

# Cyclopalladated Complexes Derived from Diphenylhydrazones and their Transmetallation Reaction

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**Abstract.** Mononuclear cyclopalladated complexes of type  $\text{PdCl}(\text{Ph}_2\text{N}-\text{N}=\text{CR}_1-\text{C}-\text{R}_2=\text{N}-\text{NPh}_2)$ , where  $\text{R}_1=\text{R}_2=\text{H}$  (**2a**),  $\text{R}_1=\text{R}_2=\text{CH}_3$  (**2b**), and  $\text{R}_1=\text{H}$ ,  $\text{R}_2=\text{CH}_3$  (**2c**) were synthesized by the reaction of palladium chloride and hydrazones. Additionally, the reaction of the complex **2c** towards lithium phenylacetylide was studied, giving  $\text{Ph}_2\text{N}-\text{N}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}=\text{N}-\text{N}(\text{Ph})(\text{o-C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{Ph})$  (**3**).

The complexes **2a–2c** and compound **3** were characterized by IR, Mass, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and 2D NMR spectroscopy. X-ray structure of complex **2c** was also determined.

**Keywords:** Palladium; Cyclopalladated complexes; Hydrazones; Transmetallation; Crystal structure

## Cyclopalladierte Komplexe durch Transmetallierungsreaktion mit Diphenylhydrazonen

**Inhaltsübersicht.** Einkernige Palladiumkomplexe der Art  $\text{PdCl}(\text{Ph}_2\text{N}-\text{N}=\text{CR}_1-\text{C}-\text{R}_2=\text{N}-\text{NPh}_2)$ , mit  $\text{R}_1=\text{R}_2=\text{H}$  (**2a**),  $\text{R}_1=\text{R}_2=\text{CH}_3$  (**2b**) und  $\text{R}_1=\text{H}$ ,  $\text{R}_2=\text{CH}_3$  (**2c**) wurden durch Reaktion von Palladiumchlorid mit Hydrazonen dargestellt. Zusätzlich wurde die Reaktion des Komplexes **2c** mit Lithiumphenylacetylid

untersucht, die  $\text{Ph}_2\text{N}-\text{N}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}=\text{N}-\text{N}(\text{Ph})(\text{o-C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{Ph})$  (**3**) ergab. Die Komplexe **2a–c** und die Verbindung **3** wurden durch IR-, Massen-, <sup>1</sup>H-, <sup>13</sup>C- und 2D-Spektroskopie charakterisiert. Eine Röntgenstrukturanalyse von **2c** wurde ebenfalls vorgenommen.

## Introduction

Palladium complexes have been the subject of interest due to their applications in organic synthesis [1, 2]. Various cyclopalladated complexes with tridentate N-donor ligands e.g. azines, oximes [3], hydrazones [4–11] have been reported affording to mononuclear structures, while tridentate imines present dinuclear as well as mononuclear structures [12, 13].

It has been reported earlier that cyclopalladated complexes show reactivity towards alkynes, alkenes, CO and isocyanides [1, 2, 14]. Mono-, bis- and tris-insertions of alkynes in cyclopalladated complexes are known in literature [2, 15, 16]. Reports on insertion of alkynes into the  $\sigma(\text{Pd}-\text{C}_{\text{sp}2,\text{ferrocene}})$  bond show different reactivity to that of  $\sigma(\text{Pd}-\text{C}_{\text{sp}2,\text{aryl}})$  bond [17–20].

We report herein, the synthesis and characterization of some new palladium complexes derived from N,N-diphenylhydrazones. The transpalladation of these complexes on reaction with lithium phenylacetylide was also studied.

## Results and Discussion

The ligands **1a–1c** were prepared by condensation reaction of *N,N*-diphenyl hydrazine with the corresponding 1,2-di-carboxylic compounds. The reaction of **1a–1c** with  $\text{PdCl}_2$  afforded cyclopalladated complexes **2a–2c** (Scheme 1).

