Dinuclear palladium-azido complexes containing thiophene derivatives: reactivity toward organic isocyanides and isothiocyanates[†]

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Cyclopalladated tetranuclear Pd(II) complexes, $[Pd_2(\mu-Cl)_2(Y)]_2 (Y = L^1 \text{ or } L^2; H_2L^1 = di(2-pyridyl)-2, 2'-bithiophene; H_2L^2 = 5,5''-di(2-pyridyl)-2, 2':5',2''-terthiophene), containing two pyridyl-<math>\alpha$, α' -disubstituted derivatives of thiophene were prepared. Treating these products with PR₃ and subsequently with NaN₃ produced the dinuclear Pd–azido complexes $[(PR_3)_2(N_3)Pd-Y-Pd(N_3)(PR_3)_2] (Y = L^1 \text{ or } L^2)$ or a cyclometallated complex $[(PR_3)(N_3)Pd-Y'-Pd(N_3)(PR_3)] (Y' = C, N-L^2)$. Reactions of these Pd–azido complexes with CN–Ar (Ar = 2,6-Me₂C₆H₃, 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃) or R–NCS (R = *i*-Pr, Et, allyl) led to the complexes containing end-on carbodiimido groups $[(PMe_3)_2(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)-(PMe_3)_2]$ or *S*-coordinated tetrazole-thiolato groups $\{(PMe_3)_2[CN_4(R)]S-Pd-Y-Pd-S[CN_4)(R)]-(PMe_3)_2\}$. Interestingly, when treated with elemental sulfur, the carbodiimido complexes transformed into the cyclometallated derivatives, $[(PMe_3)(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y'-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)(PMe_3)] (Y' = C, N-L^1, C, N-L^2)$. We also report the preparation of linear, thienylene-bridged dinuclear Pd complexes $[L_2(N_3)Pd-X(or X')-Pd(N_3)L_2] (L = PMe_3 or PMe_2Ph; H_2X = 2,2'-bithiophene or H_2X' = 2,2':5', 2''-terthiophene) and their reactivity toward organic isocyanide and isothiocyanates.$

Introduction

 π -Conjugated thiophene compounds have been intensively studied because of their intriguing electronic or optical properties.¹⁻⁶ In particular, pyridine-substituted thiophene (thienyl pyridine) compounds with extended π -electron bonds have been focused on because of their potential use in the construction of molecular wires, electronic, or chemical devices.^{7,8} For transition metal complexes containing a 2-(2'-thienyl)pyridine unit, four coordination types (I–IV in Chart 1), chelate (*C*,*N*) or monodentate, are observed. For example, cyclometallated or non-cyclometallated (σ -bond) Pd, Pt, Ru, and Au complexes containing this type of ligand are known.⁹⁻¹²



We have recently reported the preparation of cyclometallated Pd(II) complexes containing C,N- or C,N,N-donor ligands such as 2-phenylpyridyl or 6-phenyl-2,2'-bipyridyl.¹³ In that study, we introduced the azido group to the cyclometallated system,

because the azido ligand may undergo thermal or nucleophilic cycloaddition or imido-compound formation with unsaturated organic molecules. While the cyclometallated Pd and Pt complexes containing phenyl pyridyl derivatives as C,N-donor ligands are now relatively common, those containing thienyl pyridyl derivatives are rare.^{9–12,14} Moreover, dinuclear azido complexes containing pyridyl thiophene units of type I (C,N-coordinated) or type IV (non-cyclometallated or σ -bonded thienyl derivatives) have not been reported yet.

In this work, we describe the preparation and properties of the dinuclear Pd(II)–azido complexes bridged by pyridyl thiophene derivatives, $[(PR_3)_2Pd(N_3)-Y-Pd(N_3)(PR_3)_2]$, in which "Y" denotes a di(2-pyridyl) bithienyl (L¹) or terthienyl ligand (L²) acting as a *C*,*N*-donor chelate ligand (type I) or just a *C*-donor ligand (type IV), along with their interconversion between a cyclometallated and non-cyclometallated form (Scheme 1).



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As a comparative work, we also prepared the dinuclear Pd(II)–azido complexes by empolying linear thienylene ligands, $[(PR_3)_2Pd(N_3)-X(\text{ or } X')-Pd(N_3)(PR_3)_2]$ (X = bth- C^5 , $C^{5'}$ or X' = tth- C^5 , $C^{5'}$), and examined their reactivity toward organic isocyanides or isothiocyanates.



Results and discussion

Synthesis of pyridyl-a,a'-disubstituted derivatives of thiophene

For the preparation of pyridyl- α , α' -disubstituted derivatives of thiophene (H₂L¹ and H₂L²), we first synthesized halo- α , α' -disubstituted derivatives of thiophene by employing NBS or AlCl₃(cat.)–SO₂Cl₂ (Scheme 2).¹⁵⁻¹⁷ In the subsequent step, the pyridyl groups were introduced to the α positions of the thiophene by the Pd-catalyzed Stille coupling reactions (Scheme 3).¹⁸⁻¹⁹ The reactions yielded a mixture of a disubstituted thiophene (major) and a monosubstituted thiophene (minor), which could be readily separated by column chromatography.

$$H \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{NBS (2 eq)}} Br \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}} Br \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ S \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ H \end{array} \right) H = 2,3 \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}, \text{AlCl}_3} CH$$

Scheme 2



Synthesis of dinuclear Pd–azido complexes containing pyridyl- α , α' -disubstituted derivatives of thiophene

Cyclopalladated tetranuclear Pd complexes (1 and 2) containing two pyridyl- α , α' -disubstituted derivatives of thiophene (L^1 and L^2), which are the starting materials for the corresponding dinuclear chlorides or azides, were prepared from H_2L^1 or H_2L^2 and Na_2PdCl_4 (Scheme 4).

