FULL PAPER

Carbenerhodium(I) complexes of the half-sandwich-type: reactions with electrophiles

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The reaction of the carbenerhodium(1) complexes $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(=CR_2)(L)]$ (R = aryl) with HX (X = Cl, CF₃CO₂) led, depending on the size and donor properties of the ligand L, to two different types of products. While compounds **1**, **2** with R = Ph and L = CO or PMe₃ react with HX to give rhodium(III) alkyls $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)RhX(CHPh_2)(L)]$ **3**, **4a**,**b**, the analogues **5a** and **5b** with R = Ph, *p*-Tol and L = PPrⁱ₃ afford upon treatment with HX (X = Cl, Br, I, CF₃CO₂) the ring-substituted products $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHR_2)\}RhHX(PPr^i_3)]$ **6a**–e. In the presence of excess HX, the latter are converted into the dihalo or bis(trifluoroacetato) derivatives $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHR_2)\}RhX_2(PPr^i_3)]$ **7a**–e. A labelling experiment using $[(\eta^5-C_5D_5)Rh(=CPh_2)(PPr^i_3)]$ **5a**-d₅ as a precursor indicates that the migratory insertion of the carbene into a C–H bond of the cyclopentadienyl ring probably occurs *via* an η^4 -cyclopentadienerhodium(1) species as an intermediate. The triphenylphosphine complex $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}RhCl_2(PPh_3)]$ **7f** was prepared analogously from **5c** and two equiv. of HCl. The reactions of **5a** and **5d** (R = Ph, L = SbPrⁱ₃) with either HBF₄, [Me₃O]BF₄ or methyl triflate give *via* attack of the electrophile on the carbene carbon atom and subsequent σ/π rearrangement cationic η^3 -benzylrhodium(III) complexes **9** and **10a–c** in good to excellent yields. Treatment of **5a** and **5d** with iodine results in the cleavage of the metal–carbene bond and affords the diiodo compounds $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)RhI_2(L)]$ **12a,b**.

In the context of our investigations on the reactivity of squareplanar carbenerhodium(I) complexes trans-[RhCl(=CRR')(L)₂], where L is a tertiary phosphine, arsine or stibine,¹ we recently found that the chloro ligand of these compounds can easily be displaced not only by other halides but also by C-, N- or O-nucleophiles.² Among the products obtained by the substitution reactions, the cyclopentadienyl derivatives $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)-$ Rh(=CRR')(L)] deserve particular attention insofar as they belong to the type of half-sandwich compounds which in general behave as metal bases.³ Extensive work from our laboratory in the period of 1975-1985 has shown that complexes such as $[(\eta^{5}-C_{5}H_{5})M(PR_{3})_{2}], [(\eta^{5}-C_{5}H_{5})M(CO)(PR_{3})] \text{ or } [(\eta^{5}-C_{5}H_{5}) M(C_2H_4)(PR_3)$] with M = Co, Rh, or Ir react, in some cases under extremely mild conditions, with electrophiles EX by oxidative addition to form products with a new M-E bond.⁴ Since the related carbene compounds $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(=CRR')-$ (L)], like the vinylidene counterparts,⁵ contain a highly reactive Rh-C double bond the question arose whether electrophiles such as HX or RX would preferentially attack the metal centre or the more electronegative carbene carbon atom.

The results reported in this paper show that, independent of the direction of the attack of the electrophile, the compounds formed in the initial step of the reaction of the half-sandwichtype carbenerhodium(I) complexes with HX or RX are mostly quite labile and rearrange either by migratory insertion or by generating an η^3 -benzyl system. The interesting aspect is that more than the donor/acceptor capabilities the size of the ligand L plays a dominating role in determining the structure of the final product. Some preliminary observations of these studies have already been communicated.⁶

Results and discussion

Addition of HX to the Rh=C double bond

Like the four-coordinate carbenerhodium(I) complex *trans*- $[RhCl(=CPh_2)(PPr_{3})_2]$, which upon treatment with HCl affords

the five-coordinate alkylrhodium(III) compound [RhCl₂-(CHPh₂)(PPrⁱ₃)₂],¹ the cyclopentadienyl derivatives [(η^5 -C₅H₅)-Rh(=CPh₂)(L)] with L = CO (1) and PMe₃ (2) also react with Brønsted acids by oxidative addition to give the complexes **3** and **4a**,**b** in good to excellent yields (Scheme 1). The phosphine

L

CO

PMe₃

PMe₃

Х

Cl

Cl

O₂CCF₃

ΗX

1, 2 ^{Ph}

L

CO 1

PMe₃ 2



CHPh₂

3, 4a,b

3

4a

4b

commercial samples of acidic alumina contain traces of chloride ions thus making the conversion of 2 to 4a possible.

With regard to the mechanism of the reaction of **1** and **2** with HX to yield **3** and **4a,b**, two routes are conceivable. First, the electrophile could attack the CPh_2 carbon atom which in the simplified terminology is part of a Schrock-type carbene ligand. Second, the attack of the electrophile could be directed at the electron-rich metal centre generating a cationic species $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)RhH(=CPh_2)(L)]^+$ as an intermediate which, assisted by the anion X⁻, rearranges to give the final product. We feel that the course of the reactions of $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(CO)(PMe_3)]^7$ and $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(C_2H_4)(PMe_3)]^8$ with HX to afford the cations $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(L)(PMe_3)]^+$ (L = CO, C₂H₄) supports the second possibility.

HX-induced migratory insertion reactions

In contrast to 1 and 2, the structurally related carbene complexes 5a and 5b containing the more bulky phosphine PPrⁱ₃ as ancillary ligand react with an equimolar amount of HX (X = Cl, Br, I, CF₃CO₂) to form the ring-substituted products 6a–e in 84–93% isolated yield (Scheme 2). For the preparation



of **6a**, **6b** and **6e**, instead of HCl or HBr also Me₃SiCl or Me₃SiBr can be used as the substrate which in the presence of traces of water generate *in situ* the corresponding Brønsted acid HX. In agreement with the proposed structure, the ¹H NMR spectra of **6a–e** display a hydride resonance at δ –11 to –13, which due to Rh–H and P–H couplings is split into a doublet of doublets. The C₅H₄ ring protons give rise to four separated signals between δ 5.4–4.2, thus confirming the non-equivalence of these protons in the chiral compounds.

The reaction of the PPh₃-containing carbene complex 5c with HCl probably takes a similar course to that of 5a. Dropwise addition of Me₃SiCl to a solution of 5c in acetone which has not been rigorously dried leads to an instant change of color from blue-violet to orange and gives, after removal of the solvent, an extremely air-sensitive residue which, from the spectroscopic data, mainly consists of the chloro(hydrido)rhodium(III) compound $[{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)}RhHCl(PPh_3)].$ Characteristic features for this molecule are the doublet of doublets for the Rh-H proton at δ -10.47 (with J(Rh,H) 41.5 and J(P,H) 12.5 Hz) in the ¹H NMR and the doublet at δ 46.7 in the ³¹P NMR spectrum; the ³¹P-¹⁰³Rh coupling constant of 150.8 Hz of this signal seems to be typical for a piano-stooltype phosphinerhodium(III) species.9 Attempts to isolate the complex $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}RhHCl(PPh_3)]$ in analytically pure form failed. We note, however, that in the context of our studies on the chemistry of (n⁵-C₅H₄SiMe₃)Rh derivatives we recently prepared the related chloro(hydrido) compound $[{\eta^5-C_5H_3(CHPh_2)SiMe_3}RhHCl(PPh_3)]$ ¹⁰ which is considerably more stable than the $\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}Rh$ counterpart.

