Contrasting Reactivity of $[NO]BF_4$ with $CpRu(PPh_3)(L)SR$, $L = PPh_3$ or CO

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Received October 25, 1994

Introduction

The significance of metal thiolate complexes in biological electron transfer processes¹ and nitrogen fixation^{1,2} has long been recognized. Metal thiolato species are also implicated³ in the hydrodesulfurization of fossil fuels. Thus the bonding properties of thiolate ligands are of continuing interest.

The stability of the electron-deficient complexes CpMo(NO)-(SPh)₂⁴ and Ru(SC₁₀H₁₃)₄(NCCH₃)⁵ has been attributed to $p\pi$ $d\pi$ donation from the thiolato ligands to the metal atoms. Molecular orbital calculations on CpFe(CO)₂SH suggest⁶ that the HOMO is an antibonding orbital involving the sulfur p and metal d orbitals whereas calculations on CpFe(CO)SH indicate⁶ that the sulfur lone pair can stabilize this 16-electron species. Therefore one might expect 18-electron complexes containing a thiolato ligand to be chemically activated.

During the preparation of the complexes CpRu(PPh₃)₂SR, we noted reactivity consistent with the activation of the complexes via π donation from the thiolate ligands.⁷ The compounds were prone to loss of PPh₃ leading to (1) ligand substitution in the presence of CO to give CpRu(PPh₃)(CO)SR, (2) insertion of CS_2 into the Ru-SR bond to give $CpRu(PPh_3)S_2CSR$, (3) and aggregation in the absence of ligands to give the trimers [CpRuSR]₃.⁸ These observations raised the possibility that the relatively electron-rich compounds CpRu(PPh₃)₂SR might be susceptible to electrophilic attack. The complex CpRu(PMe₃)₂-Cl reacted with NOPF₆ to give the stable ruthenium nitrosyl $[CpRu(PMe_3)_2NO][PF_6]_2$ while the corresponding PPh₃ complex was too unstable to be isolated.⁹ This is possibly a consequence of the lower electron density at the ruthenium atom of the latter system. The dicarbonyl thiolato complex CpRu(CO)₂SPh reacted with NOPF₆ to give a dimer $[(CpRu(CO)_2)_2S_2Ph_2](PF_6)_2$

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Figure 1. ORTEP drawing (50% probability level) of the cation $[CpRu(PPh_3)(NO)SR]^+$. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Ru-S, 2.386(2); Ru-P, 2.369(2); Ru-N, 1.753(6); Ru-C(1), 2.27-(1); Ru-C(2), 2.22(1); Ru-C(3), 2.22(1); Ru-C(4), 2.235(9); Ru-C(5), 2.23(2); N-O,1.148(9); S-Ru-N, 102.6(2); N-Ru-P, 93.1(2); P-Ru-S, 82.79(7); Ru-N+O, 170.7(7).

wherein the thiolato ligands had been oxidatively coupled.¹⁰ Oxidation of CpRu(PPh₃)₂SR with dimethyldioxirane gave CpRu(PPh₃)₂SO₂R, where R = Me, Ph, and CH₂Ph.¹¹ In the last two cases the site of attack was the sulfur atom of the thiolato ligand. We report that treatment of CpRu(PPh₃)(CO)-SR with NOBF₄ gave disulfide-bridged dimeric dications analogous to those observed for the dicarbonyl complexes. However, treatment of CpRu(PPh₃)₂SR with NOBF₄ resulted in attack at the ruthenium atom to give ruthenium nitrosyl salts of the type [CpRu(PPh₃)(NO)SR]BF₄, where $R = CMe_3$, CHMe₂, and 4-C₆H₄Me.

Results

Treatment of CpRu(PPh₃)₂SR with NOBF₄ in THF at room temperature gave [CpRu(PPh₃)(NO)SR]BF₄, where $R = CMe_3$, CHMe₂, and 4-C₆H₄Me, in isolated yields ranging from 58% to 90% (eq 1). These salts were air sensitive in solution and in



the solid state. They were soluble in acetone and in chlorinated solvents. They were characterized by IR and ¹H NMR spectroscopy and by elemental analyses. The structure of $[CpRu(PPh_3)(NO)SCMe_3]BF_4$ was determined and is depicted in Figure 1. Crystal data and selected positional parameters are given in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

The infrared spectrum of each of the complexes displayed a strong band in the range 1817-1822 cm⁻¹ characteristic of the