The products are slightly soluble in common organic solvents. Addition of excess PR_3 (8 equiv.) to the tetranuclear chlorobridged Pd complexes 1 and 2 cleaved the Cl–Pd–Cl bridges to give the dinuclear Pd chlorides (3, 4, and 7) containing a single bridging L^1 or L^2 (Y), and then metathesis with NaN₃ gave the dinuclear Pd–azido complexes, $[(PR_3)_2(N_3)Pd-Y-Pd(N_3)(PR_3)_2]$ (5, 6, and 8), as shown in Scheme 5.

On the other hand, treating complex **2** with 4 equiv. of PR₃ produced a cyclometallated Pd chloride (9) with the thiophene derivative, a C,N-coordinated $L^2(C,N-L^2)$. Subsequent treatment of **9** with NaN₃ produced another cyclometallated Pd–azido complex (10).

The IR spectra of these complexes display a strong N_3 absorption band at 2036–2037 cm⁻¹. Crystallographic data of **5** are given in Table 1. Despite severe disorder of the PMe₃ ligand, the ORTEP³⁶ drawing of **5** (Fig. 1) clearly exhibits the geometry of the dinuclear Pd–azido complex bridged by L¹. The coordination sphere of each Pd can be described as square planar. The crystallographic inversion center is located in the middle of the central C–C bond joining two thiophene rings, which explains why the crystal of complex **5** has the Z value of 4 instead of 8.

Several cyclometallated complexes containing terthienyl-based ligands and dinuclear complexes bridged by polythiophene or



Scheme 4

2

 Table 1
 X-Ray data collection and structure refinement for 5, 15 and 26

	5	15	$26 \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2$
Formula	$C_{30}H_{46}N_8P_4Pd_2S_2$	$C_{50}H_{62}N_6P_2Pd_2S_2$	$C_{40}H_{62}Cl_4N_4P_4Pd_2S_2$
FW	919.55	1085.92	1141.54
Temperature/K	293(2)	293(2)	293(2)
Crystal size/mm ³	$0.24 \times 0.18 \times 0.12$	$0.46 \times 0.24 \times 0.24$	$0.24 \times 0.20 \times 0.20$
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic	Triclinic
Space group	C2/c	Pbca	P-1
a/Å	28.363(4)	39.276(8)	8.5056(17)
b/Å	11.025(1)	8.758(2)	12.325(2)
c/Å	15.054(3)	14.875(3)	13.107(4)
$a/^{\circ}$			87.887(17)
β/°	98.08(1)		76.69(2)
y/°			81.063(16)
$V/Å^3$	4660(1)	5117(2)	1320.9(5)
Ζ	4	4	1
$d_{\rm cal}/{\rm g}{\rm cm}^{-3}$	1.310	0.410	1.435
μ/mm^{-1}	1.026	0.886	1.114
F(000)	1864	2232	582
T_{\min}	0.6863	0.4390	0.4721
$T_{\rm max}$	0.9102	0.4970	0.8289
Scan type	ω	ω	ω
No. of reflns measured	4109	4485	4962
No. of reflns unique	4025	4485	4624
No. of reflns with $I > 2\sigma(I)$	2884	3323	3598
No. of parameters refined	194	281	255
Max., in $\Delta \rho / e \text{ Å}^{-3}$	0.987	0.372	0.666
Min., in $\Delta \rho / e \text{ Å}^{-3}$	-0.606	-0.824	-0.772
GOF on F^2	1.025	1.003	1.019
R	0.0697	0.0389	0.0463
$WR2^{a}$	0.1747	0.0917	0.1135

^{*a*} wR2 = $\Sigma [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \Sigma [w(F_o^2)^2]^1$



phosphinothiophene ligands were reported.²⁰⁻²⁷ However, exam-

ples of the complexes containing pyridyl-substituted thiophene derivatives are quite rare.⁹ Furthermore, the reactivity of these

complexes toward organic isocyanide and isothiocyanates has

Fig. 1 ORTEP drawing³⁶ of compound 5 with 50% probability thermal

Fig. 1 ORTEP drawing³⁶ of compound 5 with 50% probability thermal ellipsoids. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Pd1–C3 2.019(8), Pd1–N2 2.093(9), Pd1–P2 2.293(3), Pd1–P1 2.319(3), N2–N3 1.11(1), N3–N4 1.09(1); C3–Pd1–N2 175.7(4), C3–Pd1–P2 89.4(2), N2–Pd1–P2 88.2(3), C3–Pd1–P1 89.4(2), N2–Pd1–P1 93.0(3), P2–Pd1–P1 177.4(1), C1–S1–C4 90.8(4), N3–N2–Pd1 138.2(9), N4–N3–N2 174(2).

Reactivity towards organic isocyanide

We recently reported that treatments of late transition-metalazides with organic isocyanides gave *C*-coordinated tetrazolato or carbodiimido compounds, depending on the nature of the isocyanides used.²⁸ On the basis of these results, we decided to employ the same synthetic strategy to prepare novel complexes. Reactions of the dinuclear Pd–azido complexes **5** and **8** with CN–Ar (Ar = 2,6-Me₂C₆H₃, 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃) afforded the dinuclear

never been reported.



