made in this field,<sup>[1]</sup> including the synthesis of several transition-metal complexes of silenes and disilenes such as compounds 1-4.<sup>[2-6]</sup> However, while numerous olefin-organometallic complexes were synthesized directly from the corresponding olefins, all known silene complexes were synthesized by indirect processes. For example, 1,<sup>[3]</sup> 2a,<sup>[4]</sup> **2b**<sup>[5]</sup> **3**<sup>[6]</sup> **4a** and **4b**<sup>[7a,b]</sup> were all obtained by cyclization reactions. Only 4c was synthesized by a direct reaction of a disilene with an organometallic reagent, but its molecular structure was not determined by X-ray crystallography  $(Mes = C_6H_2Me_3).^{[7b]}$ 

$$\begin{array}{c} Cp^{\star} & Me_{3}P \\ Cy_{3}P \\ H \\ Cy_{3}P \\ H \\ CH_{2} \\ 1 \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} Cp_{2}M \\ Cp_{2}M \\ E \\ E \\ Ch_{2} \\ B \\ E \\ Ch_{2} \\ B \\ Ch_{2} \\ Ch_{2}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \overset{R_2}{\underset{p}{\vdash}} & \overset{SiR'_2}{\underset{SiR'_2}{\restriction}} & \overset{R_3P}{\underset{R_3}{\vdash}} & \overset{SiR'_2}{\underset{SiR'_2}{\restriction}} \\ \textbf{4a}, R = Ph, R' = iPr; \\ \textbf{4b}, R = cyclohexyl, R' = Ph \end{array}$$

We report herein the synthesis and the molecular and electronic structure of a novel platinum  $\eta^2$ -silene complex, 5, the first silene complex synthesized by a direct reaction of a silene (6) and an organometallic reagent  $Pt(PCy_3)_2$ .



Our initial attempts to obtain a silene-platinum complex by a reaction of  $Pt(PCy_3)_2^{[8]}$  and the stable silenes  $7^{[9]}$  and  $8^{[10]}$ failed, thus leading to a complex mixture of products. Molecular models reveal that the double bond in 7 and 8 is so effectively protected by the very bulky  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ substituents that the desired complex cannot be formed. A less heavily substituted silene was required and we chose 6, which is obtained as a short lived intermediate.<sup>[11]</sup> Reaction of (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiLi·3THF with 2-adamantanone in toluene at -70 °C yields the isolable addition adduct 9.<sup>[12]</sup> On warming of the reaction mixture (or warming of 9 directly) to -30 °C the transient silene 6 was formed and its formation was monitored by <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (the NMR chemical shifts of 6 are very similar to those of the stable 7<sup>[9]</sup>).<sup>[12]</sup> The warming of this reaction mixture to room temperature yielded dimer 10, thus supporting the presence of silene 6. Warming of the toluene reaction mixture from -30 °C to room tempretature in the presence of  $Pt(PCy_3)_2$  led to the formation of 5 (31%). A

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### Silene–Organometallic Complexes

### The Direct Synthesis of a Silene–Organometallic Complex\*\*

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on the occasion of his 60th birthday

were reported in 1981 and since then vast progress has been

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Dedicated to Professor Henry F. Schaefer III

The first stable compounds with doubly bonded silicon atoms

## Communications

higher yield (40%) of the desired silene–platinum complex **5** (together with **10**, 37%) was obtained when  $Pt(PCy_3)_2$  was added to a toluene solution of **9** at -70 °C and the solution was warmed to room temperature [Eq. (1)]. These experi-



feature of the structure of **5** is the near colinearity of the C25-Pt1-P1 atoms (bond angle 177.7°).

