Mono- and binuclear complexes of rhodium involving a new series of hemilabile *o*-phosphinoaniline ligands[†]

Lindsay J. Hounjet," Matthias Bierenstiel,[‡] Michael J. Ferguson,^b Robert McDonald^b and Martin Cowie^{*a}

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Monophosphines of the type Ph_xPAr_{3-x} (x = 0, 1 or 2, Ar = o-N-methylanilinyl) and the diphosphine, Ar₂PCH₂PAr₂ (mapm) have been synthesized for use as chelating and/or bridging P,N-ligands within mono- and binuclear rhodium(I) complexes, respectively. The previously prepared phosphines, $Ph_xPAr'_{3x}$ (x = 0, 1 or 2, Ar' = o-N,N-dimethylanilinyl) and Ar'_2PCH_2PAr'_2 (dmapm), have also been used to prepare analogous mono- and binuclear complexes. Variable temperature ¹H NMR spectroscopy of the mononuclear complexes, [RhCl(CO)(L)] (L = PhPAr₂, PhPAr'₂, PAr₃ and PAr'₃), and line-shape analyses of the resultant spectra indicate the substantially increased lability of the N,N-dimethylanilinyl donors relative to the related monomethylanilinyl groups. X-Ray structural analyses of the mononuclear complexes suggest that the enhanced Type II hemilability in the dimethylanilinyl complexes compared to their monomethyl analogues results from increased steric interactions involving the coordinated dimethylanilinyl substituents. In the case of the binuclear, dmapm-bridged compound [$Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu$ -dmapm)], there are additional transannular repulsions between the chloro ligand on one metal and the coordinated dimethylanilinyl group on the other, which result in a Rh–Rh separation of over 4.1 Å. For the analogous mapm-bridged species, the transannular interactions between the chloro ligands and the amine hydrogens are in fact attractive, resulting in a much closer Rh–Rh separation (3.450 Å). The chloride substituents of $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ can be replaced to generate the complexes, $[Rh_2(X)_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (X = I, CF₃SO₃, CH₃CO₂), the last of which also exhibits pronounced transannular hydrogen-bonding interactions in the solid state.

Introduction

Bi- and multidentate ligands occupy an important position in the chemistry of transition metals.¹⁻⁷ Not only do such groups find applications in mononuclear complexes, where they offer additional stability compared to related monodentate ligands, through the chelate effect,⁸ they can also be used to bridge two or more metals in multinuclear complexes.9-18 Multidentate ligands can also be extended to a series of "hybrid" ligands, capable of binding to the metal(s) through different donor atoms.¹⁹⁻⁴² This not only introduces the flexibility of ligand fine-tuning, in which the metal(s) can be sterically and electronically "tuned" through the use of different combinations of donor sites within these hybrids, but also introduces the concept of hemilability,19-38 in which one or more donor sites in the multidentate ligand bind more strongly to the metal(s) under study while other donor site(s) bind weakly. These labile donors are capable of stabilizing the complex in the absence of substrate, while being readily and reversibly displaced by the appropriate substrate. The resulting "incipient coordinative

unsaturation" has obvious applications in catalysis,^{20–27,35} in which the labile donor stabilizes the catalyst precursor prior to substrate coordination and assists in displacing the catalyst-modified substrate, regenerating the catalyst precursor, after the transformation is complete. In this context, ligands containing "soft" phosphorus and "hard" nitrogen donors have found many applications as hemilabile ligands in the chemistry of low-valent, late-transitionmetal complexes,^{20–24,26–38} in which phosphorus binds strongly while nitrogen is more labile.

We have sought to combine two of the above themes through the use of diphosphine ligands with pendent amine groups, in which the diphosphine moiety binds effectively to and bridges a pair of late metals, holding them in close proximity, while the chelating amines function as labile groups. In earlier studies we43 and others44-48 used bis(di(o-N,N-dimethylanilinyl) phosphino)methane (dmapm = $Ar'_2PCH_2PAr'_2$; $Ar' = o-C_6H_4$ -NMe₂) as a bridging diphosphine ligand that has chelating, hemilabile dimethylanilinyl groups. However, in our study we proposed that unfavorable steric repulsions involving the pairs of methyl substituents on the anilinyl groups have appeared to inhibit close approach of the adjacent metals, so we subsequently set out to synthesize the somewhat less bulky monomethylanilinyl analogue, $Ar_2PCH_2PAr_2$ (mapm; $Ar = o-C_6H_4NHMe$), in order to reduce the steric demand of the amine donors. In addition, we set out to prepare a series of monophosphine analogues of mapm in order to compare the reactivities of related mononuclear and binuclear diphosphine-bridged species, thereby gaining information on possible influences of adjacent metals on substrate activation

^aDepartment of Chemistry, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G2. E-mail: martin.cowie@ualberta.ca; Fax: +1 (1)780 4928231; Tel: +1 (1)780 4925581

^bX-Ray Crystallography Laboratory, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G2

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[‡] Present address: Department of Chemistry, Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, B1P 6L2

and on the possibility of cooperative substrate activation by the adjacent metals. Such cooperative substrate activation has been elegantly demonstrated in a related dirhodium system¹⁶ that utilized a non-labile tetraphosphine ligand in which the central pair of phosphorus nuclei bridged the metals while the outer pair each chelated to a different metal.

A further aspect of interest in these monomethylanilinyl phosphines is the possibility of deprotonating the amine groups yielding amido functionalities. The reversible transformation of chelating amine to amido groups has generated enormous recent interest in the catalytic hydrogenation of polar substrates such as ketones.⁴⁹⁻⁵¹

In this paper we report the synthesis of a series of hybrid monomethylanilinyl phosphine ligands and the generation of a series of mononuclear and binuclear complexes of rhodium using these hybrid ligands. The steric influences of these monomethylanilinyl derivatives with regards to their lability and their structural influences are compared with the analogous species containing the dimethylanilinyl groups.

Experimental

General comments

All solvents were deoxygenated, dried (using appropriate drying reagents) and distilled before use and stored under nitrogen. Reactions were performed under an argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. RhCl₃·3H₂O, Ph₂PCl, PhPCl₂, PCl₃ and Cl₂PCH₂PCl₂ were purchased from Strem Chemicals. n-BuLi and t-BuLi were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Dry $CO_2(g)$ was purchased from Supelco. The compounds [Rh(µ-Cl)(COD)]252 (COD = 1,5-cyclooctadiene) and $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(CO)_2]_2^{53}$ were prepared by the literature routes. The monophosphine ligands, bis(o-N,N-dimethylanilinyl)-phenylphosphine (PhPAr'₂), tris(o-N,N-dimethylanilinyl)phosphine (PAr'₃),⁵⁴ and the diphosphine ligand, bis(di(o-N,N-dimethylanilinyl)phosphino)methane (dmapm),⁴⁴ were prepared as previously reported. *o*-Bromo-*N*,*N*dimethylaniline was prepared from commercially available obromoaniline by exhaustive methylation with dimethylsulfate.55 NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-400, Varian Inova-400 or Varian Unity-500 spectrometers operating at 400.0, 399.8 or 499.8 MHz, respectively, for 1H; at 161.9, 161.8 or 202.3 MHz, respectively, for ³¹P; and at 100.6, 100.6 or 125.7 MHz, respectively, for ¹³C nuclei. J values are given in Hz and overlapping, unresolved aromatic ¹³C NMR signals, observed in the typical 80-120 ppm range, are not reported. Spectroscopic data for all metal complexes (5-14) are provided in Table 1. Solution-phase infrared spectra (KBr cell) were recorded on either a FT-IR Bomem MB-100 spectrometer or a Nicolet Avatar 370 DTGS spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed by the Microanalytical Laboratory of the University of Alberta. Electrospray ionization mass spectra were run on a Micromass Zabspec spectrometer in the departmental MS facility. In all cases, the distribution of isotope peaks for the appropriate parent ion matched very closely that calculated from the formulation given. SpinWorks version 2.5.5⁵⁶ was used for line-shape analyses and NMR spectral simulations. Conductivity measurements were carried out under inert conditions on 10^{-3} M solutions of $[Rh_2(OTf)_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (12) and $[Rh_2(OAc)_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (14) in dry nitromethane using a Yellow Springs Instrument Model 31 conductivity bridge. For

these species the molar conductivities were determined as $\Lambda = 23$ and $12 \text{ cm}^2 \Omega^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$, respectively.

Preparation of P,N-ligands

(a) Diphenyl(o-N-methylanilinyl)phosphine (Ph₂PAr) 1. In a 200 mL Schlenk flask N-methylaniline (1.73 mL, 15.9 mmol) was dissolved in 30 mL of freshly distilled, dry tetrahydrofuran (THF) and cooled to -78 °C (acetone/dry-ice bath). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 6.3 mL, 16 mmol) was added dropwise via syringe resulting in immediate slow gas evolution and formation of a white precipitate. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to ambient temperature (approx. 45 min) after which $CO_2(g)$ was passed through the reaction mixture via a syringe needle attachment at a moderate rate (approx. 0.5 mL s⁻¹) for 15 min resulting in a clear, light yellow solution. The solution was allowed to stir for 15 min before cooling to -78 °C. t-BuLi (1.7 M in THF, 11 mL, 19 mmol) was added dropwise via syringe producing a white precipitate in a bright vellow-orange solution. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 5 min, allowed to warm to -35 °C (acetonitrile/dry-ice bath) and stirred for 1 h to generate the dilithiated intermediate. Chlorodiphenylphosphine (2.85 mL, 15.9 mmol) in 15 mL of dry THF was added dropwise via syringe. The cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to ambient temperature. HCl (2 M, 15 mL) was added carefully to quench the reaction, leading to release of $CO_2(g)$. After cessation of $CO_2(g)$ effervescence, the solution was neutralized with a 30% (w/w) KOH-H₂O solution. 50 mL of water was then added and the aqueous layer was extracted with 3×50 mL of Et₂O. The combined organic layers were then washed with 100 mL of water, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The o-phosphinoaniline was recrystallized from approx. 50 mL of boiling ethanol (2.78 g, 60.1%) yielding a white, crystalline product (found: C, 78.11; H, 6.30; N, 4.81. Calc. for C₁₉H₁₈NP: C, 78.33; H, 6.23; N, 4.81%); δ_H(400 MHz; CD₂Cl₂; Me₄Si) 2.84 (3H, s/br, CH₃), 4.86 (1H, m/br, NH), 6.65 (2H, m, H_{Ar}), 6.79 (1H, m, H_{Ar}), 7.33 (11H, m, H_{Ar}). δ_c(101 MHz; CD₂Cl₂; Me₄Si) 30.8 (1C, s, CH₃). δ_P(162 MHz; CD₂Cl₂; H₃PO₄) -21.8 (s). HRMS (EI, 70 eV). Found: *m*/*z* 291.11697 for [M]⁺. Calc. for C₁₉H₁₈NP: *m*/*z* 291.11768.

