

Figure 4. Absorption spectrum from  $3.0 \times 10^{-4}$  M DCA + 0.05 M TS +  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M TPE,  $1 \mu\text{s}$  after laser pulse, in air-saturated  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (—). --- is the same as in Figure 3 under air, no TPE.

for the suggestion that radical ions are intermediate in the cyanoaromatic-sensitized photooxidation. It also suggests that oxygen reacts very rapidly with the sensitizer radical anion, most likely forming  $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ . The small change in the lifetime of the radical cation in going from  $\text{N}_2$ - to air-saturated solution implies that direct reaction of oxygen with the radical cation (Barton mechanism)<sup>21,22</sup> is comparatively slow under air. However, it may be somewhat more important under  $\text{O}_2$ , where there is a considerable decrease in the lifetime of the radical cation. Thus, although other mechanisms for the formation of oxidation products are not ruled out, the mechanism suggested<sup>4</sup> is consistent with the observed facts.

## References and Notes

- (1) Paper 2 is ref 4b. Supported by NSF Grant CHE 77-21560.
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- (5) In the case of *trans*-stilbene the products are benzaldehyde (53%), stilbene epoxide (20%), benzil (24%), and 4% *cis*-stilbene.<sup>4,6</sup> The benzaldehyde is believed to be formed from cleavage of the corresponding dioxetane, which is not stable under the reaction conditions.<sup>7</sup>
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- (7) P. M. Allen and C. S. Foote, unpublished work.

(8) The sensitizer is excited by a Quanta-Ray DCR-1 Nd-YAG laser and amplifier at 355 nm, 100 mJ/pulse, 10-Hz rate, 10-ns pulse duration. A xenon flash lamp (manufactured in house) is used as the probe. The flash is focused on a  $1 \times 1 \times 5$  cm quartz cuvette and then passed to a Jobin-Yvon 4-137 UV monochromator (1-mm slit, 4–8-nm band pass) fitted with a modified<sup>23</sup> 1P28 photomultiplier tube. The phototube anode current remains linear up to 15 mA for 1.5 ms. In most cases, a 50- $\Omega$  load resistor is used at the photomultiplier, giving  $\leq 10$ -ns time response. The voltage across the load resistor is displayed on a Tektronix 7904 oscilloscope with a 7B92 time base, a 7A24 vertical amplifier, and a PG 201 FET probe. For absorption spectra, the oscilloscope traces are recorded on a Tektronix C-51 oscilloscope camera and analyzed by hand, point by point. For kinetic analysis, the output of the photomultiplier is fed into a Biomation 805 wave-form digitizer, the output from which is analyzed by a PDP 11/45 computer using programs written by W. Hopewell and Dr. L. Levine, UCLA. In experiments using a longer time base, the flash lamp is replaced with an Eimac 150-W xenon lamp and a Uniblitz 225 shutter. Some confirming experiments were performed at the Center for Fast Kinetics Research in Austin, Texas. Dr. M. A. J. Rodgers and J. Becker provided valuable assistance. The system has been described.<sup>24</sup> All of the work reported here was performed at UCLA.

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- (13) ESR spectra were measured on a Varian E-12 spectrometer. The excitation source was a Eimac 150-W xenon lamp focused on the spectrometer cavity after passing through a 400–450-nm band-pass filter consisting of 28 g of  $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 30 g of  $\text{NaNO}_2$ , and 50 mL of concentrated  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  in 1 L of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .<sup>25</sup> The spectra were recorded at ambient temperature in  $\text{N}_2$ -saturated dry MeCN.
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## Phenyl Participation in the Cleavage of $\beta$ -Phenethyl-Palladium Bonds by Cupric Chloride

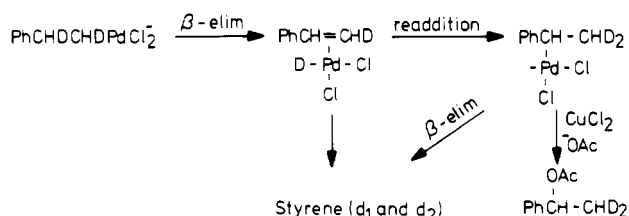
Sir:

Although oxidative cleavage of transition metal-carbon bonds has been studied extensively,<sup>1–8</sup> the detailed mechanism of such reactions is still unclear. Stereochemical studies on oxidative cleavage processes have shown both inversion<sup>3–6</sup> and retention<sup>6,7</sup> of configuration at carbon as well as lack of stereospecificity.<sup>1,8</sup>

