Solution structures and exchange phenomena of the new alkene polymerization initiators $(\eta - C_5Me_5)TiMe(E)(\mu - Me)B(C_6F_5)_3$ (E = C_6F_5 , OC_6F_5) and $[(\eta - C_5Me_5)Ti(OC_6F_5)_2][BMe(C_6F_5)_3]$

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The solution structures and dynamics of the new alkene polymerization initiators $(\eta - C_5 Me_5) TiMe(C_6 F_5)(\mu Me)B(C_5F_5)_3$ 2, $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe(OC_6F_5)(μ -Me)B(C_6F_5) $_3$ 3 and [(n-C₅Me₅)Ti(OC₆F₅)₂][BMe(C₅F₅)₃] 4 are compared and contrasted with those of the known initiator (η -C₅Me₅)-TiMe₂(µ-Me)B(C₆F₅)₃ 1; compound 2 undergoes neither spontaneous ion-pair dissociation to the solvent separated $[(\eta - C_5Me_5)TiMe(C_6F_5)]^+$ and $[BMe(C_6F_5)_3]^-$ nor borane dissociation to its precursors $(\eta - C_5 Me_5)TiMe_2(C_6F_5)$ and B(C₆F₅)₃; in contrast, 3 is more labile and does undergo ionpair dissociation, while 4 exists in solution as the separated ion species in equilibrium with its precursors, $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe(OC₆F₅)₂ and B(C₆F₅)₃.

There is currently considerable interest in the utilization of group 4 metal complexes of the types $[(Cp')_2MMe]^+X^-$ and $[(Cp')MMe_2]^+X^-$ (Cp' = substituted cyclopentadienyl; $M = Ti, Zr, Hf; X^- =$ poorly coordinating anion) as initiators for alkene polymerization.^{1–3} Since most of the more active molecular alkene polymerization initiators are cationic rather than neutral,^{1–3} one might anticipate that increasing the Lewis acidity of the metal atoms by incorporation of more electron-withdrawing ligands would result in even hgher activities. However, binding of X⁻ to the cationic species $[(Cp')_2MMe]^+$ and $[(Cp')MMe_2]^+$ may also be enhanced by increasing the Lewis acidity,⁴ resulting in inhibition of monomer coordination, while the relative rates of initiation, propagation, termination and chain transfer are affected unpredictably by ligand substitution.^{1,5} The result is that electron-withdrawing ligands sometimes result in both decreased catalytic activity and reduced polymer molecular masses.⁵

Although detailed studies of ion-pairing phenomena and their effects on catalytic activities of some metallocene systems $[(Cp')_2MMe]^+X^-$ are available,⁴ relatively little is known as yet of the behaviour of monocyclopentadienyl systems $[(Cp')M-Me_2]^+X^-$. Interestingly, it has been shown that the zwitterionic compound $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe₂(μ -Me)B(C₆F₅)₃ **1** (Fig. 1, E = Me), formed by treating $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe₃ with B(C₆F₅)₃ [eqn. (1)],³ undergoes facile displacement of borate anion,

 $\begin{array}{l} (\eta\text{-}C_5Me_5)\text{Ti}Me_2\text{E} + B(C_6F_5)_3 \rightleftharpoons \\ (\eta\text{-}C_5Me_5)\text{Ti}Me\text{E}(\mu\text{-}Me)B(C_6F_5)_3 \quad (1) \\ E = Me \ \textbf{1}, \ C_6F_5 \ \textbf{2}, \ OC_6F_5 \ \textbf{3} \end{array}$

 $[BMe(C_6F_5)_3]^-$, on reaction with other ligands.³ Furthermore, magnetization transfer experiments have demonstrated a low degree of reversible borate dissociation from **1** at 223 K [eqn. (2); $E = Me]^3$ but no exchange between terminal and bridging methyl groups was detected, *i.e.* the borane in **1** does not 'hop' from one methyl to another [reverse of eqn. (2)], (n-C_5Me_5)TiMeE(u-Me)B(C_6F_5)_2 =