Scheme 6

Pd complexes (11–14) containing end-on carbodiimido ligands in high yield (Scheme 6). The formation of the products could readily be monitored by IR spectra, which show the disappearance of an asymmetric stretching band $v(N_3)$ of the starting material and the appearance of a new strong band at 2115–2147 cm⁻¹ due to the carbodiimido group (N=C=N) of the products. A singlet in the ³¹P NMR spectra of the complexes strongly supports the formation of the symmetric dinuclear Pd–carbodiimido complexes.

In contrast, the same reaction of **10** with two or more equiv. of isocyanide (CN–Ar) gave a mixture of three products whose NMR spectra indicate the presence of a carbodiimido complex (**16**, isolated), a new imidoyl complex $[(PMe_3)(N=C=N-Ar)(-C=N-Ar)Pd-Y'-Pd(-C=N-Ar)(N=C=N-Ar)(PMe_3)]$ (Y' = C,N-L², Ar = C₆H₃-2,6-*i*-Pr₂), and an unidentified compound. Several attempts to separate the mixture were unsuccessful.

However, when treated with elemental sulfur (slight excess) at room temperature, the dinuclear Pd–carbodiimido complexes 12 and 14 slowly transformed into the dinuclear Pd–carbodiimido complexes containing $C,N-L^1$ (15) or $C,N-L^2$ (16), which is accompanied by dissociation of one PMe₃ from each Pd (Scheme 7). On addition of a slight excess of PMe₃, complexes 15 and 16 go back to the starting materials, which indicates a hemilabile character of the ligands $C,N-L^1$ and $C,N-L^2$.

The formation of the cyclometallated Pd–carbodiimido complexes can be readily followed by ¹H NMR, which exhibits the appearance of a doublet due to one PMe₃ ligand per Pd in the products. The molecular structure of orange-red complex **15** was determined by X-ray diffraction. The dinuclear Pd complex **15** (Fig. 2) can be regarded as having two equal halves, each of which consists of one half of C,N-L¹, a carbodiimido group, and a PMe₃ ligand in a square-planar geometry. The molecule lies about an inversion center, which is at the midpoint of the C–C bond linking the two thiophene moieties.

Recently, we prepared the cyclometallated Pd–azido complexes $[Pd(N_3)(PR_3)L]$ (L = 2-phenylpyridine derivatives), in which the



Fig. 2 ORTEP drawing of compound 15 with 50% probability thermal ellipsoids. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Pd1–C1 1.995(4), Pd1–N2 2.078(3), Pd1–N1 2.122(3), Pd1–P1 2.224(1), N2–C10 1.155(5), N3–C10 1.253(6), N3–C11 1.408(6), C3–C3#1 1.450(7); C1–Pd1–N2 171.7(2), C1–Pd1–N1 81.4(1), N2–Pd1–N1 90.5(1), C1–Pd1–P1 93.1(1), N2–Pd1–P1 95.0(1), N1–Pd1–P1, 174.3(1), C10–N2–Pd1, 135.9(3), C10–N3–C11 128.6(4), N2–C10–N3 171.4(5).

ligands are *C*, *N* or σ -donors, and investigated their reactivity toward isocyanides.¹³ In the present work, we have also obtained novel Pd–azido complexes containing the *C*,*N*-coordinated (*C*,*N*-L²) or *C*-coordinated (*C*-L¹ and *C*-L²) pyridyl thiophene derivatives and observed their transformation to the corresponding carbodiimido complexes. The addition of elemental sulfur to the Pd complexes possessing *C*,*N*-donor ligands may be a useful synthetic strategy for the preparation of other interesting cyclometallated Pd compounds.

Reactions toward organic isothiocyanates

We have previously reported on the dipolar cycloaddition of organic isothiocyanates (R–NCS) to a transition-metal-azido



Scheme 7

bond to give *S*-coordinated tetrazole-thiolato compounds.²⁹ Consistent with our expectations, such reactivity was also observed in the reactions of R–NCS with the cyclometallated Pd–azido complexes containing thienylpyridine derivatives. Treating **5** and **8** with R–NCS (R = *i*-Pr, ethyl, allyl) produced tetrazole-thiolato Pd complexes (**17–19**), which were presumably formed by the dipolar cycloaddition of the isothiocyanates to the Pd–azido bond (Scheme 8).

Synthesis of dinuclear Pd-azido complexes containing linear thiophene derivatives

Dinuclear group 10 metal complexes containing a linear aromatic array are known and have been prepared by double oxidative addition of dihalo aromatic compounds to zerovalent metal complexes.^{30–33} However, examples containing a heteroaromatic array such as thiophene are rare.^{22–24} These complexes are useful



Scheme 8

for the construction of self-assembled macromolecules or as potential building blocks for electronic or optical molecules.²³ For a comparative study of cyclometallated and non-cyclometallated (σ -bonded) dinuclear Pd–azido complexes with linear thiophene derivatives, we decided to synthesize the dinuclear Pd–azido complexes containing these derivatives.

