Facile formation of *exo-nido→closo*-rearrangement products upon the replacement of PPh₃ ligands with bis(diphenylphosphino)alkanes in "three-bridge" ruthenacarborane 5,6,10-[RuCl(PPh₃)₂]-5,6,10-(μ-H)₃-10-H-*exo-nido*-7,8-C₂B₉H₈

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The replacement of the PPh₃ ligands in "three-bridge" *exo-nido*-ruthenacarborane $5,6,10-[RuCl(PPh_3)_2]-5,6,10-(\mu-H)_3-10-H-$ *exo-nido* $-7,8-C_2B_9H_8 with diphosphines,$ *viz.*, 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane (dppp) or 1,4-bis(diphenylphosphino)butane (dppb) dramatically decreases the barrier to the thermal*exo-nido*-*closo*rearrangement affording the chelate*closo* $-complexes <math>3,3-[Ph_2P(CH_2)_nPPh_2]-3-H-3-Cl-$ *closo* $-3,1,2-RuC_2B_9H_{11} ($ *n*= 3 or 4) under mild conditions. In the reaction with dppp, the rearrangement is accompanied by the formation of 17-electron paramagnetic*closo* $-ruthenacarborane <math>3,3-[Ph_2P(CH_2)_3PPh_2]-3-Cl-$ *closo* $-3,1,2-RuC_2B_9H_{11}$, which could be isolated as the main product when the reaction was carried out at 80 °C.

Key words: synthesis, diphosphine *exo-nido-* and *closo-*ruthenacarboranes, *exo-nido-closo* rearrangement, paramagnetic *closo-*ruthenacarborane.

The chemistry of exo-nido-metallacarboranes, in which the metal atom is coordinated by the *nido*-carborane ligand through a multiple two-electron three-center $(B-H)_n$...M bonds (n = 2 or 3), is of interest because these clusters can easily be transformed into new mononuclear closo-1,2 or dinuclear exo-closo-metallacarboranes.³⁻⁵ A detailed study of the *exo-nido* \rightarrow *closo* rearrangement of metallacarboranes has been primarily performed for 16-electron "two-bridge" bis(triphenylphosphine)-exo-nido-rhodacarboranes.⁶ It has been found that isomeric exo-nido- and closo-rhodacarboranes exist in solution as an equilibrium mixture, and for complexes containing the sterically more hindered carborane ligand, this equilibrium is normally shifted to *exo-nido* structures.⁶ In the case of stronger coordination of the transition metal atom by the nido-carborane ligand via three two-electron three-center (B-H)₃...M bonding interactions, only 18-electron chlorobis(triphenylphosphine)-exo-nidometallacarboranes containing unsubstituted carborane can be rearranged into isomeric *closo*-complexes. If M = Ru, heating is required for such a rearrangement,¹ whereas compounds with M = Os undergo the rearrangement at room temperature.²

In the present study, we found that the replacement of the PPh₃ ligands in "three-bridge" *exo-nido*-ruthenacarborane $5,6,10-[RuCl(PPh_3)_2]-5,6,10-(\mu-H)_3-10-$ H-*exo-nido*-7,8-C₂B₉H₈ (1) with diphosphines $[Ph_2P(CH_2)_nPPh_2]$ (*n* = 3 or 4) decreases the barrier to the thermal *exo-nido* \rightarrow *closo* rearrangement, with the result that it proceeds in benzene at 22 °C.

Results and Discussion

The reaction of *exo-nido*-ruthenacarborane **1** with a 10% excess of 1,4-bis(diphenylphosphino)butane (**2**, dppb) in benzene at 22 °C for 48 h afforded the *closo*-complex 3,3-(dppb)-3-H-3-Cl-*closo*-3,1,2-RuC₂B₉H₁₁ (**3**) (Scheme 1). After column chromatography of the reaction mixture (silica gel; C_6H_6-n -hexane, 1 : 1, as the eluent), product **3** was isolated as airstable yellow crystals in 78% yield. Complex **3** is moderately soluble in C_6H_6 , CH₂Cl₂, and acetone and is virtually insoluble in hydrocarbons. Upon recrystallization from a CH₂Cl₂-*n*-hexane mixture, complex **3** formed a stable solvate with CH₂Cl₂.