The IR spectra of ligands **1a–1c** show an absorption band at  $1590\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$  vibration. This band shows a slight shift ( $\sim 2\text{--}5\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) to higher frequency after cyclopalladation. The  $\text{FAB}^+$  mass spectra show molecular ions  $m/z = 530$  and  $m/z = 544$  for **2a** and **2c** respectively. A molecular ion peak could not be observed for compound **2b**, but ion peak observed at  $m/z = 523$  represents the molecular ion with loss of a chlorine atom.

The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C data are reported in Table 1. The assignments of the parameters are based on 2D experiments.

The <sup>1</sup>H spectra of **2a–2c** show upfield shifts for the aromatic protons with respect to free ligands **1a–1c**. Proton present at *ortho* position to the Pd-C bond (H-3) was strongly shielded after cyclopalladation in comparison to protons present at *meta* and *para* positions.

Similar to <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra, <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of **2a–2c** reveal that the aromatic carbon atoms for the cyclopalladated ring are shifted to higher frequencies in comparison to the free ligand.

The molecular structure of **2c** was established by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. Structural data, selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table 2 and 3, respectively. The structure of **2c** shows that the palladium atom is linked to four atoms and the bond angles at the palladium

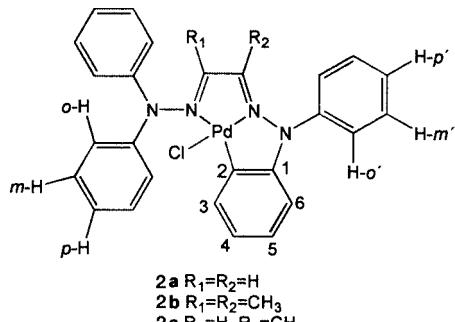
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**Table 1**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for **2a–2c**

	CH <sub>3</sub>	H-3	H-4	H-5	H-6	H-o'	H-m'	H-p'	H-o	H-m	H-p	HC=N
<b>2a</b>		5.79(1H, dd,J=7.2) J= 7.1)	6.63(1H, J= 7.1)	t,6.77(1H, J= 7.1)	t,7.56 (1H, dd,J=7.7, 1.7)	7.16- 7.63(17H, m)	7.16- 7.63(17H, m)	7.16- 7.63(17H, m)	7.16- 7.63(17H, m)	7.16- 7.63(17H, m)	7.16- 7.63(17H, m)	7.16- 7.63(17H, m)
<b>2b</b>	1.65(3H,s)	2.01(3H,s)	6.11(1H, dd,J=7.7, 1.7)	6.67(1H, td,J= 7.7, 1.7)	6.75(1H, td, J= 7.7, 1.7)	7.46(1H, dd,J=7.7, 1.7)	7.48- 7.52(3H,m)	7.40(6H, t, J= 7.7)	7.48- 7.52(3H,m)	7.26(4H,d, J=7.1)	7.40(6H,t, J=7.7)	7.18(2H,t, J=7.1)
<b>2c</b>	1.90(3H,s)	5.81(2H, dd,J=7.7, 1.7)	6.68(1H, td,J= 7.7, 1.7)	6.75(1H, td, J= 7.7, 1.7)	7.46(1H, dd,J=7.7, 1.7)	7.60- 7.66(3H, m)	7.33- 7.38(6H,m)	7.60- 7.66(3H, m)	7.24(4H,d, J=7.1)	7.33- 7.38(6H,m)	7.15(2H,t, J=7.1)	6.34(1H,s)