In order to elucidate the mechanism of formation of the ring-substituted complexes 6a-e, a labelling experiment was carried out. Treatment of $5a-d_5$, which was prepared from *trans*-[RhCl(=CPh₂)(PPrⁱ₃)₂] and TlC₅D₅ in THF, with an equimolar amount of HCl in benzene affords exclusively the compound $6a-d_5$ (Scheme 3). Regarding the individual steps of this



reaction, we assume that initially the addition of the Brønsted acid to the carbene-rhodium bond takes place, similar to the formation of **4a** from **2** and HCl (see Scheme 1). The intermediate **A** then reacts by migration of the CHPh₂ unit to the C₅D₅ ligand to generate the substituted cyclopentadienerhodium(I) species **B**. A subsequent 1,2-D-shift along the five-membered ring affords the intermediate **C** which, by deuterium transfer from the sp³-carbon atom of the C₅ moiety to the metal, gives the final product **6a**-d₅. Reaction of **6a**-d₅ with HCl results in the formation of **7a**-d₄ which has been characterized spectroscopically. An isotopomer of **C** of the composition [RhCl(η^4 -C₅H₅CHPh₂)(PPrⁱ₃)] is probably also involved in the reaction of the dimer [RhCl(PPrⁱ₃)]₂ **8** with C₅H₅CHPh₂ to yield **6a** (Scheme 4). This alternative method to prepare **6a** is



reminiscent of earlier work from this laboratory which showed that treatment of **8** with cyclopentadiene results in the formation of the rhodium(III) complex $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)RhHCl(PPr^i_3)]$ in excellent yield.¹¹ With regard to intermediate **B** we note that recently Hughes *et al.* reported the isolation of coordinatively saturated $(\eta^4-C_5H_5R)Rh$ compounds $(R = CF_2CF_2CF_3, CF(CF_3)_2)$ which were formed from $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(PMe_3)_2]$ and perfluoroalkyl iodides.¹²

The reactions of **5a** and **5b** with an excess instead of an equimolar amount of HX afford almost quantitatively the dihalo or bis(trifluoroacetato) derivatives **7a–e**. They are equally generated upon treatment of **6a–e** with HX. In contrast to **6a–e**, the substituted compounds **7a–e** are significantly more stable and for a short period of time can even be handled in air. The ³¹P NMR spectra of **7a–e** display the expected doublet at δ 57–62 which is about 18–25 ppm upfield compared with **6a–e**. A similar upfield shift is observed for the ³¹P resonance of the triphenylphosphine complex **7f**, prepared from **5c** and excess hydrogen chloride. In contrast to the labile chloro(hydrido) intermediate [{ $\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)$ }RhHCl(PPh_3)], **7f** has been characterized not only by spectroscopic data but also by elemental analysis.



The proposed structure for the dihalorhodium(III) compounds $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}RhX_2(PPr^i_3)]$ was confirmed by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study of **7a**. The ORTEP¹³ plot (Fig. 1) illustrates the three-legged piano-stool configuration of the molecule. A characteristic feature is that the CHPh₂ substituent is pointing away from the triisopropylphosphine therefore minimizing the steric repulsion between the two bulky moieties. While the Rh–C(ring) distances of **7a** are somewhat shorter than in the related rhodium(I) complex $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4-(CHPh_2)\}Rh(PF_3)(PPr^i_3)],^6$ being in agreement with the higher oxidation state of the metal in **7a**, the Rh–PPrⁱ₃ bond length in **7a** is slightly longer than in the PF₃ derivative. The P–Rh–Cl and Cl–Rh–Cl angles in **7a** (see Table 1) are near to 90°, which reflects the pseudo-octahedral geometry of the molecule.

Formation of η^3 -benzylrhodium complexes from Rh=CRR $^\prime$ precursors

The diarylcarbenerhodium(I) complexes 5a (L = PPrⁱ₃) and 5d (L = SbPrⁱ₃) are also highly reactive toward acids or methylating reagents with a non- or weakly-coordinating anion. Treatment of 5a with an equimolar amount of HBF₄ in ether results

Table 1 Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for complex 7a

Rh–P	2.328(1)	Rh–C(2)	2.167(4)
Rh-Cl(1)	2.382(1)	Rh-C(3)	2.135(4)
Rh-Cl(2)	2.400(1)	Rh-C(4)	2.237(4)
Rh-C(1)	2.155(4)	Rh-C(5)	2.226(4)
P-Rh-Cl(1)	89.79(4)	C(5)-C(6)-C(20)	111.1(4)
P-Rh-Cl(2)	95.72(4)	C(5) - C(6) - C(30)	110.2(4)
C(l)1-Rh-Cl(2)	94.30(4)	C(20)-C(6)-C(30)	115.9(4)

in rapid formation of a dark red precipitate 9 the elemental analysis of which corresponds to that of a 1:1 adduct of the starting material and HBF₄. Compound 9 is thermally quite stable (it decomposes at 100 °C), only slightly air-sensitive and easily soluble in CH₂Cl₂ and nitromethane. In solutions of acetone slow decomposition occurs. The proposed structure, which is shown in Scheme 5, is supported both by the ¹H and the ¹³C NMR spectra. The appearance of three resonances for the ¹³C nuclei of the carbon atoms C¹, C² and C⁷ (for assignment see the Experimental section) at δ 96.1, 87.3 and 64.5 is consistent with an η^3 -benzylic type of coordination of the C₆H₅CHC₆H₅ unit, quite similarly as in the trimethylphosphine complex [(η⁵-C₅H₅)Rh(η³-C₆H₅CHCH₃)(PMe₃)]BF₄.⁸ Since the two CH protons situated ortho to the CHPh fragment at the partially bonded C₆H₅ ring give rise to two separated signals in the ¹H NMR spectrum at δ ca. 7.6 and 3.5, we assume that the η^3 -benzylic ligand is rigid (*i.e.*, does not rotate) on the NMR timescale. The comparison of the spectroscopic data of 9 with those of the related ruthenium complex $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Ru(\eta^3-C_6 H_5CHC_6H_5)(PPh_3)$ ¹⁴ suggests that the *exo* isomer with the plane of the η^3 -benzylic unit pointing away from the metal centre is preferred. The chemical shift of the resonance of the $C_6H_5CHC_6H_5$ proton at δ 2.09 supports this proposal.

The reactions of **5a** and **5d** with Meerwein's reagent $[Me_3O]BF_4$ take a similar course. Addition of the oxonium salt to a solution of the respective carbene complex in ether/ methanol (1:1) leads to a smooth change of color from dark blue to red and, after removal of the solvent and recrystallisation of the residue from CH_2Cl_2 /ether, to the isolation of red,



Likewise to the reaction of **5a** with $[Me_3O]BF_4$, treatment of the same starting material with methyl triflate yields the $CF_3SO_3^-$ salt of the cation $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh\{\eta^3-C_6H_5C(CH_3)-C_6H_5](PPr^i_3)]^+$. The spectroscopic data of the corresponding salt **10c** with $CF_3SO_3^-$ as the anion are quite similar to those of **10a** and deserve no further comment.

The protonation of carbene complex **5e** containing a carbene ligand with two different aryl groups at the carbene carbon atom proceeds analogously to that of **5a**. Owing to the ¹H and ¹³C NMR data of the cation of **11**, it cannot be decided whether the phenyl or the *p*-tolyl unit is involved in the π -bonding. There is no doubt, however, that only *one* isomer, **11** or **11'**, is formed and that at room temperature in CD₂Cl₂ as solvent no conversion of **11** to **11'** or *vice versa* occurs.