(b) Di(o-N-methylanilinyl) phenylphosphine (PhPAr₂) 2. The dilithiated intermediate was prepared from N-methylaniline (2.10 mL, 19.3 mmol) as described in part (a). Dichlorophenylphosphine (1.31 mL, 9.65 mmol) was added dropwise via syringe and the mixture was allowed to warm slowly to ambient temperature. The resulting solution was then acidified, neutralized, extracted, dried and filtered as described in part (a). The solvent was removed in vacuo and the o-phosphinoaniline was cleanly precipitated from approx. 50 mL of boiling ethanol (1.40 g, 45.4%) yielding a white powder (found: C, 74.64; H, 6.49; N, 8.66. Calc. for $C_{20}H_{21}N_2P$: C, 74.98; H, 6.61; N, 8.74%); δ_H (400 MHz; CD₂Cl₂; Me₄Si) 2.85 (6H, s/br, CH₃), 4.71 (2H, m/br, NH), 6.67 (4H, m, H_{Ar}), 6.82 (2H, m, H_{Ar}), 7.37 (7H, m, H_{Ar}). δ_C(101 MHz; CD₂Cl₂; Me₄Si) 30.9 (2C, s, CH₃). $\delta_{P}(162 \text{ MHz}; \text{CD}_{2}\text{Cl}_{2}; \text{H}_{3}\text{PO}_{4}) - 38.0 \text{ (s)}.$ HRMS (EI, 70 eV). Found: m/z 320.14380 for [M]⁺. Calc. for $C_{20}H_{21}N_2P: m/z$ 320.14423.

(c) Tri(*o*-*N*-methylanilinyl)phosphine (PAr₃) 3. The dilithiated intermediate was prepared from *N*-methylaniline (2.10 mL,

Table 1 Spectroscopic data for the rhodium complexes

| | | NMR ^b | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| Compound | IR/cm^{-1a} | $\delta({}^{31}\mathrm{P}{}^{1}\mathrm{H})/\mathrm{ppm}^{c}$ | $\delta(^{1}\mathrm{H})/\mathrm{ppm}^{d}$ | $\delta(^{13}C{^1H})/ppm^d$ |
| [RhCl(CO)(Ph ₂ PAr)] (5) | 1992 (s) | 58.0 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhP} =$ | NH: 5.57 (br, 1H) ^k NMe: 2.87 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.5 \text{ Hz}$ 2H) ^k | CO: 189.3 (dd, ${}^{1}J_{RhC} = 73$ Hz, ${}^{2}J_{PC} = 18$ |
| [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr ₂)] (6) | 1996 (s) | $41.7 (d, {}^{1}J_{RhP} = 156 Hz, 1P)^{k}$ | NH: $5.73 (br, 2H)^k$ NMe: 2.73 (br, 6H) ^k | CO: 188.9 (dd/br, ${}^{1}J_{RhC} = 55 \text{ Hz})^{k}$ NMe: 43.9 (s/br, 1C), 30.2 (s/br)^{k} |
| | | | NH: 7.20 (3H), ^{<i>I</i>} 6.37 (br, 1H), 6.32 (br, 1H), 5.95 (br, 3H) ^{<i>s</i>} NMe: 2.88 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} =$ 5.9 Hz, 3H), 2.77 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} =$ 5.0 Hz, 3H), 2.62 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} =$ 5.7 Hz, 9H), 2.56 (d, | |
| $[\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{h}}\mathbf{C}](\mathbf{C}\mathbf{O})(\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{h}}\mathbf{n})](\mathbf{T})$ | 1004 (a) | 27.0(4.1) | ${}^{3}J_{\rm HH} = 4.8 {\rm Hz}, 9 {\rm H})^{\rm g}$ | C_{0} 190 6 (44 1 72 Hz 2 1 16 |
| $[\operatorname{KHCH}(\operatorname{CO})(\operatorname{FAI}_3)](7)$ | 1994 (8) | $27.9 (d, J_{RhP} = 149 Hz, 1P)^{k}$ | 1 1H) ^{<i>k</i>} NMe: 2.79 (br, 9H) ^{<i>k</i>} | Hz) ^k NMe: $30.3 (s/br)^k$ |
| | | | NH: 7.38 (1H), ¹ 5.23 (br, 1H), 4.36 (br, | |
| | | | $2.71 (d, {}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.9 Hz, 3H), 2.63 (d, {}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.9 Hz, 3H)$ | |
| | 1005() | 10 5 (1 1 7 | ${}^{3}J_{\rm HH} = 6.0 {\rm Hz}, 3{\rm H})^{i}$ | |
| $[RhCl(CO)(PhPAr_2)] (8)$ | 1987 (s) | 49.7 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhP} =$ 173 Hz 1P) ^k | $NMe_2: 2.75 (s, 12H)^n$ | CO: 189.1 (dd, ${}^{1}J_{RhC} = 74$ Hz, ${}^{2}J_{PC} = 17$ Hz) ^k NMe ₅ : 48 5 (s) ^k |
| | | ,, | NMe ₂ : 3.01 (s/br, 3H), 2.94 (s/br, 3H), | |
| $[\mathbf{D} + \mathbf{C}](\mathbf{C} \mathbf{O})(\mathbf{D} + \mathbf{z}')](0)$ | 1000 (-) | 27.0 (1 1 1 | 2.69 (s/br, 3H), 1.89 (s/br, 3H) | |
| $[\operatorname{KIICI}(\operatorname{CO})(\operatorname{FAI}_3)](9)$ | 1900 (8) | $37.8 (d, J_{RhP} = 186 Hz, 1P)^{k}$ | NME ₂ : 2.09 (8, 18H) ² | Hz) ^k NMe ₂ : 47.8 (s) ^k |
| | | | NMe ₂ : 2.83 (s/br, 9H), 2.34 (s/br, 9H) ^f | , _ () |
| $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (10) | 2000 (s) | $23.3 \text{ (m, }^{-1}J_{RhP} =$ | NH: 7.75 (2H), 6.94 (2H) ^{k,l} CH ₂ : 3.94 (m. 21) ^{k} NMa: 2.17 (d. ³ L) = 6.0 Hz | CO: 185.3 (dd, ${}^{1}J_{RhC} = 71$ Hz, ${}^{2}J_{PC} = 18$ |
| | | 160 HZ, 2P) ^{2,4} | (m, 2H) ^a NMe: 5.17 (d, ${}^{2}J_{HH} = 0.0$ HZ, 6H) 2.78 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.8$ Hz, 6H) ^k | HZ) ^{<i>a</i>} NMe: 42.9 (8, 2C), 50.2 (8, 2C) ^{<i>a</i>} CH ₃ : 33.7 (t. ${}^{1}J_{PC} = 31 \text{ Hz})^{k}$ |
| $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-dmapm)]$ (11) | 1999 (s) | 41.0 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhP} =$ | CH_2 : 4.59 (t/br, ${}^2J_{PH} = 12.4 \text{ Hz}, 2H)^k$ | CO: 187.6 (dd, ${}^{1}J_{RhC} = 80$ Hz, ${}^{2}J_{PC} = 28$ |
| | | 175 Hz, 2P) ^{<i>k</i>} | NMe ₂ : 3.70 (s/br, 6H), 2.97 (s/br, 6H), 2.73 (s/br, 6H), 2.53 (s/br, 6H) ^k | Hz)' NMe ₂ : 52.3 (s, 2C), 51.9 (s, 2C), 47.9 (s, 2C), 47.1 (s, 2C)' CH ₂ : 27.3 (t, ${}^{1}J_{PC} = 29$ Hz)' |
| | | 41.8 (m, ${}^{1}J_{RhP} =$ | CH ₂ : 4.59 (t, ${}^{2}J_{PH} = 11.6$ Hz, 2H)/ NMe ₂ : | |
| | | 179 Hz, 2P) ^{<i>e</i>,<i>h</i>} | 3.68 (s, 6H), 2.86 (s, 6H), 2.70 (s, 6H), 2.77 (s, 6H) | |
| $[Rh_2(OTf)_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (12) | 2000 (s) | $31.5 (\mathrm{m}, {}^{1}J_{\mathrm{RhP}} =$ | NH: 7.64 $(2H)^{k,l}$, 6.62 $(m/br, 2H)^k$ CH ₂ : | N/A (poorly soluble) |
| | | 176 Hz, 2P) ^{<i>e</i>,<i>k</i>} | $3.97 \text{ (m, 2H)}^k \text{ NMe: } 3.09 \text{ (d, }^3J_{\text{HH}} =$ | |
| $[Rh_2I_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (13) | 2000 (s) | 20.3 (m, ${}^{1}J_{\rm RhP} =$ | NH: 7.60 (2H), 6.62 (2H) ^{k,l} CH ₂ : 3.96 | N/A (poorly soluble) |
| | | $162 \text{ Hz}, 2P)^{e,k}$ | (m, 2H) ^k NMe: 3.25 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$ Hz, 6H) 2.76 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 5.0$ Hz, 6H) ^k | |
| $[Rh_2(OAc)_2(CO)_2(\mu\text{-mapm})]$ (14) | 1991 (s) ^m | 28.2 (m, ${}^{1}J_{RhP} =$ | NH: 8.91 (m/br, 2H), 8.12 (m/br, 2H) ^k | N/A (slowly decomposes in CD ₂ Cl ₂) |
| | | 155 Hz, 2P) ^{<i>e,k</i>} | CH ₂ : 3.81 (m, 2H) ^k NMe: 3.14 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$ Hz, 6H), 2.78 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.8$ Hz, 6H) ^k | |

