81 (s, 3H, Me), 1.10 (d, 6H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.9$  Hz, CHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 141.5 (s, C<sub>ipso</sub> of Ph), 136.6 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 48.1 Hz, C<sub>ipso</sub> of PPh), 132.5 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 10.8 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 130.7 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of PPh), 128.4 (s, CH<sub>ortho</sub> and CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 127.7 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 10.0 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 125.9 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 110.9 and 97.5 (s, C of *p*-cymene), 90.6 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 3.6 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 87.6 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 5.4 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 66.7 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 3.9 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 32.2 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{PC}$  = 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.1 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 30.2 (s, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (s, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 17.3 (s, Me) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>35</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 59.43, H 5.63; found: C 59.24, H 5.64. (6a): Yield: 0.255 g (80%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 151.9$  (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.42 (br s, 5H, Ph), 5.47 and 5.40 (d, 2H each,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 5.9$  Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 5.00 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} = 3.6$ Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.98-2.87 (m, 3H, CHMe<sub>2</sub> and PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.10 (s, Me), 1.48–1.30 (m, 18H, CHM $e_2$  and PCHM $e_2$ ) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C ${}^{1}H$ NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 137.7 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{PC}$  = 6.4 Hz, C<sub>ipso</sub> of Ph), 128.7 and 127.1 (s, CHortho and CHmeta of Ph), 128.1 (s, CHpara of Ph), 108.4 and 97.5 (s, C of *p*-cymene), 88.5 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 3.2 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 87.7 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 4.2 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 69.2 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$ = 9.2 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 30.5 (s, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 30.2 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 20.5 Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 22.1 (s, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 18.1 and 17.8 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 18.0 (s, Me) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>35</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 52.08, H 6.65; found: C 52.15, H 6.71. (6b): Yield: 0.251 g (77%). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 150.7 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(CDCl_3)$ :  $\delta$  = 7.39–7.25 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.32 and 5.27 (d, 2H each,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{HH}}$  = 6.2 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 4.23 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{HH}}$  = 6.3 Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} = 3.9$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.04 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.3$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.89-2.77 (m, 3H, CHMe2 and PCHMe2), 2.06 (s, Me), 1.38-1.19 (m, 18H, CHMe<sub>2</sub> and PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 138.0 (s, Cipso of Ph), 128.9 and 128.6 (s, CHortho and CHmeta of Ph), 126.8 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 107.5 and 96.8 (s, C of *p*-cymene), 88.8 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 3.2 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 87.7 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 4.1 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 68.0 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 11.3 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 37.6 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{PC}$  = 5.6 Hz,  $CH_2Ph$ ), 30.0 (s,  $CHMe_2$ ), 29.4 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 19.7 Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 22.1 (s, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 17.9 (s, Me), 17.4 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>37</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 52.94, H 6.85; found: C 53.05, H 6.91. (6c): Yield: 0.235 g (70%). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 150.3 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.37–7.14 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.50 and 5.41 (d, 2H each,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 2.0$ Hz, CH of p-cymene), 4.01-3.95 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.95-2.77 (m, 5H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph, CHMe<sub>2</sub> and PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.13 (s, Me), 2.10-2.04 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.31–1.24 (m, 18H, CHM $e_2$  and PCHM $e_2$ ) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C