In contrast to HI and other electrophilic substrates, iodine does not react with **5a** or **5d** by preserving the rhodium–carbon bond. Instead the carbene ligand is eliminated and the diiodo-rhodium(III) complexes **12a** and **12b** are formed (Scheme 6).



The phosphine derivative **12a** was already known and had been prepared from $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(C_2Ph_2)(PPr^i_3)]$ and iodine.¹⁵ With regard to the formation of **12b** from **5d** and I₂, it is quite remarkable that the Rh–C and not the Rh–Sb bond is split. By taking the lability of various triisopropylstibinerhodium compounds into consideration,^{1,10,16} this result has not been anticipated.

Conclusions

The work presented in this paper has shown that the reactivity of the half-sandwich-type carbenerhodium(I) complexes $[(\eta^5 C_5H_5$ (=CR₂)(L)] (R = aryl) toward Brønsted acids HX with X = Cl, Br, I and CF_3CO_2 is, as far as the initial step of the reaction is concerned, similar to that of the vinylidene counterparts $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(=C=CHR)(L)]$ (R = alkyl, aryl).⁵ The important and noteworthy difference is that, provided a bulky phosphine such as PPri3 is linked as an ancillary ligand to the metal centre, the primary product formed by addition of HX to the Rh=C double bond is extremely labile and reacts to give the ring-substituted isomer $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHR_2)\}RhHX(PPr_3^i)]$. To facilitate this process, obviously the donor strength of the phosphine does not play a decisive role since the isolated PMe₃ compounds $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)RhX(CHPh_2)(PMe_3)]$ with X = Cl and CF_3CO_2 do not rearrange to the corresponding { $\eta^5-C_5H_4$ -(CHPh₂)}Rh derivatives.

The question whether the electrophile prefers to attack the metal centre or the carbene carbon atom remains to be answered. While on one hand the similarity between the starting materials 1, 2, 5a–e and the related carbonyl and ethene complexes $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(L)(PR_3)]$ (L = CO, C₂H₄) supports the

proposal of a metal attack, on the other hand the structure of 3 and 4a,b suggests a prefered interaction of the proton with the carbene. The composition of the products 9, 10a-c and 11/11' obtained from 5a,d,e and either HBF₄ or methylating reagents appears to favor the second possibility. With regard to the conversion of the $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh$ to the $\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHR_2)\}Rh$ unit, we note that upon treatment of $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(PMe_3)_2]$ with either PrⁱBr or Bu^tBr mixtures of products are formed among which the ring-substituted compounds $[(\eta^5-C_5H_4R)RhBr (PMe_3)_2$]Br (R = Prⁱ, Bu^t) are the dominating species.¹⁷ There is some evidence (from CIDNAP measurements) that in these processes free radicals are involved.¹⁷ The same might be true for the reaction of $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(PPh_3)_2]$ with PrⁱI which leads to $[(\eta^5-C_5H_4Pr^i)Rh(PPh_3)I_2]$.¹⁸ It should also be mentioned that recent investigations by Maitlis and coworkers have shown that besides the transformation of $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh$ to $(\eta^5-C_5H_4R)Rh$ species the conversion of $(\eta^5-C_5Me_5)Rh$ to $(\eta^5-C_5Me_4R')Rh$ complexes (where R' is a functionalized alkyl) is also possible, in this case an acid-base-type interaction being the important step.19

Experimental

All experiments were carried out under an atmosphere of argon by Schlenk techniques. The starting materials 1,¹⁶ 2¹⁶ and $5a-e^{1,16}$ were prepared as described in the literature. NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature on Bruker AC 200 and Bruker AMX 400 instruments, and IR spectra on a Perkin-Elmer 1420 or an IFS 25 FT-IR infrared spectrometer. Melting points were measured by DTA. Abbreviations used: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; sept, septet; m, multiplet; br, broadened signal; coupling constants J in Hz.

Preparations

[(η⁵-C₅H₅)RhCl(CHPh₂)(CO)] 3. A solution of compound 1 (68 mg, 0.19 mmol) in pentane (10 cm³) was treated dropwise with a 0.5 M solution of HCl in benzene (375 μL, 0.19 mmol) and stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the oily residue was dissolved in ether (3 cm³). With pentane (2 cm³) a red solid was precipitated, which was separated from the mother liquor, washed several times with 3 cm³ portions of pentane and dried: yield 58 mg (78%); mp 98 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 57.61; H, 4.31. C₁₉H₁₆ClORh requires: C, 57.24; H, 4.05%). IR (KBr): ν (CO) 1975 cm⁻¹. NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.65 (4 H, m, *ortho*-H of C₆H₅), 7.36 (2 H, m, *para*-H of C₆H₅), 6.99 (4 H, m, *meta*-H of C₆H₅), 5.61 [1 H, d, *J*(Rh,H) 3.7, C*H*Ph₂], 4.80 [5 H, d, *J*(Rh,H) 0.7, C₅H₅]. EI MS (70 eV): *mlz* 399 (M⁺, 0.2), 362 (M⁺ - HCl, 0.5), 335 (C₅H₅RhCHPh₂⁺, 0.6), 196 (C₅H₅RhCO⁺, 0.9), 168 (RhC₅H₅⁺, 16.0), 167 (CHPh₂⁺, 100.0%).

 $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)RhCl(CHPh_2)(PMe_3)]$ 4a. A solution of compound 2 (63 mg, 0.15 mmol) in pentane (10 cm³) was treated dropwise with a 0.5 M solution of HCl in benzene (300 μ L, 0.15 mmol). In the time of mixing, a change of color from violet to red occurred. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was dissolved in ether (3 cm^3) . With pentane (2 cm^3) a red solid was precipitated, which was separated from the mother liquor, washed several times with 3 cm³ portions of pentane and dried: yield 58 mg (87%); mp 64 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 56.13; H, 5.69. C₂₁H₂₅ClPRh requires C, 56.47; H, 5.64%). NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz) 8.01 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C₆H₅), 7.10 (2 H, m, para-H of C₆H₅), 6.98 (4 H, m, meta-H of C_6H_5), 5.34 [1 H, dd, J(Rh,H) = J(P,H) 3.5, $CHPh_2$], 4.59 (5 H, br s, C₅H₅), 0.89 [9 H, d, J(P,H) 10.7, PCH₃]; δ_{C} (50.3 MHz) 156.1, 149.8 (both s, *ipso*-C of C₆H₅), 131.9, 129.3, 127.1, 126.7, 124.9, 123.8 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅), 90.3 [dd, J(Rh,C) = J(P,C) 3.6, C_5H_5], 42.4 [dd, J(Rh,C) 19.7, J(P,C)10.1, CHPh₂], 16.6 [d, J(P,C) 32.4, PCH₃]; δ_P (81.0 MHz) 9.4

[d, J(Rh,P) 154.5]. EI MS (70 eV): m/z 447 (M⁺, 0.3), 411 (M⁺ - Cl, 0.2), 410 (M⁺ - HCl, 1.8), 244 (C₅H₅RhPMe₃⁺, 6.4), 168 (RhC₅H₅⁺, 98.0), 167 (CHPh₂⁺, 100.0%).