Reactions of Pd(CH₂=CHPh)L₂ (L = PMe₃ or PMe₂Ph),³⁴ which could be generated *in situ* from *trans*-PdEt₂L₂ and styrene, with a dihalo thiophene (5,5'-dichloro-2,2'-bithiophene (H₂bth) or 5,5"-dichloro-2,2':5',2"-terthiophene (H₂tth)) in a 2 : 1 molar ratio gave the double oxidative addition products [L₂(Cl)Pd–X(or X')–Pd(Cl)L₂] (X = bth- C^5 , $C^{5'}$ or X' = tth- C^5 , $C^{5''}$) (**20–22**) (Scheme 9). The subsequent treatment of complexes **20–22** with excess NaN₃ produced the corresponding Pd–azido complexes [L₂(N₃)Pd–X(or X')–Pd(N₃)L₂] (**23–25**). In contrast, such reactivity was not observed for the bromo analogue [L₂(Br)Pd–X–Pd(Br)L₂], probably because of the comparable nucleophilicity of the N₃ and Br groups. A singlet in the ³¹P NMR data of the complexes supports the symmetric structure of complexes **23–25**. It is worth noting that these reactions do not proceed *via* cyclometallation that would result in the *S*,*C*-coordination of the thiophene moiety.



Reactivity toward organic isocyanides and isothiocyanates

Sonogashira and co-workers reported that the thienylene-bridged Pt(II) halides reacted with organic isocyanides to give dinuclear

Pt(II) complexes which result from the isocyanide insertion into Pt–C bonds.²² We have also observed similar reactivities for the thienylene-bridged Pd(II) halides.²⁴ In this context, we have investigated the reactivity of the thienylene-bridged Pd–azido compounds toward organic isocyanides and isothiocyanates.

Treating bithienylene- or terthienylene-bridged Pd–azido complexes with aromatic isocyanides (CN–Ar) at room temperature produced π -bond-extended Pd complexes containing end-on carbodiimido groups (Scheme 10).



Scheme 10

The formation of products could be readily confirmed by the IR spectrum, which shows the disappearance of an asymmetric N₃ stretching band of the starting material and the appearance of a new strong N=C=N band at 2140 (for 26) or 2131 cm⁻¹ (for 27) in the product. The spectral data indicate that the imido (C=N-R) compound, formed by the isocyanide insertion into the Pd-C (thiophene ring), does not exist. The molecular structure of a yellow crystalline complex 26 was determined by X-ray crystallography (Fig. 3). The molecule lies around an inversion center, which is at the midpoint of the C-C bond linking the two thiophene moieties. The coordination sphere of Pd can be described as square planar. Two sulfur atoms are oriented in a trans manner in the thiophene rings, which link two $[Pd(PMe_3)_2(NCN C_6H_3$ -2,6-Me₂)] moieties to give a rod-shaped compound. The molecular plane, defined by Pd1, P1, P2, C1, and N1, is essentially planar with an average atomic displacement of 0.0297 Å, to which the thiophenyl ring is roughly perpendicular with a dihedral angle of 84.0 (1)°.



Fig. 3 ORTEP drawing of compound **26** with 50% probability thermal ellipsoids. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): atoms flagged with a superscript letter "a" are at equivalent position (1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z): Pd1–C1 1.992(4), Pd1–N1 2.053(5), Pd1–P2 2.3111(15), Pd1–P1 2.3113(15), N1–C5 1.155(6), N2–C5 1.258(), N2–C6 1.387(7); N1–Pd1–P2 91.37(16), C1–Pd1–P1 88.50(14), N1–Pd1–P1 92.37(16), P2–Pd1–P1 175.11(6), N1–C5–N2 171.9(7).

The dinuclear Pd-azide compound 23 also underwent cycloaddition with R-NCS (R = ethyl, allyl) to give dinuclar Pd compounds with S-coordinated heterocycles as shown in Scheme 11.



Scheme 11

In summary, we prepared the novel dinuclear Pd(II)-azido complexes bridged by a pyridyl thiophene derivative (Y or Y'), $[(PR_3)_2(N_3)Pd-Y-Pd(N_3)(PR_3)_2]$ and $[(PR_3)(N_3)Pd-Y' Pd(N_3)(PR_3)]$, in which Y or Y' acts as either a σ -donor or a cyclometallated C,N-donor ligand. These complexes reacted with organic isocyanides (CN-Ar) and isothiocyanates (SCN-R) to give π -bond-extended Pd complexes, $[(PR_3)_2(N=C=N-$ Ar)Pd-Y-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)(PR₃)₂] containing end-on carbodiimido groups and dinuclear Pd complexes with S-coordinated heterocycle rings [(PR₃)₂(SCN₄R)Pd-Y-Pd(SCN₄R)(PR₃)₂], respectively. Non-cyclometallated (σ -bond) forms are converted to the cyclometallated (C,N) forms and vice versa on addition of elemental sulfur or PR₃, which indicates the hemilabile character of the pyridyl thiophene ligands. Finally, we prepared dinuclear Pd-azido complexes with linear bithienvl (or terthienvl) ligands, which reacted with organic isocyanides or isothiocyanates to give rod-shaped dinuclear Pd compounds.

Experimental

General, materials and measurements

All manipulations of air-sensitive compounds were performed under N₂ or Ar by standard Schlenk techniques. Solvents were distilled from Na–benzophenone. The analytical laboratories at Kangnung National University carried out elemental analyses using CE instruments EA1110. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer BX spectrophotometer. NMR (¹H, ¹³C{¹H}, and ³¹P{¹H}) spectra were obtained on a JEOL Lamda 300 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts were referenced to internal Me₄Si or to external 85% H₃PO₄. Mass spectra were obtained at Korea Basic Science Institute (Seoul) and the analytical laboratories of Kangnung National University. Complexes *trans*-PdEt₂L₂ (L = PMe₃ and PMe₂Ph) were prepared by the literature method.³⁴

