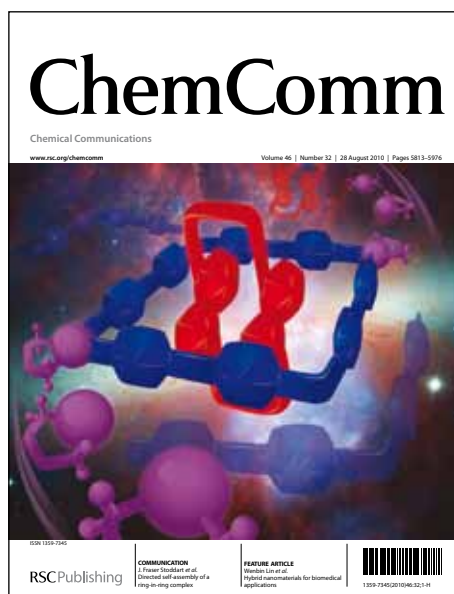


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Communication

Reactions of d^0 tungsten alkylidyne complexes with O_2 or H_2O . Formation of an oxo siloxy complex through unusual silyl migrations

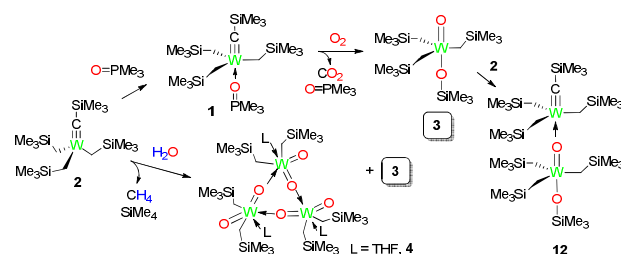
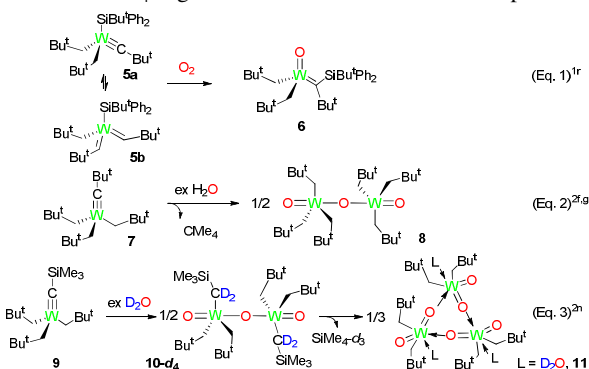
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$(Me_3SiCH_2)_3(Me_3SiC\equiv)W\leftarrow O=PMe_3$ (**1**), an adduct between $(Me_3SiCH_2)_3W\equiv CSiMe_3$ (**2**) and $O=PMe_3$, reacts with O_2 to give $O=W(OSiMe_3)(CH_2SiMe_3)_2$ (**3**) and CO_2 . Reaction of **2** with H_2O yields **3** and the trimer $[(\mu-O)W(CH_2SiMe_3)_2(=O)-(THF)]_3$ (**4**). In the reaction of D_2O with **2**, **3**- d_n and methane isotopologues CH_2D_2 , CHD_3 and CD_4 have been observed.

Early transition metal complexes are often sensitive to O_2 and H_2O .^{1,2} Reactions of O_2 with d^0 complexes are often unique, leading to the oxidation of ligands.¹ In comparison, reactions of O_2 with d^n complexes usually involve the oxidation of metals. Earlier studies showed O insertion into the M-Si and M-C bonds of d^0 complexes in their reactions with O_2 .^{1c-k} The use of redox-active ligands in a Zr(IV) complex leads to the isolation of a bisperoxo complex.^{1a} We have found that the reaction of O_2 with d^0 silyl alkylidyne **5a** and its bis-alkylidene tautomer **5b** leads to the formation of the oxo alkylidene compound **6** (Eq. 1).^{1r} The nature of reactions between early transition metal complexes and H_2O has also been of intense interest.² The reaction of water with d^0 $(Bu^tCH_2)_3W\equiv CBu^t$ (**7**) was found to give CMe_4 and $O[W(=O)(CH_2Bu^t)_3]_2$ (**8**, Eq. 2).^{2f} We found earlier that $(Bu^tCH_2)_3W\equiv CSiMe_3$ (**9**) reacted with D_2O , through a rate-determination process, to give the oxo **10-d₄** which then selectively loses the CD_2SiMe_3 ligands, yielding the trimer **11** (Eq. 3).²ⁿ Reactions of d^0 complexes with O_2 or H_2O have been used recently to make metal oxides as microelectronic insulating materials, leading to significant drops in leakage currents in transistors. We have found that the reaction of O_2 with d^0 **1** surprisingly yields the oxo siloxide **3** and CO_2 (Scheme 1). One $SiMe_3$ group in **1** undergoes an unusual migration to give the $OSiMe_3$ ligand in **3**.^{5,6} Unexpectedly, **2** reacts with H_2O to yield **3** as well. CH_4 is generated in the reaction. Another product is