{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 141.1 (s, C<sub>*ipso*</sub> of Ph), 128.6 and 128.4 (s, CHortho and CHmeta of Ph), 126.2 (s, CHpara of Ph), 108.2 and 97.0 (s, C of *p*-cymene), 88.6 (s, CH of *p*-cymene), 87.7 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 4.5 Hz, CH of *p*-cymene), 67.2 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 10.3 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 32.8  $(d, {}^{3}J_{PC} = 5.8 \text{ Hz}, CH_{2}), 32.2 \text{ (s, } CH_{2}Ph), 30.1 \text{ (s, } CHMe_{2}), 29.9$ (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC} = 20.4$  Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 22.1 (s, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 18.0 and 17.6 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 17.9 (s, Me) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>39</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 53.76, H 7.04; found: C 53.71, H 7.11. (7a): Yield: 0.277 g (85%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 111.2$  (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.04–7.97 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.47–7.35 (m, 11H, Ph), 5.42 (d, 6H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 1.0$  Hz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), 4.96 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} =$ 5.7 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 137.6 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 8.1 Hz,  $C_{ipso}$  of Ph), 136.4 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 51.6 Hz,  $C_{ipso}$  of PPh), 132.3 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 11.2 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 131.2 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of PPh), 128.6 and 127.4 (s, CHortho and CHmeta of Ph), 128.2 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 10.4 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 128.0 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 90.1 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 3.2 Hz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), 69.0 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C25H23Cl2OPRu: C 55.36, H 4.27; found: C 55.29, H 4.39. (7b): Yield: 0.300 g (90%). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 109.0 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.92-7.86 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.43-7.28 (m, 11H, Ph), 5.21 (s, 6H,  $C_6H_6$ ), 4.07 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} = 4.5$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.97 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{HH}}$  = 6.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph) ppm.  ${}^{13}\text{C}\{{}^{1}\text{H}\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 139.0 (s,  $C_{ipso}$  of Ph), 136.3 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 51.2 Hz,  $C_{ipso}$  of PPh), 132.2 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 11.0 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 131.1 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of PPh), 129.3 and 128.6 (s, CH<sub>ortho</sub> and CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 128.0 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 10.2 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 126.7 (s,  $CH_{para}$  of Ph), 90.0 (s,  $C_6H_6$ ), 68.4 (s,  $OCH_2$ ), 37.2 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{PC} = 10.0$ Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 56.12, H 4.53; found: C 56.03, H 4.48. (7c): Yield: 0.287 g (84%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 109.3 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.97–7.92 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.45–7.18 (m, 11H, Ph), 5.39 (s, 6H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), 3.95-3.89 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.76 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{HH}}$  = 7.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.01–1.96 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm.  ${}^{13}\text{C}\{{}^{1}\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 141.3 (s, C<sub>*ipso*</sub> of Ph), 136.6 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>PC</sub> = 51.5 Hz,  $C_{ipso}$  of PPh), 132.2 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 10.7 Hz,  $CH_{ortho}$  or  $CH_{meta}$  of PPh), 131.1 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of PPh), 128.5 (s, CH<sub>ortho</sub> and CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 128.1 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 10.0 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 126.0 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 90.0 (s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), 67.2 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 32.2 (s, CH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>Ph) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>27</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 56.85, H 4.77; found: C 56.78, H 4.69. (8a): Yield: 0.188 g (66%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 150.9$  (s) ppm.  ${}^{1}H{}$  NMR  $(CDCl_3)$ :  $\delta = 7.40$  (br s, 5H, Ph), 5.66 (s, 6H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), 5.02 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} = 4.8$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.11–3.00 (m, 2H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 1.46–1.30 (m, 12H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 138.0 (s, Cipso of Ph), 128.7 and 126.4 (s, CHortho and CHmeta of Ph), 127.9 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 88.6 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 2.4 Hz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), 68.9 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 31.2 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 23.5 Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 18.4 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 48.11, H 5.74; found: C 48.24, H 5.80. (8b): Yield: 0.208 g (71%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 148.5$  (s) ppm.  ${}^{1}H{}$  NMR  $(CDCl_3)$ :  $\delta = 7.39-7.33$  (m, 5H, Ph), 5.48 (s, 6H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), 4.09 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} = 3.3$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.97 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} =$ 6.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.95-2.86 (m, 2H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 1.35-1.21 (m, 12H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C $\{^{1}$ H $\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 138.7 (s, Cipso of Ph), 129.2 and 128.5 (s, CHortho and CHmeta of Ph),

126.7 (s,  $CH_{para}$  of Ph), 88.4 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 3.0 Hz,  $C_{6}H_{6}$ ), 68.6 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 7.1 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 37.4 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 30.7 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC} = 23.2$  Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 18.2 and 18.0 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>29</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 49.11, H 5.99; found: C 49.22, H 6.01. (8c): Yield: 0.214 g (71%).  ${}^{31}P_1^{1}H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 148.0$  (s) ppm.  ${}^{1}H$  NMR  $(CDCl_3): \delta = 7.38-7.22$  (m, 5H, Ph), 5.61 (s, 6H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), 3.92-3.86 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.98-2.90 (m, 2H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.77 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.05–1.98 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.40–1.25 (m, 12H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 141.2 (s, Cipso of Ph), 128.5 and 128.4 (s, CHortho and CHmeta of Ph), 126.1 (s,  $CH_{para}$  of Ph), 88.4 (s,  $C_6H_6$ ), 67.1 (d,  ${}^2J_{PC}$  = 6.6 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 32.3 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{PC}$  = 6.6 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 30.9 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 24.0 Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 18.2 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>31</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 50.20, H 6.22; found: C 50.11, H 6.24.