^{*a*} IR abbreviations: s = strong, m = medium, w = weak. Only v_{co} signals given. Dichloromethane solution; in units of cm⁻¹. ^{*b*} NMR abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, br = broad, dd = doublet of doublets. NMR data in CD₂Cl₂. ^{*c*} ³¹P chemical shifts referenced to external 85% H₃PO₄. ^{*d*} ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts referenced to tetramethylsilane. Chemical shifts for phenyl groups not given. ^{*e*} 2nd-order effects complicate observed signal pattern. ^{*f*} NMR data at -80 °C. ^{*k*} NMR data at -60 °C. ^{*k*} NMR data at -40 °C. ^{*i*} NMR data at -20 °C. ^{*j*} NMR data at 0 °C. ^{*k*} NMR data at 27 °C. ^{*j*} Multiplicities of NH signals could not be determined (due to overlap with aromatic proton signals); chemical shifts were determined by gradient correlation spectroscopy (GCOSY) analysis. ^{*m*} THF solution.

19.3 mmol) as described in part (a). Trichlorophosphine (0.56 mL, 6.4 mmol) was added dropwise *via* syringe and the mixture was allowed to slowly warm to ambient temperature. The resulting solution was then acidified, neutralized, extracted, dried and filtered as described in part (a). The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the *o*-phosphinoaniline precipitated from approx. 50 mL of boiling ethanol (0.436 g, 19.4%) yielding an off-white powder; $\delta_{\rm H}(400 \text{ MHz}; \text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2; \text{Me}_4\text{Si})$ 2.85 (9H, d/br, ${}^3J_{\rm HH} = 5.0 \text{ Hz}$, CH₃), 4.57 (3H, m/br, NH), 6.69 (6H, m, H_{Ar}), 6.82 (3H, m, H_{Ar}), 7.34 (3H, m, H_{Ar}). $\delta_{\rm C}(101 \text{ MHz}; \text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2; \text{Me}_4\text{Si})$ 30.8 (3C, s, CH₃). $\delta_{\rm P}(162 \text{ MHz}; \text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2; \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4)$ –53.6 (s). HRMS (EI, 70 eV). Found: *m*/*z* 349.17050 for [M]⁺. Calc. for C₂₁H₂₄N₃P: *m*/*z* 349.17078.

(d) Bis(di(*o-N*-methylanilinyl)phosphino)methane (mapm) 4. The dilithiated intermediate was prepared from *N*-methylaniline (1.75 mL, 16.2 mmol) as described in part (a). In a 25 mL Schlenk flask bis(dichlorophosphino)methane (0.53 mL, 4.0 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of freshly distilled, dry THF. The diphosphine solution was added dropwise over 5 min to the reaction mixture *via* cannula and the mixture was allowed to slowly warm to ambient temperature. The resulting solution was then acidified, neutralized, extracted, dried and filtered as described in part (a). The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the *o*-phosphinoaniline was cleanly precipitated from approx. 20 mL of boiling ethanol (0.378 g, 18.9%) yielding an off-white powder (found: C, 69.19; H, 6.80; N, 10.76; Calc. for C₂₉H₃₄N₄P₂: C, 69.59; H, 6.85; N, 11.19%);

$$\begin{split} &\delta_{\rm H}(400~{\rm MHz;~CD_2Cl_2;~Me_4Si})~2.74~(2{\rm H,~m,~CH_2}),~2.77~(12{\rm H,~d},\\ {}^3J_{\rm HH}=4.8~{\rm Hz,~CH_3}),~4.62~(4{\rm H,~m/br},~{\rm NH}),~6.58~(4{\rm H,~m,~H_{Ar}}),~6.69\\ &(4{\rm H,~m,~H_{Ar}}),~7.24~(8{\rm H,~m,~H_{Ar}}).~\delta_{\rm C}(100~{\rm MHz;~CD_2Cl_2;~Me_4Si})~21.7\\ &(1{\rm C,~t},~{}^1J_{\rm PC}=16~{\rm Hz,~CH_2}),~31.1~(4{\rm C,~s,~CH_3}).~\delta_{\rm P}(162~{\rm MHz;~CD_2Cl_2};\\ &{\rm H_3PO_4})-60.9~({\rm s}).~{\rm HRMS~(ES^+)}.~{\rm Found:}~m/z~501.23282~{\rm for}~[{\rm M^+}+{\rm H}].~{\rm Calc.~for}~C_{29}{\rm H_{35}N_4P_2}:~m/z~501.23315. \end{split}$$

Preparation of metal complexes

(e) Chlorocarbonyl(diphenyl(o-N-methylanilinyl)phosphine)rhodium(I) [RhCl(CO)(Ph₂PAr)] 5. In a 50 mL Schlenk flask under anhydrous conditions and Ar atmosphere, [Rh(µ-Cl)(COD)]₂ (200 mg, 0.406 mmol) and Ph₂PAr (236 mg, 0.811 mmol) were dissolved in dichloromethane (10 mL) at ambient temperature. CO(g) was passed through the solution for 10 min at an approximate rate of 0.5 mL s⁻¹ and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at ambient temperature. The solvent was reduced to approximately 2 mL under vacuum and a yellow solid precipitated upon addition of 20 mL of dry n-pentane. The yellow solid was filtered, washed with 10 mL of n-pentane and dried in vacuo (334 mg, 90.4%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by dissolving the complex, under Ar atmosphere, in a minimum volume of CH₂Cl₂ and layering the solution with anhydrous *n*-pentane in an NMR tube (found: C, 50.80; H, 3.71; N, 2.96; Cl, 10.63. Calc. for [C₂₀H₁₈ClNOPRh]·0.25CH₂Cl₂: C, 50.78; H, 3.89; N, 2.92; Cl, 11.10%).

(f) Chlorocarbonyl(di(*o*-*N*-methylanilinyl)phenylphosphine)rhodium(1) [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr₂)] 6. The compound was prepared as described in part (e) using [Rh(μ -Cl)(COD)]₂ (187 mg, 0.383 mmol) and PhPAr₂ (245 mg, 0.765 mmol) and isolated as a yellow solid (305 mg, 81.9%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by dissolving the complex, under Ar atmosphere, in a minimum volume of CH₂Cl₂ and layering the solution with anhydrous *n*-pentane in an NMR tube (found: C, 48.82; H, 4.08; N, 5.38. Calc. for [C₂₁H₂₁ClN₂OPRh]·0.5CH₂Cl₂: C, 48.80; H, 4.19; N, 5.29%).

(g) Chlorocarbonyl(tri(*o*-*N*-methylanilinyl)phosphine)rhodium-(1) [RhCl(CO)(PAr₃)] 7.

Method a. The compound was prepared as described in part (e) using $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(COD)]_2$ (174 mg, 0.352 mmol) and PAr₃ (246 mg, 0.704 mmol) and isolated as a yellow solid (348 mg, 95.8%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by dissolving the complex, under Ar atmosphere, in a minimum volume of CH_2Cl_2 and layering the solution with anhydrous *n*-pentane in an NMR tube.

Method b. In a 50 mL Schlenk flask under anhydrous conditions and Ar atmosphere, $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(CO)_2]_2$ (27 mg, 68 µmol) and PAr₃ (48 mg, 0.14 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (5 mL) at ambient temperature. The yellow solution was stirred for 5 min before 10 mL of dry *n*-pentane were added and the resulting yellow precipitate was allowed to settle before removing the supernatant *via* cannula. The compound was then dried *in vacuo* (61 mg, 86%) producing a yellow solid (found: C, 51.05; H, 4.83; N, 7.83. Calc. for [C₂₂H₂₄ClN₃OPRh]: C, 51.23; H, 4.69; N, 8.15%).

(h) Chlorocarbonyl(bis(o-N,N-dimethylanilinyl)phenylphosphine)rhodium(1) [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr'₂)] 8. The compound was prepared as described in part (e) using [Rh(μ -Cl)(COD)]₂ (200 mg, (i) Chlorocarbonyl(tris(*o-N*,*N*-dimethylanilinyl)phosphine)rhodium(1) [RhCl(CO)(PAr'₃)] 9. The compound was prepared as described in part (e) using $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(COD)]_2$ (58 mg, 0.13 mmol) and PAr'₃ (92 mg, 0.24 mmol) and isolated as a yellow solid (101 mg, 76.6%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by dissolving the complex, under Ar atmosphere, in a minimum volume of CH₂Cl₂ and layering the solution with anhydrous *n*-pentane in an NMR tube (found: C, 52.81; H, 5.31; N, 7.32; Cl, 7.43. Calc. for $[C_{25}H_{30}ClN_3OPRh]$ -0.11CH₂Cl₂: C, 53.20; H, 5.37; N, 7.41; Cl, 7.57%). Although the crystal structure indicates no dichloromethane content, a microcrystalline sample was analyzed here. Chloride analysis and ¹H NMR analysis in CDCl₃ (both obtained at approximately the same time) were used to determine dichloromethane content.