Scheme 1. Reactions of **2**. $SiMe_4$ was observed by NMR.

the trimer **4**, through O-H addition to the $W\equiv CSiMe_3$ bond and elimination of $SiMe_4$. When **2** reacts with D_2O , analysis by high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) reveals the formation of the methane isotopologues CH_2D_2 , CHD_3 and CD_4 .

1 was prepared from **2** and $O=PMe_3$.⁸ The ^{13}C NMR peak of 327.39 ppm for $C\equiv W$ in the **14e** **1** is up-field shifted from 343.67 ppm in **12e** **2**. The $W\equiv C$ bond length of 1.763(7) Å in **1** (Fig. 1) is slightly longer than 1.739(8) Å in $(Bu^tCD_2)_3W\equiv CSiMe_3$ (**9-d₆**).⁹ When **1** was exposed to O_2 , it was found to convert to $O=W(OSiMe_3)(CH_2SiMe_3)_2$ (**3**).⁸ A quantitative MS analysis of the gaseous products using $^{13}CO_2$ revealed the formation of CO_2 , and the molar ratio of **3** : CO_2 is ca. 1.0 : 0.9 (Scheme 1).⁸ In comparison, when **2** was exposed to O_2 in the absence of $O=PMe_3$, it decomposed to unknown species. Addition of **2** to the reaction mixture from **1** and O_2 and crystallization gave crystals of **12** as a 1:1 adduct between **3** and **2**.⁸ The ^{29}Si NMR peak of $OSiMe_3$ at 10.74 ppm is downfield shifted from those of $C\equiv W-CH_2SiMe_3$ at -1.50 ppm, $O=W-CH_2SiMe_3$ at -2.97 ppm, and $\equiv CSiMe_3$ at -19.76 ppm in **12**.⁸ The X-ray structure of **12** reveals a C_3 axis through the $C\equiv W\leftarrow O=W-O-Si$ bonds, giving thus a linear $W(2)-O(2)-Si(4)$ linkage (Fig. 1). **3** and **2** are bonded through a $W=O\rightarrow W$ dative bond [2.578(6) Å]. The $W\equiv C$ bond distance of 1.775(11) Å in **12** is longer than those in **9-d₆** [1.739(8) Å]⁹ and **1** [1.763(7) Å], perhaps as a result of trans influence by **2**. The $W=O$ bond distance of 1.735(6) Å in **12** is similar to those in other W oxo complexes.^{2f,5e,10}

The pathway in the formation of **3** from **1** is not clear. The alkylidyne carbon atom in **1** is the most electron-rich atom with a formal -4 charge. It is thus not surprising that the $W\equiv C$ bond in **1** is attacked by O_2 , an oxidant, yielding **A** in Scheme 2. Additional attack by O_2 and oxidation of the C atom give CO_2 . The unusual silyl migration in **B** is perhaps driven by the oxophilicity of silicon.

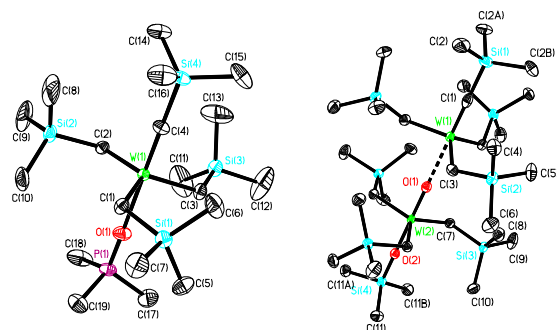
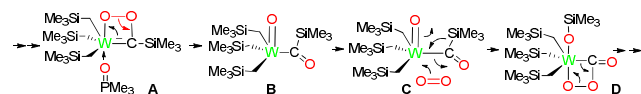


Fig. 1 Structures of **1** (Left) and **12** (Right). Bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): **1** C4-W1 1.763(7), O1-W1 2.307(7), C4-W1-O1 179.5(3), P1-O1-W1 178.5(5). **12** C1-W1 1.775(11), O1-W2 1.735(6), O2-W2 1.924(6), O1-W1 2.578(6), O2-Si4 1.630(6), C1-W-C3 100.45(15), O1-W2-C7 92.33(14), O2-W2-C7 87.67(14).



