Metallacyclopentane Formation: A Deactivation Pathway for a Tungsten(VI) Alkylidene Complex in Olefin Metathesis Reactions

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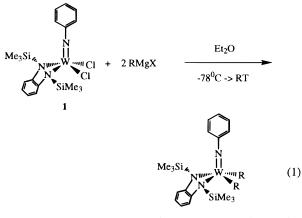
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W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH₂CMe₃)₂, **2h**, is quantitatively converted to a new metallacyclopentane complex, W(CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄], **4**, upon the addition of ethylene at T > 70 °C. The complex W(CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄], **4**, was also formed by the transmetalation reaction of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Cl)₂ with the corresponding Grignard reagent, BrMg(CH₂)₄MgBr, and also when W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄]-(PMe₃)(=C(H)*t*-Bu), **3**, reacts with ethylene. Mechanistic studies suggest that **2h** and **3** react with ethylene through a common base-free alkylidene intermediate which undergoes metathesis with ethylene and then generates a W(IV) intermediate which is converted to **4** by coupling two molecules of ethylene. This reaction is a deactivation pathway when **3** is used as an olefin metathesis catalyst for terminal olefins because ethylene is generated during the reaction. The tungsten(IV) complex W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](PMe₃)₂(η^2 -C₂H₄), **5**, was observed during the reaction between **3** and ethylene. Complex **5** can also be synthesized from the diethyl complex W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH₂CH₃)₂, **2b**, in the presence of PMe₃. Addition of excess ethylene to **5** gives **4**. The X-ray structure of **4** was determined.

Introduction

Recent work^{1,2} in our group has successfully used N,N-bis (trimethylsilyl)-o-phenylenediamide, [o-(Me₃-SiN)₂C₆H₄]²⁻, TMS₂pda, as an ancillary ligand for a variety of tungsten(VI) complexes. The facile synthesis of W(NPh)R₂[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄], **2(a**-j), from W(NPh)-Cl₂[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄], **1**, (eq 1) for a wide range of alkyl



2a-j R = Me, Et, *n*-Pr, *i*-Bu, Ph, CH₂Ph, (CH₂)₂Ph, CH₂CMe₃, CH₂CMe₂Ph, CH₂SiMe₃

groups has allowed us to begin to explore the chemistry

of this class of d^0 dialkyl complexes. For example, the alkylidene complex W(NPh)[$o\text{-}(Me_3SiN)_2C_6H_4]$ (CHCMe_3)- (PMe_3), **3**, can be synthesized via an $\alpha\text{-}H$ abstraction when **2h** is heated in the presence of PMe_3. 1c,3

In this paper, we report that the reaction of **2h** or **3** with ethylene results in the formation of a metallacyclopentane complex via an olefin metathesis initiated pathway. Mechanistic aspects of the transformation of **3** into the metallacyclopentane complex W(CH₂CH₂CH₂-CH₂)(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄], **4**, are discussed, and the reaction is shown to proceed through the W(IV) ethylene complex W(C₂H₄)(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](PMe₃)₂, **5**. The formation of a metallacyclopentane complex when **3** reacts with ethylene is the likely deactivation pathway for **3** when **3** is used as a catalyst for the metathesis of terminal olefins. Compounds **4** and **5** have been isolated and structurally characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction techniques.

Results and Discussion

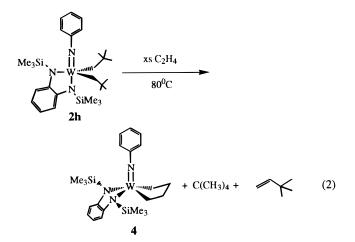
Reaction of 2h with Ethylene. We have demonstrated that the thermolysis reaction of complex **2h** in the presence of PMe₃ at 80 °C affords the alkylidene complex W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CHCMe₃)(PMe₃), **3**, which has proven to be a catalyst precursor for ringopening metathesis polymerization (ROMP) of norbornene and cyclooctene.^{1c,d} In contrast, complex **2a** forms an adduct W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Me)₂(PMe₃) upon the addition of PMe₃ but undergoes no further reaction in the presence of PMe₃ even under more vigorous conditions. Although complex **2a** does not

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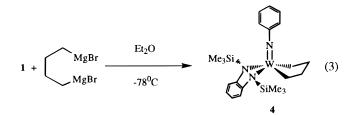
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react with ethylene, complex **2h** reacts with ethylene at 80 °C to form the metallacyclopentane complex $W(CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2)(NPh)[o-(Me_3SiN)_2C_6H_4]$, **4**, with the loss of neopentane and *tert*-butylethylene (eq 2).



Synthesis of 4. The metallacyclopentane complex **4** was synthesized independently on a preparative scale by allowing the dichloride complex $W(NPh)[o-(Me_3-SiN)_2C_6H_4](Cl)_2$, **1**, to react with $BrMg(CH_2)_4MgBr$ (eq 3).⁴ Compound **4** was characterized by NMR spectros-



copy and via a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **4** in benzene- d_6 displays broad resonances with unresolved fine structure that are assigned to the CH₂ protons of the metallacycle ring at 2.93, 2.91, 2.42, and 1.54 ppm, respectively, in a 2:2:2:2 ratio. The trimethylsilyl protons were observed as a sharp singlet at 0.28 ppm, as is consistent with a square pyramidal geometry in which a mirror plane contains the imido ligand and tungsten atom and bisects the N–W–N and C–W–C angles. The ¹³C{¹H} NMR of **4** displays resonances at δ 61.25 ($^{1}J_{W-C} = 73.6$ Hz, $^{1}J_{C-H} = 122.9$ Hz) and δ 35.23 ($^{1}J_{C-H} = 124.3$ Hz) that are assigned to C_{α} and C_{β} of the metallacycle, respectively. The ¹³C spectral parameters are similar to known tungstacyclopentane complexes.⁵