 $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(O_2CCF_3)(CHPh_2)(PMe_3)]$ 4b. A solution of compound 2 (75 mg, 0.18 mmol) in pentane (10 cm³) was treated at -78 °C with a solution of CF₃CO₂H (14 µL, 0.18 mmol) in pentane (3 cm³). In the time of mixing, a change of color from violet to red and the precipitation of a solid occurred. On warming to room temperature the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. The solvent was removed in vacuo, the orange-red solid was washed several times with 3 cm³ portions of pentane and dried: yield 86 mg (91%); mp 90 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 52.83; H, 4.70. C₂₃H₂₅F₃PO₂Rh requires: C, 52.69; H, 4.81%). IR (KBr): v(C=0) 1679 cm⁻¹. NMR (C₆D₆) $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.61 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C₆H₅), 7.11 (2 H, m, para-H of C₆H₅), 6.93 (4 H, m, meta-H of C₆H₅), 4.79 [1 H, dd, J(Rh,H) = J(P,H) 2.9, CHPh₂], 4.66 [5 H, d, J(Rh,H) 0.9, C₅H₅], 0.69 [9 H, d, J(P,H) 11.2, PCH₃]; δ_C (100.6 MHz) 163.1 [q, J(F,C) 35.6, O₂CCF₃], 155.0, 149.1 (both s, ipso-C of C₆H₅), 131.3, 129.2, 128.7, 126.3, 125.1, 124.4 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅), 126.3 [q, $J(F,C) = 261.7, O_2CCF_3$], 90.1 [dd, $J(Rh,C) = J(P,C) 3.7, C_5H_5$], 47.0 [dd, J(Rh,C) 21.5, J(P,C) 9.1, CHPh2], 15.9 [d, J(P,C) 30.5, PCH₃]; $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz) -78.2 (s); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (162.0 MHz) 10.5 [d, J(Rh,P) 159.0]. EI MS (70 eV): m/z 524 (M⁺, 3.2), 411 $(M^+ - O_2CCF_3, 3.0), 244 (C_5H_5RhPMe_3^+, 0.3), 168 (RhC_5H_5^+, 0.3))$ 99.0), 167 (CHPh₂⁺, 100.0%).

[$\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}$ RhHCl(PPrⁱ₃)] 6a. Method A. A solution of compound 5a (119 mg, 0.24 mmol) in acetone (5 cm³) was treated with a 0.5 M solution of HCl in benzene (481 µL, 0.24 mmol). In the time of mixing, a change of color from deep blue to orange occurred. The reaction mixture was concentrated to *ca*. 0.5 cm³ *in vacuo* and an orange solid was precipitated with pentane. This was separated from the mother liquor, washed twice with 5 cm³ portions of pentane and dried; yield 116 mg (91%).

Method B. As described in Method A, compound **6a** was prepared from **5a** (119 mg, 0.24 mmol) and Me₃SiCl (30 μ L, 0.24 mmol) in acetone (5 cm³), which contained traces of water; yield 114 mg (90%).

Method C. A suspension of compound 8 (72 mg, 0.10 mmol) in pentane (5 cm³) was treated with a solution of $C_5H_5(CHPh_2)$ in pentane (2 cm³) at room temperature. Within 10 min, a change of color from red-violet to orange occurred. The reaction mixture was concentrated to ca. 2 cm³ in vacuo, and the solution was separated from the precipitate at 0 °C. The orange solid was washed with pentane (2 cm³) and dried; yield 49 mg (92%); mp 56 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 61.20; H, 7.28. C₂₇H₃₇ClPRh requires: C, 61.08; H, 7.02%). IR (Nujol): v(RhH) 2019 cm⁻¹. NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.53 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C₆H₅), 7.20–7.03 (6 H, m, meta- and para-H of C₆H₅), 5.72 [1 H, d, J(Rh,H) 2.9, CHPh2], 5.12, 5.06, 4.43 [1 H each, all br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 4.38 [1 H, d, J(Rh,H) 1.3, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 2.01 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 0.98 [9 H, dd, J(P,H) 14.6, J(H,H) 7.1, PCHCH₃], 0.96 [9 H, dd, J(P,H) 14.0, J(H,H) 7.1, PCHCH₃], -12.21 [1 H, dd, J(Rh,H) 35.1, J(P,H) 13.8, RhH]; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100.6 MHz) 143.6, 143.5 (both s, *ipso*-C of C₆H₅), 130.3, 130.1, 128.6, 128.5, 126.7, 126.6 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅), 124.5 [dd, J(Rh,C) 5.0, J(P,C) 3.0, ipso-C of C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 92.7 [s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 85.9 [dd, J(Rh,C) 8.9, J(P,C) 3.6, $C_5H_4(CHPh_2)$], 81.0 [d, J(Rh,C) = 5.8, $C_5H_4(CHPh_2)$], 75.4 [d, J(Rh,C) 6.4, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 48.9 (s, CHPh₂), 26.7 [d, J(P,C) 24.8, PCHCH₃], 20.0, 19.6 (both s, PCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (162.0 MHz) 81.7 [d, J(Rh,P) 145.0].

[$\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}$ RhHBr(PPrⁱ₃)] 6b. This compound was prepared as described for 6a from 5a (38 mg, 0.08 mmol) and Me₃SiBr (10 µL, 0.08 mmol) in acetone, which contained traces of water. Orange solid: yield 39 mg (88%); mp 54 °C (decomp.)

(Found: C, 56.01; H, 6.27. C₂₇H₃₇BrPRh requires: C, 56.36; H, 6.48%). IR (Nujol): v(RhH) 2018 cm⁻¹. NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz) 7.51 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C₆H₅), 7.21-7.02 (6 H, m, meta- and para-H of C₆H₅), 5.96 [1 H, d, J(Rh,H) 2.4, CHPh₂], 5.17, 5.04, 4.55, 4.39 [1 H each, all br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 2.01 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 0.96 [9 H, dd, J(P,H) 15.5, J(H,H) 7.2, PCHCH₃], 0.95 [9 H, dd, J(P,H) 15.1, J(H,H) 7.0, PCHCH₃], -12.50 [1 H, dd, J(Rh,H) 35.7, J(P,H) 13.4, RhH]; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (50.3 MHz) 143.9 (s, ipso-C of C₆H₅), 143.7 [d, J(Rh,C) 1.9, ipso-C of C₆H₅], 130.2, 130.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.8, 126.6 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅), 122.6 [dd, J(Rh,C) 4.6, J(P,C) 1.8, ipso-C of C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 93.4 [br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 86.0 [dd, J(Rh,C) 8.3, J(P,C) 3.7, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 81.1, 77.9 [both d, J(Rh,C) 5.5, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 49.2 (s, CHPh₂), 27.3 [d, J(P,C) 25.0, PCHCH₃], 20.1, 19.8 (both s, PCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (81.0 MHz) 81.7 [d, J(Rh,P) 145.6].