The composition and structure of *closo*-complex **3** were determined by elemental analysis and ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$, ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{1}H{}^{31}P$, ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$, ${}^{11}B$, and ${}^{11}B{}^{1}H$ NMR spectroscopy. The ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of complex **3** in CD₂Cl₂ exhibited two closely spaced singlet resonances with equal intensities at δ 37.5 and 37.45 (the spectrum of **3** in C₆D₆ consists of only one collapsed resonance), which indicates that complex **3** contains the chelate dppb ligand coordinated to the metal atom. It should be noted that the

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i. C₆H₆, 22 °C, 48 h.

spectrum of the starting complex 1, which exists as a mixture of symmetrical and asymmetrical isomeric species, shows resonances of the PPh₃ ligands at substantially lower field (at δ 50–55) as a singlet and two doublets, respectively.⁷ In the ¹H NMR spectrum of complex 3, the signals of the aliphatic moiety of the coordinated diphosphine ligand are observed as four multiplets, the intensity of each multiplet being 2H. The resonances of the methylene groups of the dppb ligand in 3 were assigned based on the ¹H{³¹P} NMR spectrum, in which the multiplicities of the signals of the CH₂ groups directly bound to the phosphorus atoms differ substantially from those observed in the ¹H NMR spectrum, which allowed us to estimate the coupling constant for the pairs of the nonequivalent geminal protons H_{A} and H_{B} of these groups $(J_{A,B} \approx 14.5 \text{ Hz})$. The assignment was confirmed by the ${^{1}H}^{-1}H$ COSY correlation spectrum, which shows the corresponding cross-peaks between the signals for HA and $H_{\rm R}$ of each CH_2 group. It should also be noted that the ¹H NMR spectrum of complex **3** revealed a high-field resonance at δ -8.16 as a doublet of triplets with the coupling constants $J_1 = 27.5$ Hz and $J_2 = 6.0$ Hz characteristic of a metal hydride. In the ¹H{³¹P} NMR spectrum, this signal is collapsed to a doublet with $J_2 = 6.0$ Hz. Hence, the coupling constants J_1 and J_2 in the initially observed doublet of triplets can be assigned to ${}^{2}J_{H,P}$ and ${}^{3}J_{\rm H,H}$, respectively. The constant ${}^{3}J_{\rm H,H}$ is associated with either the long-range spin-spin coupling H(Ru)...H(B) through the metal atom or the specific through-space coupling interaction between the metal hydride and the hydrogen atom of the BH group, which has been observed earlier for the structurally similar ruthenium complexes closo-3,3-(PPh₃)₂-3-H-3-Cl-3,1,2- $RuC_2B_9H_{11}$ (see Ref. 1) and 1,1-(PPh₃)₂-1-H-1-Cl-closo- $1,2,3-RuC_2B_4H_6$ (see Ref. 8).

Although complex 3 was isolated under the abovementioned conditions as the only product, TLC monitoring of the reaction provided evidence for the formation of an apparent intermediate. The intermediate complex was isolated as a mixture with complex 3 when the reaction was terminated immediately after the disappearance of the starting reagent 1 from the reaction mixture, *i.e.*, after approximately ~ 2 h. This complex was further identified as 5,6,10-[RuCl(dppb)]-5,6,10-(µ-H)₃-10-H-exo-nido-7,8- $C_2B_9H_8$ (4). In spite of the fact that complex 4 was observed on a silica gel column as an individual band, whose $R_{\rm f}$ differs substantially from that of the final product (3, $R_{\rm f} = 0.75$; 4, $R_{\rm f} = 0.35$), this complex appeared to be kinetically unstable since, upon storage in a benzene solution, it is readily transformed into compound 3. This fact was unambiguously confirmed by monitoring of the ¹H NMR spectrum of this solution.