A single crystal of **4** suitable for an X-ray structure determination was grown by cooling a pentane solution to -20 °C. General data collection and refinement data are listed in Table 1. A thermal ellipsoid plot of complex **4** along with the atom-labeling scheme is given in Figure 1, while selected bond lengths and angles are presented in Table 2. The coordination geometry around the W atom is that of a slightly distorted square pyramid. In this structure, the imido N occupies the axial site while the N atoms of the TMS₂pda ligand and the C atoms of

Table 1. Crystallographic and Data Collection Parameters for W(NPh)[*o*- (Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄]-(CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂), 4, and W(NPh)[*o*-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](PMe₃)₂(η²-C₂H₄), 5

	5	4			
	A. Crystal Data (173 K)				
<i>a</i> , Å	36.2551(8)	10.3249(1)			
b, Å	13.5914(4)	18.1030(2)			
c, Å	13.9794(4)	13.8308(2)			
β , deg	90.0	103.210(1)			
V, Å ³	6888.5(3)	2516.73(5)			
d _{calc} , g cm ⁻³ (173 K)	1.450	1.535			
empirical formula	$C_{26}H_{49}N_3P_2Si_2W \cdot \frac{1}{2}C_7H_8$	C22H35N3Si2W			
fw	751.72	581.56			
cryst system	orthorhombic	monoclinic			
space group	Pbcn	$P2_1/n$			
Ż	8	4			
F(000), electrons	3064	1160			
cryst size (mm ³)	$0.44 \times 0.38 \times 0.10$	$0.45\times0.34\times0.06$			
-	3. Data Collection (173 K)				
radiation, λ (Å)	Μο Κα, 0.7	10 73			
mode	w-scan				
scan width and rate	0.3 deg/frame and				
2θ range, deg	3-55	3-55			
range of <i>hkl</i>	$-24 \le h \le 50 - 1$	$2 \le h \le 12$			
8	$-11 \le k \le 180 \le k \le 23$				
	$-19 \le l \le 70$	$\leq l \leq 17$			
tot. reflcns measd	27 782	12 840			
unique reflcns	7881	5197			
abs coeff, μ (Mo K α),	3.539	4.697			
mm ⁻¹					
C. Structure Refinement					
refinement method	full-matrix least-se	nuares on F^2			
S, goodness-of-fit ^a	1.20	1.06			
no. of variables	341	253			
$R_1/\text{reflcns}^a$	$3.80/7180 > 2\sigma(I)$	$3.49/4443 > 2\sigma(I)$			
wR_2 /reflcns ^a	8.27/7784	8.11/5144			
$R_{\rm int}$ (%)	3.34	6.22			
max shift/esd	0.001	0.001			
min peak in diff	-2.32	-1.38			
Four. map (e Å ⁻³)					
max peak in diff	1.19	0.92			
Four. map (e Å ⁻³)					
Four map (e A)					

^a $R_1 = \sum(||F_0| - |F_c||)/\sum|F_0|$. $wR_2 = [\sum[w(F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2]/\sum[w(F_0^2)^2]]^{1/2}$. $S = [\sum[w(F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2]/(n - p)]^{1/2}$. $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_0^2) + (0.0370p)^2 + 0.31p]$, $p = [\max(F_0^2, 0) + 2F_c^2]/3$.

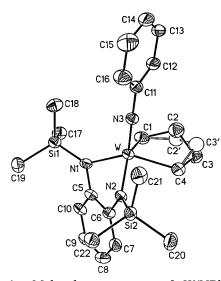


Figure 1. Molecular structure of $W(NPh)[o-(Me_3-SiN)_2C_6H_4](CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2)$, **4**, with 50% probability ellipsoids and showing the atom-numbering scheme. All hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. The metallacyclopentane ring is disordered by the flipping of the five-membered ring, denoted by W-C(1)-C(2)-C(3)-C(4) and W-C(1)-C(2')-C(3')-C(4).

the metallacyclopentane group form the basal plane. The tungsten atom resides 0.717 Å above the plane defined by N(1), N(2), C(1), and C(4) (mean deviation is

⁽⁴⁾ The Grignard reagent, BrMg(CH₂)₄MgBr, was obtained by reacting Br(CH₂)₄Br (purchased from Aldrich) with Mg metal. (5) Chisholm, M. H.; Huffman, J. C.; Hampden-Smith, M. J. *J. Am.*

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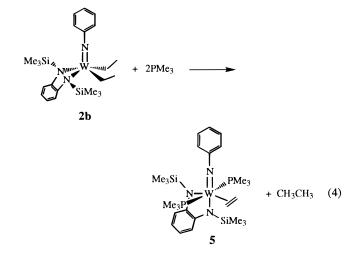
Table 2. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) for W(NPh)[o- $(Me_{3}SiN)_{2}C_{6}H_{4}](CH_{2}CH_{2}CH_{2}CH_{2}), 4$

W-N(1)	2.023(4)	W-C(1)	2.182(5)		
W-N(2)	2.004(4)	W-C(4)	2.183(5)		
W-N(3)	1.736(4)				
N(1)-W-N(2)	84.1(2)	N(2)-W-C(4)	85.5(2)		
N(1) - W - N(3)	118.1(2)	N(3) - W - C(1)	99.8(2)		
N(1) - W - C(1)	86.3(2)	N(3)-W-C(4)	102.0(2)		
N(1) - W - C(4)	138.4(2)	C(1) - W - C(4)	76.1(2)		
N(2) - W - N(3)	119.5(2)	C(11)-N(3)-W	174.0(3)		
N(2) - W - C(1)	139.3(2)				

0.001 Å). The W-C(1) and W-C(4) bond lengths (2.182(5), 2.183(5) Å, respectively) are within the range expected for W(VI)-C distances.^{2,6} The W-N_{imido} bond length is 1.736(4) Å and is consistent with a W-N triple bond.^{7,8} The geometry about the N atoms of the [o-(Me₃-SiN)₂C₆H₄]²⁻ ligand is planar as is observed in silylamines.⁹ The ligand is folded about the N-N vector which causes the SiMe₃ groups to be displaced above the basal plane. The folding of the ligand also tilts the N coordination planes by 60–65° relative to the basal plane of the molecule.