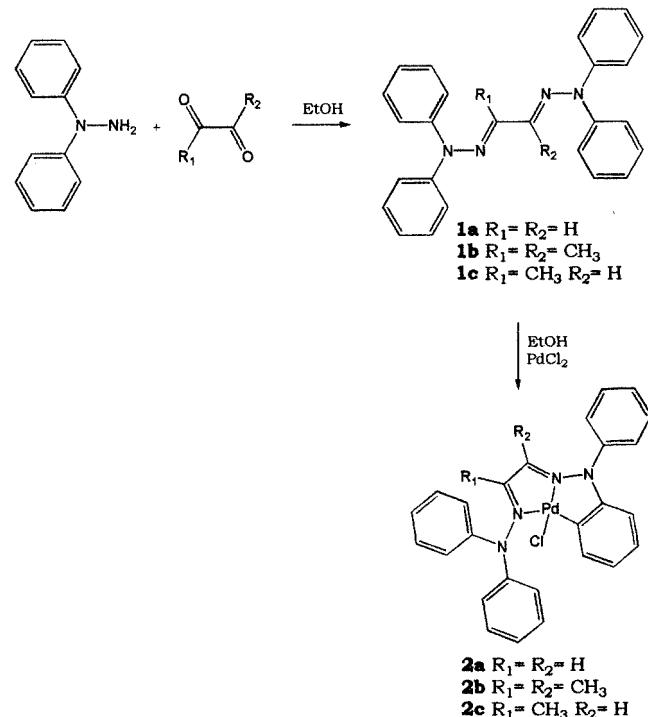
  

	-C=N	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	C-5	C-6	C-i	C-o	C-m	C-p	C-i'	C-o'	C-m'	C-p'
<b>2a</b>	126.6	130.6	143.0	110.5		125.5	131.2		129.7	129.0	129.7	129.7	129.0	125.3	
<b>2b</b>	174.4	136.1	148.9	112.6	122.7	125.5	146.0	159.1	130.3	128.1	130.3	159.1	148.9	129.5	125.0
<b>2c</b>	172.2	135.2	148.9	111.3	122.8	125.5	136.2	159.1	146.1	129.4	125.0	156.3	130.3	129.5	130.3

**Table 2** Crystallographic Data for Complex **2c**

Formula	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>23</sub> ClN <sub>4</sub> Pd
Formula Weight /g mol <sup>-1</sup>	545.34
Crystal size (mm)	0.40 x 0.38 x 0.08
Color	purple
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	Pbca
a /Å	17.748(2)
b /Å	14.582(2)
c /Å	18.190(2)
$\alpha=\beta=\gamma$ /°	90
V /Å <sup>3</sup>	4794.8(10)
Z	8
D <sub>calc.</sub> /g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.511
No. of collected reflections	3922
No. of independent reflections	3922
No. of observed reflections	3922
No. of parameters	298
R <sup>a)</sup>	0.0765
R <sub>w</sub> <sup>b)</sup>	0.1361
GOF	0.991

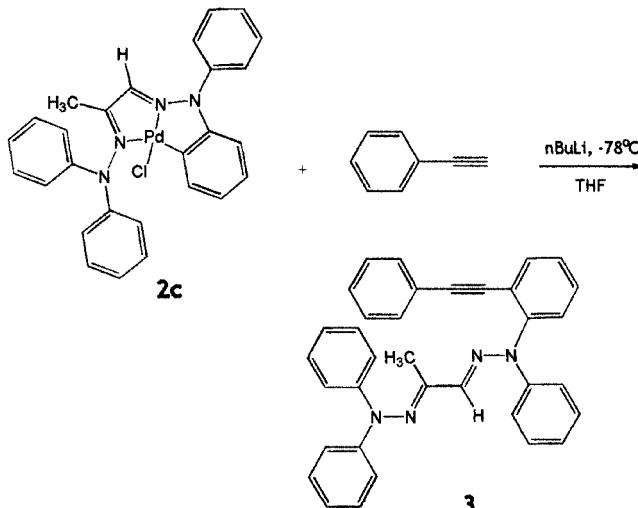
<sup>a)</sup>  $R = \Sigma |F_o| - |F_c| / \Sigma |F_o|$ , <sup>b)</sup>  $R_w(F_o)^2 = [\Sigma w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \Sigma wF_o^4]^{1/2}$

