coupling to occur from the side opposite from the gem-dimethyl groups (that is, to give 11), 11 would be formed with retention of configuration at the chiral center, and 13 and 14 would not be among the products.

Reaction is regioselective; cleavage of 8°+ and 9°+ gives the allylic radical-tertiary carbocation (15 and 17, respectively). Cleavage of radical cations occurs selectively to give the carbocation of the fragment radical with the lower oxidation potential. The oxidation potential of the allylic radical is not known, but there is reason to believe that the oxidation potential of the tertiary radical is lower. The fact that unreacted 8, recovered from the reaction mixture, suffered no loss of rotation indicates that the radical cation cleavage is irreversible.

The results indicate that the reduction potentials of the allylic radicals 16 and 18 must be more negative than that of 1 (-1.66 V), otherwise 1° would reduce the radical, which would then be protonated. The reduction potentials of allylic radicals of the type 16 and 18 are not known, but again the results are reasonable.

These results have a bearing on the reported photosensitized (electron transfer) oxidation of 8 and 9.4c Irradiation of an oxygen-saturated acetonitrile solution of 8 or 9 with 9,10-dicyano-anthracene present as photosensitizer gives good yields of oxygenated products (pinocarveol (19), myrtenol (20), and myrtenal (21)) with the 3,1,1-bicyclic ring system intact. In view of the facile cleavage of the radical cations 8°+ and 9°+ observed here it seems unlikely that these oxidation products involve the radical cation.

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Synthesis and Characterization of the First Transition-Metal η^2 -Disilene Complexes

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The isolation of disilenes (RR'Si=SiRR') has historically depended on the use of sterically demanding substituents to impart protection and hence stability to the Si=Si double bond.¹ Disilenes with relatively smaller substituents have been observed at low temperatures² or inferred from trapping studies.³ Alternatively, such reactive organosilicon species can be isolated in the

coordination sphere of an unsaturated transition-metal fragment, as evidenced by the recent report of stable η^2 -silene complexes of ruthenium.

By analogy, bonding of reactive disilenes to transition-metal substrates may also be expected to stabilize them. Tessier-Youngs and Youngs have reported on the formation of Pt-Si dimers from the dehydrogenative coupling of monomeric silanes with platinum complexes.⁵ To explain the unusually short cross-ring Si-Si interactions in these dimers, they proposed a bonding picture involving the coordination of a disilene with two metal moieties. However, disilene complexes in which the silicon-silicon double bond is formally bonded to a single metal center are still almost unknown.⁶

In this paper we describe the synthesis of the first η^2 -disilene metal complexes, the platinum compounds 3ab, by two different reactions. In the first synthesis, equivalent amounts of platinum complex 1^7 and disilane 2^8 were stirred overnight in THF in the presence of a slightly greater than 2-fold excess of lithium powder (2% Na content). The reaction mixture eventually turned orange-red with noticeable evolution of gas, presumably H_2 . Solvent removal, followed by crystallization from warm toluene afforded vellow microcrystals of 3ab (eq 1).

$$R_{2}$$
 P_{1}
 P_{2}
 P_{3}
 P_{4}
 P_{5}
 P_{1}
 P_{2}
 P_{4}
 P_{5}
 P_{5}
 P_{7}
 P_{7

In the second route, the platinum-ethylene complex 49 was heated under toluene reflux with an equimolar amount of 2a to afford 3a in much greater yield (eq 2).

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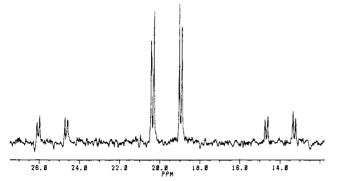


Figure 1. ²⁹Si[¹H] NMR spectrum for 3a.

Scheme I. Proposed Mechanism for the Formation of 3ab

The NMR, IR, and mass spectra of 3ab10 are consistent with their formulation as platinum-disilene complexes. In the fast atom bombardment MS of 3ab, the highest mass (100%) peaks are those due to the parent ions, 3ab⁺. The IR spectra showed no indication of Si-H or Pt-H stretching frequencies, in the 1700-2500 cm⁻¹ region. The ²⁹Si⁽¹H) NMR spectra, displayed for 3a in Figure 1, show the expected pattern of a doublet of doublets from coupling to two different ³¹P nuclei, along with satellites arising from coupling to ¹⁹⁵Pt. The ²⁹Si chemical shift values, 19.60 ppm for 3a and -7.84 ppm for 3b, are intermediate between those for typical disilenes (45-90 ppm) and those for other disilicon three-membered ring compounds (\sim -60 ppm). ^{1e} The ³¹P NMR spectra are singlets with satellites due to ¹⁹⁵Pt and ²⁹Si, the latter corroborating the values obtained from the ²⁹Si NMR spectrum.

We attribute the larger of the ${}^2J_{P,Si}$ values, 138 Hz for 3a and 148 Hz for 3b, to trans coupling between silicon and phosphorus. The ¹J_{Pt,P} coupling constants, 1344 Hz for 3a and 1545 Hz for 3b, are much smaller than those for 1ab or for Pt-olefin complexes (ca. 3500 Hz).11 This indicates that in 3ab the Pt-P bond is made

less covalent by a ligand of relatively high trans influence. 12 Silvl groups have been shown to reduce Pt-P coupling constants in trans bonds markedly.13

The proposed structure for 3ab corresponds to the synergistic bonding of the Dewar-Chatt-Duncanson model, commonly used to describe bonding from alkenes to transition metals. Two other structures which might be considered for 3ab are the bis-silylene structure 5 and the dimeric structure 6. Although an oxygen-

bridged bis-silylene complex of iron has recently been synthesized,14 this structure seems unlikely in the absence of stabilization by bases and is inconsistent with the observation of an iPr₂SiSiiPr₂ fragment in the mass spectrum of 3a. Structure 6 can be ruled out because no long-range spin couplings, ${}^2J_{\text{Pt,Si}}$ or ${}^3J_{\text{P,Si}}$, were

The formation of 3ab may be rationalized via an oxidative addition-reductive elimination mechanism (Scheme I). First, the unsaturated Pt fragment, 1,2-bis(dialkyl/arylphosphino)ethaneplatinum, generated from LiCl elimination or loss of ethylene, adds oxidatively to the two Si-H bonds to yield the six-coordinate Pt intermediate which then eliminates dihydrogen, forming 3ab. These results show that disilenes can be stabilized as platinum complexes, even without sterically hindering substituents on silicon. We are now investigating the reaction chemistry of 3ab, and, while initial attempts have been unsuccessful, efforts to obtain single crystals of 3ab suitable for X-ray diffraction are continuing.

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The Total Synthesis of (-)-Cryptosporin

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(+)-Cryptosporin, a yellow fungal metabolite with weak activity against gram-positive bacteria, can be isolated from the fermentation broths of Cryptosporium pinicola LINDER. 1 Its original structural assignment was based on an analysis of NMR data and a comparison of a degradation product with a hydroxyjuglone, and the peri-hydroxyl was located at C-6. Later, the hydroxyl was relocated to C-9, as shown in 1 when a confusion in the original samples of hydroxyjuglone reference samples was

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This paper is dedicated to William S. Johnson in the year of his 76th birthday and his Cope Medal award.