The formal electron count at the metal center could be as high as 18e⁻ if both sets of nitrogen lone pairs of the $[o-(Me_3SiN)_2C_6H_4]^{2-}$ ligand can be donated to the metal center. Donation of both amide lone pairs is not possible since there are only three d orbitals that are of the proper symmetry to form π bonds with the ligands. Given that the d_{xz} and d_{yz} orbitals form the π bonds with the imido group, only the d_{xy} orbital is available to overlap with the N π electrons on the diamido ligand. Thus, the maximum electron count at the metal center is 16e⁻. Furthermore, the structure of **4** shows that the folding of the diamide ligand brings the p orbitals on the nitrogen atoms to within only ca. $25-30^{\circ}$ of the xy plane, preventing efficient overlap between the d_{xy} orbital and the N lone pairs. The structural constraints imposed by the chelating nature of the [o-(Me₃- $SiN_2C_6H_4$ ²⁻ ligand lead us to suggest that **4** and the other square pyramidal dialkyl complexes² are best described as 14e⁻ or at most 16e⁻ compounds.

Synthesis of 5. The W(IV) ethylene complex, 5, an intermediate observed in the reaction of **3** with ethylene, was synthesized independently on a preparative scale by allowing the diethyl complex W(NPh)[o-(Me₃- $SiN_2C_6H_4](CH_2CH_3)_2$, **2b**, to react with trimethylphosphine (eq 4).^{1a} In the ¹H NMR spectrum of **5**, the two multiplets at 1.96 and 2.19 ppm are assigned the



ethylene protons, while the two equivalent PMe₃ protons are reasponsible for the resonance at 1.05 ppm. The trimethylsilyl protons are observed as two broad peaks at 0.28 and 0.61 ppm, indicating their chemical inequivalence. The gated, coupled, ¹³C NMR spectrum reveals a triplet resonance at 36 ppm corresponding to the ethylene carbon atoms with ${}^{1}J_{C-H} = 156$ Hz, indicating some "metallacyclopropane" character.¹⁰

The structure of complex 5 was verified by a singlecrystal X-ray diffraction study. A thermal ellipsoid plot of 5 with the atom-labeling scheme is given in Figure 2, while selected bond lengths and angles are presented in Table 3. The coordination geometry around the W atom is that of a slightly distorted octahedron. In this structure, the imido nitrogen atom and one of the amide nitrogen atoms occupy *trans* sites, while the phosphines are also trans with respect to each other. The $W-N_{imido}$ bond length is 1.784(4) Å and is consistent with a W–N triple bond making 5 an 18e⁻ complex.^{7,8} The W-N(1) and W-N(2) bond lengths (2.154(4), 2.160(3) Å) are essentially the same which is surprising since this implies that the imido group does not exert a significant *trans* influence on the W-N(1) bond. It appears that the steric bulk of the two trimethylphosphine ligands prevents an asymmetric approach of the amido N atoms to the W center causing an increase in the expected W-N(2) bond length.

A comparison of the $W-N_{amide}$ bond lengths in 5 with the six coordinate dialkyl complex W(NPh)(CH₃)₂[o- $(Me_3SiN)_2C_6H_4](PMe_3)$ reveals that W-N(2) in 5 is 0.1 Å longer that the W $-N_{amide}$ bonds (both cis to the imido group) in W(NPh)(CH₃)₂[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](PMe₃).² The related five coordinate complex, 2h, has a trigonal bipyramidal structure with axial imido and amide groups, while one amide and the two neopentyl groups occupy the equatorial plane. The axial W-N_{amide} and equatorial W-N_{amide} lengths² are 1.98 and 2.13 Å, respectively, and suggest that in the absence of other steric influences, the strong trans influence of the imido group results in very different W-N amide distances.

The ethylene group coordinates cis to the imido ligand, as observed in other d² ethylene complexes that have imido coligands reported by Schrock¹¹ and Niel-

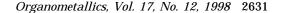
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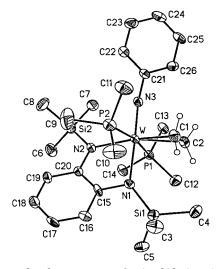


Figure 2. Molecular structure of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄]- $(\eta^2$ -C₂H₄)(PMe₃)₂, **5**, with 50% probability ellipsoids and showing the atom-numbering scheme. All hydrogen atoms, except those on the η^2 -ethylene, are omitted for clarity.

Table 3. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) for W(NPh)[*o*-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](PMe₃)₂(η^2 -C₂H₄), 5

(1103)(112)(11003)(1)(1003)(100						
W-N(1)	2.154(4)	W-P(2)	2.564(1)			
W-N(2)	2.160(3)	W-C(1)	2.234(5)			
W-N(3)	1.784(4)	W-C(2)	2.223(5)			
W-P(1)	2.562(1)	C(1)-C(2)	1.434(6)			
N(1)-W-N(2)	78.60(14)	N(3)-W-P(1)	94.40(12)			
N(1) - W - N(3)	175.9(2)	N(3)-W-P(2)	89.64(12)			
N(1) - W - P(1)	89.66(10)	N(3) - W - C(1)	91.2(2)			
N(1) - W - P(2)	86.26(10)	N(3) - W - C(2)	89.8(2)			
N(1) - W - C(1)	87.7(2)	P(1) - W - P(2)	170.27(4)			
N(1) - W - C(2)	91.8(2)	P(1) - W - C(1)	113.19(13)			
N(2) - W - N(3)	101.2(2)	P(1) - W - C(2)	75.92(13)			
N(2) - W - P(1)	84.42(10)	P(2) - W - C(1)	75.50(13)			
N(2) - W - P(2)	86.12(10)	P(2) - W - C(2)	113.00(13)			
N(2) - W - C(1)	157.8(2)	C(1) - W - C(2)	37.5(2)			
N(2) - W - C(2)	158.2(2)	C(21)-N-W	170.3(3)			

son.¹² The ethylene ligand is oriented with the C atoms in the W–P–N(2)–P plane in order to maximimize back-donation from the d_{xy} orbital to the ethylene π^* orbital. The observation of two resonances for the ethylene protons in the ¹H NMR spectrum of **5** at room temperature is consistent with slow rotation of the ethylene and indicates that a strong π bond exists between W and ethylene. The C(1)–C(2) bond length, 1.434(6) Å, is in the middle of the range of C–C bond lengths observed in other d² olefin complexes,¹³ while the W–C(1) and W–C(2) bond lengths of 2.234(5) and 2.223(5) Å are similar to those of other W(IV) olefin