One oxidative cleavage reaction that has been a matter of much speculation is the cupric halide cleavage of palladium-carbon bonds, in which palladium is replaced by halide.<sup>5,8,9</sup> This cleavage reaction has been proposed to proceed either by reductive elimination,<sup>10</sup> a radical mechanism,<sup>1,8</sup> or an ionic mechanism involving nucleophilic displacement at carbon.<sup>5,9</sup> Budnik and Kochi observed loss of stereochemistry in the cu-

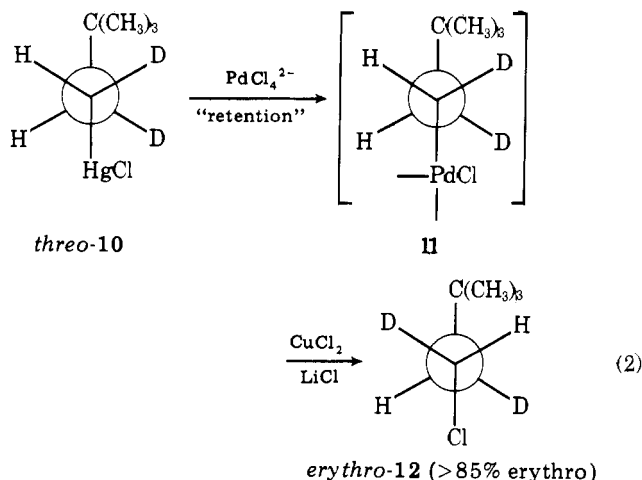


## Scheme II



2 indicates that this compound is formed by a  $\beta$ -elimination-readdition sequence similar to that proposed<sup>5b,16</sup> in the Wacker process, followed by cleavage of the palladium-carbon bond by acetate.<sup>9a,17</sup> The expected acetates **5a** from such a sequence are PhCH(OAc)CHD<sub>2</sub> and PhCD(OAc)CH<sub>2</sub>D. The sequence for the formation of the former acetate is given in Scheme II. NMR analysis of the isolated acetate mixture **5a** indicated the presence of a benzyl proton from only one compound, and, more importantly, this proton appears as a doublet.<sup>18</sup> Evidently, the deuterium content is retained in the molecule, which eliminates a path involving acetic acid addition to free styrene.

For comparison we have also studied the stereochemistry of the cupric chloride cleavage of a palladium-carbon bond in one case where participation of any kind is excluded (eq 2).



The mercury compound *threo*-**10**<sup>19</sup> was used to generate an intermediate palladium compound **11**. Reaction of *threo*-**10**, using the same conditions as those employed above for reaction of **6**, gave the chloride *erythro*-**12**.<sup>20</sup> Since alkyl transfer from mercury to palladium is known<sup>21</sup> to take place with retention, the results show that in this case the cleavage of the palladium-carbon bond has occurred with inversion.

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### Proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Characterization of the Electronic Structure of Horseradish Peroxidase Compound I

Sir:

The detailed electronic structures of the reactive forms<sup>1</sup> of horseradish peroxidase compound I (HRP-I) and compound II (HRP-II) have remained unresolved despite extensive research in the past few years, largely because of the apparently contradictory evidence from a number of spectroscopic or physical measurements.<sup>2-8</sup> Susceptibility data,<sup>2</sup> as well as Mössbauer<sup>3-5</sup> and EPR<sup>5</sup> studies, support the low-spin (ls) iron(IV) configuration for both the green HRP-I and red HRP-II, which are 2 and 1 oxidizing equiv<sup>1</sup> above the resting enzyme, HRP. The inferred free-radical nature of the second oxidizing equivalent<sup>1</sup> in HRP-I has been attributed to the presence of a porphyrin cation radical based on their optical spectra.<sup>6</sup> The observation of an anomalous ESR signal<sup>5,7</sup> is not inconsistent with this proposal, although a spin-coupled amino acid centered radical, similar to that reported for the cytochrome *c* peroxidase ES complex,<sup>9</sup> has also been suggested.<sup>7</sup>

The recently reported<sup>8</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of HRP-I, however, has been interpreted as providing strong evidence against a porphyrin cation radical and for a high-spin (hs) iron(IV).<sup>10</sup> We present here new <sup>1</sup>H NMR data on deuterio-hemin-reconstituted<sup>11</sup> horseradish peroxidase compound I (deutero-HRP-I) which provide an alternative interpretation that is consistent with a ls iron(IV) cation radical formulation for compound I.

Deuteriohemin was reconstituted into apo-HRP and purified