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Table 1. Crystallographic Data for [CpRu(PPh₃)(NO)SCMe₃]BF₄

chem formula: C ₂₇ H ₂₉ BF ₄ NOPSRu	Z = 4
fw 634.44	$\varrho_{\rm calc} = 1.481 \ {\rm cm}^3$
space group: $P2_1/c$	μ (Mo K α) = 7.11 cm ⁻¹
a = 16.380(2) Å	$\lambda = 0.710 69 \text{ Å}$
b = 17.135(3) Å	$T = 22 \ ^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$
c = 10.137(2) Å	$R^a = 0.043$
$\beta = 91.06(2)^{\circ}$	$R_{\rm w}^{b} = 0.047$
V = 2937.5(1) Å	
${}^{a}R = \sum F_{0} - F_{c} / \sum F_{0} , {}^{b}R_{w} = \sum F_{0} / \sum F_{0} , {}^{b}R_{w} = \sum F_{0} / \sum F_{0} / \sum F_{0} $	$E_w(F_0 - F_c)^2 / \sum F_0^2]^{1/2}.$

Table 2. Positional Parameters for $[CpRu(PPh_3)(NO)SCMe_3]BF_4$ Excluding Those of the Counterion, the Carbon Atoms of the PPh_3 Ligand, and the Hydrogen Atoms

atom	x	У	z
Ru(1)	0.18827(03)	0.04526(04)	0.23761(06)
S(1)	0.31672(11)	0.10904(11)	0.2148(02)
P(1)	0.25327(10)	-0.05445(11)	0.1163(02)
O(1)	0.1984(04)	-0.0404(04)	0.4831(06)
N(1)	0.2008(04)	-0.0044(04)	0.3878(06)
C(1)	0.1271(05)	0.1491(06)	0.1384(14)
C(2)	0.1079(07)	0.0802(09)	0.0684(09)
C(3)	0.0623(06)	0.0344(06)	0.1543(12)
C(4)	0.0566(05)	0.0715(06)	0.2708(10)
C(5)	0.0970(05)	0.1405(06)	0.2632(11)
C(6)	0.3399(05)	0.1760(05)	0.3532(07)
C(7)	0.3532(08)	0.1309(07)	0.4802(09)
C(8)	0.2757(06)	0.2384(06)	0.3708(11)
C(9)	0.4200(05)	0.2150(05)	0.3136(09)

linear nitrosyl group.¹² In the ¹H NMR spectrum (acetone- d_6) the peak due to the Cp ligand of each complex appeared in the range 6.10–6.30 ppm, whereas that for the starting complexes appeared in the range 3.93–4.26 ppm. The shift to lower field is consistent with reduction of electron density at the ruthenium atom. In the NMR spectrum of [CpRu(PPh₃)(NO)SCHMe₂]-BF₄ an overlapping doublet of doublets was observed for the diastereotopic methyl groups, which indicates that the chiral ruthenium center is configurationally stable on the NMR time scale at room temperature.

The RuNO moiety in [CpRu(PPh₃)(NO)SCMe₃]BF₄ is reasonably linear (Ru–N–O = 170.7(7)°) and the Ru–N distance (1.753(6) Å) is in the range observed for such systems (average = 1.743(27) Å).¹³ The S–Ru–N angle (102.6(2)°) is comparable to the Cl–Ru–N angle (102.0(2)°) in [CpRu(PPh₃)(NO)-Cl]PF₆.¹³ The Ru–S bond distance (2.386(2) Å) is similar to that observed in complexes of the type CpRu(PPh₃)(CO)E where E = SSCHMe₂¹⁴ (2.393(3) Å), SSSC₃H₇ (2.370(2) Å),¹⁴ SS-(O)CHMe₂ (2.379(2) Å),¹⁵ SS(O)CH₂Ph (2.377(3) Å)¹⁶ and SS-(O)₂-4-C₆H₄Me (2.383(2) Å).¹⁵

The thiolo complex $CpRu(PPh_3)_2SH$ gave the known¹⁷ S₂bridged dication [($CpRu(PPh_3)_2)_2S_2$]²⁺ upon treatment with NOBF₄. The complex was isolated as the BF₄ salt and identified by its ¹H NMR spectrum.

Treatment of CpRu(PPh₃)(CO)S-4-C₆H₄Me with NOBF₄ in THF at room temperature gave the disulfide-bridged dicationic dimer [(CpRu(PPh₃)(CO))₂S₂(4-C₆H₄Me)₂](BF₄)₂ in good yield. The infrared spectrum, the NMR spectrum, and the elemental analysis were consistent with the absence of the NO ligand and the presence of the PPh₃, CO, and S-4-C₆H₄Me groups. In

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Notes

addition the NMR spectrum (Figure 2 (supporting information)) revealed two Cp peaks in the ratio 4:1 (which varys somewhat depending on the history of the sample) each accompanied by a Me peak in the same ratio. There were also two CO stretching bands in roughly a 4:1 ratio in the infrared spectrum. These observations are consistent with the proposed formulation (eq 2) since the presence of the two chiral ruthenium centers would



be expected to generate diastereomerism and lead to the multiplicity of peaks and bands observed.