The NMR spectrum is consistent with the molecular structure of **5**. The NMR signals of <sup>29</sup>Si1 ( $\delta = 6.8$  ppm) and of <sup>13</sup>C25 ( $\delta = 137.8$  ppm) of **5** are shifted upfield, as expected, compared to silenes (e.g.,  $\delta$ (<sup>29</sup>Si) = 51.7 ppm,  $\delta$ (<sup>13</sup>C) = 196.8 ppm in **7**). The <sup>31</sup>P signal in **5** of  $\delta = 21.5$  ppm is similar to that in Pt(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.

Is **5** better described as a  $\pi$ -complex (**A**) or as a  $\sigma$ -bonded cyclopropane-type compound (**B**)?



ments support strongly the conclusion that **5** is obtained by a direct reaction between the transient silene **6** and  $Pt(PCy_3)_2$  as shown in Equation (1). Compound **5** was obtained as pale pink crystals and its molecular structure was determined by X-ray crystallography.<sup>[13]</sup>

The molecular structure of **5** (Figure 1) reveals the surprising presence of a tricoordinated Pt atom. Thus, the reaction of silene **6** with  $Pt(PCy_3)_2$ involves a ligand substitution reaction at the dicoordinated Pt center at which one of the  $PCy_3$ ligands is displaced to allow coordination with the sterically bulky silene. To our best knowledge this ligand exchange reaction is unprecedented in dicoordinated Pt compounds. Another unusual One criterion to answer this question is the structure of **5**, most importantly the Si–C bond length and the degree of bending around the complexed Si=C bond.<sup>[14]</sup> Structural data for comparison with model compounds is given in Scheme 1.





**Scheme 1.** A comparison of Si–C bond lengths (Å) in several organosilicon compounds.

The Si=C bond of silene 7 (a close model for 6) is elongated  $(\Delta l)$  by 5.6%, from 1.741 Å in **7** to 1.838 Å in **5**. This bond elongation is similar to that found in 1, 2a, and 3, compared to the corresponding Si=E bonds ( $\Delta l = +5.8\%$ , +6.4% and +5.4%, respectively). However, the l(Si-C) bond in 5 is significantly shorter than in related singly bonded compounds; e.g., 1.928 Å in **11a** and **11b**; <sup>[10b]</sup> thus  $\Delta l$  in **11a** and 11b is almost twice as large as in 5 (Scheme 1). The closest available comparison is between 5 and 12,<sup>[15]</sup> as both have a three-membered ring; l(Si-C) in 5 is 0.08 Å shorter than in 12.<sup>[16]</sup> The bending angles in 5 at Si1 and C25 of 160.4° and 154.2°, respectively, are larger than those of analogous angles in 3 (150.7°<sup>[6]</sup>). The sum of the angles around Si1 and C25 are 353.8° and 353.1° respectively. In conclusion, the geometrical parameters indicate that 5 is best described as a hybrid between  $\pi$  complex (A) and  $\sigma$ -bonded compound (B),as 5 has a higher  $\pi$ -complex character than the disilene complex 3.<sup>[6]</sup>

The difference Fourier (DF) electronic map of **5** was studied experimentally at -70 °C and a cut through the main

**Figure 1.** ORTEP diagram of the  $\eta^2$ -silene-platinum complex **5**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: Si1-C25 1.838(12), Pt-Si1 2.298(3), Pt-C25 2.161(11), Pt-P 2.268(3), Si1-Si2 2.344(5), P-C7 1.861(11), C25-Pt-Si1 48.6(3), Pt-Si1-C25 61.8(3), Pt-C25-Si1 69.6(4), P-Pt-C25 177.7(3), P-Pt-Si 131.24(11), Pt-Si1-Si2 116.21(15), C25-Si1-Si2 119.5(4), C25-Pt-Si1-Si3 122.1(4), Si2-Si1-Si3 112.22(18), P-Pt-Si1-C25 177.0(4), C25-Pt-Si1-Si2 111.0(4), P-Pt-Si1-Si2 72.0(2).