Scheme 2. Part of the proposed pathway in the reaction of **1** with O_2 .

The alkyl alkylidyne **2** reacts with water, yielding CH_4 , $SiMe_4$, and two complexes (Scheme 1). One is trimer **4** which is similar to **11**²ⁿ in Eq. 3. The crystal structure of **4** is given in Fig. 2. It is surprising that $O=W(OSiMe_3)(CH_2SiMe_3)_3$ (**3**) was also isolated from the reaction (Scheme 1), indicating a $SiMe_3$ migration to a $W=O$ ligand in the reaction. When the reaction was conducted at 23 °C, the molar ratio of **3** : **4** is 0.7 : 1. The yield of **3** is higher at -25 °C or below. When **2** reacted with H_2O at -78 °C, the ratio was 29 : 1. When powders of **2** were added H_2O in THF at -25 °C, the yield of **3** was also higher with **3** : **4** = 13 : 1.

MS analyses of the gaseous products using $^{13}CH_4$ as the calibration showed the formation of 0.62 equiv of CH_4 when **1** reacts with 2 equiv of H_2O .⁸ Since the yield of **3** is ca. 66%, the ratio of CH_4 and **3** in the reaction mixture is ca. 1:1. A mechanism consistent with the observations is given in Path II in Scheme 3. The $\equiv C-$ atom in **2** is basic. Addition of H_2O to the $W\equiv C$ bond in **2** leads to the formation of the hydroxyl alkylidene **E** and oxo **F**. The oxophilic $SiMe_3$ group in one of the CH_2SiMe_3 ligands in **F** then undergoes a migration to the oxo ligand in Path II, yielding the $OSiMe_3$ and a methylene ligand in **C**. Addition of a second H_2O molecule gives **3** and CH_4 . **F** may also be attacked

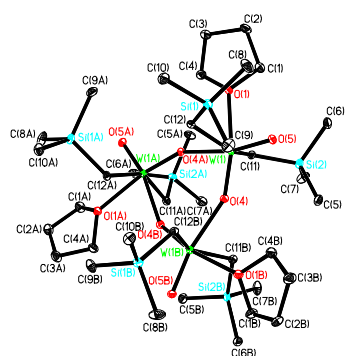
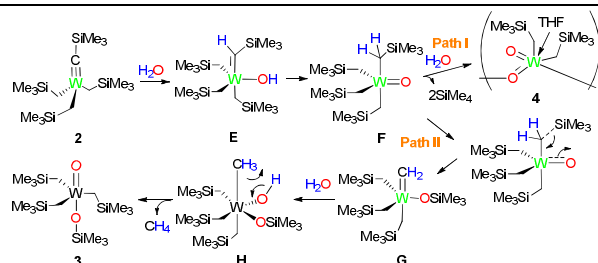


Fig. 2 Structure of **4**. Bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): W1-C11 2.167(4), W1-C12 2.159(4), W1-O1 2.363(3), W1-O4 1.758(3), W1B-O4 2.239(3), W1-O4A 2.239(3), W1-O5 1.711(3), O4-W1-O4A 89.0(2), O5-W1-O1 86.3(1), W1-O4-W1A 150.9(1), W1-C12-Si1 118.3(2).



Scheme 3

by H_2O through Path I, eliminating two molecules of $SiMe_4$ to give dioxo **4** containing two alkyl ligands. In other words, rates of two competing paths here lead to two different products. Perhaps in the reaction of **10-d**₄ with D_2O (Eq. 3), attack by D_2O is fast, removing the CD_2SiMe_3 ligands before they undergo a migration.

When **2** in $THF-d_8$ was added D_2O (99.9% D, ca. 5 equiv), we were surprised to find that an HRMS analysis of the methane isotopologues gave the following ratios of CH_4 : CH_2D_2 : CHD_3 : CD_4 = 0 : 3 : 100 : 19 : 32(± 5)% (Fig. 3). CH_2D_2 and CHD_3 were unexpectedly major products in the reaction. 2H NMR spectrum of the reaction of **2** with D_2O (Fig. S1) revealed the formation of $SiMe_4-d_n$ and $O=W(OSiMe_3)(CH_2-nD_nSiMe_3)_3$ (**3-d**_n) containing partially deuterated ligands.⁸ It should be noted, although the glassware was pre-dried (0.01 torr, >400 °C),^{8,11} silanol groups apparently remained. They may exchange with D_2O , leading to a higher H/D ratio.⁸ Thus, the above ratios of the methane isotopologues are analysed qualitatively below.

