# Connecting Binuclear Pd(III) and Mononuclear Pd(IV) Chemistry by Pd-Pd Bond Cleavage 

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## S Supporting Information


#### Abstract

Oxidation of binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complexes with $\mathrm{PhICl}_{2}$ or $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ has previously been shown to afford binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes featuring a $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ bond. In contrast, oxidation of binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complexes with electrophilic trifluoromethylating (" $\mathrm{CF}_{3}{ }^{+")}$ ) reagents has been reported to afford mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complexes. Herein, we report experimental and computational studies of the oxidation of a binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex with " $\mathrm{CF}_{3}{ }^{+}$" reagents. These studies suggest that a mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV}$ ) complex is generated by an oxidation-fragmentation sequence proceeding via fragmentation of an initially formed, formally binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}($ III ), intermediate. The observation that binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(I I I)$ and mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complexes are accessible in the same reactions offers an opportunity for understanding the role of nuclearity in both oxidation and subsequent $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ bond-forming reactions.


## INTRODUCTION

Both mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ and binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes can participate in $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ bond-forming reductive elimination reactions. ${ }^{1,2}$ Since 1971, mononuclear Pd(IV) complexes have been proposed as intermediates in a variety of Pd-catalyzed CH functionalization reactions. ${ }^{3,4}$ Recently, both Ritter and Sanford have suggested that some reactions that were thought to proceed through mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(I V)$ intermediates may instead involve binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ intermediates. ${ }^{2,5}$ Metal-metal ( $M-M$ ) redox synergy during catalysis has been hypothesized to provide access to low-activation-energy redox processes in $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ bond-forming reactions. ${ }^{2 e, 5}$ Experimental and theoretical studies have suggested that $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ reductive elimination from binuclear Pd (III) complexes can be facilitated by $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$ redox synergy. ${ }^{2 \mathrm{e}, 6}$ Understanding the roles of mono- and binuclear intermediates in oxidation during catalysis could prove important for the design of new oxidative Pd-catalyzed $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ bond-forming reactions.

In 2009, Powers and Ritter reported that oxidation of binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex 1 with $\mathrm{I}(\mathrm{III})$ oxidants $\mathrm{PhICl}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ affords binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes 2 and 3, respectively (Scheme 1a). ${ }^{2 a, c}$ In the same year, Sanford reported a kinetic analysis of a $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$-catalyzed oxidation reaction with diaryliodonium salts, and also found evidence for binuclear Pd intermediates. ${ }^{2 \mathrm{~b}}$ On the basis of these observations, binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ intermediates were proposed in catalysis. ${ }^{2 d, f, 5}$ In 2010, Sanford reported that treatment of binuclear complex 1 with Togni's I(III) reagent $4^{7}$ affords

Scheme 1. (a) Oxidation of Binuclear Pd(II) Complex 1 with $\mathrm{I}(\mathrm{III})$-Based Oxidants $\mathrm{PhICl}_{2}$ or $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ Results in the Formation of Binuclear Pd(III) Complex 2 or 3, Respectively, and (b) Oxidation of Binuclear Pd(II) Complex 1 with I(III)-Based Reagent 4 Affords Mononuclear Pd(IV) Complex 5

mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex 5 (Scheme 1b). ${ }^{8,9}$ The formation of mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex 5 under conditions similar to those previously identified to afford binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes raised questions regarding the generality of binuclear

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Pd intermediates in catalysis as well as the prospect that both binuclear Pd(III) and mononuclear Pd(IV) complexes may be accessible in the same oxidation reactions.

In an effort to understand the identity of high-valent intermediates in oxidative Pd catalysis, and in particular the potential interconversion of binuclear and mononuclear structures, we have pursued an investigation of the mechanism of the oxidation of 1 to afford 5 . Formation of mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex 5 by oxidation of binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex 1 could, in principle, proceed by either fragmentation of 1 to afford mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complexes (reaction a, Scheme 2)

Scheme 2. Formation of Mononuclear Pd(IV) Complex 5 by Oxidation of 1 with 4 Could Proceed via Either Mono- or Bimetallic Pathways ${ }^{a}$

${ }^{a}$ Oxidative addition of $\mathrm{X}_{2}$ or related oxidants could potentially afford either cis or trans addition products.
followed by monometallic oxidation (c), or by initial bimetallic oxidation of 1 to a binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complex (b) followed by $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ heterolysis (d). Herein, we report data that are consistent with initial oxidation to a bimetallic Pd (III) complex, which undergoes fragmentation to a $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ and a $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex. We discuss the intimate mechanism of fragmentation, which has been derived from computational investigations. Finally, we report an example of fragmentation of a bimetallic $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complex, which represents the first experimental observation that connects bimetallic Pd (III) and monometallic $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ chemistry.

