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## Preliminary communication

## 1-PYRAZOLYLIRIDIUM(I) DERIVATIVES; X-RAY EVIDENCE FOR MONODENTATE PYRAZOLATO LIGANDS

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## Summary

An X-ray crystal structure determination has shown that *trans*-(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>Ir(CO)-(pyrazolato-N), obtained from the chloride and potassium pyrazolate, contains a monodentate azolato ligand.

The growing interest [1,2] in the field of metal derivatives of the pyrazolato anion (pz) has led to the realization that more than one coordination mode is possible for these ligands. They are generally exo-bidentate (A) but in a few cases they were suggested to contain monodentate [2] (B) or even endo-bidentate ligands (C) [3]

$$C = C$$
 $M = N$ 
 $C = C$ 
 $C =$ 

In the chemistry of iridium, binuclear complexes were recently described [4] in which the metal atoms are bridged in the usual way (A) by two pz ligands (e.g.  $[(COD)Ir(\mu-Pz)]_2$ ,  $[(Ph_3P)(CO)Ir(\mu-Pz)]_2$ , PzH = pyrazole, and  $[L(CO)Ir(\mu-3,5-dimethylpyrazolato)]_2$ ,  $L = Ph_2MeP$ ,  $PhMe_2P$ ,  $(PhO)_3P$ ); these complexes

undergo several types of two centre oxidative addition reactions [4]. These reports prompted us to report the isolation of some mononuclear iridium compounds in which the azolato ligand is monodentate, namely trans-(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>(CO)-Ir(pz) (pzH is 3,5-Me<sub>2</sub>- (I), 3,5-(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>- (II), or 3,5-Me<sub>2</sub>-4-NO<sub>2</sub>-pyrazole (III)). In the case of II the nature of the coordination of the nitrogen ligand has been ascertained through an X-ray crystal structure determination, the first one for a monodentate pyrazolato group attached to a metal (Fig. 1).

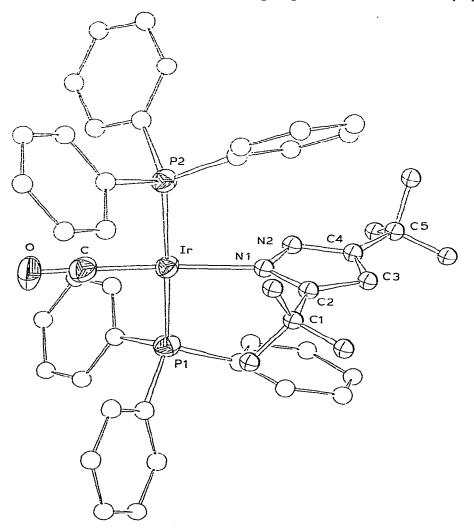


Fig. 1. ORTEP view of compound II, trans-(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>(OC)Ir[3,5-(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-pyrazolato-N].

Crystal data.  $C_{42}H_{31}F_6IrN_2OP_2$ , M=947.87, yellow monoclinic prisms, space group  $P2_1/n$  (from systematic absences) a 21.106(6), b 19.700(5), c 9.437(2) Å,  $\beta$  94.34°, U 3912.5 ų, Z=4,  $D_c$  1.609 g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu(Mo\cdot K_{\alpha})$  35.4 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Intensity data were collected on a BASIC diffractometer by the  $\omega$ -scan technique, with graphite monochromated Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation in the  $2\theta$  range 6–50°. The structure was solved by Patterson and Fourier methods us-

ing 4474 absorption corrected reflections having  $I \geq 3\sigma(I)$ . The final full matrix least-squares refinement led to conventional R and  $R_{\rm w}$  values of 0.036 and 0.038, respectively. Hydrogen atoms were introduced in calculated positions (C—H 1.00 Å) but not refined. The iridium atom is in a square-planar environment; the phosphine ligands are mutually trans and the planar pyrazolato ring is nearly normal to the coordination plane (dihedral angle 85.8°), an arrangement which is probably required by steric overcrowding. Principal bond distances are: Ir—P(1) 2.328(2), Ir—P(2) 2.336(2), Ir—C 1.811(7), Ir—N(1) 2.079(5), N(1)—N(2) 1.360(7), N(2)—C(4) 1.340(8), C(4)—C(3) 1.377(9), C(3)—C(2) 1.384(9), C(2)—N(1) 1.347(8), C—O 1.155(9) Å. The observed bond lengths are in keeping with the aromatic character even for the monodentate pz ligand. The shortest Ir. . Ir contact is 9.44 Å.

The complexes I—III were obtained by reaction of the corresponding chloride (Vaska's complex) with potassium pyrazolate (room temperature under nitrogen: I THF, 10 min; II and III benzene, 30 min) and isolated as air-stable yellow crystals. Molecular weight determinations and spectroscopic data (IR,  $^{1}$ H,  $^{19}$ F, and  $^{31}$ P{ $^{1}$ H} NMR) are all in agreement with mononuclear species also in solution. On the other hand the mass spectrum of II shows a peak at m/z 1368, corresponding to  $[(Ph_3P)(CO)^{191}Ir(\mu-pz)]_2$ , and confirms the tendency of the pz anions to act as exo-bidentate ligands.

The isolation of I—III suggests that mononuclear species are possible with pz anions having a wide range of substituents. The mononuclear compounds reported here might be intermediates for assembling singly-bridged hetero-binuclear complexes by reaction with suitable Lewis acids, following the pattern previously employed [5] for making  $M(\mu-pz)_2M'$  systems (e.g. [5] M=Pt, Pd; M'=Cu, Co, Zn, Cd or Hg; or [6] M=Pt, M'=Cr), to be used in two-centre oxidative addition reactions.

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