When $CpRu(PPh_3)(CO)SCMe_3$ was treated with NOBF₄ in THF, the disulfide complex [$CpRu(PPh_3)(CO)S_2(CMe_3)_2$] BF₄ precipitated (eq 3). Samples of the solution were taken at early



stages of the reaction, stripped to dryness and dissolved in acetone- d_6 . The NMR spectra of these samples revealed the presence of peaks due to the cation¹⁸ [CpRu(PPh₃)(CO)-(acetone)]⁺ in addition to those due to the disulfide complex which precipitated. Thus the monomeric disulfide product probably arises via cleavage of the corresponding dimeric dications [(CpRu(PPh₃)(CO))₂S₂(CMe₃)₂]²⁺ as observed for the analogous reactions of CpFe(CO)₂SR.¹⁹

Discussion

Complexes of the type CpRu(CO)₂SR were reported¹⁰ to react with NO⁺ to give the disulfide-bridged dications [(CpRu-(CO)₂)₂S₂R₂]²⁺. We have observed that replacing one of the CO groups in the starting material with PPh₃ gave similar complexes containing disulfide ligands. However, if both CO groups were replaced by PPh₃ ligands, the site of attack of the NO⁺ shifted from the sulfur atom to the ruthenium atom to give

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cations of the type $[CpRu(PPh_3)(NO)SR]^+$. These reactions illustrate nicely the effects of the electronic and steric environment of the Cp-ruthenium thiolate moiety on its chemical reactivity.

Experimental Section

All experiments were performed under nitrogen using standard techniques.²⁰ Tetrahydrofuran and hexanes were refluxed over sodium/ benzophenone and distilled under nitrogen just prior to use. Methylene chloride was refluxed over P_2O_5 and distilled under nitrogen. Absolute ethanol and spectrograde acetone were degassed by pumping followed by purging with nitrogen. Deuterated solvents (Isotec) were used as purchased. The ruthenium thiolates CpRu(PPh₃)(L)SR (L = PPh₃, CO) were prepared according to the published procedures.¹ The salt NOBF₄ (Aldrich) was used as received.

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded under nitrogen on a Varian XL-200 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are in ppm relative to TMS at 0 ppm. Infrared spectra were recorded on an Analect AQS-20 Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectrophotometer. Elemental analysis were performed by Guelph Chemical Laboratories, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Melting points were obtained on a Thomas Hoover capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

[CpRu(PPh₃)(NO)SCMe₃]BF₄. In a 100-mL Schlenk flask CpRu(PPh₃)₂SCMe₃ (0.51 g, 0.66 mmol) was dissolved in THF (20.0 mL), NOBF₄ (0.093 g, 0.80 mmol) was added, and the solution was stirred overnight. During this time, the color became dark orangebrown and a dark red precipitate formed. The supernatant was removed with a syringe, and the precipitate was washed with diethyl ether (3 × 5 mL) and hexanes (3 × 5 mL). The resulting solid was recrystallized from acetone/hexanes to give dark red crystals (0.43 g, 84%). Mp: 198–199 °C dec. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν (NO) 1822 (s) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆): 1.39 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 6.30 (s, 5H, Cp), 7.64 (m, 15H, PPh₃). Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₂₉BF₄NOPRuS: C, 51.12; H, 4.61; N, 2.21; S, 5.05. Found: C, 51.15; H, 4.65; N, 2.26; S, 5.28.

[CpRu(PPh₃)(NO)SCHMe₂]BF₄. Similarly, CpRu(PPh₃)₂SCHMe₂ (0.38 g, 0.50 mmol) in THF (15.0 mL) and NOBF₄ (0.070 g, 0.60 mmol) gave a brown precipitate. The supernatant was concentrated under vacuum to 3.0 mL volume, and diethyl ether (15 mL) was added to precipitate more solid. The combined solids were washed with diethyl ether (3×5 mL) and hexanes (3×5 mL) and pumped on overnight to give an orange-brown powder (0.18 g, 58%) which slowly decomposed in the solid state. This interfered with the elemental analysis. Mp: 184–186 °C dec. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν (NO) 1821 (s) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂): 1.26 (d, 3H, CHMe₂), 1.30 (d, 3H, CHMe₂), 2.95 (septet, 1H, CHMe₂, J(H–H) = 6.6 Hz), 5.89 (s, 5H, Cp), 7.50 (m, 15H, PPh₃). ¹H NMR (acetone-d₆): 1.31 (d, 6H, CHMe₂), 2.82 (septet, 1H, CHMe₂, J(H–H) = 6.8 Hz), 6.31 (s, 5H, Cp), 7.62 (m, 15H, PPh₃). Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₂₇BF₄NOPRuS: C, 50.34; H, 4.39; N, 2.26; S, 4.80. Found: C, 47.79; H, 3.82; N, 2.23; S, 5.01.