## RESULTS

Nuclearity of Oxidation of $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ Complex 1. In solution, $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex 1 is binuclear: an upfield shift of the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances of the benzo $[h]$ quinolinyl protons in $\mathbf{1}$ as compared to free benzo[ $h$ ]quinoline is observed, which is consistent with close proximity of the aromatic ligands in solution. ${ }^{11}$ An NOE is observed between $\mathrm{H}-2$ and $\mathrm{H}-10^{\prime}$, confirming that the cyclometalated ligands of $\mathbf{1}$ are held in proximity in solution (Scheme 2). ${ }^{2 \mathrm{~d}}$ In addition, the observed fidelity of the UV-vis spectral features to Beer's Law confirms that $\mathbf{1}$ does not aggregate or dissociate in solution. ${ }^{12}$

While complex 1 is binuclear in solution, complex 5 , the product of oxidation, is mononuclear. Potentially, either oxidation by 4 , or fragmentation of a binuclear complex to a mononuclear complex, could be the rate-limiting step in the
formation of 5 . No reaction intermediates were observed by either ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ or ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$ NMR spectroscopy during the oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$ to 5 , and thus, we used the method of initial rates to gain insight into the relative timing of the requisite oxidation and fragmentation reactions. The initial rate of oxidation was determined to be first-order dependent on both the concentration of oxidant 4 ([4]), as well as the concentration of binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex 1 ([1]). If dissociation of 1 to afford two equivalent mononuclear species were to precede rate-determining oxidation, a reaction order of $1 / 2$ with respect to [1] would be expected. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{We}$ also investigated the order of the reaction in AcOH because the yield of 5 in the oxidation of 1 with $\mathbf{4}$ is positively correlated with $[\mathrm{AcOH}]{ }^{8 \mathrm{a}}$ The initial rate of oxidation was found to be first-order dependent on the concentration of $\mathrm{AcOH}([\mathrm{AcOH}])$. These experiments afforded an empirically determined rate law: rate $=$ $k[1][4][\mathrm{AcOH}]$.

To establish the role of AcOH , potentially functioning as either an acid catalyst or as a source of acetate, a potential nucleophilic catalyst, we examined the competence of $\mathrm{AcO}^{-}$as a catalyst for the oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$. Acetate is not a competent catalyst for the oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$ with $\mathbf{4}$; no reaction was observed upon treatment of $\mathbf{1}$ with $\mathbf{4}$ in the presence of 1.0 equiv of $n$ $\mathrm{Bu}_{4} \mathrm{NOAc}$ at $23{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The dependence of the reaction rate on [ AcOH$]$ but not on $\left[\mathrm{AcO}^{-}\right]$is consistent with protonation of 4 with AcOH to generate a more potent oxidant (i.e., 7, $\mathrm{X}=$ AcO ), which subsequently engages in oxidation of $1 .{ }^{14,15}$ Consistent with the proposed protonation of 4 by AcOH , the ${ }^{19}$ F NMR chemical shift of 4 was observed to monotonically shift downfield with increasing concentration of AcOH , and treatment of 4 with 1.0 equiv of camphor sulfonic acid (CSA), reported to protonate $4,{ }^{15 \mathrm{c}}$ resulted in a downfield shift of the ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$ NMR signal of 4. Additionally, X-ray crystallographic analysis of $7\left(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NTf}_{2}\right)$, obtained by protonation of 4 with $\mathrm{HNTf}_{2}$, shows protonation of oxygen lengthens the $\mathrm{I}-\mathrm{O}$ bond (eq 1). ${ }^{15 f}$ Similar interactions of hypervalent iodine reagents with Lewis acids, such as $\mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{OTf})_{2}{ }^{15 \mathrm{~b}}$ have also been observed.