$$[(\eta - C_5 Me_5) TiMeE]^+[BMe(C_6F_5)_3]^- (2)$$

as occurs in some metallocene systems.4a-d

In order to better understand the effects of ligand electronic properties on catalytic activities of this class of compounds, we have extended our investigation to the methyl-bridged chiral compounds $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe(C₆F₅)(μ -Me)B(C₆F₅)₃ **2** and $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe(OC₆F₅)(μ -Me)B(C₆F₅)₃ **3**, and to the achiral, apparently ionic compound $[(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)Ti(OC₆F₅)₂][B-Me(C₆F₅)₃] **4**. The new zwitterionic complexes **2** and **3**, in which one of the methyl ligands of **1** has been replaced by the more electronegative ligands C₆F₅ and OC₆F₅, formed cleanly on treatment of solutions of $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe₂(C₆F₅)[†] and $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe₂(OC₆F₅)[†] with 1 equiv. each of the borane B(C₆F₅)₃ in CD₂Cl₂ at 195 K [eqn. (1)]. These complexes decompose above 283 K and could not be isolated, but have been fully characterized by ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopic studies (CD₂Cl₂, 223–283 K).[†]

The ¹H, ¹⁹F and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra[†] of **2** and **3** are all consistent with structures as in Fig. 1, sharp terminal Ti-Me and broadened µ-MeB resonances being especially characteristic of the zwitterionic structures proposed.³ Interestingly, however, the ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** at 223 K exhibits a doublet Ti-Me resonance because of long-range coupling with one of the o-fluorine atoms of the Ti– C_6F_5 ligand (J_{HF} 3.1 Hz), while the ¹⁹F spectrum of **2** at 223 K exhibits five equal intensity resonances attributable to the Ti-C₆F₅ group, On warming, the pairs of o- and m-¹⁹F resonances broaden and coalesce at ca. 293 and 273 K, respectively, although the *p*-fluorine resonance and all of the borate fluorine resonances remain well resolved in the temperature range 223-283 K. These observations require that both rotation about the Ti-C₆F₅ bond and inversion at the chiral metal (involving ion-pair dissociation-recombination4a-d) be slow on the NMR timescale at 223 K, while consideration of the coalescence temperatures suggests an approximate ΔG^{\ddagger} of 50.6 \pm 2.1 kJ mol⁻¹ for the exchange process(es).7 This would represent a lower limit for both processes, and is to be compared with *ca*. $58 \pm 19 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ for ion-pair dissociation-reorganization processes of similar zirconocene and hafnocene complexes.4a-d

Consistent with this interpretation and in contrast to $1,^3$ attempted magnetization transfer experiments provided no evidence in the ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** for dissociation of the borate anion [BMe(C₆F₅)₃]⁻; thus the (μ -Me)B(C₆F₅) moiety is relatively strongly bound to the titanium centre in **2**. In contrast, irradiation of the μ -Me resonance of **3** did result in magnetization transfer and appearance of a weak free borate resonance, indicating an equilibrium between solvent separated ion pairs and the methyl bridged species, as with **1**.³ With neither **2** nor **3**



Fig. 1 Proposed structure for 1 (E = Me), 2 (E = C_6F_5) and 3 (E = OC_6F_5)

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was there evidence from spin-transfer experiments for Ti–Me/ B–Me exchange, as occurs in zirconocene systems.^{4a-d}

Compounds 1^{3} 2 and 3 all behave as ethene and propene polymerization catalysts under strictly anhydrous conditions in toluene. While the polyethylene formed is generally too insoluble for even high-temperature GPC measurements, the molecular masses of the polypropylene formed at 195 K decrease in the order 2 ($M_{\rm w} = 2.3 \times 10^6, M_{\rm w}/M_n = 1.7$) > 3 $(M_{\rm w} = 2.0 \times 10^6, M_{\rm w}/M_n = 1.7) > 1 (M_{\rm w} = 0.3 \times 10^6, M_{\rm w}/M_n)$ = 1.3). The low dispersities observed are consistent with single site catalysts in all cases,¹ but the most Lewis acidic catalyst gives the highest molecular mass polymer, just the opposite to apparent trends in metallocene systems.⁵ On the other hand, the yields of polymers obtained with 2 and 3 are about 30% lower than those obtained with 1, consistent with stronger borate coordination to the more Lewis acidic catalytic sites. Thus combination of the types of Lewis acidic complexes described here with counter anions which, perhaps for steric reasons,⁸ coordinate less weakly than $[BMe(C_6F_5)_3]^-$, may well lead to alkene polymerization catalysts of high activity.