Preparations

Halo-a,a'-disubstituted derivatives of thiophene compounds. 5,5'-dibromo-2,2'-bithiophene, 5,5''-dibromo-2,2':5',2''-terthiophene, 5,5'-dichloro-2,2'-bithiophene, and 5,5''-dichloro-2,2':5',2''terthiophene were prepared according to literature methods.¹⁵⁻¹⁷

Synthesis of pyridyl- α , α' -disubstituted derivatives of thiophene: 5,5'-di(2-pyridyl)-2,2'-bithiophene (H₂L¹) and 5,5"-di(2-pyridyl)-2,2':5',2''-terthiophene (H₂L²). A mixture of 5,5'-dibromo-2,2'bithiophene (0.609 g, 1.88 mmol), (2-pyridyl)-tri-n-butylstannane (1.73 g, 4.7 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (0.106 g, 0.15 mmol), and LiCl (0.797 g, 18.80 mmol) in toluene (60 cm³) was refluxed for 2 days. After cooling to room temperature, a saturated KF (20 cm³) solution was added, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. A large amount of CH₂Cl₂ was added to the mixture, and the solid residue was filtered off. 5% NaHCO₃ (150 cm³) solution was added to the filtrate. Distilled water was added to the separated organic phase, and the organic phase was separated and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the solvent was completely evaporated, the yellow solids were obtained. The crude product was purified by chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃) to give a yellow solid product (0.374 g, 62%). H_2L^1 : ESI-MS: m/z = 321.0603 (MH⁺) for C₁₈H₁₂N₂S₂. M = 320.4334; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CDCl₃): 7.15 (2 H, dd, J =1.7, 6.8 Hz), 7.26 (2 H, d, J = 3.8 Hz), 7.49 (2 H, d, J = 3.8 Hz), 7.63-7.72 (4 H, m), 8.57 (2 H, m).

 H_2L^1 could also be prepared by treating pyridyl thiophene with *n*-BuLi and then CuCl₂/O₂.⁹

H₂L² was prepared in a similar manner (0.147 g, 30%). H₂L²: (Found: C, 65.25; H, 3.82; N, 6.55%. ESI-MS: m/z = 403.1425(MH⁺). C₂₂H₁₄N₂S₃ ($M_r = 402.5584$) requires C, 65.64; H, 3.51; N, 6.96%); $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CDCl₃): 7.15 (2 H, dd, J = 1.8, 5.0 Hz), 7.17 (2 H, S), 7.19 (2 H, d, J = 3.8 Hz), 7.49 (2 H, d, J = 4.0 Hz), 7.64–7.70 (4 H, m), 8.57 (2 H, m). ¹³C NMR spectrum could not be obtained due to the compound's poor solubility.

Preparation of $[Pd_2(\mu-Cl)_2(C,N-L^1)]_2$ (1) and $[Pd_2(\mu-Cl)_2(C,N-L^2)]_2$ (2). Na₂PdCl₄ (0.300 g, 1.02 mmol) was dissolved in degassed ethanol (90 cm³) and H₂L¹ (0.196 g, 0.61 mmol) was added to the resulting red solution. The yellow suspension slowly turned to a dark orange suspension. After stirring for 24 h, the dark orange solids were filtered out with a glass frit and washed with distilled water and ether. The product was dried under vacuum to give a dark red solid, complex 1 (0.498 g, 81%). Complex 1: (Found: C, 36.34; H, 1.92; N, 4.78%. ESI-MS: m/z = 1205.6500 (MH⁺). C₃₆H₂₀Cl₄N₄Pd₄S₄ ($M_r = 1204.3284$) requires: C, 35.90; H, 1.67; N, 4.65%); NMR spectra could not be obtained owing to its poor solubility.

Complex **2** was prepared in a similar way (82%). Complex **2**: ESI-MS: m/z = 1369.9897 (MH⁺). $C_{44}H_{24}Cl_4N_4Pd_4S_6$ ($M_r = 1368.5751$); δ_H (DMF- d^7): 7.07 (4 H, dd, J = 1.1, 5.0 Hz), 7.21 (4 H, s), 7.21(4 H, d, J = 3.8 Hz), 7.60 (4 H, d, J = 3.8 Hz), 7.64 (4 H, dd, J = 1.8, 7.5 Hz), 8.33–8.35 (4 H, m). ¹³C NMR spectrum could not be obtained due to its poor solubility.

Cleavage of complexes 1 and 2 by tertiary phosphines (PMe₃, PEt₃). To a Schlenk flask containing complex 1 (0.202 g, 0.17 mmol) were added CH₂Cl₂ (30 cm³) and PMe₃ (0.14 cm³, 1.36 mmol) in that order. The red suspension turned to a yellow homogeneous solution. After stirring for 2 h, the mixture was evaporated to give orange solids, which were recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂–hexane to give orange crystals of [(PMe₃)₂(Cl)Pd–Y–Pd(Cl)(PMe₃)₂] (Y = L¹) (3, 0.200 g, 66%). Complex 3: (Found: C, 40.18; H, 5.33; N, 2.94. C₃₀H₄₆Cl₂N₂P₄Pd₂S₂ requires: C, 39.75; H, 5.11; N, 3.09%).

Complexes $[(PEt_3)_2(Cl)Pd-Y-Pd(Cl)(PEt_3)_2]$ (Y = L¹) (4, 39%) and $[(PMe_3)_2(Cl)Pd-Y-Pd(Cl)(PMe_3)_2]$ (Y = L²) (7, 47%) were prepared in a similar way.

The orange complex $[(PMe_3)(Cl)Pd-Y'-Pd(Cl)(PMe_3)]$ (Y' = $C,N-L^2$) (9, 42%) was prepared from complex 2 and PMe₃ in the mole ratio of 1 : 4.