The experimentally determined rate law for oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$, rate $=k[1][4][\mathrm{AcOH}]$, is consistent with an oxidized binuclear Pd complex (i.e., 6) as the immediate product of oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$ (Scheme 3). In this reaction manifold, initial protonation of 4 to afford 7, followed by oxidation of 1 by 7, would lead to the formation of high-valent binuclear cation 6. Intermediate 6 would then undergo formal $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ heterolysis to afford mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(I V)$ complex 5. In light of the valence asymmetry implicit in $\mathbf{6}$, and computational studies elaborating on the subtleties of formal oxidation state assignment for unsymmetrical binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}\left(\right.$ III ) species, ${ }^{6}$ formal oxidation states have not been assigned for unsymmetrical species discussed herein.

The rate law for oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$ with $\mathbf{4}$ is also consistent with an oxidation pathway in which an acetate ion released on protonation of 4 reacts with $\mathbf{1}$ to afford a mononuclear

Scheme 3. Mononuclear Pd(IV) 5 is Proposed To Form from Binuclear Pd(II) 1 via Initial Bimetallic Oxidation

palladate species, which subsequently undergoes oxidation by 7 (Scheme 2, path a (acetate-assisted) followed by c). We cannot definitively exclude this possibility; however, evidence suggests against it: acetate is not required for oxidation, and acetic acid can be replaced by CSA in the oxidation of 1 with 4 , resulting in observation of mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(I V)$ complex 5 in $36 \%$ yield based on Pd.

Pd-Pd Cleavage. Formation of mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(I V)$ complex 5 from 6 requires formal $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ heterolysis, which would generate both a $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex (5) and a $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex ( $1 / 2$ equiv of $\mathbf{1}$ ). Heterolytic cleavage of $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$ bonds has been observed in binuclear $\mathrm{Pt}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes, ${ }^{16}$ but has not yet been established in dipalladium(III) chemistry. Proposed intermediate 6 was not observed during oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$ with 4 , presumably because $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ heterolysis is significantly faster than oxidation of 1 with 4 .

While we have not observed a binuclear Pd (III) complex during the oxidation of 1 with 4 , we have experimentally observed $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})-\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ bond cleavage under modified conditions. Previously, we have shown that treatment of $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complex 8 , generated by oxidation of 1 with $\mathrm{XeF}_{2},{ }^{17}$ with either TMSCl or TMSOAc affords characterized binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}($ III ) complexes 2 and 3 , respectively. In an effort to generate a binuclear Pd (III) trifluoromethyl complex (i.e., 9), $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ wire 8 was treated with 3.0 equiv of $\mathrm{TMSCF}_{3}$. Consumption of 8 and formation of an intermediate was detected by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy. While the instability of this species precluded full characterization, the available evidence is consistent with it being $\operatorname{Pd}($ III ) trifluoromethyl complex 9 . The assignment of the structure of 9 is based on analogy to the reaction of 8 with other TMSX reagents, which affords binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes (Scheme 2, reaction a). In addition, the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 9 contains a signal at 2.74 ppm , consistent with the bridging acetate resonance of other binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes. Both of these pieces of data are consistent with all other benzo $[h]$ quinolinyl acetate-bridged $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes that have been prepared. ${ }^{2, \mathrm{~b}}$

Treatment of the reaction mixture containing complex 9 with 10.0 equiv of AcOH and warming from $-78 \rightarrow 23^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ resulted in the formation of mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex 5 in $61-98 \%$ yield, ${ }^{18}$ as well as complex $1(74-89 \%), \mathrm{HCF}_{3}(21-30 \%$ yield, based on ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$ NMR spectroscopy), and TMSF (40-52\%) (Scheme 4b). ${ }^{19}$ The formation of 5 by sequential treatment of $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complex 8 with $\mathrm{TMSCF}_{3}$ and AcOH confirms the viability of formal $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ heterolysis to generate mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complexes.

Computational Investigations. Direct interrogation of the mechanism of $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ heterolysis by experiment is challenging because fragmentation of $\mathbf{6}$ occurs after the ratedetermining step of oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$ with 4 . To probe the nature

Scheme 4. (a) Oxidation of Binuclear Pd(II) Complex 1 with $\mathrm{XeF}_{2}$ Affords Pd(III) Wire 8 and (b) Treatment of Pd(III) Wire 8 with $\mathrm{TMSCF}_{3}$ and AcOH Afforded Mononuclear Pd(IV) Complex 5 and Binuclear Pd(II) Complex 1, the Products Expected of Pd-Pd Heterolysis

b.

of the fragmentation process, computational studies of this transformation have been undertaken.

