

The Osmium–Silicon Triple Bond: Synthesis, Characterization, and Reactivity of an Osmium Silylyne Complex

Paul G. Hayes,^{†,§} Zhenggang Xu,[‡] Chad Beddie,^{‡,⊥} Jason M. Keith,^{‡,||} Michael B. Hall,^{*,‡} and T. Don Tilley^{*,†}

[†]Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California 94720-1460, United States [‡]Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, United States

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The first silylyne complex of a metal beyond group 6, $[Cp*({}^{i}Pr_{3}P)(H)Os \equiv Si(Trip)][HB (C_{6}F_{5})_{3}]$, was prepared by a new synthetic route involving hydride abstraction from silicon. NMR and DFT computations support the presence of a silylyne ligand, and NBO and ETS-NOCV analysis revealed the nature of this Os–Si interaction as a triple bond consisting of a covalent σ bond and two strong π back-donations. The discovery of this complex allowed observations of the first cycloadditions involving a silylyne complex, and terminal alkynes are shown to react *via* C–H bond additions across the Os≡Si bond.

arbyne (or alkylidyne) complexes with formal metalcarbon triple bonds have been the focus of considerable fundamental research on structure, bonding, and reactivity, especially given the utility of such species in catalysis.¹ These investigations have heightened curiosity in related transition metal-group 14 congeners, which are expected to exhibit new and interesting reactivity patterns. The well-known instability of π bonds involving these heavier elements² makes such metalylyne complexes of the type $L_{n}M \equiv ER$ (E = Si, Ge, Sn, Pb) even more intriguing as synthetic targets. Power and coworkers reported the first successes along these lines, with preparation of the terminal germylyne complexes Cp- $(CO)_n M \equiv Ge[2,6-Ar_2-C_6H_3]$ (*n* = 2, 3; M = Cr, Mo, W; Ar = Trip, 2,4,6-^{*i*} $Pr_3C_6H_2$; Mes, 2,4,6-Me $_3C_6H_2$), by direct reaction of anionic $[Cp(CO)_3M]^-$ complexes with stable ClGe $[2,6-Ar_2 C_6H_3$] species.³ Filippou et al. also utilized halogermylene species to prepare the germylyne complexes $X(P-P)_2M \equiv$ $Ge(\eta^1-Cp^*)$ (X = Cl, Br, I; M = Mo, W; P-P = Ph₂PCH₂CH₂PPh₂, Et₂PCH₂CH₂PEt₂), and X(PMe₃)₄Mo= Ge(2,6-C₆H₃-Trip₂) via oxidative additions of a Ge-X bond.⁴ Similar approaches have been used to generate analogous stannylyne complexes.⁵ Consistent with the lower stability and availability of low-valent silicon starting materials, the analogous silylyne complexes have proven more elusive. The first silylyne complex, $[Cp^*(dmpe)(H)Mo\equivSiMes][B(C_6F_5)_4]$, was obtained in this laboratory by abstraction of chloride from the corresponding silylene complex Cp*(dmpe)(H)Mo=Si(Cl)-Mes. This complex features a linear Mo-Si-C arrangement and a weak Si...H interaction (${}^{2}J_{SiH}$ 15 Hz).⁶ More recently, Filippou and co-workers have reported the neutral silylyne

 $Cp(CO)_{3}MoSi(2,6\mbox{-}Trip_{2}\mbox{-}C_{6}H_{3})$ from a base-stabilized halosilylene adduct. 7

Despite recent progress in the isolation and characterization, including recent computational studies⁸ on metal–ylyne complexes of the heavier group 14 elements, synthetic control of structure and bonding in such compounds remains quite challenging. This is emphasized by the facts that known complexes of this type generally require an exceptionally bulky substituent and all of them feature a group 6 metal (Cr, Mo, or W). In this contribution, the first ylyne complex, is reported. This complex, $[Cp*(^{i}Pr_{3}P)(H)Os\equiv Si(Trip)][HB(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}]$, was obtained using the readily available primary silane (Trip)SiH₃ as the silicon-based starting material. Significantly, this complex represents the first $L_nM\equiv ER$ species to exhibit alkyne cyclization reactivity, akin to that observed for carbyne species.¹