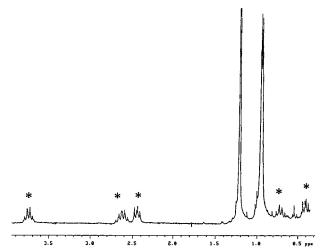


Figure 3. Partial ¹H NMR spectrum of W(NPh)[o-Me₃-SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH⁴BuCH₂CH₂), **8** (300 MHz, room temperature, benzene- d_6 , *'s indicate five ring protons).

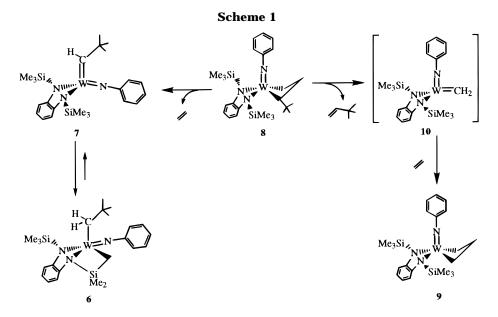
complexes that have been structurally characterized. 12b,13c,e

Mechanism of the Formation of 4 from 2h and 3. The observation that the reaction between 2h and ethylene produces neohexene and neopentane along with **4** suggested to us that the formation of **4** is likely to proceed through a metathetical pathway. This is reasonable because neopentane is the product of α -H abstraction to form a neopentylidene complex and neohexene is the first product formed when a neopentylidene complex undergoes productive metathesis with ethylene. Previously,³ we had established that, upon heating complex **2h**, α -H abstraction to form the base free neopentylidene complex is the predominant reaction pathway. In the presence of PMe₃, complex **3** is isolated, while in the absence of PMe3 a reversible metalation of one of the Me₃Si groups of the o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄ ligand occurs.³ Given that **3** is readily synthesized and isolated and that dissociation of PMe_3 from 3 in solution is a rapid process, we examined the reaction between 3 and ethylene in order to determine whether complex 4 would be formed.

When 3 was allowed to react with ethylene at room temperature in an NMR tube, an intermediate, W(CHt- $BuCH_2CH_2)(NPh)[o-(Me_3SiN)_2C_6H_4]$, 8, was observed before any neohexene was produced. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 8 (Figure 3) shows five multiplet resonances at 0.39, 0.71, 2.45, 2.61, and 3.75 ppm in a 1:1:1:1:1 ratio, which account for the five ring-protons of the metallacycle. In the ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum, three singlets were observed at 77.6 ($J_{W-C} = 56$ Hz), 38.8 $(J_{W-C} = 49.4 \text{ Hz})$, and 25.1 ppm which are assigned to the metallacycle carbon atoms. Further investigation by 2D NMR (¹H-¹H homonuclear and ¹³C-¹H heteronuclear correlation experiments) has allowed us to assign all the proton and carbon resonances of 8. The proton at 0.39 ppm is attached to C_{α} (77.6 ppm, tertbutyl-substituted carbon), the two multiplets at 0.71 and 2.45 ppm arise from the protons bonded to $C_{\alpha'}$ (38.8 ppm), and the most downfield protons at 2.61 and 3.75 ppm are assigned as the β -protons of the metallacyclobutane ring. The observation that the β -protons appear at the most downfield chemical shifts is consis-

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tent with observations on similar metallacyclobutane complexes. $^{\rm 14}$

Attempts to synthesize and isolate complex **8** on a preparative scale were thwarted by the instability of **8** in solution. While crude **8** could be isolated as a solid by removing the solvent and PMe₃ under reduced pressure, the ¹H NMR spectrum of this material (C_6D_6 solution) revealed that **8** readily loses ethylene or neohexene to generate the metalated complex **6** or the unsubstituted metallacyclobutane complex, **9**, respectively. Presumably, loss of ethylene gives the base free neopentylidene complex which rapidly metalates (Scheme 1), while loss of neohexene leads to **9** via an intermediate methylidene complex which is scavenged by the ethylene produced in the formation of **6**.

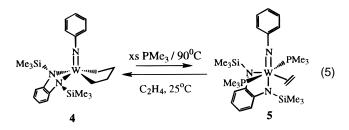
When complex **3** was allowed to react with an excess of ethylene at room temperature for 4 days, two products were observed in a 44:56 ratio by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. One set of peaks (44%) were found at 3.89 (m, $2H_{\alpha}$), 2.86 (m, $1H_{\beta}$), 2.90 (m, $1H_{\beta}$), and 2.59 (m, $2H_{\alpha}$) ppm and were assigned to the metallacyclobutane W(NPh)[(Me₃-SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH₂CH₂CH₂), **9**. The structure of **9** is either square pyramidal or the compound is undergoing a rapid interconversion between square pyramidal and trigonal bipyramidal geometries because only one singlet was observed at 0.31 ppm for the trimethylsilyl groups.