Computation was carried out using identical procedures as were used in a recent study of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Cl}$ reductive elimination from the binuclear benzo[ $h$ ]quinolinyl complex 3 with dichloromethane as a solvent. ${ }^{6}$ Gaussian $09^{20}$ was used at the M06 level of density functional theory (DFT); selected species were also examined using the BP86, TPSS, and wB97XD functionals. ${ }^{21}$ The effective core potential of Hay and Wadt with a triple- $\xi$ valence basis set (LAN2TZ) was chosen to describe Pd, ${ }^{22}$ the $6-31 G(d)$ basis set was used for other atoms, ${ }^{23}$ and a polarization function of $\xi_{\mathrm{f}}=1.472$ was also added to Pd to form basis set BS1. ${ }^{24}$ Frequency calculations were carried out at the BS1 level. To further refine energies obtained from the M06/BS1 calculations, we carried out single point energy calculations for all the structures with a larger basis set (BS2) utilizing the quadruple- $\xi$ valence polarized def2-QZVP basis $\operatorname{set}^{25}$ on Pd along with the corresponding ECP and the 6 $311+G(2 d, p)$ basis set on other atoms. The CPCM solvation model ${ }^{26}$ was used to calculate solvation energies using BS2 and gas-phase-optimized geometries. To estimate the corresponding solvated Gibbs free energies $(\Delta G)$, entropy corrections were calculated at the gas phase M06/BS1 level and added to the solvent potential energies. ${ }^{27}$ To provide more precise PdO bond dissociation energies, basis set superposition errors (BSSE) were evaluated. The nature of transition structures was confirmed by intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) searches, vibrational frequency calculations, and potential energy surface scans. In the following discussion, computed structures will be referred to with compound letters, not numbers; for example, the computed structure of binuclear cation 6 will be referred to as A .

Structure of 6. The rate law of oxidation implicates binuclear cation 6 as the immediate product of oxidation of 1 with 4 . Because oxidation is carried out in the presence of AcOH , we evaluated potential binding of $\mathrm{AcO}^{-}$to the binuclear core of A to generate neutral, binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ trifluoromethyl acetate complex $\mathbf{B}$. We have computed the association of $\mathbf{A}$ with $\mathrm{AcO}^{-}$ to be approximately thermoneutral using the CPCM solvation model ${ }^{26}$ for $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ (eq 2). Because of the accessibility of both cationic and neutral binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ structures, both have been evaluated with regard to fragmentation and reductive elimination pathways (vide infra).


Fragmentation of the Pd-Pd Core. We identified a lowenergy pathway for the fragmentation of neutral binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}($ III ) complex B by scanning the potential energy surface as a function of increasing Pd-Pd separation (Scheme 5). Starting with a Pd-Pd separation of $2.692 \AA$, computed for the gasphase structure of $\mathbf{B}$, transition structure $\mathbf{C}$, which connects structure $\mathbf{B}$ with isomer $\mathbf{D}$, was located. Isomer $\mathbf{D}$ has a $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ distance $0.15 \AA$ longer than $\mathbf{B}$, and only one bridging acetate coordinated trans to carbon at the $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}}-\mathrm{R}$ center and trans to nitrogen at $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}{ }^{28}$ Continued elongation of the $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ distance of $\mathbf{D}$ led to identification of structures $\mathbf{F}$ and $\mathbf{G}$. Structure $\mathbf{G}$ evolves to $\mathbf{H}$ and $\mathbf{I}$, the products of $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ cleavage. The conversion of $\mathbf{D}$ to $\mathbf{F}$ proceeds via structure $\mathbf{E}$, which was identified as the highest energy point between $\mathbf{D}$ and $\mathbf{F}$, but could not be optimized as a transition structure. ${ }^{29}$ Structure E is included to illustrate the path of isomerization of $\mathbf{D}$ to $\mathbf{F}$. Structure G, in which there is a weak $\mathrm{Pd}_{b} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ interaction (2.912 $\AA$ ), can be confidently assessed as the species leading to structurally characterized $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ structure $\mathbf{H}$ (5), with the accompanying $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ species I (1), which were computed to have a combined energy of $\Delta G(\Delta H)=-3.9(12.8) \mathrm{kcal} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$. Subsequent reaction of the resulting $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex 1 with 4 can afford additional mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex 5.