The solution behaviour observed for **4** was most unexpected. The methyl abstraction reaction of $(\eta - C_5 Me_5)TiMe(OC_6F_5)_2$ with 1 equiv. of $B(C_6F_5)_3$ in CD_2Cl_2 was monitored by ¹H and ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy in the temperature range 223–298 K, and it was found that the ¹H and ¹⁹F spectra at 223 K exhibited resonances attributable only to the solvent separated species of 4, $[(\eta - C_5Me_5)Ti(OC_6F_5)_2]^+$ and $[BMe(C_6F_5)_3]^-$; none were attributable to coordinated borate as in 1-3. Remarkably, warming the NMR solution of 4 resulted in the reversible reappearance of the resonances of the neutral precursor $(\eta$ -C₅Me₅)TiMe(OC₆F₅)₂, and at 263 K there was a substantial amount of both species present. Spin saturation transfer and variable-temperature experiments showed them to be in equilibrium, with $\Delta H = -1.25 \pm 0.1$ kJ mol⁻¹, $\Delta S = -46 \pm 4$ J K $^{-1}$ mol $^{-1}$ for conversion to the non-ionic species. The ability of 4 to engage in Ti-Me/B-Me exchange stands in contrast to 1–3 and even to methylzirconocene systems, 4a-d for which variable-temperature NMR studies imply similar exchange but not the major shift in equilibrium noted here. Since $[(\eta-C_5Me_5)Ti(OC_6F_5)_2]^+$ is expected to be a relatively strong Lewis acid, its unusual disinclination to bind the borate anion must be attributed to steric hindrance by the three bulky ligands on the titanium hindering close approach of the borate anion. In 4, moreover, it appears that the strong but sterically hindered Lewis acid $[(\eta - C_5 Me_5)Ti(OC_6 F_5)_2]^+$ effectively competes with $B(C_6F_5)_3$ for possession of the methyl group, presumably via a transient methyl bridged species although none was detected in the spin saturation experiments. An alternative structure for 4 such as $\{[(\eta-C_5H_5)Ti(OC_6F_5)(\mu-OC_6F_5)]_2\}^{2+}$ seems unlikely since (a) the pentafluorophenoxy groups are equivalent in the ¹⁹F NMR spectrum and (b) **3** clearly does not contain such a μ -OC₆F₅ group.

We thank the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (Research and Strategic Grants to M. C. B. and Graduate Scholarship to S. W. E.) and Alcan (Graduate Scholarship to S. W. E.) for financial support.

Footnotes

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 \dagger Reactions of the compounds ($\eta\text{-}C_5Me_5)\text{TiCl}_2Me^6$ and ($\eta\text{-}C_5Me_5)\text{-}\text{TiMe}_2\text{Cl}^6$ with appropriate amounts of LiC_6F_5 or LiOC_6F_5 in hexanes yielded the thermally robust, yellow compounds ($\eta\text{-}C_5Me_5)\text{TiMe}_2(C_6F_5)$, ($\eta\text{-}C_5Me_5)\text{TiMe}_2(OC_6F_5)$ and ($\eta\text{-}C_5Me_5)\text{TiMe}(OC_6F_5)_2$, all of which have been fully and satisfactorily characterized by elemental analyses and spectroscopic methods.

(η-C₅Me₅)TiMe₂(C₆F₅). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 298 K), δ 1.98 (s, 15 H, C₅Me₅), 1.41 (t, 6 H, Ti–Me, J_{HF} 2.0); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 298 K); δ 127.0 (C₅Me₅), 80.0 (t, Ti–Me, J_{CF} 3.3 Hz), 12.4 (C₅Me₅); ¹⁹F NMR (C₆D₆, 298 K, ref. CFCl₃), δ –121.4 (m, 2 F, *o*-F), –155.6 (t, 1 F, *p*-F), –163.0 (m, 2 F, *m*-F).