(j) Dichlorodicarbonyl(μ -P,N,P',N'-bis(di(o-N-methylanilinyl)phosphino)methane)dirhodium(I) $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ 10. In a 50 mL Schlenk flask under anhydrous conditions and Ar atmosphere, $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(CO)_2]_2$ (77 mg, 0.20 mmol) and mapm (103 mg, 0.206 mmol) were dissolved in THF (15 mL) by stirring at ambient temperature. Solvent was slowly removed from the bright red-orange solution by heating to 40 °C under a steady flow of Ar(g). Dichloromethane (3 mL) was added to the resultant orange solids yielding a red solution with a bright-yellow precipitate. The precipitate was isolated by Schlenk filtration, washed three times with 1 mL aliquots of dichloromethane and dried in vacuo (118 mg, 71%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by dissolving the complex, under Ar atmosphere, in a minimum volume of CH₂Cl₂ and layering the solution with anhydrous Et₂O in an NMR tube (found: C, 42.60; H, 3.96; N, 6.15; Cl, 13.67. Calc. for [C₃₁H₃₄Cl₂N₄O₂P₂Rh₂]·0.75CH₂Cl₂: C, 42.51; H, 3.99; N, 6.25; Cl, 13.68%).

(k) Dichlorodicarbonyl(µ-P,N,P',N'-bis(di(o-N,N-dimethylanilinyl)phosphino)methane)dirhodium(I) [Rh₂Cl₂(CO)₂(µ-dmapm)] 11. In a 100 mL Schlenk flask under anhydrous conditions and Ar atmosphere, [Rh(µ-Cl)(CO)₂]₂ (149 mg, 0.383 mmol) and dmapm (227 mg, 0.408 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL of dichloromethane at ambient temperature and stirred. Stirring was stopped after 30 min and a light Ar(g) stream was left blowing over the saturated red-orange solution for 18 h producing cubeshaped, orange-yellow crystals. The crystals were then washed with 1 mL of dry dichloromethane and dried in vacuo (278 mg, 81.5%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by dissolving the complex, under Ar atmosphere, in a minimum volume of CH₂Cl₂ and layering the solution with anhydrous *n*-pentane in an NMR tube (found: C, 47.35; H, 4.89; N, 6.37. Calc. for [C₃₅H₄₂Cl₂N₄O₂P₂Rh₂]: C, 47.27; H, 4.76; N, 6.30%).

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(I) Bis (trifluoromethanesulfonato)dicarbonyl($\mu - P, N, P', N'$ bis(di(*o*-*N*-methylanilinyl)phosphino)methane)dirhodium(1) [Rh₂-(OTf)₂(CO)₂(μ -mapm)] 12. In a 25 mL Schlenk tube under anhydrous conditions and Ar atmosphere, [Rh₂Cl₂(CO)₂(μ -mapm)] (51 mg, 61 μ mol) and AgOTf (34 mg, 13 μ mol) were dissolved in 5 mL of dichloromethane at ambient temperature and stirred for 12 h in the dark. The resultant orange–brown slurry was then left unstirred and the precipitate allowed to settle before filtering the orange solution through celite into a 50 mL Schlenk flask. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the complex was washed with 1 mL of dichloromethane before drying *in vacuo* (43 mg, 66%) producing an orange solid (found: C, 37.34; H, 3.56; N, 5.63. Calc. for [C₃₃H₃₄F₆N₄O₈P₂Rh₂S₂]: C, 37.37; H, 3.23; N, 5.28%).

(m) Diiododicarbonyl(μ -P,N,P',N'-bis(di(o-N-methylanilinyl)phosphino)methane)dirhodium(I) [Rh₂I₂(CO)₂(µ-mapm)] 13. In a 100 mL Schlenk flask under anhydrous conditions and Ar atmosphere, $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (106 mg, 0.127 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL of dichloromethane at ambient temperature and stirred. Under similar conditions, KI (207 mg, 1.25 mmol) was dissolved in 8 mL of methanol at ambient temperature. The KI solution was transferred to the $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ solution via cannula and the resultant orange solution was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 h producing an orange-brown slurry. The solvents were removed in vacuo yielding a brown solid. Water (40 mL) was added with stirring and the product was extracted with 3×5 mL of dichloromethane into a 50 mL Schlenk flask. The solution was stirred vigorously while adding 15 mL of Et₂O followed by 10 mL of n-pentane producing a yellow precipitate which was allowed to settle before the supernatant was decanted. The complex was then dried under a brisk flow of Ar and dried further in vacuo (85 mg, 66%) producing a yellow solid (found: C, 36.38; H, 3.43; N, 5.15. Calc. for [C₃₁H₃₄I₂N₄O₂P₂Rh₂]: C, 36.64; H, 3.37; N, 5.51%).

(n) Diacetatodicarbonyl(μ -*P*,*N*,*P'*,*N'*-bis(di(*o*-*N*-methylanilinyl)phosphino)methane)dirhodium(1) [Rh₂(OAc)₂(CO)₂(μ -mapm)] 14. In a 50 mL Schlenk flask under anhydrous conditions and Ar atmosphere, 25 mL of dry THF was added to [Rh₂Cl₂(CO)₂(μ mapm)] (161 mg, 0.193 mmol) and KOAc (186 mg, 1.90 mmol). The resulting dark-red slurry was stirred for 18 h and then filtered through celite. The solvent volume was reduced to approx. 2 mL *in vacuo* before dry *n*-pentane was added and the resultant yellow– brown slurry stirred for 5 min. The precipitate was allowed to settle before the supernatant was removed *via* cannula. The complex was then dried *in vacuo* (145 mg, 78.8%) producing a dark, yellow–green solid (found: C, 47.57; H, 4.76; N, 6.01. Calc. for [C₃₅H₄₀N₄O₆P₂Rh₂]: C, 47.74; H, 4.58; N, 6.36%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained from a saturated 1 : 1 THF–*n*-pentane solution under Ar atmosphere.

X-Ray structure determinations

(a) General. Data for compounds 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11 were collected using a Bruker SMART 1000 CCD detector/PLATFORM diffractometer⁵⁷ using Mo K α radiation, with the crystals cooled to -80 °C. Data for compound 14 were collected using a Bruker APEX II CCD detector/D8 diffractometer⁵⁷ using Mo K α radiation, with the crystal cooled to -100 °C. The data were corrected for absorption through use of a multi-scan model

(SADABS [5, 9, 10, 11, 14] or TWINABS [6]) or through Gaussian integration from indexing of the crystal faces (7). Structures were solved using the direct methods programs SHELXS–97⁵⁸ (5, 7, 9, 10, 11) and SIR97⁵⁹ (14), or the Patterson search/structure expansion facilities within the DIRDIF-99⁶⁰ program system (6). Refinements were completed using the program SHELXL-97.⁵⁸ Hydrogen atoms were assigned positions based on the sp² or sp³ hybridization geometries of their attached carbon or nitrogen atoms, and were given thermal parameters 20% greater than those of their parent atoms. See Table 2 for a listing of crystallographic experimental data.

(b) Special refinement conditions. (i) Compound 5: attempts to refine peaks of residual electron density as solvent (DCM) carbon or chlorine atoms were unsuccessful. The data were corrected for disordered electron density through use of the SQUEEZE procedure as implemented in PLATON.⁶¹ A total solvent-accessible void volume of 237.7 Å³ with a total electron count of 83 (consistent with two molecules of solvent dichloromethane, or 0.25 molecules per formula unit of the complex molecule) was found in the unit cell.

(ii) Compound **6**: the crystal used for data collection was found to display non-merohedral twinning. Both components of the twin were indexed with the program CELL_NOW.⁶² The second twin component can be related to the first component by 180° rotation about the [-1/4 1 0] axis in real space and about the [0 1 0] axis in reciprocal space. Using all reflection data (exactly overlapped, partially overlapped and non-overlapped), integrated intensities for the reflections from the two components were written into a SHELXL-97 HKLF 5 reflection file with the data integration program SAINT (version 7.06A).⁶³

(iii) Compound **10**: the disordered dichloromethane electron density was treated in the same manner as for **5**. A total solvent-accessible void volume of 445.8 Å³ with a total electron count of 125 (consistent with three molecules of solvent dichloromethane, or 0.75 molecules per formula unit of the complex molecule) was found in the unit cell.

Results and discussion

P,N-Ligands

The simple, five-step, one-pot syntheses of the targeted (o-*N*-methylanilinyl)phosphine compounds, **1–4**, as illustrated in Scheme 1, were carried out using the method reported by Budzelaar for the synthesis of diphenyl(o-N-methylanilinyl)phosphine⁶⁴ (1), which was in turn based on the methodology of Katritzky et al.65 Synthetic versatility was achieved using the commercially available phosphorus synthons, chlorodiphenylphosphine (Ph₂PCl), dichlorophenylphosphine (PhPCl₂), trichlorophosphine (PCl₃) and bis(dichlorophosphino)methane (Cl₂PCH₂PCl₂) in conjunction with the nitrogen-containing precursor, Nmethylaniline. None of the prepared P,N-ligands was sensitive to air or water and all were readily soluble in ether, enabling their purification by standard ether extraction. The toxic and odorous byproducts of the hydrolysis of chlorophosphines are typically water-soluble and were removed during the aqueous work-up along with any unreacted lithium reagents. In general, these ligands are thermally stable, white solids and can be purified by recrystallization from a minimal amount of boiling ethanol.