 $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}RhHI(PPr_3)]$ 6c. A solution of compound 5a (56 mg, 0.11 mmol) in acetone (10 cm³) was treated with a 7.6 M solution of HI in water (15 µL, 0.11 mmol). In the time of mixing, a change of color from deep blue to red-brown occurred. The reaction mixture was concentrated to ca. 5 cm³ in vacuo and then stored at -78 °C for 3 d. An orange-brown solid was formed, which was separated from the mother liquor, washed twice with 5 cm³ portions of pentane and dried: yield 59 mg (84%); mp 80 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 51.98; H, 5.83. C₂₇H₃₇IPRh requires: C, 52.11; H, 5.99%). IR (Nujol): v(RhH) 2019 cm⁻¹. NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz) 7.47 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C₆H₅), 7.19–7.02 (6 H, m, meta- and para-H of C₆H₅), 6.16 (1 H, br s, CHPh₂), 5.25, 4.96, 4.81, 4.53 [1 H each, all br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 1.97 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 0.97 [9 H, dd, J(P,H) 13.5, *J*(H,H) 6.1, PCHCH₃], 0.82 [9 H, dd, *J*(P,H) 14.7, *J*(H,H) 7.1, PCHCH₃], -12.99 [1 H, dd, J(Rh,H) 33.7, J(P,H) 12.2, RhH]; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100.6 MHz) 144.6, 143.9 (both s, *ipso*-C of C₆H₅), 130.0, 129.8, 128.6, 128.5, 126.7, 126.6 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C_6H_5), 119.4 [dd, J(Rh,C) = J(P,C) 3.6, ipso-C of C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 94.3 [br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 85.6 [dd, J(Rh,C) 7.1, J(P,C) 4.1, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 82.6 [d, J(Rh,C) 5.1, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 81.8 [d, J(Rh,C) 5.1, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 50.1 (s, CHPh₂), 28.2 [d, J(P,C) 24.4, PCHCH₃], 20.3, 20.2 (both s, PCHCH₃); δ_P (81.0 MHz) 81.9 [d, J(Rh,P) 146.9].

 $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}RhH(O_2CCF_3)(PPr_3)]$ 6d. This compound was prepared as described for 6c from 5a (54 mg, 0.11 mmol) and CF₃CO₂H (8 µL, 0.11 mmol) in acetone (10 cm³). Light orange solid: yield 62 mg (93%); mp 40 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 56.93; H, 5.89. C₂₉H₃₇F₃O₂PRh requires: C, 57.24; H, 6.13%). IR (Nujol): v(RhH) 2018 cm⁻¹. NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz) 7.35 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C₆H₅), 7.20–7.00 (6 H, m, meta- and para-H of C₆H₅), 5.41 [2 H, br s, CHPh₂ and C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 5.02, 4.60, 4.18 [1 H each, all br s, C₅H₄-(CHPh₂)], 1.74 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 0.94 [9 H, dd, J(P,H) 14.8, J(H,H) 6.9, PCHCH₃], 0.81 [9 H, dd, J(P,H) 14.3, J(H,H) 6.9, PCHCH₃], -11.04 [1 H, dd, J(Rh,H) 35.5, J(P,H) 13.4, RhH]; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (50.3 MHz) 163.0 [q, J(F,C) 34.2, CO₂CF₃], 143.6, 143.3 (both s, ipso-C of C₆H₅), 129.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 126.8, 126.7 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C_6H_5), 123.8 [dd, J(Rh,C) =J(P,C) 3.2, ipso-C of C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 115.8 [q, J(F,C) 292.2, CO₂CF₃], 94.2 [br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 81.0 [dd, J(Rh,C) 7.4, J(P,C) 4.6, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 80.1 [d, J(Rh,C) 6.5, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 76.2 [d, J(Rh,C) 5.6, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 49.9 (s, CHPh₂), 25.7 [d, J(P,C) 24.0, PCHCH₃], 19.5, 19.2 (both s, PCHCH₃); δ_F (188.3) MHz) -73.6 (s); δ_{P} (81.0 MHz) 80.5 [d, J(Rh,P) 144.1].

[{ η^5 -C₅H₄CH(*p*-Tol)₂}RhHCl(PPrⁱ₃)] 6e. This compound was prepared as described for 6a from 5b (61 mg, 0.12 mmol) and Me₃SiCl (15 µL, 0.12 mmol) in acetone (10 cm³), which contained traces of water. Orange solid: yield 56 mg (86%); mp 46 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 62.01; H, 7.18. C₂₉H₄₁ClPRh requires: C, 62.31; H, 7.39%). IR (Nujol): v(RhH) 2018 cm⁻¹. NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.47 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C₆H₄CH₃), 7.00 (4 H, m, meta-H of C₆H₄CH₃), 5.69 [1 H, d, J(Rh,H) 2.4, CH(p-Tol)2], 5.20, 5.13 (1 H each, both br s, C₅H₄CH(p-Tol)₂), 4.44 [2 H, br s, C₅H₄CH(p-Tol)₂], 2.12, 2.09 (3 H each, both s, C₆H₄CH₃), 2.04 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 1.00, 0.98 [9 H each, both dd, J(P,H) 14.1, J(H,H) 7.0, PCHCH₃], -12.21 [1 H, dd, J(Rh,H) 35.2, J(P,H) 14.1, RhH]; δ_c (100.6 MHz) 141.0 (s, ipso-C of C₆H₄CH₃), 140.9 [d, J(Rh,C) 1.9, ipso-C of $C_6H_4CH_3$), 135.8, 135.7 (both s, para-C of $C_6H_4CH_3$), 130.1, 130.0, 129.3, 129.2 (all s, ortho- and meta-C of C₆H₄-CH₃), 124.8 [dd, J(Rh,C) 4.8, J(P,C) 2.4, ipso-C of C₅H₄CH-(p-Tol)₂], 92.7 [br s, C₅H₄CH(p-Tol)₂], 85.9 [dd, J(Rh,C) 8.6, J(P,C) 3.8, C₅H₄CH(p-Tol)₂], 81.5 [d, J(Rh,C) 5.7, C₅H₄CH-(p-Tol)₂], 75.0 [d, J(Rh,C) 6.7, C₅H₄CH(p-Tol)₂], 48.1 [s, CH-(p-Tol)₂], 26.7 [d, J(P,C) 23.8, PCHCH₃], 21.1, 21.0 (both s, C₆H₄CH₃), 20.1, 19.7 (both s, PCHCH₃); δ_P (162.0 MHz) 81.7 [d, J(Rh,P) 145.8].

 $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}RhCl_2(PPr_3^i)]$ 7a. A solution of compound 5a (112 mg, 0.23 mmol) in acetone (5 cm³), which contained traces of water, was treated with Me₃SiCl (57 µL, 0.45 mmol). In the time of mixing, a change of color from deep blue to red occurred. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature and concentrated to ca. 2 cm³ in vacuo. After the solution had been stored at -78 °C for 24 h, deep red crystals were formed, which were separated from the mother liquor, washed with a small quantity of acetone (0 °C) and dried: yield 120 mg (94%); mp 224 °C (Found: C, 57.04; H, 6.34. C₂₇H₃₆Cl₂PRh requires: C, 57.36; H, 6.42%). NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.42 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C_6H_5), 7.18–7.02 (6 H, m, meta- and para-H of C₆H₅), 6.03 [1 H, d, J(Rh,H) 6.6, CHPh₂], 4.84, 4.65 [2 H each, both d, J(Rh,H) 2.0, C₅H₄-(CHPh₂)], 2.51 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 1.06 [18 H, dd, J(P,H) 14.2, J(H,H) 7.0, PCHCH₃]; δ_{C} (100.6 MHz) 141.7 (s, *ipso-C* of C₆H₅), 130.3, 128.9, 128.3, 127.2 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅), 123.1 [br s, *ipso*-C of C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 89.8, 79.7 [both br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 47.7 (br s, CHPh₂), 26.9 [d, J(P,C) 21.7, PCHCH₃)], 20.1 (s, PCHCH₃); δ_P (162.0 MHz) 59.4 [d, J(Rh,P) 135.1].