The other set of peaks (56%) were observed at 1.94 (2H) and 2.17 (2H) ppm. This product was shown to be the tungsten(IV) complex W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄]-(PMe₃)₂(η^2 -C₂H₄), **5**, by comparison with the spectrum of an authentic sample which was obtained from the reaction between **2b** and excess PMe₃ (as described above). We propose that the unstable methylidene complex undergoes bimolecular coupling of methylidene ligands to give ethylene and a tungsten(IV) complex, which then was trapped by phosphines and ethylene to form compound **5** (Scheme 2). Formation of a W(IV) intermediate from **9** via a β -H elimination/reductive elimination process does not appear to occur though it

is an attractive mechanistic pathway. Thus, we have not observed the formation of propene during the reaction of $\mathbf{3}$ with ethylene under any conditions.

In the presence of excess ethylene, both **9** and **5** are converted to the more stable metallacyclopentane complex W(CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)(NPh)[(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄], **4** (>95% by NMR). The formation of complex **4** arises from the oxidative coupling of 2 equiv of ethylene to the tungsten-(IV) complex.¹⁵ The relative concentrations of all the intermediates as a function of time is shown in Figure **4**. In a separate experiment, complex **5** was cleanly converted to **4** within several days, upon the addition of ethylene. This suggests that the formation of **4** from **3** is inevitable in the presence of ethylene.

To investigate the reversibility of the formation of **4** from **5**, **4** was allowed to react with trimethylphosphine. No reaction was observed within a few days at room temperature. However, when the reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C, **4** was slowly (60% conversion after 10 days; 91% after 30 days) converted to **5** with the loss of ethylene (eq 5). This experiment clearly shows the

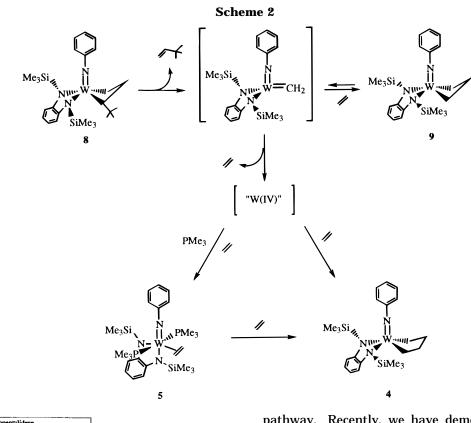


preferential formation of the W(VI) metallacyclopentane product. The fact that compound **2a** does not react with ethylene even at elevated temperatures provides further indirect evidence that the formation of **4** from **2h** proceeds through a neopentylidene intermediate.

Experiments using **3** as a metathesis catalyst for 1-pentene (40 equiv) show 90% conversion to 4-octene after 8 h at 80 °C as well as the formation of neohexene and **4** as the only observable metal-containing product. This is to be expected since the productive metathesis

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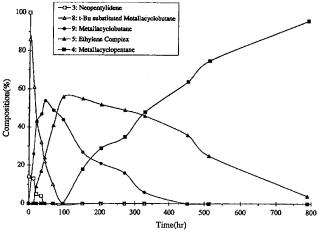


Figure 4. Relative amounts of **3**–**5**, **8**, and **9** as a function of time during thermolysis of **3** in the presence of ethylene.

of terminal olefins always gives ethylene as one of the products. Thus, the ethylene that is produced reacts with **3** or other alkylidene complexes that are formed during the reaction and effectively deactivates the catalyst system by converting all of the W complexes in the system to **4** which is inactive for further metathesis.

It is worthwhile to note that the formation of 1-butene was not observed when **4** was heated to its decomposition temperature (ca. 150 °C). The formation of 1-butene from metallacyclopentanes of Pt,¹⁶ Ti,¹⁷ and Ta¹⁸ has been reported to occur via a β -hydride elimination

pathway. Recently, we have demonstrated that the mechanism of β -H transfer in the diethyl complex, **2b**, involves direct β -H *abstraction*,^{1a} rather than β -H elimination. It is possible that complex **4** does not undergo decomposition via β -hydride transfer because the geometric constraints of the metallacyclopentane ring prevent the molecule from achieving the transition state necessary to effect transfer of a β -H atom directly to a carbon that is bound to the metal. As a result, the reactivity of **4** is apparently limited to disruption of the metallacyclopentane structure by expulsion of ethylene and reduction of the metal center.

Conclusions

The observation that ethylene reacts with the bis-(neopentyl) complex, 2h, at elevated temperatures to give the metallacyclopentane complex, 4, is consistent with the proposal that this reaction actually occurs through a neopentylidene complex which is generated *in situ* during the reaction. The formation of 4 in the reaction of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CHCMe₃)(PMe₃), 3, with ethylene confirms this proposal because 3 is an effective source of base free alkylidene through the dissociation of PMe₃. The conversion of the unsubstituted metallacyclobutane complex, 9, to the W(IV) ethylene complex appears to proceed through the methylidene complex, 10, and probably through a W(IV) intermediate both of which are not observed.

In related chemistry, a dimeric Mo(IV) complex has been isolated from the reaction of Mo[N(2,6-i-Pr₂C₆H₃)]-[OCMe₃]₂(C(H)CMe₃) with ethylene.¹⁹ The precursor of this Mo(IV) complex was proposed to be a Mo(VI) methylidene which reductively coupled giving ethylene

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and the observed dimeric Mo(IV) product. Changing the alkoxide ligands to OCMe(CF₃)₂ allowed the observation of an unstable metallacyclopentane complex, Mo(CH₂-CH₂CH₂CH₂)[N(2,6-*i*Pr₂C₆H₃)][OCMe(CF₃)₂]₂.¹⁹ A similar process is possible in the present case, only the increased stability of W(VI) vs Mo(VI) facilitates the formation and isolation of the metallacyclopentane complex, **4**, via the oxidative coupling of two molecules of ethylene. Because PMe₃ is present in the system when **3** reacts with ethylene, the W(IV) PMe₃-olefin complex, **5**, is also initially formed. The conversion of **5** to **4** is somewhat surprising since it involves loss of PMe₃ in favor of coordination of ethylene; however, it is clear that stability of W(VI) relative to W(IV) is the driving force for the formation of **4**.