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Table 2Crystallographic experimental details

| Compound | 5.0.25CH, Cl, | 6-0.5CH,Cl, | L | 6 | 10-0.75CH, Cl, | = | 14:C,H _° O |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Formula Formula weight Crystal | RhCl _{1,5} PONC ₂₀₂₅ H _{18,5} 478.92 0.43 × 0.33 × 0.09 | RhCl ₂ PON ₂ C ₂₁₅ H ₂₂ 529.19 0.50 × 0.34 × 0.17 | RhClPON ₅ C ₂₂ H ₂₄ 515.77 0.43 × 0.41 × 0.26 | RhCIPON ₃ C ₂₅ H ₃₀ 557.85 0.44 × 0.12 × 0.12 | Rh ₂ Cl _{3,5} P ₂ O ₂ N4C _{31,75} H _{35,5} 896.98 0.33 × 0.21 × 0.09 | $\begin{array}{c} Rh_2 Cl_2 P_2 O_2 N_4 C_{35} H_{42} \\ 889.39 \\ 0.38 \times 0.38 \times 0.16 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} Rh_2 P_2 O_7 N_4 C_{39} H_{48} \\ 952.57 \\ 0.53 \times 0.34 \times 0.26 \end{array}$ |
| dimens./mm Crystal system Space group a/Å b/Å | Monoclinic P2 ₁ /n ⁴ 10.2776 (8) 34.571 (3) 11.5554 (9) | Triclinic <i>P</i> I (No. 2) 12.768 (2) 13.306 (2) 14.389 (2) | Triclinic PI (No. 2) 9.3726 (8) 11.3968 (10) 11.4388 (10) | Monoclinic P21/11 ^a 9.3735 (9) 15.9907 (15) 17.1786 (16) | Monoclinic P2 ₁ / <i>n</i> ^a 11.6270 (8) 18.1593 (12) 17.4024 (12) | Orthorhombic P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁ (No. 19) 17.363 (3) 20.180 (3) 20.910 (3) | Monoclinic P2 ₁ /π ⁴ 11.2965 (5) 25.9075 (11) 14.7517 (6) |
| α/° β/° V/Å ³ | 103.2770 (10) 3996.0 (5) | 84.988 (2) 76.837 (2) 74.965 (2) 2297.7 (6) | 85.0063 (12) 77.9072 (12) 72.8739 (11) 1141.36 (17) | 100.0340 (10) 2535.5 (4) | 104.6430 (11) 3555.0 (4) | 7326.5 (18) | 108.5840 (10) 4092.2 (3) |
| $Z angle_{ m caled}/{ m g}{ m cm}^{-3} angle_{ m maled}/{ m mm}^{-1} 2 	heta_{ m max}/^{\circ}$ | 8 1.592 1.144 52.78 | 4 1.530 1.060 55.18 | 2 1.501 0.953 54.90 | 4 1.461 0.864 52.78 | 4 1.676 1.317 52.80 | 8 1.613 1.171 55.20 | 4 1.546 0.937 55.00 |
| Total data collected Independ. refins | $\begin{array}{l} 30586(-12 \leq h \leq 12, \\ -43 \leq k \leq 43, -14 \leq \\ l \leq 14) \\ 8169(0.0275) \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 17407(-15 \leq h \leq 16,\\ -17 \leq k \leq 17, 0 \leq l \leq \\18\\17407(0.0000)\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 10067(-12 \leq h \leq 12, \\ -14 \leq k \leq 14, -14 \leq \\ l \leq 14, \\ 5172(0.0119) \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 18416(-11 \leq h \leq 11, \\ -19 \leq k \leq 20, -21 \leq \\ l \leq 21, \\ 5195(0.0304) \end{array}$ | $25488\ (-14 \le h \le 14, -22 \le k \le 22, -21 \le l \le 21)$ $7269\ (0.0394)$ | $\begin{array}{l} 62099\ (-22 \leq h \leq 22,\\ -26 \leq k \leq 26, -26 \leq \\ l \leq 27)\\ 16892\ (0.0826) \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 35647(-14 \leq h \leq 14,\\ -33 \leq k \leq 33,-19 \leq \\ l \leq 19)\\ 9382(0.0165) \end{array}$ |
| (R _{int}) Obsd reffns [I ≥ 2σ(I)] Restraints/params Flack ahs | 7347 0/451 | 12 <i>5</i> 37 0/519 | 4964 0/264 | 4574 0/289 | 5696 0/388 | 14 226 0/847 _0 0323 | 8686 0/493 |
| parameter Goodness-of-fit (all data) $R_1 [I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$ w $R_2 [all data]$ | 1.137 0.0307 0.0746 | 0.971 0.0400 0.0956 | 1.104 0.0206 0.0576 | 1.052 0.0247 0.0696 | 1.036 0.0355 0.0871 | 1.053 0.0424 0.0980 | 1.050 0.0227 0.0598 |
| Largest diff. peak, hole/e Å ⁻³ " An alternate setting | 0.879, -0.449 of $P2_1/c$ (No. 14). | 1.143, -0.800 | 0.484, -0.589 | 0.691, -0.317 | 0.670, -0.603 | 1.516, -0.778 | 0.723, -0.365 |



Scheme 1 Ligand syntheses (1-4).

We suggest that increased steric congestion at phosphorus after each subsequent *ortho*-arylation of the phosphine tends to hinder production of the more heavily aminated *P*,*N*-ligands as illustrated by the lower yields of these targets.

The challenge of synthesizing (*o*-*N*-methylanilinyl)phosphines can be attributed to the reactivity of the 2° amino group of *N*alkylanilines⁶⁶ that, under basic nucleophilic conditions, leads to unwanted side reactions, thereby necessitating its protection (with CO₂ to afford the *O*-lithiocarbamate) prior to *ortho*functionalization of the arene. *o*-Metallation to afford the dilithiated intermediate is problematic and rigorous exclusion of air and moisture is required. In this step it is necessary to use the more basic *t*-BuLi as the *o*-metallating agent since *n*-BuLi failed to react with the *O*-lithiocarbamate precursor. For example, in attempts to use *n*-BuLi as the *o*-metallating agent for the preparation of compound **4**, bis(di-*n*-butylphosphino)methane—resulting from reaction of the precursor, bis(dichlorophosphino)methane, with *n*-BuLi that had failed to react in the *o*-metallation step—was instead isolated in quantitative yield.

Very recently, Lee and co-workers have reported that addition of 1 equiv. of THF in diethyl ether significantly enhanced product yields for syntheses involving the *o*-metallation of tetrahydroquinoline⁶⁷ derivatives with *t*-BuLi. We have not yet used this methodology to determine the effect of adding stoichiometric THF on product yields of (*o*-*N*-methylanilinyl)phosphines.

¹H NMR spectra of the ligands exhibit broad NH signals (due to quadrupolar broadening by nitrogen) between $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.6 and 4.9 with the general trend that less shielded NH protons belong to the more heavily aminated phosphines. The ¹H NMR signals of the NMe protons at *ca*. $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.8 appear either as broad singlets or as doublets at ambient temperature, the latter situation arising from observable, vicinal coupling to the NH protons (³*J*_{HH} = *ca*. 5 Hz). ³¹P{¹H} NMR signals within the series of monophosphines show a significant upfield shift of the singlet resonances (from $\delta_{\rm P}$ –21.8 to –53.6) as the number of amino substituents increases (from one to three), whereas the diphosphine mapm (**4**) exhibit a signal at an even higher field, at $\delta_{\rm P}$ –60.9.

Mononuclear complexes

Mononuclear rhodium complexes were readily prepared by the reaction of the above monophosphine P,N-ligands (1–3)

with $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(COD)]_2$ at ambient temperature under strictly inert conditions in dichloromethane, before passing carbon monoxide through the reaction mixtures (Scheme 2). The complexes were then precipitated by addition of *n*-pentane and were obtained in moderate to high yields. A more direct route using $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(CO)_2]_2$ as a starting material had previously been exploited by Roundhill et al. to prepare the N,N-dimethylanilinyl compound, [RhCl(CO)(Ph₂PAr')],⁶⁸ and we have also used this methodology to prepare [RhCl(CO)(PAr₃)] (7). The monophosphines, PhPAr'₂ and PAr'₃, first prepared by Venanzi and coworkers,54 have also been used to prepare the N,N-dimethyl analogues of 6 and 7, [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr'₂)] (8) and $[RhCl(CO)(PAr'_3)]$ (9), respectively. At 27 °C the ¹H NMR signal for the NMe protons of [RhCl(CO)(Ph₂PAr)] (5) appears as a fully resolved doublet with ${}^{3}J_{\rm HH} = 6.5$ Hz. The complexes, $[RhCl(CO)(PhPAr_2)]$ (6), $[RhCl(CO)(PAr_3)]$ (7), [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr'₂)] (8) and [RhCl(CO)(PAr'₃)] (9), which contain coordinated and pendent amine groups (vide infra) all display only a single ¹H NMR resonance for *N*-methyl protons at ambient temperature, indicating the rapid exchange of these coordinated and pendent groups—a feature indicative of the (Type II) hemilabile nature of these complexes.²¹ Within the series of compounds, 5-9, the greater the number of anilinyl substituents on the phosphine, the greater the shielding of the ³¹P nuclei and the greater the ${}^{1}J_{RhP}$ (Table 1).



Scheme 2 Syntheses of mononuclear rhodium complexes (5-7).

In order to determine how the degree of *N*-methyl substitution affects the lability of the anilinyl groups, we carried out variable temperature NMR experiments on the related dimethyl- and monomethylanilinyl complexes, $[RhCl(CO)(PhPAr'_2)]$ (8; Ar' = $C_6H_4NMe_2$) and $[RhCl(CO)(PhPAr_2)]$ (6; Ar = C_6H_4NHMe), respectively. Upon cooling to -20 °C, ¹H NMR analysis of [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr'₂)] (8) reveals significant broadening of the single resonance representing all *N*-methyl protons, and at -71 °C three distinct signals are evident, in a 1 : 1 : 2 intensity ratio—two for the diastereotopic methyl groups of the coordinated amine, and one for both methyl groups of the pendent amine (Scheme 3)—indicating that amine exchange at rhodium is slow on the NMR timescale at that temperature. Upon further cooling to -79 °C, four distinct *N*-methyl proton resonances of equal intensity are present in the spectrum suggesting that lone-pair inversion of the pendent amine has slowed to allow the resolution of the two chemically unique environments at this nitrogen.



Scheme 3 Enantiomerization of [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr'₂)] (8).