That is why the structure of *exo-nido*-complex **4** was studied only by ¹H and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectroscopy of a $\sim 1 : 1$ mixture of **4** with complex **3** (Fig. 1). The upfield region of the ¹H NMR spectrum from 0 to -20 ppm, where the hydride resonances of the exopolyhedral B–H...Ru bonds and the resonances of the H_{extra} atom are observed, is proved to be most informative. Analysis of the NMR data demonstrated that complex **4**, like its precursor **1**, exists as a mixture of geometric isomers having symmetric (*s*) and asymmetric (*as*) structures (see Fig. 1). We assigned the signals of these isomers by analogy with the Ru ⁷ and Os ⁹ *exo-nido*-complexes described



Fig. 1. ¹H NMR (*a*) and ³¹P{¹H} NMR (*b*) spectra of a mixture of the *s* and *as* isomers of complexes **3** and **4** in CD_2Cl_2 .

earlier. The presence of two isomers in a solution of **4** was confirmed also by the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of **4** in CD₂Cl₂, which showed two sets of resonances, a singlet at δ 51.8 (*s* isomer) and two doublets of equal intensities at δ 55.5 and 50.3 with ²J_{P P} = 35 Hz (the *as* isomer).



as-**4**

We thus established that the replacement of the triphenylphosphine ligands in complex **1** with dppb initially affords *exo-nido*-complex **4**, which is readily rearranged into the final *closo*-complex **3** at room temperature.

Taking into account this reaction pathway, we turned our attention to the *exo-nido*-complex with 1,3-bis(diphosphino)propane (**5**, dppp) as a chelating diphosphine ligand, *viz.*, 5,6,10-[RuCl(dppp)]-5,6,10-(μ -H)₃-10-H*exo-nido*-7,8-C₂B₉H₈ (**6**), which has been studied earlier.¹⁰ The conditions of the *exo-nido* \rightarrow *closo* rearrangement of complex **6** remained unknown. In spite of the fact that *exo-nido*-complex **6** is rather stable in the solid state, in a benzene solution the B–H...Ru coordination bonds in this complex are readily cleaved in the presence of free dppp ligands to produce the 16-electron cationic species [RuCl(dppp)₂]⁺[*nido*-7,8-C₂B₉H₁₂]⁻ (**7**). Because of this, the synthesis of **6** by the replacement of the PPh₃ ligands in **1** with dppp always gives rise to a mixture consisting of complexes **6** and **7**.¹⁰

In the present study, we found that *exo-nido*-complex **6**, like complex **4**, can be rearranged under mild conditions into *closo*-3,3-(dppp)-3-H-3-Cl-3,1,2-RuC₂B₉H₁₁ (**8**). However, this reaction in benzene at 22 °C proceeds very slowly, and 60 h are required to achieve 100% conversion. The *exo-nido*→*closo* rearrangement is accompanied by the formation of the 17-electron paramagnetic complex *closo*-3,3-(dppp)-3-Cl-3,1,2-RuC₂B₉H₁₁ (**9**) as a byproduct (Scheme 2).

Complexes 8 and 9 were isolated as a mixture in a total yield of 86%. We succeeded in separating these complexes into individual compounds only by TLC on Silufol



Scheme 2

* Trace amounts.

plates using a 1:1 benzene-hexane mixture as the eluent. The ¹H and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectroscopic data for diamagnetic complex 8 agree well with its postulated structure. The ¹H NMR spectrum of complex 9, which has a number of broad unassignable peaks in the region from -14 to + 12 ppm, is characteristic of paramagnetic ruthenacarborane complexes.¹¹ Pure 17-electron complex 9 can be prepared in 44% yield by refluxing a mixture of complexes 8 and 9 in benzene for 3.5 h. The composition of complex 9 was confirmed by elemental analysis, and its paramagnetic structure was supported by the ESR spectrum (Fig. 2). It should be noted that paramagnetic closo-ruthenacarborane complexes of this type have been prepared for the first time only recently.¹¹ Therefore, the direct synthesis of new 17-electron complex 9 is of obvious interest. It should also be noted that exo-nido-ruthenacarborane 4 under analogous thermal conditions (benzene, 80 °C) does not give a paramagnetic complex structurally similar to 9.



Fig. 2. ESR spectrum of 17-electron complex 9: $g_1 = 2.39$, $g_2 = 2.08$, $g_3 = 1.96$.