(η-C₅Me₅)TiMe₂(OC₆F₅). ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 1.86 (s, 15 H, C₅Me₅), 0.55 (s, 3 H, Ti–Me); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 141.1 (d, *o*-CF, J_{CF} 231.5 Hz), 138.7 (d, *m*-CF, J_{CF} 241.5 Hz), 135.5 (d, *p*-CF, J_{CF} 241.5 Hz), 124.2 (C_5 Me₅), 59.0 (Ti–Me), 12.1 (C₅Me₅); ¹⁹F NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, ref. CFCl₃), δ –160.1 (m, 2 F, *o*-F), –167.0 (m, 2 F, *m*-F), –171.3 (t, 1 F, *p*-F).

(η-C₅Mo₅)TiMe(OC₆F₅)₂. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 1.89 (s, 15 H, C₅Mo₅), 1.09 (s, 3 H, Ti–Me); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 139.9 (d, *o*-CF, J_{CF} 251.5 Hz), 138.1 (d, *m*-CF, J_{CF} 241.5 Hz), 135.2 (d, *p*-CF, J_{CF} 251.5 Hz), 127.0 (C_5 Mo₅), 61.5 (Ti–Me), 10.9 (C_5Mo_5); ¹⁹F NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ –161.4 (m, 2 F, *o*-F), –167.0 (m, 2 F, *m*-F), –171.3 (t, 1 F, *p*-F).

(η-C₅Me₅)TiMe(C₆F₅)(μ-Me)B(C₆F₅)₃ **2**. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 2.61 (d, 3 H, Ti–Me, $J_{\rm HF}$ 3.1), 2.10 (s, 15 H, C₅Me₅), 1.36 (br s, 3 H, μ-Me); 1³C{¹H} (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 138.2 (C₅Me₅), 109.9 (Ti–Me), 13.6 (C₅Me₅); 1⁹F (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ -118.6 (m, 1 F, o-F of Ti–C₆F₅), -124.3 (m, 1 F, o-F of Ti–C₆F₅), -135.1 (m, 6 F, o-F of B–C₆F₅), -150.1 (t, 1 F, p-F of Ti– C₆F₅), -160.3 (m, 1 F, m-F of Ti–C₆F₅), -160.8 (t, 3 F, p-F of B–C₆F₅), -161.7 (m, 1 F, m-F of Ti–C₆F₅), -160.0 (m, 6 F m-F of B–C₆F₅).

(η-C₅Me₅)TiMe(OC₆F₅)(μ-Me)B(C₆F₅)₃**3**. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 2.04 (s, 15 H, C₅Me₅), 1.89 (s, 3 H, Ti–Me), 0.62 (br s, 3 H, μ-Me); ¹³C{¹H} (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 134.3 (C₅Me₅), 82.2 (Ti–Me), 12.2 (C₅Me₅); ¹⁹F (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ –135.4 (m, 6 F, *o*-F of B–C₆F₅), –159.7 (m, 2 F, *o*-F of Ti–OC₆F₅), –160.9 (t, 3 F, *p*-F of B–C₆F₅), –164.5 (m, 2 F, *m*-F of Ti– OC₆F₅), –165.0 (m, 2 F, *m*-F of Ti–OC₆F₅), –166.0 (m, 6 F, *m*-F of B–C₆F₅).

[(η-C₅Me₅)Ti(OC₆F₅)₂][BMe(C₆F₅)₃] **4**. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 2.17 (s, 15 H, C₅Me₅), 0.37 (br s, 3 H, B–Me); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ 139.3 (C₅Me₅), 12.3 (C₅Me₅), ¹⁹F NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 223 K), δ -133.7 (m, 6 F, *o*-F of B–C₆F₅), -159.2 (m, 4 F, *o*-F of O–C₆F₅), -165.1 (t, 3 F, *p*-F of B–C₆F₅), -163.5 (m, 4 F, *m*-F of O–C₆F₅), -162.4 (t, 2 F, *p*-F of O–C₆F₅), -168.4 (m, 6 F, *m*-F of B–C₆F₅).

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Received in Bloomington, IN, USA, 10th January 1997; Com. 7/00232G