Complexes 3, 4, 7, and 9 were further treated with NaN₃ to prepare the corresponding azido complexes 5, 6, 8, and 10 (see below).

[(PR₃)₂(N₃)Pd–Y–Pd(N₃)(PR₃)₂] (Y = L¹, L²; R = Me, Et) (5, 6, 8) and [(PR₃)(N₃)Pd–Y'–Pd(N₃)(PR₃)] (Y' = C,N–L², R = Me) (10). To a Schlenk flask containing 3 (0.216 g, 0.24 mmol) were added CH₂Cl₂ (12 cm³) and NaN₃ solution (0.0618 g, 0.96 mmol) dissolved in H₂O (2 cm³) in that order. The initial orange solution turned to a yellow suspension. After stirring for 18 h at room temperature, the solvent was completely removed under vacuum, and the remaining solid was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂–hexane gave yellow crystals of [(PMe₃)₂(N₃)Pd–Y–Pd(N₃)(PMe₃)₂] (Y = L¹) (5, 0.189 g, 86%). Complex 5: (Found: C, 38.92; H, 5.26; N, 12.30. C₃₀H₄₆N₈P₄Pd₂S₂ requires C, 39.18; H, 5.04; N, 12.18%); v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (N₃): 2036 (vs).

Complexes $[(PEt_3)_2(N_3)Pd-Y-Pd(N_3)(PEt_3)_2]$ (Y = L¹) (6, 67%), $[(PMe_3)_2(N_3)Pd-Y-Pd(N_3)(PMe_3)_2]$ (Y = L²) (8, 76%), and $[(PMe_3)(N_3)Pd-Y'-Pd(N_3)(PMe_3)]$ (Y' = C,N-L²) (10, 70%) were prepared in a similar manner. Complex 6: (Found: C, 46.80; H, 6.72; N, 10.67. C₄₂H₇₀N₈P₄Pd₂S₂ requires C, 46.37; H, 6.49; N, 10.30%); v_{max}/cm⁻¹ (N₃): 2037 (vs). Complex 8: (Found: C, 40.99; H, 4.88; N, 10.83. C₃₄H₄₈N₈P₄Pd₂S₃ requires C, 40.77; H, 4.83; N, 11.19%); v_{max}/cm⁻¹ (N₃): 2036 (vs). Complex 10: (Found: C, 39.72; H, 3.67; N, 12.32. C₂₈H₃₀N₈P₂Pd₂S₃ requires C, 39.58; H, 3.56; N, 13.19%); v_{max}/cm⁻¹ (N₃): 2037 (vs).

Reaction of $[(PMe_3)_2(N_3)Pd-Y-Pd(N_3)(PMe_3)_2]$ (Y = L¹ or L²) (5 and 8) with CN-Ar (Ar = C₆H₃-2,6-Me₂ or C₆H₃-2,6-*i*-Pr₂). CH₂Cl₂ (6 cm³) and 2,6-dimethylphenyl isocyanide (0.022 g, 0.17 mmol) were added sequentially to a Schlenk flask containing 5 (0.070 g, 0.076 mmol). The initial yellow solution slowly turned to a yellowish green solution. After stirring for 4 h at room temperature, the solvent was completely removed, and then the resulting residue was solidified with hexane. The solids were filtered and washed with hexanes to give crude solids, which were recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂-hexane to give dark yellow crystals of $[(PMe_3)_2(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)(PMe_3)_2]$ (Y = L¹, Ar = C₆H₃-2,6-Me₂) (11, 0.067 g, 77%). Complex 11: (Found: C, 50.93; H, 5.86; N, 7.04. C₄₈H₆₄N₆P₄Pd₂S₂ requires C, 51.20; H, 5.73; N, 7.46%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} (N=C=N): 2147 (vs).

Complexes [(PMe₃)₂(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)-(PMe₃)₂] (Y = L¹, Ar = C₆H₃-2,6-*i*-Pr₂) (12, 75%), [(PMe₃)₂(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)(PMe₃)₂](Y = L², Ar = C₆H₃-2,6-Me₂) (13, 95%) and [(PMe₃)₂(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)(PMe₃)₂] (Y = L², Ar = C₆H₃-2,6-*i*-Pr₂) (14, 80%) were prepared in a similar way. Complex 12: (Found: C, 54.69; H, 6.82; N, 6.61. C₅₆H₈₀N₆P₄Pd₂S₂ requires C, 54.32; H, 6.51; N, 6.79%); ν_{max} /cm⁻¹ (N=C=N): 2129 (vs). Complex 13; (Found: C, 51.34; H, 5.62; N, 6.71. C₅₂H₆₆N₆P₄Pd₂S₃ requires C, 51.70; H, 5.51; N, 6.96%); ν_{max} /cm⁻¹ (N=C=N): 2137 (vs). Complex 14: (Found: C, 54.17; H, 6.41; N, 6.05. C₆₀H₈₂N₆P₄Pd₂S₃ requires C, 54.58; H, 6.26; N, 6.37%); ν_{max} /cm⁻¹ (N=C=N): 2115 (vs). Reaction of $[(PMe_3)_2(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)-(PMe_3)_2]$ (Y = L¹ or L², Ar = C₆H₃-2,6-*i*-Pr₂) with elemental sulfur. CH₂Cl₂ (5 cm³) and elemental sulfur (0.005 g, 0.15 mmol) were added sequentially to a Schlenk flask containing 12 (0.074 g, 0.060 mmol). The initial yellow solution slowly turned to an orange suspension. After stirring for 12 h at room temperature, the solvent was completely evaporated, and then the resulting residue was solidified with diethyl ether. The solids were filtered off and washed with hexanes to give crude solids. Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂-ether gave orange crystals of $[(PMe_3)(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y'-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)(PMe_3)]$ (Y' = C,N-L¹, Ar=C₆H₃-2,6-*i*-Pr₂) (15, 0.061 g, 93%). Complex 15 (Found: C, 54.89; H, 5.82; N, 7.60. C₅₀H₆₂N₆P₂Pd₂S₂ requires C, 55.30; H, 5.75; N, 7.74%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} (N=C=N): 2098 (vs).