The variable-temperature ¹H NMR spectroscopic study of [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr₂)] (6) proves to be more complicated than that of its dimethylated counterpart (8). As is immediately apparent from Scheme 4, any particular coordination geometry of the complex possesses two stereogenic centers (one at phosphorus, the other at the coordinated amine) giving rise to four stereoisomers existing as two diastereomeric pairs of enantiomers (A/A' and B/B'). The ¹H NMR spectrum of [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr₂)] (6) at 27 °C reveals two broad, nearly coalescing signals representing two diastereomeric pairs of enantiomers, the intensity ratio of which is approximately 3:1, suggesting a thermodynamic preference for one pair of rapidly interconverting enantiomers over the other. The relative concentrations of the diastereomers, which also provide a measure of the equilibrium constant for the diastereoisomerization via amine-donor exchange, only vary from 2.80 at 13 °C, to 3.20 at -60 °C. Subsequently, values of K for the diastereoisomerization



Scheme 4 Possible isomerization mechanisms of [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr₂)] (6) depicting the possibility of four kinetically independent mechanisms of amine donor exchange at rhodium.

at the temperatures 13, -20 and -60 °C were used to calculate ΔG for this process [eqn (1)], giving a value of 2.3 ± 0.5 kJ mol⁻¹ at 95% confidence. We assume that the major diastereoisomeric pair corresponds to the pair of enantiomers B/B', on the basis of steric considerations, in which the methyl group on the coordinated anilinyl moiety avoids the larger pendent anilinyl substituent in favor of the smaller phenyl group, and on the basis of its having a lower dipole moment which should be favored in the low-polarity solvent. This is also the structure found in the solid state for **6** (*vide infra*).

$$\Delta G_{\text{diaster}} = -RT \ln(K_{\text{diaster}}) \tag{1}$$

Cooling to 13 °C results in the resolution of the two different *N*-methyl signals (for the coordinated and pendent amines) of the major enantiomeric pair into two doublets indicating the coalescence point for this enantiomerization. At 10 °C the *N*-methyl signal for the minor enantiomeric pair begins to split into two more doublets indicating the coalescence point for the enantiomerization of the minor stereoisomers (proposed to result from $A \rightleftharpoons A'$, Scheme 4).

Line-shape analyses for the methyl resonances of [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr₂)] (6) and [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr'₂)] (8) were undertaken to compare the rates of exchange processes within these compounds along with the corresponding values of ΔG^{\ddagger} , calculated using eqn (2).⁶⁹

$$k = (k_{\rm B}T)/h \exp[-\Delta G^{\ddagger}/(RT)]$$
⁽²⁾

For compound **6**, the rate of enantiomerization for the major stereoisomers (presumably $k_{BB'} = k_{B'B}$) was determined as 17 s⁻¹ at 286 K and this value was used to calculate ΔG^{\ddagger} (286K) = 63.2 kJ mol⁻¹. Similarly, the rate of enantiomerization for the minor stereoisomers (presumably $k_{AA'} = k_{A'A}$) was determined as 25 s⁻¹ at 283 K and this value was used to calculate ΔG^{\ddagger} (283K) = 61.6 kJ mol⁻¹. Exchange parameters for the enantiomerization of the *N*,*N*-dimethyl analogue, **8**, were also obtained: $k(194 \text{ K}) = 274 \text{ s}^{-1}$, ΔG^{\ddagger} (194K) = 38.4 kJ mol⁻¹. A comparison of the ΔG^{\ddagger} values for compounds **6** and **8** indicates that, despite its stronger Lewis basicity, the *N*,*N*-dimethylanilinyl group of **8** renders the complex much more labile than its monomethylated counterpart, **6**. This labilization of the dimethylanilinyl groups (*vide infra*).

The ¹H NMR spectrum of [RhCl(CO)(PAr₃)] (7) at -20 °C displays three well-resolved doublets representing all mutually non-equivalent *N*-methyl groups, while at 27 °C, a rapid threesite exchange process results only in a broad singlet. The ¹H NMR spectrum of [RhCl(CO)(PAr'₃)] (9) exhibits only one signal for all methyl protons at room temperature but, interestingly, at -80 °C only two methyl signals are observed, each integrating as 9 protons. The appearance of two equal-intensity methyl resonances in the low-temperature spectrum of 9 can be rationalized by the geometry of the PAr'₃ ligand of 9 in the solid state (*vide infra*), in which the pendent amine groups each have methyl groups in clearly different environments. It appears that rapid exchange of the amine donors at rhodium by rotation about the Rh–P bond, even at -80 °C, occurs in a propeller-like manner, resulting in two chemically distinct average methyl environments in solution.

In order to compare the structural differences between the monomethyl- and dimethylanilinyl analogues, the single-crystal X-ray structures of the three mononuclear [RhCl(CO)(L)] complexes (L = Ph₂PAr (**5**), PhPAr₂ (**6**), PAr₃ (**7**); Ar = o-C₆H₄NHMe) have been determined and are compared to the previously reported dimethylanilinyl complex, [RhCl(CO)(Ph₂PAr')] (Ar' = o-C₆H₄NMe₂).⁷⁰ In addition, we have determined the structure of the compound [RhCl(CO)(PAr'₃)] (**9**) as a further comparison. The ORTEP diagrams of compounds **5**, **6**, **7** and **9** are shown in Fig. 1 and a comparison of their structural parameters, along with those of [RhCl(CO)(Ph₂PAr')], is given in Table 3. All compounds have the expected square-planar geometry at rhodium in which the carbonyl ligand is opposite the weaker



Fig. 1 ORTEP diagrams showing one of two crystallographically independent molecules of $[RhCl(CO)(Ph_2PAr)]$ (5), and one of two crystallographically independent molecules of $[RhCl(CO)(PhPAr_2)]$ (6), $[RhCl(CO)(PAr_3)]$ (7) and $[RhCl(CO)(PAr'_3)]$ (9). Gaussian ellipsoids for all non-hydrogen atoms are depicted at the 20% probability level. Hydrogens are shown artificially small, except for aryl hydrogens which are omitted.

trans-directing amine group while the chloro ligand is opposite the phosphine moiety which has the greater trans effect. All five compounds also have quite comparable structural parameters in which the bond lengths and angles are as expected. Certainly, within the series of monomethylanilinyl complexes (5-7) all related parameters are closely comparable, indicating that the incorporation of additional N-methylanilinyl groups (Ph₂PAr vs. PhPAr₂ vs. PAr₃) has no obvious structural influence on the metal coordination geometries, although minor differences in the orientations of the aryl groups are observed between the three complexes. Similarly, within the pair of dimethylanilinyl compounds the structural parameters are closely comparable. However, a comparison of the monomethyl- and dimethylanilinyl compounds shows significant differences between the two classes. A visual comparison of the two trisubstituted species 7 and 9, shown in Fig. 1, indicates that the most significant differences between the monomethyl- and dimethylanilinyl analogues relate to the coordinated amine groups. In the case of the dimethylanilinylcontaining compounds, [RhCl(CO)(Ph₂PAr')] and 9, the Rh-N distance (2.1947(6) and 2.2019(6) Å, respectively) is greater than that for the three monomethylanilinyl-containing species (av. 2.135(5) Å). This lengthening for the dimethylated compounds is also accompanied by a slight widening of the N-Rh-Cl angle, which is greater than 90° for the dimethylanilinyl compounds and less than 90° for the monomethylanilinyl analogues. Both differences appear to result from the greater steric crowding in the dimethylamines, which weakens the Rh-N bond and gives rise to greater repulsions involving the adjacent chloro ligand. These structural comparisons are consistent with the significantly greater lability of the dimethylanilinyl species as discussed above for compounds 6 and 8.

We had initially intended to compare the above monophosphine complexes with the mononuclear diphosphine equivalent, [RhCl(CO)(P,N-mapm)], for which we had assumed a phosphine binding mode, analogous to compounds **5–9** (in which the diphosphine ligand is bound to Rh *via* one phosphorus and an adjacent amine, while the other end of the diphosphine remains uncoordinated and pendent), would be observed. The related complex, [RhCl(CO)(P,N-dmapm)], was previously shown to have this structure type.⁴³ However, all attempts to prepare this mononuclear mapm analogue gave the binuclear diphosphinebridged species, [Rh₂Cl₂(CO)₂(μ -mapm)] (*vide infra*), as the major

 Table 3
 Selected structural parameters for the mononuclear complexes

| | [RhCl(CO)(Ph ₂ PAr)] (5) | [RhCl(CO)(PhPAr ₂)] (6) | [RhCl(CO)(PAr ₃)] (7) | [RhCl(CO)(Ph ₂ PAr')] ⁷⁰ | [RhCl(CO)(PAr' ₃)] (9) |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Atoms | Bond lengths/Å | Bond lengths/Å | Bond lengths/Å | Bond lengths/Å | Bond lengths/Å |
| Rh–P | $2.1933(7), 2.1909(7)^{a}$ | $2.2150(8), 2.2035(8)^{a}$ | 2.2199(4) | $2.1947(6)^{b}$ | 2.2019(6) |
| Rh–N(1) | 2.129(2), 2.140(2) | 2.131(2), 2.139(2) | 2.1368(13) | 2.1865(2) | 2.1883(18) |
| Rh-C(1) | 1.819(3), 1.809(3) | 1.825(3), 1.819(3) | 1.8160(17) | 1.807(2) | 1.801(3) |
| Rh-Cl | 2.3936(7), 2.3757(7) | 2.3786(8), 2.3797(8) | 2.3787(4) | 2.3867(7) | 2.3941(6) |
| Atoms | Angles/° | Angles/° | Angles/° | Angles/° | Angles/° |
| P-Rh-N(1) | 83.49(6), 83.24(7) | 83.28(6), 82.83(7) | 84.05(4) | 85.03(5) | 84.62(5) |
| Cl-Rh-N(1) | 86.69(6), 89.11(7) | 88.13(6), 87.16(7) | 88.16(4) | 91.11(5) | 92.17(5) |
| Cl-Rh-C(1) | 98.04(9), 95.36(10) | 92.87(9), 96.06(10) | 93.16(5) | 92.62(7) | 90.08(7) |
| P-Rh-C(1) | 91.83(9), 92.65(10) | 95.71(9), 94.07(10) | 95.00(6) | 91.24(7) | 93.86(8) |
| | | | | | |

" Two crystallographically independent molecules. ^b Correct bond lengths and angles for [RhCl(CO)(Ph₂PAr')] obtained from Table 5 within ref. 70.

product accompanied by minor amounts of uncharacterized side products. None of these side products displayed spectra characteristic of our targeted mononuclear species. It appears that the greater steric accessibility of the mapm ligand favors the formation of the bimetallic complexes over the mononuclear pendent complexes.