Similar computational analysis of potential fragmentation of the binuclear cation $\mathbf{A}$ led to steadily increasing energy to values $>24 \mathrm{kcal} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ( BS 1 , gas phase E ) at a $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}} \cdots \mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}$ distance of 4.7 $\AA$ with retention of strong acetate bridging between $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}}$ and $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}$. An inflection at $\sim 3.8 \AA$ allowed optimization of a high energy species ( $\Delta G 22.4 \mathrm{kcal} \mathrm{mol}{ }^{-1}$ ) exhibiting a $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}} \cdots \mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}$ distance of $3.861 \AA$. Both acetates retain their bridging role with
normal $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{O}$ distances, and in addition the oxygen atom trans to carbon at $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}$ now also bridges to $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}}$ resulting in a pseudooctahedral $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ center at $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}}$ and square-planar $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ center at $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}\left(\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}}-\mathrm{O} 2.365 \AA, \mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}-\mathrm{O} 2.308 \AA\right)$. In view of the high energy of this optimized species, and in the absence of fragmentation at longer $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}} \cdots \mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}$ separations at even higher energy, it is most likely that fragmentation occurs from B.

Potential Reductive Elimination from the Binuclear Core. After identification of the fragmentation pathway illustrated in Scheme 5, we examined potential reductive elimination reactions from either A or $\mathbf{B}$ to ascertain whether there may be other low energy reaction pathways for the decomposition of binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ trifluoromethyl complexes. Scheme 6 illustrates the pathways for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ reductive elimination from binuclear complex A that were identified by IRC searches. We identified transition structure $\mathbf{J}$ for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ reductive elimination from cation A (Scheme 7). Transition structure J connects binuclear cation A with complex $\mathbf{K}$, best described as containing a $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ center with a bound arenonium, in which the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ bond is formed. ${ }^{30}$ The $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ distance increases from A to K , which is consistent with cleavage of the $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ bond during reductive elimination. ${ }^{31}$ We also evaluated potential reductive elimination from neutral binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ structure $\mathbf{B}$. Transition structures $\mathbf{N}$ and $\mathbf{L}$ were identified for the reductive elimination of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OAc}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ bonds, respectively. ${ }^{32}$ Transition structure $\mathbf{N}$ is similar to transition structures for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OAc}$ reductive elimination identified in a recent computational study of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OAc}$ reductive elimination from $3 .{ }^{33}$

The observation that transition structure $\mathbf{N}$, for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OAc}$ reductive elimination, is higher in energy than transition structure L , for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ reductive elimination, may be at least partly influenced by valence asymmetry of the binuclear core. Computed $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ reductive elimination originates from a Pd center that resembles $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ while computed $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OAc}$ reductive elimination originates from a Pd center that has partial $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ character. Both pathways were found to proceed through a transition structure significantly higher in energy than the transition structures associated with $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ fragmentation. Additional calculations have been performed with the BP86,

Scheme 5. Reaction Coordinate Analysis for the Fragmentation of B to Mononuclear Pd(IV) Complex 5 (H) and Pd(II) Complex 1 (I) ${ }^{a}$


[^0]Scheme 6. Reaction Coordinate Analysis for Potential $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OAc}$ Reductive Elimination Reactions from Binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}\left(\right.$ III ) Structures A and B ${ }^{a}$

${ }^{a}$ The calculated relative energies (and enthalpies) are given in $\mathrm{kcal} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$.
Scheme 7. Computed Structures Involved in Potential Fragmentation (Scheme 5) and Reductive Elimination (Scheme 6) Processes


B
Pd: 2.6
Pd-Pd: $2.692 \AA$


J
Pd-Pd: $2.803 \AA$


C
Pd-Pd: $2.819 \AA$


K
K
Pd…Pd: $2.917 \AA$


D
Pd-Pd: $2.840 \AA$


Pd-Pd: $2.667 \AA$

${ }_{\mathrm{F}}^{\mathrm{F}}$
Pd.Pd:4.407 $\AA$


G
Pd…Pd: $4.818 \AA$
M


Pd-Pd: $2.696 \AA$

Pd-Pd: $2.603 \AA$


H


O
Pd-Pd: $2.644 \AA$

TPSS, and wB97XD density functionals, and similar trends in the reaction barriers have been observed (see Supporting Information). While the absolute transition state energies vary between the functionals, the M06, BP86, and wB97XD functionals all agree that fragmentation via transition state C is preferred over reductive elimination via transition state $\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{L}$, or $\mathbf{N}$, respectively.