#### Synthesis of complexes [RuCl<sub>2</sub>{ $\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOPPh_2$ }] (*n* = 1 (9a), 2 (9b), 3 (9c))

In Teflon-capped sealed tube, 0.1 mmol of the corresponding ruthenium complex  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-benzene)]{Ph_2PO(CH_2)_nPh}]$ (7a-c) were dissolved in 20 mL of 1,2-dichloroethane and the resulting solution stirred at 120 °C for the indicated time (see below). The mixture was then evaporated to dryness, the oily residue formed dissolved in the minimum amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (ca. 0.5 mL), and the product precipitated by adding 20 mL of a diethyl ether/hexane mixture (1:1 v/v). The same precipitation procedure was repeated twice more and the brown solid was finally washed with diethyl ether (5 mL) and dried in vacuo. Characterization data for the resulting complexes 9a-c are as follows: (9a): Reaction time: 2 h. Yield: 0.028 g (61%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 158.6 (s) ppm.  ${}^{1}H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.77-7.46 (m, 10H, PPh), 6.41 (br, 1H, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 6.10 (br, 2H, CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 5.39 (br, 2H, CH<sub>ortho</sub> of Ph), 4.74 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{\rm PH}$  = 16.2 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>) ppm.  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 134.0 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 54.0 Hz, C<sub>ipso</sub> of PPh), 132.2 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of PPh), 131.5 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 10.5 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 128.1 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 11.4 Hz, CHortho or CHmeta of PPh), 108.8 (s, Cipso of Ph), 98.1, 94.1 and 80.6 (s, CH of Ph), 67.8 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 49.15, H 3.69; found: C 49.22, H 3.76. (9b): Reaction time: 5 h. Yield: 0.039 g (82%).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 121.5 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.88-7.82 (m, 4H, PPh), 7.41-7.38 (m, 6H, PPh), 6.49 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 5.88 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 5.24 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.0 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> of Ph), 4.36 (dt, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH}$  = 19.8 Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 4.8 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.63 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 4.8 Hz,  $CH_2$ Ph) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta = 136.5$  (d, <sup>1</sup> $J_{PC} = 54.6$ Hz,  $C_{ipso}$  of PPh), 132.3 (d,  $J_{PC}$  = 11.1 Hz,  $CH_{ortho}$  or  $CH_{meta}$  of PPh), 131.1 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of PPh), 128.1 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 10.6 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or  $CH_{meta}$  of PPh), 102.2 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 11.3 Hz,  $C_{ipso}$  of Ph), 92.6 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 4.6 Hz, CH of Ph), 91.3 and 85.9 (s, CH of Ph), 68.0 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 29.5 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>OPRu: C 50.22, H 4.00; found: C 50.31, H 3.98. (9c):<sup>16</sup> Reaction time: 10 h. Yield: 0.039 g (79%). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 119.3 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.90–7.85 (m, 4H, PPh), 7.42–7.39 (m, 6H, PPh), 6.28 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.5$ 

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Hz, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 5.82 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.5$  Hz, CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 5.09 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.5$  Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> of Ph), 4.90 (dt, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH} =$ 12.6 Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.5$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.79 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 5.1$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.24–2.18 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm.  ${}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$  NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta = 137.7$  (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC} = 54.5$  Hz, C<sub>ipso</sub> of PPh), 131.5 (d,  $J_{PC} =$ 10.8 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 130.5 (s, CH<sub>para</sub> of PPh), 127.7 (d,  $J_{PC} = 10.7$  Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> or CH<sub>meta</sub> of PPh), 97.9 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC} = 10.5$  Hz, CH of Ph), 96.0 (s, C<sub>ipso</sub> of Ph), 93.4 and 84.5 (s, CH of Ph), 66.0 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 26.9 and 24.1 (s, CH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>Ph) ppm.

#### Synthesis of complexes [RuCl<sub>2</sub>{ $\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_nOP^iPr_2$ }] (*n* = 1 (10a), 2 (10b), 3 (10c))