 $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}RhBr_2(PPr_3)]$ 7b. This compound was prepared as described for 7a from 5a (53 mg, 0.11 mmol) and Me₃SiBr (28 µL, 0.21 mmol) in acetone (5 cm³), which contained traces of water. Red crystals: yield 60 mg (86%); mp 204 °C (Found: C, 49.74; H, 5.43; Rh, 16.00. C₂₇H₃₆Br₂PRh requires: C, 49.57; H, 5.55; Rh, 15.73%). NMR (CD₂Cl₂): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz) 7.38-7.22 (10 H, m, ortho-, meta- and para-H of C₆H₅), 5.93 [1 H, d, J(Rh,H) 5.6, CHPh₂], 5.40, 5.08 [2 H each, both br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 2.79 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 1.32 [18 H, dd, J(P,H) 14.3, J(H,H) 7.2, PCHCH₃]; δ_{C} (50.3 MHz) 141.7 (s, ipso-C of C₆H₅), 129.6, 128.7, 127.1 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅), 121.6 [dd, J(Rh,C) 8.4, J(P,C) 3.5, ipso-C of C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 90.6 [d, J(Rh,C) 2.6, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 80.6 [d, J(Rh,C) 7.4, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 48.0 (s, CHPh₂), 28.0 [d, J(P,C) 22.2, PCHCH₃)], 20.4 (s, PCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (81.0 MHz) 57.8 [d, J(Rh,P) 134.8]. MS (FAB): m/z 652 (M⁺, 1.3), 573 (M⁺ – Br, 100.0%).

[{ η^5 -C₅H₄(CHPh₂)}RhI₂(PPrⁱ₃)] 7c. A solution of compound 5a (72 mg, 0.15 mmol) in acetone (10 cm³) was treated with a 7.6 M solution of HI in water (38 µL, 0.30 mmol). In the time of mixing, a change of color from deep blue to brown occurred. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature and then concentrated to *ca*. 5 cm³ *in vacuo*. After the solution had been stored at $-78 \,^{\circ}$ C for 3 d, a deep brown solid was formed, which was separated from the mother liquor, washed twice with 5 cm³ portions of pentane and dried: yield 84 mg (77%); mp 160 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 43.19; H, 4.79. C₂₇H₃₆I₂PRh requires: C, 43.33; H, 4.84%). NMR (CD₂Cl₂): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.40–7.25 (10 H, m, *ortho*-, *meta*- and *para*-H of

C₆H₅), 6.34 [1 H, d, *J*(Rh,H) 6.2, *CHP*h₂], 5.76 [1 H, d, *J*(Rh,H) 1.8, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 5.48 [1 H, dd, *J*(Rh,H) = *J*(H,H) 1.8, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 5.36 [1 H, ddd, *J*(Rh,H) = *J*(H,H) = *J*(P,H) 1.8, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 5.33 [1 H, br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 2.83 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 1.33 [18 H, dd, *J*(P,H) 14.4, *J*(H,H) 7.0, PCHCH₃]; δ_c (100.6 MHz) 142.5 [d, *J*(Rh,C) 2.0, *ipso*-C of C₆H₅), 129.7, 128.9, 127.3 (all s, *ortho-*, *meta-* and *para-*C of C₆H₅), 118.4 [dd, *J*(Rh,C) 9.2, *J*(P,C) 3.1, *ipso*-C of C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 93.1 [dd, *J*(Rh,C) 4.3, *J*(P,C) 1.8, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 89.0 [dd, *J*(Rh,C) 5.1, *J*(P,C) 2.0, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 81.3 [d, *J*(Rh,C) 7.1, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 49.6 [d, *J*(Rh,C) 2.0, PCHCH₃]; δ_P (162.0 MHz) 57.1 [d, *J*(Rh,P) 139.0].

 $[\{\eta^5-C_5H_4(CHPh_2)\}Rh(CF_3CO_2)_2(PPr_3^i)]$ 7d. This compound was prepared as decribed for 7c from 5a (81 mg, 0.16 mmol) and CF₃CO₂H (25 µL, 0.33 mmol) in acetone (10 cm³). Orange solid: yield 103 mg (87%); mp 113 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 51.71; H, 5.11. C₃₁H₃₆F₆O₄PRh requires: C, 51.68; H, 5.04%). NMR (CD₂Cl₂): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.35–7.16 (10 H, m, ortho-, meta- and para-H of C₆H₅), 5.95 [2 H, ddd, J(Rh,H) = J(H,H) = J(P,H) 2.0, $C_5H_4(CHPh_2)$], 5.59 [1 H, dd, J(Rh,H) = J(H,H) 1.8, $C_5H_4(CHPh_2)$], 5.33 [1 H, s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 5.05 [1 H, d, J(Rh,H) 4.7, CHPh₂], 2.49 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 1.25 [18 H, dd, J(P,H) 14.7, J(H,H) 7.3, PCHCH₃]; δ_C (100.6 MHz) 163.0 [q, J(F,C) 35.6, CO₂CF₃], 140.3 (s, ipso-C of C₆H₅), 129.2, 129.1, 127.6 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅), 122.3 [dd, J(Rh,C) 8.1, J(P,C) 4.1, ipso-C of C₅H₄-(CHPh₂)], 115.4 [q, J(F,C) 289.9, CO₂CF₃], 87.9 [dd, J(Rh,C) 6.1, J(P,C) 2.0, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 76.6 [d, J(Rh,C) 9.2, C₅H₄-(CHPh2)], 48.9 [d, J(Rh,C) 2.0, CHPh2], 25.8 [d, J(P,C) 20.3, PCHCH₃)], 19.4 [d, J(P,C) 2.0, PCHCH₃); δ_F (376.5 MHz) -74.3 (s); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (162.0 MHz) 62.4 [d, J(Rh,P) 130.6].

 $[\{\eta^5 - C_5 H_4 CH(p-Tol)_2\} RhCl_2(PPr^i_3)]$ 7e. This compound was prepared as described for 7a from 5b (65 mg, 0.12 mmol) and Me₃SiCl (31 µL, 0.25 mmol) in acetone (5 cm³), which contained traces of water. Red crystals: yield 61 mg (83%); mp 81 °C (Found: C, 58.84; H, 6.95. C₂₉H₄₀Cl₂PRh requires: C, 58.70; H, 6.79%). NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.15 (4 H, m, ortho-H of C₆H₄CH₃), 7.03 (4 H, m, meta-H of C₆H₄CH₃), 5.48 [1 H, d, J(Rh,H) 5.0, CH(p-Tol)₂], 5.29 [2 H, dd, J(Rh,H) = J(H,H) 1.9, $C_5H_4CH(p-Tol)_2$], 4.96 [2 H, ddd, J(Rh,H) =J(H,H) = J(P,H) 1.9, $C_5H_4CH(p-Tol)_2$], 2.74 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 2.23 (6 H, s, C₆H₄CH₃), 1.26 [18 H, dd, J(P,H) 14.2, J(H,H) 7.2, PCHCH₃]; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100.6 MHz) 138.1 (s, *ipso-C* of C₆H₄CH₃), 136.3 (s, para-C of C₆H₄CH₃), 129.3, 129.2 (both s, ortho- and meta-C of C₆H₄CH₃), 125.2 [dd, J(Rh,C) 7.2, J(P,C) 3.3, ipso-C of C₅H₄CH(p-Tol)₂], 88.1 [dd, J(Rh,C) 5.5, J(P,C) 3.1, C₅H₄CH(p-Tol)₂], 80.3 [d, J(Rh,C) 7.6, C₅H₄CH(p-Tol)₂], 46.6 [d, J(Rh,C) 1.9, CH(p-Tol)₂], 26.7 [d, J(P,C) 21.9, PCHCH₃], 20.9 (s, C₆H₄CH₃), 20.0 [d, J(P,C) 1.9, PCHCH₃]; δ_P (162.0 MHz) 59.1 [d, J(Rh,P) 132.2].