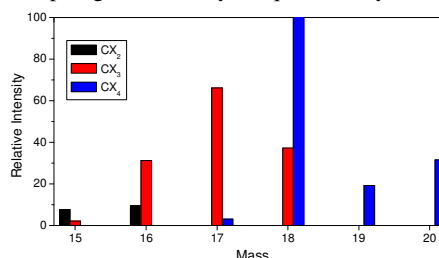
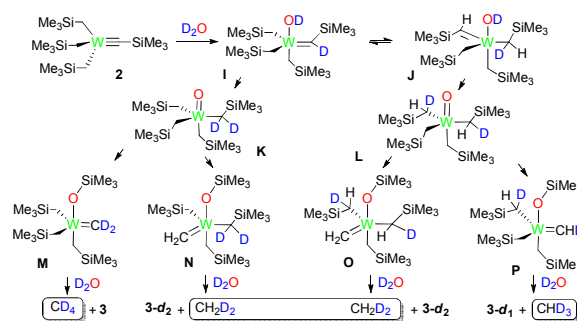


Fig. 3 The HRMS for the methane isotopologues in the 15-20 Dalton region. Isotopologues of methylene (CX_2), methyl (CX_3) and methane (CX_4) are given in black, red, and blue colours, respectively.⁸



Scheme 4

The formation of CH_2D_2 and CHD_3 and observation of $O=W(OSiMe_3)(CH_2-nD_nSiMe_3)_3$ (**3-d**_n) are consistent with exchanges of the α -H atoms between $=CDSiMe_3$ and $-CH_2SiMe_3$ in **I** in Scheme 4 to yield **J** containing a $W=CH-$ bond, after the D-OD addition to the $W\equiv C-$ bond in **2**. Similar α -H migrations have been reported.^{9,12} In addition to the α -H exchange, the migration of the second D atom in W-OD to the $W=CDSiMe_3$

ligand affords the tetraalkyl W oxo intermediate **K**. In **J**, subsequent D migration from W-OD to W=CH- yields **L**. The SiMe₃ group in *one* of these alkyl ligands in **K** and **L** undergoes the C–Si bond cleavage and SiMe₃ migration to the oxo ligand to give **M/N** and **G/P**, respectively, containing a methylene ligand (W=CD₂– in **M**, W=CH₂– in **N/O**, or W=CHD– in **P**), which subsequently reacts with D₂O to yield the methane isotopologues. The presence of HOD in the D₂O-THF-*d*₈ may lead to the formation of 3(±5)% CH₃D.^{9,11}

It is interesting to note that the reactions of H₂O with (Bu^tCH₂)₃W≡CBu^t (**7**, an analog of **2**, Eq. 2), and (Bu^tCH₂)₂Mo(=CHBu^t)(=NBu^t) give **8**^{2f} and [(Mo(=NBu^t)(CH₂Bu^t)₂(MoO₄)]₂^{2g} respectively. The alkylidene intermediate (Bu^tCH₂)₃W(=CDBu^t)(OD) in the reaction of **7** with D₂O does not undergo α-H migration.^{2f} Reactions of H₂O/O₂ with d⁴ Cp*M(NO)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂ (M = Mo, W) afford Cp*M(=O)₂-(CH₂SiMe₃)₂ with no SiMe₃ migration to the oxo ligands.

The formation of the novel siloxide **3** demonstrates rich chemistry in the reactions of d⁰ complexes with O₂ or H₂O. The reactions of **1** with O₂ and **2** with H₂O are of different nature: The former a redox reaction and the latter an acid-base reaction. Both, however, involve the alkylidyne carbon atoms and yield the same complex **3**. At the oxidation state of –4, the ≡C- atoms in **1** and **2** are electron rich. Two molecules of O₂, an oxidant, obtain a total of 8 electrons from the ≡C atom in **1**, oxidizing it to CO₂ and yielding **3**. When **2** is exposed to H₂O, the ≡C- atom in **2** acts as a base, abstracting a total of four H⁺ ions from two H₂O molecules, yielding **3** and converting itself to CH₄. Oxophilicity of silicon and tungsten plays a critical role here, obtaining oxygen atoms and driving the formation of CO₂ and CH₄ in the reactions.

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Notes and references

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† Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Experimental section, additional HDMS analysis, and cif files of X-ray crystal structures.

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