Complexes 10a-c, isolated as brown solids, were prepared as described for 9a-c starting from 0.1 mmol of the corresponding ruthenium complex  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-p-cymene)]^{i}Pr_2PO$  $(CH_2)_n Ph$ ] (6a-c; method A) or  $[RuCl_2(\eta^6-benzene)]^i Pr_2 PO$  $(CH_2)_n Ph$  (8a-c; method B). Characterization data are as follows: (10a): Reaction time: 1 h (method A) or 0.5 h (method B). Yield: 0.026 g (65%) (method A) or 0.024 g (62%) (method B).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 206.2$  (s) ppm.  ${}^{1}H$  NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 6.35 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 5.7 Hz, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 6.01 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 5.7 Hz, CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 5.23 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 5.7$  Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> of Ph), 4.60 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH}$  = 13.5 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.61–2.49 (m, 2H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 1.16–1.40 (m, 12H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 110.2 (s, C<sub>ipso</sub> of Ph), 100.0 and 75.6 (s, CH of Ph), 91.7 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 13.4 Hz, CH of Ph), 72.2 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 30.2 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 25.5 Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 16.9 and 16.2 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C13H21Cl2OPRu: C 39.40, H 5.34; found: C 39.22, H 5.30. (10b): Reaction time: 1.5 h (method A) or 1 h (method B). Yield: 0.027 g (67%) (method A) or 0.029 g (70%) (method B).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 159.8 (s) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 6.38 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 5.7 Hz,  $\rm CH_{\it para}$  of Ph), 5.80 (t, 2H,  $^3\!J_{\rm HH}$  = 5.7 Hz,  $\rm CH_{\it meta}$  of Ph), 5.16 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 5.7 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> of Ph), 4.07 (dt, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH}$  = 16.2 Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.8$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.00–2.89 (m, 2H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.45 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 4.8 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 1.19–1.27 (m, 12H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 98.1 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 11.0 Hz, CH of Ph), 95.9 (s, Cipso of Ph), 95.3 and 81.5 (s, CH of Ph), 67.7 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 29.3 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 27.7 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 26.7 Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 18.5 and 16.6 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C14H23Cl2OPRu: C 40.99, H 5.65; found: C 41.10, H 5.55. (10c):<sup>16</sup> Reaction time: 2 h (method A) or 1.5 h (method B). Yield: 0.030 g (72%) (method A) or 0.033 g (79%) (method B).  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 156.3 (s) ppm.  ${}^{1}H$  NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  = 6.15 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 5.6 Hz, CH<sub>para</sub> of Ph), 5.76 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 5.6 Hz, CH<sub>meta</sub> of Ph), 5.54 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 5.6 Hz, CH<sub>ortho</sub> of Ph), 4.32–4.24 (m, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{PH}$  = 13.8 Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 5.4 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.05–2.97 (m, 2H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.77 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.14-2.06 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.31-1.16 (m, 12H, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 100.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 7.7 Hz, CH of Ph), 94.3 (s, Cipso of Ph), 89.0 and 87.7 (s, CH of Ph), 64.7 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 3.6 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 29.6 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{PC}$  = 23.9 Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 29.4 and 25.1 (s, CH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 18.8 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{PC}$  = 2.6 Hz, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>), 17.9 (s, PCHMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm.

### General procedure for the catalytic cross dehydrogenative coupling of hydrosilanes and alcohols using complex $[RuCl_2\{\eta^6:\kappa^1(P)-C_6H_5(CH_2)_3OP^iPr_2\}]$ (10c)

Under inert atmosphere, the corresponding hydrosilane (5 mmol), alcohol (1 mL) and complex **10c** (0.005–0.05 mmol; 0.1–1 mol%) were introduced in a Schlenk tube equipped with a bubbler, and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature until complete conversion of the starting hydrosilane. The course of the reaction was monitored regularly taking samples of *ca*. 5  $\mu$ L which, after dilution with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, were analyzed by GC. For the isolation of the alkoxysilane products, the reaction mixture was first subjected to a flash chromatography over silica gel, eluting with hexanes, and subsequently to vacuum-line evaporation or Kugelrohr distillation to eliminate all the volatiles. The identity of the alkoxysilanes was assessed by comparison of their NMR spectroscopic data with those reported in the literature (copies of the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra of the products obtained are included in the ESI file<sup>†</sup>).

# X-ray crystal structure determination of compounds 6c and 10a–c

Crystals of 6c and 10a,c suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained by slow diffusion of n-hexane into a saturated solution of the complexes in tetrahydrofuran or dichloromethane, respectively. For 10b, the crystals were obtained by slow diffusion of diethyl ether into a saturated solution of the complex in dichloromethane. The most relevant crystal and refinement data are collected in Table 3. In all the cases, data collection was performed with a Rigaku-Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur Onyx Nova single-crystal diffractometer using Cu-Kα radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5418$  Å). Images were collected at a fixed crystal-to-detector distance of 62 mm using the oscillation method, with 1.20° oscillation and 4.5-11.0 s variable exposure time per image for 6c and 30.0-130.0 s for 10c. For 10a and 10b, the oscillation method was used with 1.10° oscillation, and 2.0-4.5 s or 7.5-17.0 s variable exposure time per image, respectively. Data collection strategy was calculated with the program CrysAlis<sup>Pro</sup> CCD.<sup>38</sup> Data reduction and cell refinement were performed with the program CrysAlis<sup>Pro</sup> RED.<sup>38</sup> An empirical absorption correction was applied using the SCALE3 ABSPACK algorithm as implemented in the program CrysAlis<sup>Pro</sup> RED.<sup>38</sup> The software package WINGX was used for space group determination, structure solution, and refinement.<sup>39</sup> The structures were solved by Patterson interpretation and phase expansion using SIR92 (6c and 10a)<sup>40</sup> or DIRDIF2008 (10b and 10c).<sup>41</sup> Isotropic least-squares refinement on F<sup>2</sup> using SHELXL97 was performed.<sup>42</sup> During the final stages of the refinements, all the positional parameters and the anisotropic temperature factors of all non-H atoms were refined. All H atoms were geometrically located and their coordinates were refined riding on their parent atoms. The function minimized was  $\left\{\sum \left[\omega (F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2\right]/\sum \left[\omega (F_o^2)^2\right]\right\}^{1/2}$  where  $\omega = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$  (a and b values are given in Table 3) with  $\sigma(F_0^2)$  from counting statistics and  $P = [\max(F_0^2, 0) +$  $2F_{\rm c}^{2}$ ]/3. Atomic scattering factors were taken from