Based on the results of the present study and earlier data, 10,11 it can be concluded that *exo-nido*-ruthenacarborane complex 1 is a convenient and readily available reagent for the synthesis of *closo*-ruthenacarboranes with various chelate diphosphines, including the synthesis of particular paramagnetic complexes of type **9** in moderate yields. In this process, the formation of *closo* products occurs through the *exo-nido*-*closo* rearrangement of diphosphine *exo-nido*-complexes.

Experimental

All reactions were carried out under argon with the use of anhydrous solvents, which were prepared according to standard procedures. The reaction products were isolated and purified by column chromatography with the use of silica gel (Merck, 230–400 mesh). Diphosphines dppb and dppp were purchased from Strem Chemicals. The NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AMX-400 (400.13 MHz for ¹H, 161.98 MHz for ³¹P, and 128.3 MHz for ¹¹B) and Bruker AvanceTM300 (300.13 MHz for ¹H) spectrometers. The ESR spectrum of complex **9** was measured on a Varian E-12A radiospectrometer. Elemental analysis was carried out in the Laboratory of Microanalysis of the A. N. Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

3-Chloro-3,3-(1,4-diphenylphosphinobutane)-3-hydro-3,1,2*closo*-dicarbollylruthenium (3). *A*. Complex 1 (0.03 g, 0.04 mmol) was added to a solution of diphosphine 2 (0.02 g, 0.05 mmol) in benzene (12 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 22 °C for 48 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column, complex 3 being eluted with a 1 : 1 benzene—hexane mixture. The orange crystalline product was recrystallized from an *n*-hexane— CH_2Cl_2 mixture, and analytically pure complex 3 was isolated in 77% yield.

B. exo-nido-Ruthenacarborane 1 (0.1 g, 0.13 mmol) was added to a solution of diphosphine 2 (0.06 g, 0.14 mmol) in benzene (15 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred under gentle reflux for 1 h. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on a short silica gel column, complex 3 being eluted with a 1 : 1 benzene—hexane mixture. The yield of 3 was 73%.

Found (%): C, 50.63; H, 5.65; P, 8.64. C₃₀H₄₀B₉ClP₂Ru · 0.25CH₂Cl₂. Calculated (%): C, 50.52; H, 5.85; P, 8.66. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ: -8.22 (dt, 1 H, RuH, $J_{\text{H...H-B}} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{H,P}} = 27.5$ Hz); 1.52 (br.m, 2 H, (PCH₂CH_A<u>H</u>_B)₂); 1.72 (br.m, 2 H, (PCH₂C<u>H</u>_AH_B)₂); 2.50 (br.m, 2 H, (PCH_A<u>H</u>_B)₂(CH₂)₂); 3.28 (br.s, 2 H, C_{carb}H); 3.45 (br.m, 2 H, $(PC\underline{H}_{A}H_{B})_{2}(CH_{2})_{2}$); 7.93–7.21 (2 t + m, 20 H, Ph). ${}^{1}H{}^{31}P{}$ NMR (CDCl₃), δ : -8.22 (d, 1 H, RuH, $J_{H...H-B}$ = 6.0 Hz); 1.52 (br.m, 2 H, (PCH₂CH_A<u>H</u>_B)₂); 1.72 (br.m, 2 H, $(PCH_2CH_AH_B)_2$; 2.50 (br.dt, 2 H, $(PCH_AH_B)_2(CH_2)_2$, J = $3.5 \text{ Hz}, J_{A,B} = 14.5 \text{ Hz}$; $3.28 \text{ (br.s, 2 H, C_{carb}H)}$; 3.45 (ddd, 2 H, $(PCH_AH_B)_2(CH_2)_2, J_1 = 3.5 Hz, J_2 = 9.0 Hz, J_{A,B} = 14.5 Hz);$ 7.93-7.21 (2 d + m, 20 H, Ph). ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 21.56 (2 C), 25.81, 26.26 (P(CH₂)₄P); 63.39 (C_{carb}); 127.35, 128.68, 130.20, 131.14, 133.14, 134.32 (Ph). ${}^{31}\overline{P(^{1}H)}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2) , δ : 37.4 and 37.5 (both s, 1 P + 1 P). ¹¹B NMR

 (CD_2Cl_2) , δ : -21.8 (d, 2 B, J = 135.0 Hz); -19.9 (br.d, 1 B); -8.1 (d, 5 B, J = 138.0 Hz); 5.5 (d, 1 B, J = 142.5 Hz).