**Scheme 1**

center range from 77.2(5) to 104.8(3)° giving rise to a distorted square planar structure (Figure 1). The Pd–N(5) bond length (1.96 (1) Å) *trans* to the chlorine, is slightly shorter than Pd–N(2) 2.19(1) Å distance, *trans* to the σ-Pd–C bond. This lengthening can be explained in terms of the *trans* influence of the σ-bonded carbon atom of the aryl group [5, 7]. It is important to notice, that the bond angle N(5)–N(6)–C(26) 117(1)° deviates from a previously re-

**Table 3** Selected bond Lengths /Å and Angles /° of **2c**

Pd—C(27)	1.95(2)	C(27)—Pd—N(5)	81.8(6)
Pd—N(2)	2.19(1)	N(5)—Pd—N(2)	77.2(5)
Pd—N(5)	1.96(1)	N(5)—Pd—Cl	177.7(4)
Pd—Cl	2.29(4)	C(7)—N(1)—N(2)	114.3(10)
N(1)—N(2)	1.44(1)	C(3)—N(2)—Pd	111.8(9)
N(2)—C(3)	1.29(2)	N(2)—C(3)—C(4)	116.7(13)
C(3)—C(19)	1.45(2)	C(4)—C(3)—C(19)	117.5(13)
N(5)—N(6)	1.38(2)	C(4)—N(5)—N(6)	124.7(13)
N(6)—C(20)	1.43(2)	N(6)—N(5)—Pd	116.7(10)
N(6)—C(26)	1.39(2)	C(26)—C(27)—Pd	115.1 (14)
C(26)—C(27)	1.42(2)	N(6)—C(26)—C(27)	117.3(12)
C(4)—N(5)	1.34(2)	C(28)—C(27)—Pd	132.7(13)
C(3)—C(4)	1.44(2)	C(27)—Pd—N(2)	158.9(5)
		C(27)—Pd—Cl	96.3(5)
		N(2)—Pd—Cl	104.8(3)
		C(3)—N(2)—N(1)	115.1(11)
		N(1)—N(2)—Pd	133.0(9)
		N(2)—C(3)—C(19)	125.8(13)
		N(5)—C(4)—C(3)	115.7(13)
		C(4)—N(5)—Pd	118.6(10)

**Scheme 2**

## Conclusions

Some new cyclopalladated complexes were synthesised containing N-donor imine ligands. The X-ray structure of **2c** reveals the distorted square planar coordination around the palladium atom. Complex **2c** was depalladated after the insertion of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{C}^-$  nucleophile. Other similar reactions and their application in organic synthesis are still in progress.