[{η⁵-C₅H₄(CHPh₂)}RhCl₂(PPh₃)] 7f. This compound was prepared as described for 7a from 5c (54 mg, 0.09 mmol) and Me₃SiCl (23 μL, 0.18 mmol) in acetone (5 cm³), which contained traces of water. Orange-red solid: yield 55 mg (91%); mp 88 °C (Found: C, 64.69; H, 4.49. C₃₆H₃₀Cl₂PRh requires: C, 64.79; H, 4.53%). NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz) 7.85 (6 H, m, *ortho*-H of C₆H₅P), 7.40 (4 H, m, *ortho*-H of C₆H₅), 7.18–6.93 (15 H, m, *meta-* and *para*-H of C₆H₅P and C₆H₅), 6.17 [1 H, d, *J*(Rh,H) 5.8, C*H*Ph₂], 4.84 [2 H, d, *J*(Rh,H) 1.8, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)], 4.12 [2 H, br s, C₅H₄(CHPh₂)]; $\delta_{\rm P}$ (81.0 MHz) 36.0 [d, *J*(Rh,P) 137.3].

 $[\{\eta^5-C_5D_4(CHPh_2)\}RhDCl(PPr^i_3)]$ 6a-d₅. This compound was prepared as described for 6a (Method A) from 5a-d₅ (54 mg, 0.11 mmol) and a 0.5 M solution of HCl in benzene (216 µL, 0.11 mmol). Orange solid: yield 51 mg (88%). NMR (C₆D₆): [{η⁵-C₅D₄(CHPh₂)}RhCl₂(PPrⁱ₃)] 7a-d₄. This compound was prepared as described for 7a from 5a-d₅ (57 mg, 0.11 mmol) and a 0.5 M solution of HCl in benzene (449 μL, 0.22 mmol). Red solid: yield 60 mg (92%). NMR (C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz) 7.42 (4 H, m, *ortho*-H of C₆H₅), 7.21–7.02 (6 H, m, *meta*- and *para*-H of C₆H₅), 6.08 [1 H, d, *J*(Rh,H) = 5.5, *CHP*h₂], 2.47 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 1.03 [18 H, dd, *J*(P,H) 14.1, *J*(H,H) 7.0, PCHCH₃]; $\delta_{\rm P}$ (81.0 MHz) 59.9 [d, *J*(Rh,P) 133.3].

 $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh(\eta^3-C_6H_5CHPh)(PPr_3)]BF_4$ 9. A solution of 5a (66 mg, 0.13 mmol) in ether (10 cm^3) was treated with a 54% solution of HBF₄ in ether (18 μ L, 0.13 mmol). In the time of mixing, a change of color from deep blue to red occurred and a deep red solid precipitated. The solid was separated from the mother liquor and dissolved at -20 °C in CH₂Cl₂ (2 cm³). Addition of ether (10 cm³) led to the formation of a deep red microcrystalline solid, which was separated from the mother liquor, washed with small quantities of ether and dried: yield 75 mg (97%); mp 100 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 55.63; H, 6.36. C₂₇H₃₇-BF₄PRh requires: C, 55.69; H, 6.40%). NMR: $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CD₃NO₂, 200 MHz) 7.86–7.38 (9 H, m, C_6H_5), 5.00 [5 H, dd, J(Rh,H) =J(P,H) 0.8, C₅H₅], 3.53 [1 H, br d, J(P,H) 9.6, H²],²⁰ 2.54 [3 H, sept, J(H,H) 7.1, PCHCH₃], 2.09 (1 H, br s, H⁷), 1.47 [18 H, dd, J(P,H) 13.9, J(H,H) 7.1, PCHCH₃]; δ_C (CD₃OD, 100.6 MHz) 144.5 (s, ipso-C of C₆H₅), 130.2, 130.0, 129.9, 129.7, 129.6, 128.4, 128.0 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅ and C³⁻⁶), 96.1 (s, C¹), 93.9 [dd, J(Rh,C) 4.8, J(P,C) 1.9, C₅H₅], 87.3 [dd, J(Rh,C) 4.8, J(P,C) 1.9, C⁷], 64.5 [dd, J(Rh,C) 11.4, J(P,C) 4.8, C²], 20.5 [d, J(P,C) 35.2, PCHCH₃], 19.9 [d, J(P,C) 4.8, PCHCH₃]; $\delta_{\rm F}$ (CD₃NO₂, 188.3 MHz) -155.2 (s); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (CD₃NO₂, 81.0 MHz) 54.1 [d, J(Rh,P) 154.5]. MS (FAB): m/z 495 (M⁺, 100.0), 335 ($M^+ - PPr_3^i$, 55.1), 328 ($M^+ - C_6H_5CHPh$, 57.9), 167 (C₆H₅CHPh⁺, 19.3%).

 $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Rh\{\eta^3-C_6H_5C(CH_3)Ph\}(PPr_3)]BF_4$ 10a. A solution of 5a (76 mg, 0.15 mmol) in ether/methanol (1:1, 10 cm³) was treated with Meerwein's salt [Me₃O]BF₄ (23 mg, 0.15 mmol) and stirred for 10 min at room temperature. A change of color from deep blue to red occurred. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was dissolved at -20 °C in CH₂Cl₂ (2 cm^3) . Addition of ether led to the precipitation of a deep red solid, which was separated from the mother liquor, washed with small quantities of ether and dried: yield 83 mg (91%); mp 125 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 56.38; H, 6.51. C₂₈H₃₉BF₄PRh requires: C, 56.40; H, 6.59%). NMR: $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CD₃NO₂, 400 MHz) 7.85–7.37 (9 H, m, C₆H₅), 4.99 (5 H, br s, C₅H₅), 3.33 (1 H, br s, H²),²⁰ 2.74 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 1.76 [3 H, d, J(P,H) 12.4, C₆H₅C(CH₃)Ph], 1.42 [18 H, dd, J(P,H) 16.4, J(H,H) 7.2, PCHCH₃]; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (CD₃OD, 100.6 MHz) 144.5 (s, *ipso-*C of C₆H₅), 130.2, 130.0, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 128.4, 128.0 (all s, ortho-, meta- and para-C of C₆H₅ and C³⁻⁶), 100.4 [dd, J(Rh,C) 5.7, *J*(P,C) 2.9, C¹ or C⁷], 96.4 [dd, *J*(Rh,C) 5.7, *J*(P,C) 2.9, C¹ or C⁷], 93.9 [dd, J(Rh,C) 4.8, J(P,C) 1.9, C₅H₅], 64.5 [dd, J(Rh,C) 12.4, J(P,C) 4.8, C²], 28.4 [d, J(P,C) 21.0, C₆H₅C(CH₃)Ph], 20.5 [d, J(P,C) 34.3, PCHCH₃], 19.9 [d, J(P,C) 4.8, PCHCH₃]; $\delta_{\rm F}$ (CD₃NO₂, 376.5 MHz) -152.2 (s); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (CD₃NO₂, 162.0 MHz) 52.4 [d, J(Rh,P) 154.9].