The formation of **4** from the alkylidene, **3**, also provides an explanation for the deactivation of **3** when **3** is used as an initiatior for the metathesis of terminal olefins. When terminal olefins undergo metathesis, ethylene is always produced. The presence of ethylene thereby provides a facile path for the deactivation of **3** via the formation of **4**. We would expect that metallacyclopentane formation would be most likely to occur when third-row transition metals are used as metathesis catalysts because of the propensity of these metals to form stable, high oxidation state complexes.

Experimental Section

General Procedures. All reactions were conducted under a dry argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques or were performed in a nitrogen-filled drybox. Diethyl ether (Et₂O) was distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl. Toluene, pentane, and hexane were distilled from sodium. The compounds 1 and 2a,b,f,h,j were prepared as described previously.² NMR solvents were stored over molecular sieves and were degassed prior to use. ¹H NMR spectra were measured at 300 MHz on a Varian Gemini 300 or VXR 300 spectrometer with C₆D₆ and C₇D₈ as solvents. The chemical shifts are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0$ ppm) and were referenced to residual C_6D_5H (δ = 7.15 ppm) and C_7D_7H (δ = 2.09 ppm) as internal standards. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz on a Varian Gemini 300 or VXR 300 spectrometer with C₆D₆ and C₇D₈ as solvents, referenced to the central line of the solvents, and reported relative to tetramethylsilane. Elemental analyses (C, H, N) were performed by Atlantic Microlab, Inc., Norcross, GA.

Preparation of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH₂CH₂CH₃)₂, 2c. W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Cl)₂ (1.0 g, 1.68 mmol) was dissolved in Et₂O (100 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Two equivalents of n-PrMgCl (1.7 mL, 3.4 mmol; 2.0 M solution in Et₂O) were then added by a syringe. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for 1 h, during which time a brown color appeared and salts precipitated. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining brown-black oil was dried under reduced pressure for 3 h. The oil was then extracted with pentane and filtered by filter cannula until the filtrate was almost clear. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining brown oil was dried under reduced pressure for 2 h. Yield: 78%. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 0.53 (s, 18H, -Si(CH₃)₃, ${}^{2}J_{\rm Si-H}$ = 6.6 Hz); 1.30 (t, 6H, $-CH_{2}CH_{2}CH_{3}$); 1.92 (m, 2H, $-CH_2CH_2CH_3$); 2.06 (dt, 2H, $-CH_2CH_2CH_3$); 2.16 (m, 2H, $-CH_2CH_2CH_3$); 2.33 (dt, 2H, $-CH_2CH_2CH_3$); 7.09 (t, 1H, p-NPh-H); 7.27 (m, 2H, aromatic); 7.34 (t, 2H, m-NPh-H); 7.53 (d, 2H, o-NPh-H); 7.57 (m, 2H, aromatic). ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 1.49 ($-Si(CH_3)_3$, $J_{C-H} = 119.3$ Hz); 21.79 ($-CH_2CH_2CH_3$,

 $J_{C-H} = 121.4 \text{ Hz}$; 26.70 (-CH₂CH₂CH₃, $J_{C-H} = 132.2 \text{ Hz}$); 69.29 (-*C*H₂CH₂CH₃, $J_{C-H} = 113.1 \text{ Hz}$); 122.36, 124.08, 125.04, 125.77, 128.64, 134.48, 156.42 (aromatic).

Preparation of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH₂CH-(CH₃)₂)₂, 2d. W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Cl)₂ (1.2 g, 2.01 mmol) was dissolved Et₂O (100 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Two equivalents of i-BuMgCl (2.01 mL, 4.02 mmol; 2.0 M solution in Et₂O) were then added by a syringe. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for 1 h, during which time a brown color appeared and salts precipitated. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining brown-black oil was dried under reduced pressure for 3 h. The oil was then extracted with pentane and filtered by filter cannula until the filtrate was almost clear. The solution was concentrated to about 10 mL and cooled to -78 °C for 3 h. The resulting golden-brown solid was isolated by filtration and was dried under reduced pressure for 1 h to yield 0.78 g of 2d as a brown crystalline solid. Yield: 63.7%. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 0.33 (s, 18H, -Si(CH₃)₃); 0.93 (d, 6H, -CH₂CH(CH₃)₂); 1.10 (d, 6H, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)₂); 1.72 (m, 2H, -CH₂CH(CH₃)₂); 1.94 (m, 2H, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)₂); 2.55 (m, 2H, -CH₂CH(CH₃)₂); 6.84 (t, 1H, p-NPh-H); 7.01 (m, 2H, aromatic); 7.12 (t, 2H, m-NPh-H); 7.31 (d, 2H, o-NPh-H); 7.36 (m, 2H, aromatic). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 2.20 (-Si(CH₃)₃, J_{C-H} = 119.3 Hz); 27.33 (-CH₂CH(*CH*₃)₂, $J_{C-H} = 125.8$ Hz); 29.15 (-CH₂CH(*CH*₃)₂, $J_{C-H} = 126.5$ Hz); 33.73 ($-CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $J_{C-H} = 127.2$ Hz); 80.01 ($-CH_2CH_2$ (CH₃)₂); 121.79, 123.60, 125.46, 126.65, 128.62, 133.12, 155.97 (aromatic). Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₄₅N₃Si₂W: C, 48.82; H, 7.09; N, 6.57. Found: C, 48.54; H, 7.11; N, 6.50.

Preparation of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Ph)₂, 2e. W(N-Ph)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Cl)₂ (1.0 g, 1.68 mmol) was dissolved in Et₂O (50 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Two equivalents of PhMgCl (1.12 mL, 3.36 mmol; 3.0 M solution in Et₂O) were then added by a syringe. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for 2 h, during which time a brown color appeared and salts precipitated. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining brown-orange solid was dried in vacuo for 3 h. The solid was then extracted with pentane and filtered by filter cannula until filtrate was almost clear. The solution was concentrated to about 10 mL and cooled to -78 °C for 3 h. The resulting orange solid was isolated by filtration and dried under reduced pressure for 1 h to yield 0.77 g of 2e as an orange crystalline solid. Yield: 67.6%. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 0.12 (s, 18H, -Si(CH₃)₃); 6.80-7.66 (19 H overlapping aromatic protons). Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₃₇N₃Si₂W: C, 53.02; H, 5.49; N, 6.18. Found: C, 52.83; H, 5.44; N, 6.13.