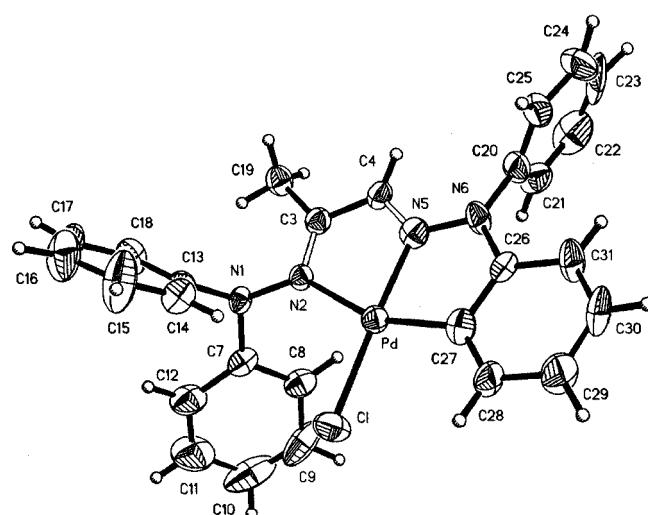
## Experimental Section

All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used as received. Starting hydrazones were prepared by the corresponding ketones and *N,N*-diphenylhydrazine in ethanol according to reported procedures [20]. Infrared spectra were obtained with a Nicolet Magna 750 instrument. Melting points were measured on a Mettler-Toto Temp II and are uncorrected.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Jeol Eclipse +300, chemical shifts (ppm) are relative to the TMS. The mass spectra were obtained on Jeol JMS-AX505 HA; The X-Ray Crystallography study for **2c** was done on a Siemens P4/PC diffractometer  $\lambda_{(\text{Mo}-\text{K}\alpha)} = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ , graphite monochromator,  $T = 293 \text{ K}$ ,  $\omega=20$  scan, range  $1.5 < \theta < 25^\circ$ . Corrections were done for Lorentz and polarization effects. The structures were solved by direct methods; all nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically by full least squares, (SHELXL-97) [21]. Absorption correction based on psi-scans was applied; hydrogen atoms bound to carbon atoms inserted at calculated position with isotropic temperature factor 1.2 times the  $U_{iso}$  of the parent carbon atom.

### *Bis(N,N' diphenylhydrazone) of glyoxal (1a)*

Compound **1a** was prepared from 0.3 mL (2.6 mmol) of glyoxal (40 % wt) and 1.14 g (5.2 mmol) of diphenylhydrazine. The product was obtained as a white solid 60 % yield, m.p. 207 °C.

IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ )  $\nu_{max}$ : 1590 (C=N), 1494 (C=C)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; MS (EI):  $m/z = 390$  [ $\text{M}^+$ , (100)], 316(19), 270(10), 222 [ $\text{M}^+ \cdot \text{N}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2$ , (10)], 168 [ $\text{M}^+ \cdot (\text{C}_4\text{H}_11\text{N}_3)$ , (32)], 77(5), 45(12), 29(5), 4(8);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.08 (8H, dd,  $J=7.68, 1.65 \text{ Hz}$ , H-*o*), 7.13(2H, s, HC=N), 7.15 (4H, t,  $J=7.68 \text{ Hz}$ , H-*p*), 7.36 (8H, td,  $J=7.68, 1.65 \text{ Hz}$ , H-*m*) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 122.5 (C-*o*), 124.7 (C-*p*), 129.8 (C-*m*), 136.4 (HC=N), 143.4 (C-*i*) ppm.

**Fig. 1** Molecular Structure for Complex **2c**

ported analogous  $112^\circ$  [7]. The Pd-C bond distance 1.95(2) Å is shorter than those found in similar square planar palladium complexes [6,9,10,18] which could be associated with the overlapping of  $\pi$  electron cloud of aromatic ring to the *d* metal orbitals as suggested elsewhere [7].

Furthermore the reaction of **2c** in the presence of phenylacetylene and BuLi, afforded an organic compound **3** as a result of depalladation of complex **2c**, as shown in Scheme 2. IR spectrum of compound **3** shows a band at  $2219 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  which can be assigned to  $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{C})$ . The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra show additional signals corresponding to the phenylacetylene fragment, which is the result of transmetalation and reductive elimination process [1,2].

**Bis-*N,N*-diphenylhydrazone of 2,3-Butanedione (1b)**

Compound **1b** was prepared from 0.21 mL (2.4 mmol) of 2,3-Butanedione and 1.05 g (4.8 mmol) of diphenylhydrazine. The product was obtained as a yellow solid 50 % yield, m.p. 190.5 °C.

IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 1590 (C=N), 1488 (C=C aromatic) cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (EI): *m/z* = 418 [M<sup>+</sup>, (100)], 390 [M<sup>+</sup>-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (5)], 250 [M<sup>+</sup>-N(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, (65)], 209(15), 182(10), 168 [M<sup>+</sup>-C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>, (90)], 77(8), 4(9); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.96 (6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.06-7.10 (12H, m, H-*o*, H-*p*), 7.31(8H, td, *J*=7.71, 1.35, Hz, H-*m*) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 16.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 121.9 (C-*o*), 123.6 (C-*p*), 129.1 (C-*m*), 148.1 (C-*i*), 162.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>C=N) ppm.

