

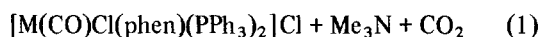
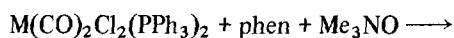
Trimethylamine Oxide Induced Decarbonylation of $M(CO)_2Cl_2(PPh_3)_2$ ($M = Ru, Os$) Complexes

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Trimethylamine oxide (Me_3NO) has been used as a versatile decarbonylating reagent in inorganic and organometallic chemistry [1], and previously we have demonstrated its synthetic utility in reactions of ruthenium(II) carbonyl complexes [2–4]. For instance, under mild conditions (in pyridine at room temperature) $Ru(CO)_2X_2(PPh_3)_2$ complexes ($X = Cl, Br$) undergo selective monodecarbonylation with Me_3NO to give neutral $Ru(CO)X_2(py)(PPh_3)_2$ complexes [2]. A similar reaction involving $M(CO)_2Cl_2(PPh_3)_2$ ($M = Ru, Os$) has now been studied under more vigorous conditions (refluxing 2-methoxyethanol), and in the presence of 1,10-phenanthroline (phen) yields the cationic $[M(CO)Cl(phen)(PPh_3)_2]^+$ complexes (I) as the major products (reaction (1))



In addition, reaction (1) ($M = Ru$) also results in the formation of the hydrido complex $[HRu(CO)(phen)(PPh_3)_2]Cl$ (II) as a minor product.

The $[M(CO)Cl(phen)(PPh_3)_2]^+$ cationic complexes are prepared by heating under reflux a suspension of $M(CO)_2Cl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (0.26 mmol), phen (0.56 mmol) and Me_3NO (1.1 mmol) in 2-methoxyethanol (25 ml) under nitrogen for 2 h. Addition of excess aqueous KPF_6 to the hot solution produces an orange–yellow precipitate. After cooling the solution to 0 °C, the precipitate is filtered and recrystallized from acetone/ethanol giving yellow microcrystals of $[M(CO)Cl(phen)(PPh_3)_2](PF_6)$ (65% yield for $M = Ru$; 60% for $M = Os$). On standing, the mother liquor (for $M = Ru$) deposits orange crystals of $[HRu(CO)(phen)(PPh_3)_2](PF_6) \cdot EtOH$ (10%). The analogous triphenylarsine derivatives of I and II (for $M = Ru$) were similarly prepared. The complexes were characterized by elemental analyses (C, H, N), IR and 1H NMR spectroscopy. The previously reported complexes I ($M = Os$, prepared by carbonylation of a mixture of $Os(phen)Cl_4$ and PPh_3 in ethylene glycol) [5] and II (prepared by reacting $RuHCl(CO)(phen)(PPh_3)_2$ with $NaBPh_4$ in methanol) [6] had similar spectroscopic properties to the reported values. Spec-

troscopic data for all complexes indicate a *trans* arrangement for the phosphine and arsine ligands.

The formation of I during reaction (1) results from nucleophilic attack of Me_3NO at CO, followed by coordination of phen and displacement of the *cis* chloride ligand. Despite the presence of excess phen and Me_3NO , complete decarbonylation to yield $[M(phen)_2(PPh_3)_2]^{2+}$ is not observed. The failure of I to undergo further decarbonylation may be attributed to its low $\nu(CO)$ absorption (*ca.* 1950 cm^{-1}) and the fact that Me_3NO induced decarbonylations are generally restricted to complexes with $\nu(CO) > 2000\ cm^{-1}$ [7]. The formation of the hydrido complex II may be explained in terms of the generally accepted mechanism for hydride formation in alcoholic solvents [8]. In addition, the presence of weak bases has been shown to assist hydride abstraction from solvents [9]. Thus, the presence of excess phen may assist removal of the alcoholic protons to give an alkoxo complex which rearranges to form II. Attempts to convert I ($M = Ru$) into II by reacting I with phen in refluxing methoxyethanol have been unsuccessful. This observation and the fact that the related complex $[Os(CO)Cl(bpy)L_2]^+$ ($bpy = 2,2'$ -bipyridyl; $L =$ trialkylphosphine) fails to form hydrides in alcoholic solvents [8] would suggest that II does not form from I, but rather directly from $Ru(CO)_2Cl_2(PPh_3)_2$ during reaction (1). In the absence of Me_3NO , the dicarbonyl starting complexes $M(CO)_2Cl_2(PPh_3)_2$ remain unchanged when treated with phen in refluxing methoxyethanol. Thus the presence of Me_3NO is required to initiate the formation of both I and II. The reactivity of the dicarbonyl and monocarbonyl complexes is presently being studied further.

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