Binuclear complexes

The binuclear mapm-bridged complex [Rh₂Cl₂(CO)₂(µ-mapm)] $(10; mapm = Ar_2PCH_2PAr_2)$ was prepared, as alluded to above, by adding THF to a flask containing $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(CO)_2]_2$ and mapm (4) at ambient temperature; the dmapm analogue, [Rh₂Cl₂(CO)₂(µdmapm)] (11; dmapm = $Ar'_2PCH_2PAr'_2$) was prepared by a similar procedure (Scheme 5). Compound 11 had been previously reported⁷¹ but had not been structurally characterized. We were interested in establishing the structural differences that would result from substituting the amine hydrogen in 10 by a methyl group, and also in whether such a substitution would influence the lability of the coordinated amine groups. Both compounds display a single carbonyl stretch in the IR spectrum at around 2000 cm⁻¹, characteristic of Rh(I), and also show a doublet of doublets for the pair of carbonyls in the ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectra at around $\delta_{\rm C}$ 186, displaying typical one-bond coupling to Rh and two-bond coupling to P (see Table 1). At ambient temperature the ¹H NMR spectrum of 11 shows a well-resolved broad triplet resonance at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.59 ($^2J_{\rm PH}$ = 12.4 Hz) for the methylene group of the dmapm ligand, but shows only very broad, unresolved resonances for the methyl groups, between approximately $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.2 and 3.7, and for the aromatic protons. Upon cooling to -80 °C the methyl resonances appear as sharp singlets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.68, 2.86, 2.70 and 2.27, each integrating as six protons while the signal for the methylene protons also sharpens significantly.



Scheme 5 Preparations of $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu\text{-mapm})]$ (10) and $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu\text{-mapm})]$ (11).

This temperature dependence suggests fluxionality, presumably involving the sequential exchange of dimethylanilinyl groups at each Rh *via* a transient C_s -symmetric intermediate that renders the methylene hydrogens inequivalent. The ¹H NMR temperature dependence is paralleled by differences in the ³¹P NMR spectra in which the diphosphine appears as a broad doublet at δ_P 41.0 (¹ $J_{RhP} = 173$ Hz) at ambient temperature but sharpens to a well-resolved multiplet characteristic of an AA'XX' spin system at -80 °C. In contrast, the resonances in the ¹H and the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra of the mapm analogue (**10**) are sharp and well resolved, showing no evidence of fluxionality over the full temperature range between 25 °C and -80 °C. In the ¹H NMR spectrum the amine hydrogens overlap two aromatic proton resonances at δ_H 7.75 and 6.94 (as indicated by GCOSY NMR analysis which shows strong correlations to N-methyl resonances) while the methylene group of the bridging mapm ligand appears as a multiplet at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.94. The *N*-methyl groups appear as two sharp doublets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.17 and 2.78. The downfield NH signal of the (presumably) coordinated amine ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.75) exhibits a strong GCOSY correlation to the more upfield NMe signal ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.78) while the more upfield NH signal ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.94) shows a similar correlation to the more downfield NMe signal ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.17) providing a means for the assignment of coordinated and pendent NMe signals. In the ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum a well-resolved multiplet, resembling the low-temperature resonance for 11, appears at $\delta_{\rm P}$ 23.3. The observed and simulated^{56 31}P{¹H} NMR spectra, assuming an AA'XX' spin system, for compounds 10 and 11 are given in Fig. 2. All derived parameters (10: ${}^{1}J_{RhP} = 157$ Hz, ${}^{2}J_{PP} =$ 53.6 Hz, ${}^{3}J_{RhP} = 3.2$ Hz, ${}^{2}J_{RhRh} = -0.05$ Hz; 11: ${}^{1}J_{RhP} = 176$ Hz, ${}^{2}J_{PP} = 46.1 \text{ Hz}, {}^{3}J_{RhP} = 2.7 \text{ Hz}, {}^{2}J_{RhRh} = -0.05 \text{ Hz})$ are consistent with those reported for the related diphosphine-bridged species $[Rh_2(\mu-Cl)(COD)_2(\mu-dppm)][BF_4] (dppm = Ph_2PCH_2PPh_2).^{72} As$ noted for the monophosphine compounds, substitution of the amine hydrogen in 10 by a methyl group to give 11 substantially labilizes this coordinated amine, again probably due to steric repulsions between this larger tertiary amine and other ligands on Rh. Although exchange between the free and coordinated aniline groups in 11 is facile at ambient temperature, there is no evidence of fluxionality at this temperature for 10.



Fig. 2 Calculated (A) and observed (B) ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR spectra of compound 10 at 27 °C. Calculated (C) and observed (D) ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR spectra of compound 11 at -40 °C.

In order to gain a better understanding of the influence of the additional *N*-methyl substituent we have carried out the X-ray structure determination of compounds **10** and **11** and both structures are shown in Fig. 3, with a summary of metrical parameters given in Table 4. Both structures are similar in having a face-to-face arrangement of the two Rh square planes that are bridged by the diphosphine unit of mapm or dmapm and both square planes are also staggered with respect to each other by approximately 40° (**10**) and 44° (**11**), allowing the ligands on one metal to avoid those on the other. Furthermore, in both cases the coordinated aniline group on one metal occupies one side of the approximate Rh₂P₂ plane while that on the other

| | [Rh ₂ Cl ₂ (CO) ₂ (µ- mapm)] (10) | $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-dmapm)]$ (11) |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Atoms | Distances/Å | Distances/Å |
| Rh(1)-Rh(2) | 3.4500(4) | 4.1211(7), 4.3185(6) ^a |
| Rh(1)-Cl(1) | 2.3810(9) | 2.398(1), 2.412(1) |
| Rh(2)-Cl(2) | 2.393(1) | 2.396(1), 2.409(1) |
| Rh(1)-N(1) | 2.140(3) | 2.181(4), 2.217(4) |
| Rh(2)-N(3) | 2.162(3) | 2.200(4), 2.202(4) |
| Cl(1) - H3N | 2.51 | |
| Cl(2)-H1N | 2.51 | |
| Atoms | Angles/° | Angles/° |
| Rh(1)-P(1)-C(3) | 116.2(1) | 124.8(2), 120.1(2) |
| Rh(2) - P(2) - C(3) | 116.6(1) | 122.3(2), 122.8(2) |
| P(1)-C(3)-P(2) | 114.0(2) | 118.0(2), 122.0(3) |

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Table 4} & \mbox{Selected structural parameters for } [Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu\mbox{-mapm})] \ (10) \\ \mbox{and } [Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu\mbox{-mapm})] \ (11) \end{array}$

" Two crystallographically independent molecules.



Fig. 3 ORTEP diagrams of $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (10, left) and $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-dmapm)]$ (11, right). Thermal ellipsoids as in Fig. 1.

metal coordinates to the opposite face such that both complexes are C_2 -symmetric. In addition, a slight lengthening of the Rh– Cl bonds is observed in **11** (av. 2.404 Å) compared to **10** (av. 2.387 Å), probably also due to repulsions involving the more bulky dimethylaniline groups. Again, as for the monophosphine analogues discussed above, the Rh–N distances are longer for the dimethylanilinyl complex **11** (2.181(4)–2.217(4) Å) compared to the monomethylanilinyl species **10** (2.140(3), 2.162(3) Å)—a consequence of steric crowding in the former.

However, the major differences between compounds 10 and 11 become obvious on visual comparison of the two in Fig. 3 which demonstrates that the two Rh square planes in 11 are significantly tilted, resulting in a much larger Rh ··· Rh separation (4.1211(7), 4.3185(6) Å for the two independent molecules) than in 10 (3.4500(4) Å). This tilt of the Rh square planes in 11 is evident in the dihedral angle between these planes of 27.78(5)° and $24.5(1)^{\circ}$ in the two independent molecules, whereas the Rh planes in 10 are close to parallel (dihedral angle = $2.93(8)^{\circ}$). The opening up of the cavity between the two Rh square planes in 11 clearly results from repulsion between the chloro ligand on one metal and one methyl of the coordinated dimethylanilinyl group on the adjacent metal, leading to close contacts of ca. 2.94 Å between Cl(1) and the methyl hydrogens on C(37), and of ca. 2.92 Å between Cl(2) and the C(17) methyl group. Both separations are slightly less than a normal van der Waals separation of 3.00 Å⁷³ and

indicate that these groups are close to their minimum separation. An additional consequence of the above repulsions is the slight bending of the Cl ligands away from these contacts (P(1)–Rh(1)–Cl(1) = 174.51(6)°, 175.79(5)°; P(2)–Rh(2)–Cl(2) = 175.62(5)°, 176.26(5)°). Furthermore, the repulsions that force the Rh planes apart in **11** give rise to significantly enlarged Rh–P–C(3) (av. 122.5°) and P(1)–C(3)–P(2) (av. 120.0°) angles compared to those in **10** (116.4° and 114.0°, respectively).