[(η⁵-C₅H₅)Rh{η³-C₆H₅C(CH₃)Ph}(SbPrⁱ₃)]BF₄ 10b. This compound was prepared as described for 10a from 5d (78 mg, 0.13 mmol) and [Me₃O]BF₄ (20 mg, 0.13 mmol) in ether/ methanol (1:1, 10 cm³). Red solid: yield 81 mg (88%); mp 107 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 48.87; H, 5.69. C₂₈H₃₉BF₄SbRh requires: C, 48.95; H, 5.72%). NMR (CD₃NO₂): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz)

8.00–7.39 (9 H, m, C₆H₅), 5.03 (5 H, br s, C₅H₅), 3.90 (1 H, br s, H²),²⁰ 2.85 [3 H, sept, J(H,H) 7.6, SbCHCH₃], 1.43, 1.36 [9 H each, both d, J(H,H) 7.6, SbCHCH₃], signal for C₆H₅C(CH₃)Ph presumably covered by signals of the methyl protons of the isopropyl groups; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100.6 MHz) 141.1 (s, *ipso*-C of C₆H₅), 138.3, 133.1, 131.7, 130.2, 128.7, 128.3, 127.8 (all s, *ortho*-, *meta*- and *para*-C of C₆H₅ and C³⁻⁶), 100.7 [d, J(Rh,C) 6.0, C¹ or C⁷], 98.1 [d, J(Rh,C) 8.0, C¹ or C⁷], 91.4 [d, J(Rh,C) 5.0, C₅H₅], 58.1 [d, J(Rh,C) 11.1, C²], 22.8 [s, C₆H₅C(CH₃)Ph], 22.3 (s, SbCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (188.3 MHz) –154.9 (s).

[(η⁵-C₅H₅)Rh{η³-C₆H₅C(CH₃)Ph}(PPrⁱ₃)]CF₃SO₃ 10c. A solution of **5a** (111 mg, 0.22 mmol) in pentane/methanol (1:1, 5 cm³) was treated with CF₃SO₃Me (25 µL, 0.22 mmol) and stirred for 30 min at room temperature. A change of color from deep blue to red occurred. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the oily residue was washed twice with 5 cm³ portions of benzene and once with pentane (10 cm³). A deep red solid was formed, which was dried *in vacuo*: yield 121 mg (82%); mp 76 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 53.27; H, 6.09; S, 4.67. C₂₉H₃₉F₃O₃PRhS requires: C, 52.89; H, 5.97; S, 4.87%). IR (Nujol): *v*(S=O) 1275 cm⁻¹. NMR (CD₂Cl₂): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.80–7.38 (9 H, m, C₆H₅), 4.87 (5 H, s, C₅H₅), 3.46 [1 H, d, *J*(P,H) 10.0, H²],²⁰ 2.43 (3 H, m, PCHCH₃), 1.43 [21 H, br m, C₆H₅C(CH₃)Ph and PCHCH₃]; $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz) –78.6 (s); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (162.0 MHz) 52.1 [d, *J*(Rh,P) 155.3].

Reaction from 5e with HBF4. Compound 11 (or 11', see Scheme 5) was prepared as described for 9 from 5e (69 mg, 0.14 mmol) and a 54% solution of HBF₄ in ether (19 μ L, 0.14 mmol). Red solid: yield 74 mg (91%); mp 38 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 56.19; H, 6.43. C₂₈H₃₉BF₄PRh requires: C, 56.40; H, 6.59%). Molar conductivity: Λ (CH₃NO₂) 66 cm² Ω^{-1} mol⁻¹. NMR (CD₂Cl₂): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz) 7.68–7.18 (8 H, m, C₆H₅ and $C_{6}H_{4}$, 4.85 (5 H, br s, $C_{5}H_{5}$), 3.43 [1 H, d, J(P,H) 9.7, H^{2}], ²⁰ 2.39 [3 H, sept, J(H,H) 7.0, PCHCH₃], 2.28 (3 H, br s, C₆H₄CH₃), 1.42 [18 H, dd, *J*(P,H) 14.1, *J*(H,H) 7.0, PCHCH₃], signal for H⁷ presumably covered by the signal for $C_6H_4CH_3$; δ_C (100.6 MHz) 139.1 (s, ipso-C of C₆H₄CH₃), 135.6 (s, para-C of C₆H₄CH₃), 130.7, 130.5, 130.0, 129.3, 129.2, 127.9 (all s, ortho- and meta-C of $C_6H_4CH_3$ and C^{3-6}), 92.8 (br s, C^1), 92.5 [dd, J(Rh,C) 3.8, J(P,C) 1.9, C₅H₅], 88.2 [dd, J(Rh,C) 8.6, J(P,C) 2.9, C⁷], 63.3 [dd, J(Rh,C) 11.4, J(P,C) 5.7, C²], 27.7 [d, J(P,C) 21.0, PCHCH₃], 20.3 (s, C₆H₄CH₃), 19.9 (br s, PCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz) -150.8 (s); $\delta_{\rm P}$ (162.0 MHz) 51.9 [d, J(Rh,P) 157.7].

[$(\eta^5-C_5H_5)RhI_2(PPr^i_3)$] 12a. A solution of 5a (40 mg, 0.08 mmol) in pentane (10 cm³) was treated at -78 °C with a solution of iodine (21 mg, 0.08 mmol) in pentane (10 cm³). A rapid precipitation of a red-brown solid occurred. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was dissolved in acetone/ pentane (1:3, 10 cm³). Upon storing at -60 °C for 2 d a red-brown solid was formed, which was separated from the mother liquor, washed three times with 5 cm³ portions of pentane and dried: yield 44 mg (94%). The product was characterized by comparison of the ¹H and ³¹P NMR data with those of an authentic sample.¹⁵

[(η⁵-C₅H₅)RhI₂(SbPrⁱ₃)] 12b. This compound was prepared as described for 12a from 5d (42 mg, 0.07 mmol) and iodine (18 mg, 0.07 mmol) in pentane (20 cm³). Red-brown solid: yield 46 mg (95%); mp 70 °C (decomp.) (Found: C, 24.74; H, 4.06. C₁₄H₂₆I₂RhSb requires: C, 24.99; H, 3.89%). NMR: $\delta_{\rm H}$ (C₆D₆, 200 MHz) 4.94 (5 H, br s, C₅H₅), 2.39 [3 H, sept, *J*(H,H) 7.3, SbCHCH₃], 1.17 [18 H, d, *J*(H,H) 7.3, SbCHCH₃]; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (acetone-d₆, 100.6 MHz) 86.3 [d, *J*(Rh,C) 6.0, C₅H₅], 24.7 (s, SbCHCH₃)], 22.6 (s, SbCHCH₃).

Crystallography

Single crystals of **7a** were grown from acetone (-20 °C); crystal

size $0.40 \times 0.25 \times 0.08$ mm, monoclinic, space group *Cc* (no. 9), a = 8.865(2), b = 23.214(2), c = 13.172(3) Å, $\beta = 106.85(1)^{\circ}$, V = 2594(1) Å³, $D_c = 1.447$ g cm⁻³; max. $2\Theta = 58^{\circ}$ (Mo-K α , $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å, graphite monochromator, ω/Θ -scan, Zr filter with factor 16.4, T = 173(2) K), 3624 reflections scanned, 3624 unique [R(int) = 0.0000], 3488 observed [$I > 2\sigma(I)$], Lorentzpolarization and empirical absorption corrections (ψ -scans, min. transmission 89.48%) direct methods (SHELXS-86),²¹ 290 parameters, reflex/parameter ratio 12.5, R1 = 0.0284, wR2 = 0.0675, residual electron density 0.673/-0.813 e Å⁻³.

CCDC reference number 186/2295.

See http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/dt/b0/b008354m/ for crystallographic files in .cif format.

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