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molecular plane is shown in Figure 2. Three main regions of accumulation of nonnuclear electron density are observed: (a) between Pt and the Si1 and C25 atoms, with significant density overlap at the center of the PtSiC ring and being polarized towards the Pt–C internuclear region (b) between the Si1 and C25 atoms—a maximum which is shifted outwards of the three-membered ring and towards the C atom, and (c) along the Pt–P bond, corresponding to a Pt–P  $\sigma$  bond.

Natural bond orbital (NBO)<sup>[17]</sup> calculations<sup>[18–20]</sup> for the model complex **13** reveal that on complexation 0.15 electrons are transferred from the organometallic fragment to the silene. In the complex, the  $\pi$  orbital of the silene ((H<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>2</sub>Si=C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), is depopulated to 1.64 elec-



*Figure 2.* Difference Fourier electronic map of **5** at -70 °C, showing a cut through the main molecular plane.

trons while the  $\pi^*(C=Si)$  orbital is populated by 0.42 electrons. The  $\sigma^*$  (Pt–P) antibonding orbital, which is located mainly on Pt, is populated with 0.31 electrons. According to the calculated second-order perturbation interaction energies<sup>[18b]</sup> the strongest orbital interaction in complex 13 (and thus in 5) is interaction 14a, between the polarized  $\pi$ (Si=C) orbital and the  $\sigma^*(Pt-P)$  orbital. This interaction is also evident in the observed (Si-C), (Pt-Si) and (Pt-C) electrondensity peaks. The strong polarization of  $\pi$ (Si=C) towards C and the good acceptor ability of phosphorous dictates the near linearity of the P-Pt-C angle. The energy difference between optimized 13 ( $\triangleleft$  P-Pt-Si = 129.6°, P-Pt-C = 180°) and its constrained isomer, in which  $\gtrless$  P-Pt-Si = 180° is 15.9 kcalmol<sup>-1</sup>. The second strongest interaction is **14b** between the filled  $Pt(d_{xy})$  orbital and the empty  $\pi^*(Si=C)$ orbital, which is polarized towards the Si atom. In general, the NBO calculations produce the classical Dewar-Chatt-Duncanson model.<sup>[21]</sup>

In summary, the silene—platinum complex 5 is best described as an hybrid between a  $\pi$  complex (A) and a  $\sigma$ -cyclopropane structure (B), which has a more pronounced  $\pi$ -complex character than the disilene complex 3. We are



currently studying the chemistry of **5** and using similar strategies to prepare other silene and disilene organometallic complexes.

#### **Experimental Section**

Standard Schlenk techniques were used for the syntheses and sample manipulations.

A toluene solution of (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiLi·3THF (0.123 g, 0.26 mmol; 10 mL) was added to a toluene solution of 2-adamantanone (0.038 g, 0.25 mmol; 10 mL), which was kept at -70 °C under vacuum. After the reaction mixture had been stirred for 30 min, a toluene solution of  $Pt(PCy_3)_2^{[8]}$  (0.2 g, 0.26 mmol; 20 mL) was added and the mixture allowed to reach room temperature and maintained at this temperature overnight. The solvent was removed by evaporation and the crude product was crystallized from hexane (0.083 g, 0.1 mmol; 40 %yield), of pale pink crystals suitable for X-ray crystallization of 5 were obtained. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 0.174$  (18H s, SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 1.2–2.4 ppm (14H m, Ad, 33H m, PCy<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 137.8$  (1 C PtC(Ad)Si), 4.1 (6C SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 44.1, 43.0, 41.0, 35.9, 34.0, 32.7, 32.1, 31.9, 31.5, 29.1, 28.0, 26.9, 25.6 ppm (9C Ad, 18C  $PCy_3);$   $^{29}Si$  NMR  $(C_6D_6): \delta = 6.8$  (1 Si PtSiAd), -14.67 ppm (2 Si SiMe<sub>3</sub>); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 21.5$  (1 P t <sup>1</sup>J<sub>Pt,P</sub> = 1475 Hz, PCy<sub>3</sub>); MS(CI) *m*/*z* 756.3 (M - 2 Me).

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