Initial efforts to generate a group 8 silylyne complex focused on a strategy related to that used to obtain $[Cp^*(dmpe)(H)-Mo\equivSiMes]^+,^6$ namely abstraction of an anionic substituent from a neutral silylene ligand. Thus, reaction of a bromobenzene solution of $Cp^*(^{i}Pr_3P)(H)Os=SiH(Trip)^9$ (1) with the Lewis acid $B(C_6F_5)_3$ immediately resulted in a color change from bright orange to ruby red, and formation of $[Cp^*(^{i}Pr_3P)(H)Os\equivSi(Trip)][HB(C_6F_5)_3]$ (2), as indicated by multinuclear (¹H, ¹¹B, ¹³C, ¹⁹F, ²⁹Si, ³¹P) NMR spectroscopy (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Synthesis and Reactivity of Osmium Silylyne 2

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Complex 2 was isolated as a thermally sensitive $(t_{1/2} \approx 30$ min in d_5 -bromobenzene at ambient temperature) solid in 67% yield. It exhibits a ²⁹Si NMR resonance at δ 321 that is shifted downfield by 92 ppm relative to the resonance for silvlene 1. This value agrees well with that obtained computationally for the optimized structure of complex 2 (δ 309). The conversion of 1 to 2 is also accompanied by the disappearance of the Os-H and Si-H ¹H NMR resonances for 1, and appearance of a characteristic, hydridic doublet at δ –14.5 (1H, $^{2}J_{HP}$ = 29 Hz) and a broad signal at δ 4.39 (1H) attributed to Os–H and B–H signals, respectively, for silvlyne 2. Attempts to measure the ${}^{2}J_{\text{SiH}}$ value using variable temperature one- and two-dimensional NMR experiments were unsuccessful. Furthermore, ${}^{2}J_{SiH}$ is computed to be only 7.4 Hz, confirming an extremely weak OsH···Si interaction. Spectroscopic features of the HB(C_6F_5)₃⁻ anion, specifically the upfield ¹¹B NMR resonance at δ –25 in combination with a $\Delta \delta_{m,p}$ value of 2.6 ppm for the ¹⁹F NMR shifts, indicate that the anion is weakly coordinating.¹⁰ In addition, low temperature NMR studies failed to reveal evidence for Si-H or Si-F contacts. Thus, extensive solution NMR data characterize 2 as a terminal silvlyne complex as shown in Scheme 1, and this is supported by DFT calculations.11

In an effort to more firmly establish the bonding mode for the hydride ligand in complex 2, calculations at the DFT TPSS¹² level were undertaken. The two extreme structures 2 and 2' with the hydrogen located at the osmium and silicon atoms, respectively, and the transition state having a bridging hydrogen atom (TS) were examined (Scheme 2). The results

Scheme 2. Structural Models for 2



Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (Å), Bond Angle (deg), and Solvated Free Energies (kcal mol^{-1})

	ΔG	Os–Si	Os-H	Si-H	Os-Si-C
2	0.0	2.176	1.635	2.760	168.0
TS	20.3	2.254	2.487	1.550	165.0
2′	14.8	2.303	3.298	1.499	135.4

in Table 1 show that 2' is 14.8 kcal mol⁻¹ higher in energy (ΔG) than 2 and that it can easily transform to 2 through the bridging hydride transition state (TS), with a free-energy barrier of only 5.5 kcal mol⁻¹. Furthermore, the computed ²⁹Si NMR resonance of 2' (δ 282) does not match the experimental value. Thus, 2 is the exclusive product formed in the hydride abstraction reaction.

The optimized structure of **2** has some noteworthy characteristics (Figure 1). The Os-Si-C bond angle is 168.0°, a value which suggests that the Si atom has nearly *sp* hybridization. This angle is much larger than the computed value of 135.4° in **2**' (Table 1), where sp^2 hybridization would



Figure 1. DFT optimized structure of **2**. All the hydrogen atoms are hidden except the hydride on the Os atom.

be expected. Furthermore, the computed Os–Si bond length in 2 is 2.176 Å, which is extremely short and contracted by 0.079 Å with respect to 1 (computed as 2.255 Å). This predicted decrease in bond length is slightly larger than the observed difference between the Mo–Si bond lengths in Cp*(dmpe)-(H)Mo=Si(Cl)Mes (2.288(2) Å) and [Cp*(dmpe)(H)Mo=SiMes][B(C₆F₅)₄] (2.219(2) Å).⁶ Structures of several known compounds that share the same Cp*(ⁱPr₃P)Os⁺ fragment (Figure S1) were optimized to compare Os–Si bond lengths, and these results also suggest a bond order higher than two for the Os–Si bond in compound 2 (Table S1).