## DISCUSSION

The nuclearity of high-valent Pd intermediates in $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ oxidation catalysis has recently been the topic of discussion. ${ }^{4,5}$ Both binuclear Pd(III) and mononuclear Pd(IV) complexes have been proposed as high-valent intermediates in catalysis. Historically, mechanisms proceeding through mononuclear
$\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ intermediates and binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ intermediates have been presented as mechanistic alternatives, and potential connections between these limiting catalysis cycles have not been discussed. Formation of a mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(I V)$ complex from Pd (III) complex 8, reported herein, demonstrates that both $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ and $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ can be accessed under similar conditions and allows potential mechanistic nuances to be elucidated. ${ }^{34}$

While oxidation of complex 1 with hypervalent iodine reagents $\mathrm{PhICl}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ affords isolable binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes 2 and 3, respectively, ${ }^{2}$ oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$ with hypervalent iodine reagent 4 affords mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(I V)$ complex 5. Despite the different nuclearities of products resulting from oxidation of $\mathbf{1}$ with hypervalent iodine reagents, monitoring the reaction kinetics of oxidation indicates that each
of these three reactions proceeds by initial oxidation to a binuclear Pd complex. The rate law of $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$-catalyzed $\mathrm{C}-$ H arylation, rate $=k[\mathrm{Pd}]^{2}[13][10]^{-3}$, in combination with the spectroscopically observed mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ catalyst resting state, implicates binuclear intermediates in oxidation during the reaction in Scheme 8a. ${ }^{2 \mathrm{c}}$ The rate law of $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$-catalyzed

Scheme 8. (a) Rate Law of Oxidation, Combined with the Spectroscopically Observed Catalyst Resting State, Implicates Binuclear Oxidation Intermediate 12 During PdCatalyzed C-H Arylation, and (b) Acetate-Assisted Oxidation During Pd-Catalyzed $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ Chlorination Is Proposed To Generate 16 as the Immediate Product of Oxidation During Catalysis

$\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ chlorination of 2-phenylpyridine derivatives was determined to be rate $=k\left[\mathrm{Pd}_{2}\right]$ [NCS] [ $\mathrm{AcO}^{-}$], which is consistent with rate-determining, acetate-assisted oxidation of a binuclear Pd complex (Scheme 8b). ${ }^{2 \mathrm{~d}}$ Similarly, oxidation of binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complex 1 with 4 to afford mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex 5 likely proceeds through initial oxidation of a binuclear complex. The observed dichotomy between oxidation reactions of complex 1 that afford binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes versus mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complexes is not due to differences in oxidation, but due to reactivity differences of the initially formed binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}($ III ) complexes. While binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complexes 2 and 3 have been isolated, the accumulated evidence is consistent with binuclear intermediate 6 undergoing facile $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ cleavage to afford mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex 5.

Computational examination of potential pathways available for the decomposition of $\mathbf{B}$ revealed that a facile reaction manifold for $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ heterolysis is available. The sequence $\mathbf{B}$ $(\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd} 2.692 \AA)$ to $\mathbf{G}$ (Scheme 5) indicates that fragmentation occurs via a succession of acetate group rearrangements: one bridge becomes unidentate at $\mathrm{Pd}_{2}$, and the axial acetate at $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}$ moves to the square plane and retains a weak axial interaction to give $\mathbf{D}(\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd} 2.840 \AA)$; the unidentate acetate at $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}}$ becomes bidentate and develops a weak $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ interaction as the $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ bond breaks to form F ( $\mathrm{Pd} \cdots \mathrm{Pd} 4.407$ Å). Finally, the remaining bridging acetate becomes unidentate at $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}}$, and the unidentate acetate at $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}$ becomes bidentate in $\mathbf{G}(\mathrm{Pd} \cdots \mathrm{Pd} 4.818 \AA)$. During this process $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{a}}$ and $\mathrm{Pd}_{\mathrm{b}}$ gradually adopt coordination geometries consistent with disproportionation, completed at $\mathbf{F}$, resulting in pseudooctahedral $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ and pseudosquare planar $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ centers in $\mathbf{F}$ and G. Fragmentation of $\mathbf{G}$ is followed by dimerization of the resulting $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ species to afford I and coordination of water to the $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ center to afford $\mathbf{H}$.