Table 3 Crystal data and structure refinement for compounds 6c and 10a-c

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	6 <b>c</b>	10a	10b	10c		
Empirical formula	C25H39Cl2OPRu	C13H21Cl2OPRu	C14H23Cl2OPRu	C15H25Cl2OPRu		
Formula weight	558.50	396.24	410.26	424.29		
Temperature/K	150(2)	150(2)	150(2)	293(2)		
Wavelength/Å	1.54184	1.54184	1.54184	1.54184		
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Orthorhombic	Orthorhombic		
Space group	$P2_1/n$	$P\bar{1}$	Pbca	Pbca		
Crystal size/mm	$0.11 \times 0.06 \times 0.05$	0.40  imes 0.19  imes 0.05	0.20  imes 0.13  imes 0.08	0.11  imes 0.04  imes 0.03		
$a/{ m \AA}$	9.3696(1)	7.2966(3)	8.8108(1)	8.9634(2)		
<i>b</i> /Å	15.1236(2)	7.6884(3)	13.2483(2)	13.7539(3)		
c/Å	18.3093(2)	15.4349(6)	27.2268(4)	27.5000(6)		
α (°)	90	85.087(3)	90	90		
$\beta(\circ)$	98.796(1)	81.257(4)	90	90		
$\gamma$ (°)	90	62.338(4)	90	90		
Z	4	2	8	8		
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	2563.95(5)	757.89(6)	3178.13(8)	3390.2(2)		
Calculated density/g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.447	1.736	1.715	1.663		
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	7.557	12.494	11.941	11.215		
F(000)	1160	400	1664	1728		
$\theta$ range/°	3.80-69.47	5.76-69.22	3.71-69.41	5.88-69.46		
Index ranges	$-11 \le h \le 11$	$-7 \le h \le 8$	$-10 \le h \le 10$	$-8 \le h \le 10$		
-	$-17 \le k \le 18$	$-9 \le k \le 9$	$-15 \le k \le 15$	$-15 \le k \le 16$		
	$-22 \le l \le 20$	$-18 \le l \le 18$	$-32 \le l \le 32$	$-33 \le l \le 31$		
Completeness to $\theta_{max}$	99.0%	99.6%	99.7%	99.9%		
No. of reflns. collected	14 073	5736	10 246	9404		
No. of unique reflns.	$4781 (R_{int} = 0.0272)$	$2819 (R_{int} = 0.0613)$	$2953 (R_{int} = 0.0282)$	$3147 (R_{int} = 0.0318)$		
No. of parameters/restraints	278/0	167/0	176/0	181/0		
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$					
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.030	1.059	1.044	1.118		
Weight function $(a, b)$	0.0267, 0.0925	0.1116, 0.0000	0.0367, 1.6410	0.0570, 0.2256		
$R_1 \left[ I > 2\sigma(I) \right]^a$	0.0216	0.0504	0.0262	0.0302		
$wR_2 \left[ I > 2\sigma(I) \right]^a$	0.0507	0.1376	0.0647	0.0892		
$R_1$ (all data)	0.0253	0.0517	0.0294	0.0324		
$R_2$ (all data)	0.0527	0.1405	0.0672	0.0918		
Largest diff. peak and hole/e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.287, -0.520	0.998, -1.790	0.575, -0.737	0.366, -0.753		

International Tables for X-ray Crystallography, Volume C.<sup>43</sup> Geometrical calculations related to the centroids C\* were made with PARST.<sup>44</sup> The crystallographic plots were made with DIAMOND.<sup>45</sup>

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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