In order to understand the nature of this Os-Si bond, natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis¹³ was performed. The three strongest interactions between Os and Si consist of one σ bond and two π bonds (Figure 2 and Table S2). The σ bond has 43% osmium and 57% silicon character, so it is slightly polarized toward the silicon atom. The osmium component contains 43% s and 57% d orbital character, and the silicon component is composed by 55% s and 45% p orbital character, providing additional evidence for sp hybridization on silicon. With the default NBO parameters, both π bonds are characterized as donor-acceptor interactions (Table S2), i.e. back-donations from doubly occupied Os d orbitals to empty Si p orbitals. The polarization of this bond gives rise to a highly electrophilic silicon atom with an NPA (natural population analysis) charge of 1.14. In order to obtain a more quantitative understanding about the energetics of this bonding interaction, a combination of the extended transition state $(ETS)^{14}$ energy decomposition scheme and the natural orbital for chemical valence (NOCV)¹⁵ density decomposition approach was employed to study the interactions between the two closed shell fragments: Cp*(ⁱPr₃P)(H)Os and [Si(Trip)]^{+.16} In the ETS decomposition scheme the two attractive interactions, the covalent interaction (also known as orbital interaction, -168.5 kcal/mol) and the electrostatic interaction (-166.1 kcal/mol), have nearly equal contributions; these attractive interactions are offset by a large Pauli repulsion (206.5 kcal/mol) (Table S3). The NOCV analysis suggests strong π contributions to the overall orbital interactions. Such strong π interactions are consistent with the short Os-Si bond. The high reactivity of this bond may reflect ease of polarization of the Os–Si π bonds from nearly covalent to donor-acceptor interactions. Detailed computational studies on the reactivity of 2 are underway.

The mechanism by which **2** is generated may involve direct abstraction of the silylene hydrogen by $B(C_6F_5)_3$, or abstraction of the osmium hydride ligand followed by α -hydrogen



Figure 2. Three bonding interactions in compound **2** described by natural bond orbital analysis. 1π and 2π are back-donations from filled osmium *d* orbitals to empty silicon *p* orbitals.

migration from silicon to osmium. It is not currently possible to distinguish between these mechanisms, but a possibly relevant observation is that, under comparable experimental conditions, there is no appreciable reaction between $B(C_6F_5)_3$ and $Cp*(^iPr_3P)(H)Os=SiH(dmp)$ (dmp = 2,6-Mes₂- C_6H_3).⁹ Given the much greater steric hindrance associated with the silicon center of the latter silylene complex (vs that for 1), this result suggests that Si–H abstraction may be operative in the formation of 2.

Since the thermal sensitivity of 2 precluded growth of X-ray quality crystals, reactivity studies were undertaken to confirm its identity. Treatment of a bromobenzene solution of silylyne 2 with diphenylacetylene afforded the unprecedented cycloaddition product, [Cp*(ⁱPr₃P)(H)Os=Si(Trip)(PhC= CPh)][HB(C_6F_5)₃] (3), as an analytically pure yellow powder in 88% yield (Scheme 1). Complex 3 exhibits an upfield-shifted 29 Si NMR silylene resonance at δ 110 (calculated: δ 102; see Supporting Information (SI)) and diagnostic quaternary signals at 164.3 (${}^{2}J_{CP} = 13$ Hz) and 197.5 (${}^{3}J_{CP} = 3.1$ Hz) in the ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum assigned as C_{α} and C_{β} , respectively. Resonances in the ¹H, ¹¹B, and ¹⁹F NMR spectra attributed to the $HB(C_6F_5)_3^-$ anion remained essentially unchanged from those of complex 2. Unlike silvlyne 2, metallosilacyclobutadiene 3 is stable indefinitely under an inert atmosphere at low temperature. The cycloaddition does not appear to be reversible, as evidenced by the lack of reaction between 3 and either ^tBuCCH or ^tPr₃SiCCH (90 min in d_5 -bromobenzene solution). Despite well documented examples of similar cycloadditions for carbyne complexes,1 complex 3 represents the first example of addition of an alkyne across a $M \equiv E$ functionality. Furthermore, direct cycloadditions of this type have rarely been observed for silvlene complexes, but are of great interest in the context of metathesis reactivity.1'