A mixture of chlorodiphenylphosphinobutane-*exo-nido*-[10-hydroorthocarborane-5,6,10-tris(hydro)]ruthenium (4) and complex 3. A solution of complex 1 (0.06 g, 0.08 mmol) and diphosphine 2 (0.04 g, 0.09 mmol) in benzene (10 mL) was stirred at 22 °C until the starting complex 1 was completely consumed (~2 h, TLC control). The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column under a low pressure of an inert gas, a colored band with $R_f = 0.75$ being eluted with benzene (the first fraction) followed by elution of the band with $R_f = 0.35$ (the second fraction). After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, pure complex 3 was isolated from the first fraction in 4% yield, and a mixture of complexes 3 and 4 in an approximate ratio of 1 : 1 was isolated from the second (major) fraction. The total yield of complexes 3 and 4 isolated from the second fraction was 89%.

<u>Complex 4</u> (s: as = 2.5: 1). ¹H NMR* (CD₂Cl₂), $\delta: -17.12$ (m, s); -15.69 (m, as); -6.10 (m, as); -4.70 – -3.10 (m, as + s); -1.32 (m, H_{extra}, s + as); 2.25 (br.s, C_{carb}H, s); 2.20 and 2.30 (both br.s, C_{carb}H, as); 2.01, 2.41, 3.43, and 3.57 (all br.m, PCH₂CH₂CH₂P, s + as); 7.31–7.84 (m, Ph, s + as). ³¹P{¹H} NMR, δ : 50.3 and 55.5 (both d, as, $J_{P,P} = 35$ Hz); 51.8 (c, s).

A mixture of 3-chloro-3,3-(1,3-diphenylphosphinopropane)-3-hydro-3,1,2-closo-dicarbollylruthenium (8) and 3-chloro-3,3-(1,3-diphenylphosphinopropane)-3,1,2-closo-dicarbollylruthenium (9). A solution of complex 6 (0.035 g, 0.05 mmol), which was prepared according to a procedure described earlier,¹⁰ in benzene (10 mL) was stirred at 22 °C for ~60 h until the starting complex 6 was completely consumed. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column, a mixture of complexes 8 and 9 being eluted with benzene. The yield of the mixture was 86%. To identify the complexes by NMR and ESR spectroscopy, the mixture of 8 and 9 (0.008 g) was separated into individual compounds by TLC on Silufol plates with the use of a 1 : 1 benzene—hexane mixture as the eluent.

<u>Complex 8.</u> ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : -8.75 (dt, 1 H, RuH, $J_{\text{H...H-B}} = 14.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{H,P}} = 25.0$ Hz); 1.94 (br.m, 1 H, (PCH₂)₂CH_A<u>H</u>_B); 2.38 (br.m, 1 H, (PCH₂)₂C<u>H</u>_AH_B); 2.58 (m, 2 H, (PCH_A<u>H</u>_B)₂CH₂); 3.44 (dt, 2 H, (PC<u>H</u>_AH_B)₂CH₂, $J_1 = 13.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.0$ Hz); 3.59 (br.s, 2 H, C_{carb}H); 7.23–7.66 (m, 20 H, Ph). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 28.5 (s).

<u>Paramagnetic complex 9.</u> A solution of a mixture of complexes 8 and 9 (0.02 g, 0.03 mmol) in benzene (7 mL) was refluxed for 3 h. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column, complex 9 being eluted with benzene. The yield of 9 was 44%. Found (%): C, 51.12; H, 5.44; B, 14.29. C₂₉H₃₇B₉ClP₂Ru. Calculated (%): C, 50.68; H, 5.10; B, 14.23. ESR (CH₂Cl₂, g_{stand} = 2.0023, T = 77 K): g₁ = 2.3933; g₂ = 2.0796; g₃ = 1.9594.

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^{*} Only hydride resonances of isomers *s*-**4** and *as*-**4** with their assignment are given.

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