Complex [(PMe₃)(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-Y'-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)-(PMe₃)] (Y' = C,N-L², Ar=C₆H₃-2,6-*i*-Pr₂) (16, 94%) was prepared in a similar way. Complex 16: (Found: C, 55.18; H, 5.34; N, 7.11. C₅₄H₆₄N₆P₂Pd₂S₃ requires C, 55.52; H, 5.52; N, 7.19%); ν_{max}/cm^{-1} (N=C=N): 2138 (vs).

Reactions of [(PMe₃)₂(N₃)Pd–Y–Pd(N₃)(PMe₃)₂] (Y=L¹ or L²) (5 and 8) with R–N=C=S (R = *i***-Pr, Et or allyl). To a Schlenk flask containing 5 (0.081 g, 0.088 mmol) were added CH₂Cl₂ (5 cm³) and isopropyl isothiocyanate (0.031 cm³, 0.35 mmol) in that order. After stirring for 20 h at room temperature, the solvent was completely removed, and then the resulting residue was solidified with hexane. The solids were filtered off and washed with hexane (3 cm³ × 2) to give crude solids. Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂–hexane gave yellow solids of [(PMe₃)₂(SCN₄-***i***-Pr)Pd–Y–Pd(SCN₄-***i***-Pr)(PMe₃)₂] (Y = L¹) (17, 0.090 g, 90%). Complex 17: (Found: C, 40.99; H, 5.61; N, 12.24. C₃₈H₆₀N₁₀P₄Pd₂S₄ requires C, 40.68; H, 5.39; N, 12.48%).**

Complexes $[(PMe_3)_2(SCN_4-Et)Pd-Y-Pd(SCN_4-Et)(PMe_3)_2]$ (Y = L¹) (18, 90%) and $[(PMe_3)_2(SCN_4-R)Pd-Y-Pd(SCN_4-R)(PMe_3)_2]$ (Y = L², R = allyl) (19, 70%) were prepared in a similar way. Complex 18: (Found: C, 39.68; H, 5.23; N, 12.25. C₃₆H₅₆N₁₀P₄Pd₂S₄ requires C, 39.53; H, 5.16; N, 12.80%). Complex 19: (Found: C, 41.68; H, 4.92; N, 11.17. C₄₂H₅₈N₁₀P₄Pd₂S₅ requires C, 42.04; H, 4.87; N, 11.67%).

Preperation of $[(PMe_3)_2(Cl)Pd-X-Pd(Cl)(PMe_3)_2]$ (X = bth- $C^{5}, C^{5''}$ (H₂bth = 2,2'-bithiophene) (20) and [(PR₃)₂(Cl)Pd-X'- $Pd(Cl)(PR_3)_2$ (X' = tth-C⁵, C^{5'}) (H₂tth = 2,2':5',2'-terthiophene) $(\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{Me} (21), \mathbf{Me}_2\mathbf{Ph} (22))$. To a Schlenk flask containing trans-PdEt₂(PMe₃)₂ (0.336 g, 1.06 mmol) at 0 were added styrene (0.441 g, 4.24 mmol) and THF (3 cm³) sequentially. The mixture was heated at 55 °C for 30 min to give a yellow solution. At room temperature 5,5'-dichloro-2,2'-bithiophene (0.122 g, 0.52 mmol) was added to the mixture, and the yellow solution turned to a pale yellow suspension. After stirring for 2 h at room temperature, the solvent was completely removed under vacuum, and then the resulting residue was solidified with hexane. The solids were filtered and washed with hexane (3 cm³ \times 2) to give crude solids. Recrystallization from CH2Cl2-hexane gave gray solids of $[(PMe_3)_2(Cl)Pd-X-Pd(Cl)(PMe_3)_2]$ (X = bth-C⁵, C⁵) (**20**, 0.380 g, 80%). Complex 20: (Found: C, 32.06; H, 5.56. C₂₀H₄₀Cl₂P₄Pd₂S₂ requires C, 31.93; H, 5.36%).

Complexes $[(PMe_3)_2(Cl)Pd-X'-Pd(Cl)(PMe_3)_2]$ (X' = tth-C⁵,C^{5''}) (**21**, 45%) and $[(PMe_2Ph)_2(Cl)Pd-X'-Pd(Cl)(PMe_2Ph)_2]$ (X' = tth-C⁵,C^{5''}) (**22**, 40%) were prepared in a similar way. Complexes **20–22** were treated further with NaN₃ to produce the corresponding azido complexes **23–25** (see below).