A related cycloaddition was observed upon reaction of 2 with 1 equiv of the phosphaalkyne ^tBuCP¹⁸ in bromobenzene solution, to cleanly produce the orange complex $[Cp^{*}(^{i}Pr_{3}P)-$ (H)Os=Si(Trip)(P=C^tBu)][HB(C₆F₅)₃] (4), as determined by multinuclear NMR spectroscopy. Upon washing with pentane, complex 4 was isolated as an analytically pure, orange powder in 77% yield. Diagnostic resonances in the ²⁹Si, ³¹P, and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra at δ 82, 516, and 278 for the silicon, phosphorus, and carbon ring atoms, respectively, suggest that 4 is best described by a resonance structure containing osmium phosphinidene¹⁹ (Os=P) and silene²⁰ (Si=C) moieties (Scheme 1). Notably, this interpretation agrees well with computations that predict ²⁹Si, ³¹P, and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts for complex 4 (96, 527, and 298 ppm, respectively). This reactivity suggests that silvlyne complexes similar to 2 might provide useful routes to other triply bonded species (e.g.,

alkylidyne and phosphinidene complexes). As with complex 3, ¹¹B and ¹⁹F NMR spectra indicate that the $HB(C_6F_5)_3^-$ anion of 4 remains intact and weakly coordinating.

Interestingly, terminal alkynes exhibit a different mode of reactivity toward **2**, involving C–H addition across the Os \equiv Si triple bond. Thus, addition of RC \equiv CH to **2** afforded the new silylene complexes $[Cp*(^{i}Pr_{3}P)(H)(RC \equiv C)Os=SiH(Trip)]-[HB(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}]$ (**5**, R = ^{*i*}Bu; **6**, R = ^{*i*}Pr_{3}Si), identified by ¹H, ¹¹B, ¹⁹F, and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy (Scheme 1). Silylene complexes **5** and **6** exhibit characteristic downfield Si–H resonances in the ¹H NMR spectra, at δ 9.5 and 11.6, respectively. These unusual C–H activations might be envisioned as proceeding by two possible mechanisms (Scheme 3): (1) hydrogen migration from osmium to silicon followed by





C−H oxidative addition at Os (Path A) or (2) direct C−H addition across the Os≡Si bond (Path B). To distinguish between these pathways, a deuterium-labeling experiment was performed. Treatment of a d_5 -bromobenzene solution of $[Cp*(^iPr_3P)(D)Os≡SiTrip]$ $[DB(C_6F_5)_3]$ (2- d_2) with 1 equiv of iPr_3SiCCH afforded $[Cp*(^iPr_3P)(D)(^iPr_3C≡ C)Os=SiH(Trip)][DB(C_6F_5)_3]$ (6- d_2) as the exclusive product, thereby confirming that path B is the operative mechanism. No OsD/SiH or SiH/BD exchange was observed after 6 h at ambient temperature.

In summary, a new route to a transition metal silylyne complex, involving hydride abstraction from silicon, has been established. NMR and DFT computations helped to validate the proposed structure of this complex. Unlike previous

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examples of complexes with triple bonds between a transition metal and a heavy group 14 element, the new silylyne complex does not feature a group 6 transition metal center. NBO and ETS-NOCV analysis revealed the nature of this Os–Si bond as a triple bond consisting of a covalent σ bond and two strong π back-donations. Significantly, the discovery of complex 2 has allowed the exploration of new reactivity for a metal–silicon triple bond. In particular, the observed additions of multiple bonds, and C–H bonds, across the Os \equiv Si bond would seem to portend a rich and varied chemical reactivity for L_nM \equiv ER species and the possibility of new chemical structures and previously unobserved transformations of fundamental significance. This work is also an excellent demonstration of close interplays between experiment and theory in studying novel compounds.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Detailed experimental procedure, NMR spectra, computational details, and coordinates of important molecules. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

tdtilley@berkeley.edu; mbhall@tamu.edu

Present Addresses

⁸Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 3M4, Canada.

¹Chemical Strategies Division, Health Canada, 269 Laurier Ave. W, 5-058, Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9 AL 4905B, Canada.

^{II}Department of Chemistry, Colgate University, 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY 13346, USA.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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