**Bis(*N,N*-diphenylhydrazone) of methylglyoxal (1c)**

Compound **1c** was prepared from 0.35 mL (2.26 mmol) of methylglyoxal (40 % wt) and 1 g (4.5 mmol) of diphenylhydrazine. The product was obtained as a yellow solid 80 % yield, m.p. 186.5 °C.

IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 1590 (C=N), 1490 (C=C aromatic); MS (EI): *m/z* = 404 [M<sup>+</sup>, (100)], 236 (M<sup>+</sup>-N(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, (12)), 221(10), 168 [M<sup>+</sup>-C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>, (68)], 77(8); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.99 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.02-7.07 (6H, m, H-*o*, H-*p*), 7.11-7.19 (7H, m, H-*o*', H-*p*', HC=N), 7.28 (4H, td, *J*=7.70, 1.65 Hz, H-*m*), 7.40(4H, td, *J*=7.70, 1.65 Hz, H-*m*') ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 15.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 121.9 (C-*o*), 122.4(C-*o*'), 123.4 (C-*p*), 125.1 (C-*p*'), 129.1 (C-*m*), 130.0 (C-*m*'), 136.6 (HC=N), 143.1 (C-*i*), 148.2 (C-*i*'), 163.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>C=N) ppm.

**1-Diphenylamino-10-chloro-5-phenyl-1,3,2-diazapalladol[1,2-*b*]-1,2,3-benzodiazapalladol (2a)**

Compound **2a** was prepared from 0.15 g (0.385 mmol) of Bis(*N,N*-diphenylhydrazone) of glyoxal (**1a**) and 0.136 g (0.77 mmol) of PdCl<sub>2</sub>. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 days at room temperature. The solid obtained was chromatographed on alumina using Hexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluent. The product was obtained as a purple solid 95 % yield, m.p. 202 °C<sub>dec</sub>.

IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 1593 (C=N), 1488 (C=C aromatic) cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (FAB<sup>+</sup>): *m/z* = 530 [M<sup>+</sup>, (1)], 495[M<sup>+</sup>-Cl, (3)], 307(35), 107(15), 77(10) 65(5); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 5.79(1H, dd *J*=7.16 Hz, H-*3*), 6.63(1H, t, *J*=7.14, H-*4*), 6.77 (1H, t, *J*=7.14 Hz, H-*5*), 7.16-7.63(18H, m, H-*6*, H-*o*, H-*m*, H-*p*, H-*o*', H-*m*', H-*p*', HC=N) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 110.5 (C-*3*), 125.3 (C-*p*'), 125.5 (C-*5*), 126.6 (HC=N), 129.0 (C-*m*, C-*m*'), 129.7 (C-*o*, C-*p*), 130.6 (C-*I*), 131.2 (C-*6*), 143.0 (C-*2*) ppm.

**1-Diphenylamino-10-chloro-5-phenyl-2,3-dimethyl-1,3,2-diazapalladol[1,2-*b*], 1,2,3-benzodiazapalladol (2b)**

The title compound was prepared following the procedure described for **2a** from 0.17 g (0.4 mmol) of Bis(*N,N*-diphenylhydrazone) of 2,3-Butanedione (**1b**) and 0.15 g (0.8 mmol) of PdCl<sub>2</sub>. The product was obtained as a purple solid (90 %), m.p. 256 °C.

IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 1595 (C=N), 1488(C=C aromatic) cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (FAB<sup>+</sup>): *m/z* = 523 [M<sup>+</sup>-Cl, (2)], 307(37), 243(5), 167(4), 107(15), 77(11), 65(4); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.65 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.01 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.11 (1H, dd, *J*=7.68, 1.65 Hz, H-*3*), 6.67 (1H, td, *J*=7.68, 1.65 Hz, H-*4*), 6.75 (1H, td, *J*=7.68, 1.65 Hz, H-*5*), 7.18 (2H, t, *J*=7.14 Hz, H-*p*'), 7.26 (4H, d, H-*o*'), 7.40 (6H, t, *J*=7.68 Hz, H-*m*, H-*m*'), 7.46 (1H, dd, *J*=7.68, 1.65 Hz, H-*6*), 7.48-7.52 (3H, m, H-*o*, H-*p*) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 18.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 112.6 (C-*3*), 148.9 (C-*o*'), 122.7 (C-*4*), 125.0 (C-*p*'), 125.5 (C-*5*), 128.1 (C-*m*), 129.5 (C-*m*'), 130.3 (C-*o*, C-*p*), 136.1 (C-*I*), 146.0 (C-*6*), 148.9 (C-*2*), 159.1 (C-*i*, C-*i*'), 174.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>C=N) ppm