Preparation of $[(PMe_3)_2(N_3)Pd-X-Pd(N_3)(PMe_3)_2]$ (X = bth- $C^5, C^{5'}$; H₂bth = 2,2'-bithiophene) (23) and $[(PR_3)_2(N_3)Pd-X'-Pd(N_3)(PR_3)_2]$ (X' = tth- $C^5, C^{5''}$; H₂tth = 2,2':5',2''-terthiophene; R = Me (24), Me₂Ph (25)). To a Schlenk flask containing 20 (0.281 g, 0.37 mmol) were added CH₂Cl₂ (15 cm³) and NaN₃ solution (0.073 g, 1.11 mmol) dissolved in H₂O (2 cm³) in that order. The initial yellow solution turned to a yellow suspension. After stirring for 11 h at room temperature, the solvent was completely evaporated to give pale yellow solids, which were extracted with CH₂Cl₂. Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂-hexane gave pale yellow solids of complex 23 (0.221 g, 77%). Complex 23: (Found: C, 31.36; H, 5.45, N, 10.37. C₂₀H₄₀N₆P₄Pd₂S₂ requires C, 31.38; H, 5.27; N, 10.98%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} (N₃): 2032 (vs).

Complexes $[(PMe_3)_2(N_3)Pd-X'-Pd(N_3)(PMe_3)_2]$ (X' = tth-C⁵,C^{5''}) (**24**, 73%) and $[(PMe_2Ph)_2(N_3)Pd-X'-Pd(N_3)(PMe_2Ph)_2]$ (X' = tth-C⁵,C^{5''}) (**25**, 98%) were prepared in a similar way. Complex **24**: (Found: C, 34.21; H, 5.32; N, 9.63. C₂₄H₄₂N₆P₄Pd₂S₃ requires C, 34.01; H, 4.99; N, 9.92%); v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (N₃): 2036 (vs). Complex **25**: (Found: C, 48.38; H, 4.85; N, 7.26. C₄₄H₅₀N₆P₄Pd₂S₃ requires C, 48.23; H, 4.60; N, 7.67); v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (N₃): 2037.

Reaction of $[(PMe_3)_2(N_3)Pd-X-Pd(N_3)(PMe_3)_2]$ (X = bth- $C^5, C^{5'}$) (23) with CN-Ar (Ar = C₆H₃-2,6-Me₂ or C₆H₃-2,6-i-Pr₂). To a Schlenk flask containing 23 (0.094 g, 0.12 mmol) were added sequentially CH₂Cl₂ (10 ml) and 2,6-dimethylphenyl isocyanide (0.034 g, 0.25 mmol). After the yellow solution was stirred for 4 h at room temperature, the solvent was removed, and then the resulting residue was solidified with hexane. The solids were filtered off and washed with hexanes to give crude solids. Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂-hexane gave yellow crystals of $[(PMe_3)_2(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-X-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)(PMe_3)_2]$ (X = bth- $C^5, C^{5'}$; Ar=C₆H₃-2,6-Me₂) (26, 0.087 g, 73%). Complex 26: (Found: C, 42.39; H, 5.73; N, 4.70. C₄₀H₆₂N₄Cl₄P₄Pd₂S₂ requires C, 42.08; H, 5.47; N, 4.91%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} (N=C=N): 2140 (vs).

Complex [(PMe₃)₂(N=C=N-Ar)Pd-X-Pd(N=C=N-Ar)(PMe₃)₂] (X = bth- C^5 , $C^{5'}$; Ar=C₆H₃-2,6-*i*-Pr₂) (27, 48%) was prepared in a similar way. Complex 27: (Found: C, 50.67; H, 6.64; N, 5.24. C₄₆H₇₄N₄P₄Pd₂S₂ requires C, 50.97; H, 6.88; N, 5.17%); v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (N=C=N): 2131 (vs).

Reaction of [(PMe₃)₂(N₃)Pd–X–Pd(N₃)(PMe₃)₂] (X = bth- C^5 , C^5') (23) with R–N=C=S (R = allyl or Et). To a Schlenk flask containing 23 (0.101 g, 0.13 mmol) were added CH₂Cl₂ (8 ml) and allyl isothiocyanate (0.027 cm³, 0.27 mmol) in that order. After stirring for 14 h at room temperature, the solvent was removed, and the resulting residue was solidified with hexane. The solids were filtered and washed with hexane (3 cm³ × 2) to give crude solids. Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂–hexane gave yellow solids of [(PMe₃)₂(SCN₄–R)Pd–X–Pd(SCN₄–R)(PMe₃)₂] (X = bth- C^5 , $C^{5'}$; R = allyl) (28, 0.079 g, 62%). Complex 28: (Found: C, 35.03; H, 5.10; N, 11.46. C₂₈H₅₀N₈P₄Pd₂S₄ requires C, 34.89; H, 5.23; N, 11.63%).

Complex [(PMe₃)₂(SCN₄-Et)Pd-X-Pd(SCN₄-Et)(PMe₃)₂] (X = bth- C^5 , $C^{5'}$) (29, 88%) was prepared in a similar way. Complex **29**: (Found: C, 33.03; H, 5.11; N, 11.54. $C_{26}H_{50}N_8P_4Pd_2S_4$ requires C, 33.23; H, 5.36; N, 11.92%).

X-Ray structure determination

X-Ray data of complexes **5**, **15**, and **26** were collected with a Siemens P4 diffractometer equipped with a Mo X-ray tube. Intensity data were corrected for absorption with Ψ-scan data. All calculations were carried out with the SHELX-97 programs.³⁵ All the structures were solved by direct methods. All hydrogen atoms were generated in ideal positions and refined in a riding model and all non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, except the carbon atoms (C13–C15) in one phosphine ligand of complex **5**, which were extremely disordered and therefore refined isotropically. Details of crystal data, intensity collection, and refinement details are given in Table 1.

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