Preparation of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH₂CH₂Ph)₂, 2g. W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Cl)₂ (2.0 g, 3.36 mmol) was dissolved in Et₂O (150 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Two equivalents of PhCH2CH2MgCl (3.4 mL, 3.4 mmol; 2.0 M solution in Et₂O) were then added by a syringe. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for 2 h, during which time a brown color appeared and salts precipitated. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining brown-orange solid was dried in vacuo for 3 h. The solid was then extracted with pentane and filtered by filter cannula until the filtrate was almost clear. The solution was concentrated to ca. 10 mL and cooled to -78°C for 3 h. The resulting orange solid was isolated by filtration and dried under reduced pressure for 1 h to yield 1.68 g of 2g as a orange crystalline solid. Yield: 68.2%. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 0.30 (s, 18H, -Si(CH₃)₃); 2.09 (dt, 2H, -CH₂CH₂Ph); 2.38 (dt, 2H, -CH2CH2Ph); 2.91 (dt, 2H, -CH2CH2Ph); 3.14 (dt, 2H, -CH2CH2Ph); 6.86 (t, 1H, p-NPh-H); 6.99 (m, 5H, aromatic); 7.02 (m, 2H, aromatic); 7.08 (t, 2H, m-NPh-H); 7.15 (m, 5H, aromatic); 7.22 (d, 2H, o-NPh-H); 7.39 (m, 2H, aromatic). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 1.48 (-Si(CH₃)₃, J_{C-H} = 118.3 Hz); 39.65 ($-CH_2CH_2Ph$, $J_{C-H} = 123.4$ Hz); 65.61 ($-CH_2$ -CH₂Ph, $J_{C-H} = 119.2$ Hz, $J_{W-C} = 77.2$ Hz); 122.83, 125.01,

125.20, 125.43, 125.58, 128.14, 128.48, 128.62, 132.95, 149.20, 156.22 (aromatic). Anal. Calcd for $C_{34}H_{45}N_3Si_2W$: C, 55.50; H, 6.17; N, 5.71. Found: C, 55.23; H, 6.09; N, 5.75.

Preparation of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH₂Si(CH₃)₃)₂, **2j.** W(NPh)[*o*-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Cl)₂, **1** (2.0 g, 3.35 mmol), was dissolved in Et₂O (30 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Two equivalents of ClMgCH₂Si(CH₃)₃ (5.23 mL, 6.70 mmol, 1.28 M solution in Et₂O) were then added. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature after 30 min. After 1 h, solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The solid was extracted with pentane until clear and filtered through a Celite pad. The solution was concentrated to a total volume of about 10 mL and cooled in a -78 °C bath to yield 1.98 g dark crystals of **2j.** Yield: 84.2%. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 0.01 (s, 18H, -CH₂- $Si(CH_3)_3$; 0.49 (s, 18H, $-NSi(CH_3)_3$); 1.32 (d, 2H, $-CH_2$ -Si(CH₃)₃); 1.96 (d, 2H, -CH₂Si(CH₃)₃); 6.85 (t, 1H, p-NPh-H); 6.91 (m, 2H, aromatic); 7.19 (t, 2H, m-NPh-H); 7.23 (m, 2H, aromatic); 7.52 (d, 2H, *o*-NPh-*H*). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 2.93 (-CH₂Si(*C*H₃)₃); 3.96 (-NSi(*C*H₃)₃, ¹J_{Si-C} = 56.8 Hz); 63.64 (-CH₂Si(CH₃)₃); 119.91, 126.37, 127.92, 128.51, 128.58, 142.55, 155.59 (aromatic). Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₄₇N₃Si₂W: C, 44.62; H, 7.06; N, 6.00. Found: C, 44.63; H, 7.02; N, 6.10.

Preparation of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CHCMe₃)-(PMe₃), 3. In a 200 mL glass tube fitted with a Teflon J. Young's joint, W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄] (CH₂CMe₃)₂ (1.25 g, 1.87 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (25 mL). Five equivalents of PMe₃ (0.968 mL, 9.35 mmol) were then added, and the tube was sealed. The reaction was then heated to 80 °C for 24 h. The solution was transferred to a round-bottom Schlenk, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The brown oil was extracted with pentane, and the volume of the filtrate was concentrated to ca. 15 mL. The solution was cooled to -10 °C to give 0.83 g of 3b as orange crystals. Yield: 66.0%. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 0.38 (s, 9H, $-Si(CH_3)_3$); 0.41 (s, 9H, -Si'- $(CH_3)_3$; 0.98 (d, 9H, $-PMe_3$, ${}^2J_{W-C} = 9$ Hz); 1.39 (s, 9H, -CMe₃); 6.68-7.13 (m, 9H, aromatic). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 3.41 (-Si(CH₃)₃); 4.11 (-Si'(CH₃)₃); 16.22 (d, -PMe₃); 34.93 $(-CMe_3)$; 45.04 $(-CMe_3)$; 117.61, 119.32, 122.44, 123.56, 124.71, 128.71, 148.13 (aromatic); 277.41 (-CHCMe3, ¹J_{C-H} = 110 Hz). Anal. Calcd for $C_{26}H_{46}N_3PSi_2W$: C, 46.49; H, 6.90; N, 6.26. Found: C, 46.23; H, 6.81; N, 6.05.