In contrast, the contacts between the chloro ligands in 10 and the amino hydrogens (Cl(1)-HN(3) and Cl(2)-HN(1)) associated with the adjacent metal, at 2.51 Å, are much shorter than a normal van der Waals separation73 and indicate the presence of a reasonably strong hydrogen bond that actually appears to be pulling the metal coordination planes together. This attraction is further manifested in a slight bending of the chlorine ligands towards the amine to which it is hydrogen-bonded (P(1)-Rh(1)- $Cl(1) = 171.19(4)^{\circ}$; P(2)-Rh(2)-Cl(2) = 171.10(4)^{\circ}. Interestingly, the pendent methylanilinyl groups in 10 are oriented such that the amino hydrogens are aimed towards the adjacent metals above and below the vacant coordination sites on the outsides of the face-to-face dimer. However, these Rh(1)-HN(2) and Rh(2)-HN(4) contacts (2.59 and 2.57 Å, respectively) appear to be normal and do not suggest an attractive interaction between these hydrogens and the metals. As a consequence, the Rh(1)-P(1)-C(21) and Rh(2)–P(2)–C(41) angles (123.8(1)° and 122.8(1)°) are much larger than the other angles at phosphorus which range from 102.8(1)° to 105.8(2)°, suggesting that the above Rh-H contacts are repulsive, forcing the anilinyl groups away from the metals slightly. Certainly, the downfield shift in the ¹H NMR spectrum of these amine hydrogens ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.94) argues against an agostic interaction in solution, for which we would expect an upfield shift. Nevertheless, the Rh-H contacts observed in the solid state cannot be too unfavorable, given the orientation of the pendent methylanilinyl groups which project the amine hydrogens into the vicinities of the two metals, rather than away from them as observed for the dimethylanilinyl groups in 11.

The apparent lack of amine lability in complex 10 prompted our attempts to prepare a species with inherently lower coordinative saturation at the bimetallic core. Specifically, a cationic, chlorobridged complex similar to $[Rh_2(COD)_2(\mu-Cl)(\mu-dppm)][BF_4]^{72}$ was targeted in which the remaining chloride was bridging and could serve as a source of coordinative unsaturation. The targeted complex, $[Rh_2(\mu-Cl)(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]^+$, involving mapm as the bridging diphosphine, was selected due to the proximity of the Rh centers of the parent complex 10 relative to the dmapm analogue, 11. Unfortunately, reaction of 10 with a variety of silver salts, including AgBF₄, AgPF₆ and AgOTf, failed to yield the monochloride. Reactions of 10 with AgBF₄ and AgPF₆ under a variety of conditions and solvent systems routinely resulted in multiple decomposition products, while reaction of 10 with AgOTf yielded the symmetric disubstituted species, $[Rh_2(OTf)_2(CO)_2(\mu$ mapm)] (12) (Scheme 6). The molar conductivity of 12 in CH₃NO₂ was determined to be 23 cm² Ω^{-1} mol⁻¹, suggesting some degree of triflate dissociation. Additionally, ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR spectroscopy of 12 at 27 °C reveals two broad coalescing signals suggesting two chemically distinct fluorine environments by a possible exchange of inner- and outer-sphere triflate moieties. ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectroscopy of 12 shows a downfield shift (relative to the parent complex, **10**) of the multiplet resonance (δ_P 31.5, ${}^1J_{RhP} = 176$ Hz)



Scheme 6 Chloride-replacement reactions of $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (10).

and the ¹H NMR spectrum of **12** is similar to that of **10**. In spite of some degree of apparent triflate ion dissociation, we were unable to isolate the presumed cationic monotriflate species. Expecting that exchange of the chloro substituents of 10 for the larger iodide ions could favor formation of an iodide-bridged species, we synthesized $[Rh_2I_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (13, Scheme 6) through reaction of 10 with a five-fold excess of KI in dichloromethane-methanol. However, subsequent reactions of 13 with AgBF₄, AgPF₆ and AgOTf yielded either decomposition in the first two cases or the bistriflato species 12, as was observed for 10. Although the targeted, cationic, halogeno-bridged complexes could not be prepared, the weakly coordinating sulfonate ligands of 12 appear to be labile, as suggested by the molar conductivity and the observation of both free and coordinated triflate ions in solution. The ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ NMR spectrum of 13, although similar to 10, shows a slight upfield shift of the multiplet resonance to $\delta_{\rm P}$ 20.3 with ${}^{1}J_{\rm RhP} = 162$ Hz. As expected, the ambient temperature ¹H NMR spectrum of 13 is very similar to that of 10. Unfortunately, ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ spectra for complexes 12 and 13 could not be obtained due to their poor solubilities in a variety of solvents.

The acetato complex, $[Rh_2(OAc)_2(CO)_2(\mu-mapm)]$ (14), could also be prepared by reaction of 10 with KOAc in THF. The low molar conductivity of 14 (12 cm² Ω^{-1} mol⁻¹ in CH₃NO₂) suggests little acetate-ion dissociation, and may result from minor amounts of salt impurities. Interestingly, compound 14 exhibits strong solvatochromic tendencies, transforming from a deep-red solution to a dark, yellow-green powdery solid upon removal of solvent in vacuo. Furthermore, the ¹H NMR spectrum of this complex exhibits highly deshielded NH protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.91 and 8.12 which were identified, via GCOSY analysis, by their strong correlations to NMe protons. ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR data show the expected multiplet at $\delta_{\rm P}$ 28.2 with ${}^{1}J_{\rm RhP} = 155$ Hz. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ NMR data could not be obtained from CD₂Cl₂ due to decomposition to multiple products in solution over a 24 h period. Interestingly, one of these multiple decomposition products has been identified as [Rh₂Cl₂(CO)₂(µmapm)] via ³¹P NMR spectroscopy. It was also noticed that 14 is quite hygroscopic as a solid, as the incorporation of water, which can be evidenced by ¹H NMR, led to its slow decomposition to multiple uncharacterized products, as indicated by ³¹P NMR.

The structure of **14** has been determined crystallographically, and an ORTEP diagram of this species is shown in Fig. 4. As is obvious from a comparison of Fig. 3 and 4, compounds **10** and **14** have closely related structures. Again, the hydrogen atoms of the coordinated amine are hydrogen bonded to the anionic ligand (in this case acetate) on the adjacent metal, as demonstrated by the close O–H contacts (O(4)-H(3N) = 1.94 Å; O(6)-H(1N) =



Fig. 4 ORTEP diagram of $[Rh_2(OAc)_2(CO)_2(\mu\text{-mapm})]$ (14). Thermal ellipsoids as in Fig. 1.

1.84 Å). In spite of the larger acetate compared to chloro ligand, the Rh(1)–Rh(2) separation in **14** (3.2227(2) Å) is actually less than in **10** (3.4500(4) Å).

This mutual approach of both metals results in a slight pyramidalization of both square planes, as shown in Fig. 4, with the metals being 0.08 Å and 0.07 Å out of the planes defined by the four attached ligands. This distortion appears not to result from any mutual attraction of the metals, but instead from repulsion due to pendent amine hydrogens above and below the pair of almost-parallel square planes. We had noted for compound 10 that these contacts (~2.58 Å) were probably repulsive; in 14 the Rh–HN contacts (~2.50 Å) are even shorter and in this case lead to a significant deviation of the metals from their respective planes. Again, the very low-field chemical shifts of these protons ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.91, 8.12) argue against any type of agostic interaction in solution, for which we would expect a significant upfield shift.

Conclusions

A number of P,N-ligated, mono- and binuclear complexes of rhodium have been synthesized and fully characterized. The complexes $[RhCl(CO)(PhPAr_2)]$ (6), $[RhCl(CO)(PAr_3)]$ (7), $[RhCl(CO)(PhPAr'_2)]$ (8), $[RhCl(CO)(PAr'_3)]$ (9) and $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu$ -dmapm)] (11) are shown by NMR to display fluxional behavior consistent with the hemilabile nature of these systems. The more highly substituted dimethylanilinyl ligands are found to be more labile than the monomethyl analogues. X-Ray structural comparisons of related dimethyland monomethylanilinyl species show greater steric repulsions and concomitant weaker Rh-amine interactions for the former, offering a rationalization for the greater lability of the NMe₂substituted ligands. The N-methylamino-tethered, binuclear complex, [Rh₂Cl₂(CO)₂(µ-mapm)] (10), has a greatly reduced interatomic $Rh \cdots Rh$ separation compared to its N,N-dimethylated counterpart, $[Rh_2Cl_2(CO)_2(\mu\text{-dmapm})]$ (11), owing to greater steric repulsions between the two Rh coordination planes in the latter case. While the mapm-bridged binuclear complex is expected to have greater potential for bimetallic cooperativity owing to significantly closer approach of the metals, it may be that the lower steric bulk of the monomethylanilinyl group, which allows this closer approach, may actually work to the detriment of the system, owing to the lower lability of these groups. What effects the two competing influences will have must await subsequent reactivity studies.

Our failure to prepare cationic, halide-bridged species probably results from the strain inherent in such a product, in which the halide bridge would be required to lie opposite both ends of the bridging diphosphine. In addition, the staggered arrangement of the Rh coordination planes in the dichloro precursor (10) appears necessary in order to minimize unfavorable contacts between these planes. Replacement of one chloride ligand by a bridging arrangement of the remaining chloride would force an eclipsed conformation of the planes leading to a closer and less favorable approach of the anilinyl and carbonyl groups on adjacent metals. Nevertheless, it should still be possible to achieve an anion-bridged structure through the use of bidentate groups such as acetates, which should give rise to less strain while maintaining more favorable contacts between the planes, although we have until now failed to isolate such species in this chemistry.

The subsequent chemistries of the mapm-bridged species **10** and **12–14** will be investigated in order to determine whether ligand hemilability and effects of metal–metal cooperativity will play a role. Furthermore, the potential of using the acetate moieties in **14** as an internal base for deprotonation of one or more of the amine groups to generate catalytically active amido-rhodium species⁵¹ is an immediate goal of these studies.

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