In 2010, Canty and Yates proposed that binuclear Pd (III) complexes bearing apical ligands of differing $\sigma$-donating ability, such as $\mathbf{B}$, should be formulated as mixed-valence $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV}) /$ $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{II}) \leftrightarrow \operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{III}) / \mathrm{Pd}($ III $)$ dimers rather than valence symmetric $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ dimers. ${ }^{6,35} \mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ heterolysis is the limiting case of valence localization in a binuclear complex. Formation of 5 from 8 confirms the viability of $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ bond heterolysis as a pathway to access mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complexes by formal heterolysis of $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})-\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ bonds and is consistent with recently reported computational investigations of the valence asymmetry of binuclear $\operatorname{Pd}\left(\right.$ III ) complexes. ${ }^{6,35}$ The specific electronic and structural parameters that favor fragmentation over $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ coupling from a binuclear core remain to be established.

## CONCLUSION

A growing body of research points to the importance of binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ intermediates in $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ oxidation chemistry. Two studies are available that provide experimentally derived insight into the nature of the oxidation step during catalysis. Both studies indicate the intermediacy of binuclear intermediates in catalysis, and both have a ligand frequently employed in Pd-catalysis (acetate) present in a key metalbridging role. ${ }^{2 \mathrm{c}, \mathrm{d}}$ In light of the importance of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ bondforming reactions, and the recent observation of mononuclear $\operatorname{Pd}(I V)$ complexes during model reactions (Scheme 1), we have obtained data relevant to the mechanism of formation of 5 to gain insight into the relative roles of mono- and binuclear intermediates. The results of this investigation are consistent with a two-step, oxidation-disproportionation sequence for the formation of 5 in which the initial product of oxidation is binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{III})$ complex 6. We hypothesize that bimetallic oxidation of 1 (b, Scheme 3) may be favored over potential oxidation of mononuclear $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complexes to $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ complex 5 (d) because Pd-Pd bond formation occurs during oxidation and lowers the activation barrier to oxidation. ${ }^{5}$

The observed fragmentation of 6 illustrates the complexities in mechanisms available for arene functionalization via higher oxidation state palladium intermediates. While symmetric complexes, such as 2 , undergo facile $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ reductive elimination chemistry without prior cleavage of the binuclear core, binuclear $\mathrm{Pd}($ III ) complex 6 fragments to $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{IV})$ and $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{II})$ complexes. Canty and Yates have provided a theoretical model with which to describe this fragmentation, which is based on valence asymmetry of binuclear complexes bearing different apical ligands. ${ }^{6,35}$ It remains to be defined where on the continuum of ligand donating ability $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{Pd}$ cleavage becomes competitive with $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ reductive elimination from binuclear intermediates.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

## (5) Supporting Information

Detailed experimental procedures, spectroscopic data for all new compounds, complete ref 20 , energy parameters, and Cartesian coordinates of all optimized structures. Crystallographic data for $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{5}$ (CIF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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## Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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(29) This point has a low single imaginary frequency $\left(-23 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$, which suggests that the potential energy surface should be flat. Atom movements for this frequency are as expected for the transition structure, but attempted transition structure optimization led to the isomer $\mathbf{D}$, and optimization at later points in the scan led to $\mathbf{F}$.
(30) (a) Formulation of $\mathbf{K}$ as an arenonium species is supported by presence of a short $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{C}_{\text {ipso }}$ interaction ( $2.226 \AA$ ), $\mathrm{C}_{i p s o}-\mathrm{C}$ distances ( $1.417,1.452 \AA$ ) that are longer than other $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ distances within the $\mathrm{C}_{6}$ ring ( $1.389,1,389,1.408,1.410 \AA$ ), and $\mathrm{C}_{i p s o}$ being well removed from the plane of the ring forming a $\mathrm{C}_{\text {para }}-\mathrm{C}_{\text {ipso }}-\mathrm{CF}_{3}$ angle of $133.5^{\circ}$. Lengthening the $\mathrm{Pd}-\mathrm{C}_{\text {ipso }}$ distance to beyond that for bonding, followed by optimization (K), results in a higher energy for the resultant structure $\left(\mathrm{K}^{\prime}\right)\left[\Delta G(\Delta H)=-8.6(-2.2) \mathrm{kcal} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}\right)$ and a strong $\mathrm{Pd} \cdots \mathrm{F}$ interaction ( $2.205 \AA$ ). (b) Grove, D. M.; van Koten, G.; Ubbels, H. J. C. Organometallics 1982, 1, 1366-1370.
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[^0]:    ${ }^{a}$ All calculations are carried out with the appropriate number of ancillary molecules to balance the chemical equations. The calculated relative energies (and enthalpies) are given in kcal $\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$.