Preparation of W(CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂-C₆H₄], 4. W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](Cl)₂ (1.05 g, 1.76 mmol) was dissolved in Et₂O (50 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. One equivalent of BrMgCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂MgBr (1.75 mL, 1.76 mmol; 0.99 M solution in Et₂O) was then added by a syringe. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature after 1 h and was stirred for another 2 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the resulting solid was dried under reduced pressure for 3 h. The solid was then extracted with pentane and filtered through a Celite pad until the filtrate was almost clear. The solution was concentrated to about 10 mL and cooled to -78 °C for 2 h. The resulting golden solid was isolated by filtration and dried under reduced pressure for 1 h to yield 0.77 g of 4 as a brown solid. Yield: 75.2%. ¹H NMR (C_6D_6 , δ): 0.28 (s, 18H, $-Si(CH_3)_3$); 1.54 (m, 2H, α -CH); 2.42 (m, 2H, β -CH); 2.91 (m, 2H, β -CH'); 2.93 (m, 2H, α -CH'); 6.86–7.44 (m, 9H, aromatic). ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 1.08 $(-Si(CH_3)_3, {}^2J_{Si-H} = 6.6 \text{ Hz}, J_{C-H} = 119.1 \text{ Hz}); 35.23 (\beta-C, J_{C-H})$ = 124.3 Hz); 61.25 (α -C, J_{W-C} = 73.6 Hz, J_{C-H} = 122.9 Hz). Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₃₅N₃Si₂W: C, 45.43; H, 6.07; N, 7.23. Found: C, 45.19; H, 5.97; N, 7.03.

Preparation of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](η ²-C₂H₄)-(PMe₃)₂, **5.** In a glass tube with a Teflon J. Young's joint, W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CH₂CH₃)₂, **2b** (1.35 g, 2.32 mmol), was dissolved in pentane (50 mL). Five equivalents of PMe₃ (1.19 mL, 11.56 mmol) were added by a syringe, and then the flask was sealed. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 4 h, during which time the brown solution turned purple and purple crystals precipitated. The mixture was transferred to a Schlenck tube, and the purple crystals were isolated. The mother liquors were reduced in volume under reduced pressure and cooled to -78 °C to give more solid. Total yield: 1.44 g, 88.3%. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 0.31 (s, 9H, $-Si-(CH_3)_3$); 0.60 (s, 9H, $-Si'(CH_3)_3$); 1.03 (s, 18H, $-PMe_3$); 1.91 (m, C₂H₄); 2.09 (m, C₂H₄); 6.61–7.42 (aromatic). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 2.67 ($-Si(CH_3)_3$); 6.34 ($-Si'(CH_3)_3$); 15.78 (s, $-PMe_3$); 38.13 (s, C_2H_4 , $J_{C-H} = 156.2$ Hz); 122.23, 123.13, 124.28, 125.51, 127.23, 128.91, 129.23, 129.78, 158.23 (aromatic). Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₄₉N₃Si₂P₂W: C, 44.25; H, 7.00; N, 5.95. Found: C, 43.91; H, 6.79; N, 5.78.

Preparation of W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CHt-BuCH₂-**CH₂), 8.** W(NPh)[o-(Me₃SiN)₂C₆H₄](CHCMe₃)(PMe₃), 3 (1 g, 1.49 mmol), was dissolved in hexane (50 mL) and allowed to react with 16 psi of ethylene in the presence of excess neohexene at room temperature for 30 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the resulting solid was dried under reduced pressure for 1 h. The solid was then extracted with pentane and filtered by cannula. The solution was concentrated to ca. 10 mL and cooled to -78 °C for 1 h. The resulting golden solid was isolated by filtration and dried under reduced pressure for 1 h to yield red orange solid at 54% yield. ¹H NMR (C_6D_6 , δ): 0.24 (s, 9H, $-Si(CH_3)_3$); 0.26 (s, 9H, -Si'(CH₃)₃); 0.39 (m, 1H, -CH^{*}BuCH₂CH₂); 0.71 (m, 1H, -CH'BuCH₂CH₂); 1.21 (s, 9H, t-Bu); 2.45 (m, 1H, -CH^t-BuCH₂CH₂); 2.61 (m, 1H, -CH'BuCH₂CH₂); 3.75 (m, 1H, $-CH'BuCH_2CH_2$; 6.82–7.44 (m, 9H, aromatic). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, δ): 1.35 (s, -Si(CH₃)₃); 1.54 (s, -Si'(CH₃)₃); 25.07 (-CH^t-Bu*C*H₂CH₂); 38.80 (-CH^{*i*}BuCH₂*C*H₂, ${}^{1}J_{W-C} = 49.4$ Hz); 77.58 $(-CH^{t}BuCH_{2}CH_{2}, J_{W-C} = 56.1 \text{ Hz}).$

X-ray Crystal Structures. Data (Table 1) for both compounds were collected at 173 K on a Siemens CCD SMART PLATFORM equipped with a CCD area detector and a graphite monochromator utilizing Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.710$ 73 Å). Cell parameters were refined using 8173 and 8192 reflections for **4** and **5**, respectively. A hemisphere of data (1381 frames) was collected using the ω -scan method (0.3° frame width). The first 50 frames were remeasured at the end of data collection to monitor instrument and crystal stability (maximum correction on I was <1%). Absorption corrections were applied on the basis of the ψ scan using the entire data set for **5** and on the basis of the measured crystal faces for **4**.

Both structures were solved by direct methods in SHELX-TL5²⁰ and refined using full-matrix least squares on F^2 . The non-H atoms were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters except for the disordered C atoms. All of the H atoms were included in the final cycle of refinement and were riding on the atoms to which they are bonded. The ethylene ligand in 4 was found to be disordered in the 2 and 3 positions. Two partial $-CH_2CH_2-$ groups were refined with isotropic thermal parameters and their occupation factors refined dependently to 0.54(2) for one and consequently 0.46(2) for the other. Atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters of 4 and 5 can be found in the Supporting Information.

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Supporting Information Available: Tables of bond lengths and angles and positional and thermal parameters (17 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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⁽²⁰⁾ Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXTL5; Nicolet XRD Corp.: Madison, WI, 1995.