 $[CpRu(PPh_3)(NO)S-4-C_6H_4Me]BF_4$. As above, $CpRu(PPh_3)_2S-4-C_6H_4Me$ (0.40 g, 0.50 mmol) in THF (15.0 mL) and NOBF₄ (0.070 g, 0.60 mmol) gave an orange precipitate, which was recrystallized from acetone/ethanol to give orange-red crystals (0.36 g, 90%). Mp: 218-220 °C dec. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν (NO) 1817 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆): 2.31 (s, 3H, CH₃), 6.10 (s, 5H, Cp), 7.10 (d, 2H, 4-C_6H_4Me), 7.47 (d, 2H, 4-C_6H_4Me), 7.72 (m, 15H, PPh_3). Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₂₇-

BF₄NOPRuS: C, 53.90; H, 4.07; N, 2.10; S, 4.80. Found: C, 53.66; H, 4.02; N, 2.07; S, 4.93.

[(CpRu(PPh₃)(CO))₂S₂(4-C₆H₄Me)₂](BF₄)₂. The compound CpRu-(PPh₃)(CO)S-4-C₆H₄Me (0.18 g, 0.31 mmol) in THF (15 mL) and NOBF₄ (0.044 g, 0.37 mmol) after 3 h gave a yellow precipitate which was recrystallized from methylene chloride/hexanes to give yellow crystals (0.18 g, 87%). Mp: 185–187 °C dec. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν (CO) 2002 (s), 1980 (m) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂): isomer A, 2.48 (s, 3H, Me), 5.12 (s, 5H, Cp), 6.80 (m, 6H, PPh₃), 7.40 (m, 13H, 4-C₆H₄Me, PPh₃); isomer B, 2.33 (s, 3H, Me), 5.02 (s, 5H, Cp), 6.80 (m, 6H, PPh₃), 740 (m, 13H, 4-C₆H₄Me, PPh₃); A:B = 4:1. Anal. Calcd for C₆₂H₅₄B₂F₈O₂P₂Ru₂S₂: C, 55.86; H, 4.08; S, 4.81. Found: C, 56.15; H, 4.14; S, 4.98.

[CpRu(PPh₃)(CO)S₂(CMe₃)₂]BF₄. After 1 h, CpRu(PPh₃)(CO)-SCMe₃ (0.20 g, 0.37 mmol) in THF (20.0 mL) and NOBF₄ (0.047 g, 0.40 mmol) gave a yellow precipitate which was recrystallized from methylene chloride/hexanes to give yellow crystals (0.082 g, 62%). Mp: 155-156 °C dec. IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν (CO) 1984 cm⁻¹. ¹H HMR (acetone-d₆): 1.15 (s, 9H, SCMe₃), 1.42 (s, 9H, SCMe), 5.64 (s, 5H, Cp), 7.45 (m, 6H, PPh₃), 7.63 (m, 9H, PPh₃). Anal. Calcd for C₃₂-H₃₈BF₄OPRuS₂: C, 53.25; H, 5.31; S, 8.89. Found: C, 52.40; H, 5.11; S, 8.20.

X-ray Structure Determination. Table 1 contains the crystal parameters for $[CpRu(PPh_3)(NO)SCMe_3]BF_4$. A red plate $(0.470 \times$ 0.125×0.500 mm) was sealed under N₂ in a thin-walled glass capillary. All cell dimensions were obtained from 25 reflections with 2θ in the range 30.0-35.0°. Intensity measurements were made using a Rigaku AFC6S diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo Ka radiation. Data was initially collected on the reduced cell (triclinic), but refined coordinates indicated a possible conversion to monoclinic $P2_1/c$ and the final solution is for this space group. A total of 8980 reflections were collected using the $\omega/2\theta$ scan technique to a maximum 2θ value of 47.1°; of these, 4721 were unique (merging R = 6.4%). The intensities of three representative reflections remained constant throughout data collection. All calculations were performed using the TEXSAN system of crystallographic computer programs.²¹ The structure was solved by direct methods. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All hydrogen atoms were added in calculated positions. The BF4⁻ anion was disordered over two orientations of related occupancies 0.67 and 0.33, and the fluorine atoms for each orientation were refined as a group. The disordered atoms and the boron atom, which is common to both orientations, were refined isotropically. The final cycle of full-matrix least-squares refinement was based on 2626 observed reflections $(I > 3.00\sigma(I))$.

Acknowledgment. We thank the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Quebec Department of Education for financial support.

Supporting Information Available: The ¹H NMR spectrum of $[(CpRu(PPh_3)(CO))_2S_2(4-C_6H_4Me)_2](BF_4)_2$ (Figure 2), a full table of positional parameters and isotopic temperature factors (Table 3), a table of anisotropic temperature parameters (Table 4), a complete table of bond lengths and angles (Table 5), and a table of hydrogen atom coordinates (Table 6) (7 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

IC9412365

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