**1,6-diphenylamino-10-chloro-5-phenyl-2-methyl-1,3,2-diazapalladol[1,2-*b*], 1,2,3-benzodiazapalladol (2c)**

The title compound was prepared following the procedure described for **2a** from 0.125 g (0.309 mmol) Bis(*N,N*-diphenylhydrazone) of methylglyoxal (**1c**) and 0.109 g (0.618 mmol). The product was obtained as a purple solid 65 % yield, m.p. 190.5 °C.

IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 1592 (C=N), 1487 (C=C aromatic) cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (FAB<sup>+</sup>): *m/z* = 544 [M<sup>+</sup>, (0.5)], 509 [M<sup>+</sup>-Cl, (2)], 307(35), 107(15), 77(10), 65(5); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.90 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.81 (1H, dd, *J*=7.71, 1.65 Hz, H-*3*), 6.34(1H, s, HC=N), 6.68(1H, td, *J*=7.71, 1.65, Hz, H-*4*), 6.75 (1H, td, *J*=7.71, 1.65 Hz, H-*5*), 7.15 (2H, t, *J*=7.14 Hz, H-*p*'), 7.24 (4H, d, *J*=7.14 Hz, H-*o*'), 7.33-7.38 (6H, m, H-*m*'), 7.46 (1H, dd, *J*=7.71, 1.65 Hz, H-

6), 7.60-7.66 (3H, m, H-*o*, H-*p*) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 18.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 111.3 (C-*3*), 146.1 (C-*o*), 122.8 (C-*4*), 125.0 (C-*p*), 125.5 (C-*5*), 128.1 (C-*p*'), 129.5 (C-*m*), 130.3 (C-*o*', C-*p*'), 136.1 (C-*I*), 136.2 (C-*6*), 148.9 (C-*2*), 159.1 (C-*i*', C-*i*), 172.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>C=N) ppm.

**[*N*-phenyl-*N*-phenyl(2-phenylethenyl)-*N'*,*N'*-diphenyl hydrazone] of methylglyoxal (3)**

To a solution of 0.3 g (0.55 mmol) of **2c** in diethylether, was added a solution consisting of 0.6 mL (0.55 mmol) phenylacetylene in diethylether and 0.3 mL of BuLi 1.6M at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and after 4 h of stirring the solvent was evaporated obtaining a black oil which was chromatographed on alumina using Hexane/AcOEt as eluent. The product was obtained as a yellow solid 20 % yield, m.p. 40 °C.

MS (FAB<sup>+</sup>): *m/z* = 504 [M<sup>+</sup>, (11)], 404 (5), 336(20), 309(10), 295(4), 309(9), 279(22), 267(15), 167(65), 149(100), 184(15), 71(30), 57(62), 43(56), 29(23), 18(5); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.99 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.99-7.24 (25H, m, HC=N, aromatic) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 15.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 85.6 (C≡C), 95.1 (C≡C), 115.4, 121.1, 122.7, 123.2, 123.9, 128.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.9, 129.0, 130.3, 130.4, 131.5, 134.1, 136.6 (HC=N), 140.6 146.0, 148.1(C-*i*), 163.5.(CH<sub>3</sub>C=N).

**Supplementary material**

The crystallography data for the structural analysis have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center, CCDC 185834 for compound **2c**. Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from the Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, UK (Fax: int.code+(1223)336-033; e-mail for inquiry: fileserv@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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