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Preliminary communication

THE HEXACARBONYLNIOBATE(−I) ANION

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Summary

Some new hexacarbonylniobate(−I) derivatives have been prepared; the bis(triphenylphosphine)iminium derivative, which has been shown by X-ray diffraction methods to be isostructural with the corresponding hexacarbonylvanadate(−I) compound, contains essentially linear and octahedral $[(PPh_3)_2N]^+$ and $[Nb(CO)_6]^-$ ions, respectively.

The hexacarbonylmetalates of niobium(−I) and tantalum(−I) were reported some years ago [1] and their syntheses have recently been improved [2,3]. However, "the chemistry of these anions is still largely unexplored" [3].

We now report some new hexacarbonylniobate derivatives and the crystal and molecular structure of one of them. When possible, comparison is made with the corresponding compounds of the hexacarbonylvanadate(−I) anion.

The sodium derivative $NaNb(CO)_6$ (I) stabilized by tetrahydrofuran, was isolated as a yellow-orange solid sensitive to air and light. By treatment of I with the appropriate chloride, the following compounds were isolated: the red-brown phenanthrolinenickel, $[Ni(phen)_3][Nb(CO)_6]_2$ (II) and the yellow bis(triphenylphosphine)iminium derivative, [PPN] $[Nb(CO)_6]$ (III). The latter was recrystallized from dichloromethane/diethyl ether to give single crystals for the crystal and molecular structure determination by X-ray diffraction methods. Preliminary crystal examination and subsequent data collection were performed on a computer-controlled Siemens AED diffractometer using Mo-K_α radiation (λ 0.71069 Å) at a takeoff angle of 4°. Crystal data: space group $R\bar{3}$ (rhombohedral); a 9.832(4) Å, α 91.98(5)°, $Z = 1$. The positional and thermal (anisotropic for nonhydrogen atoms, isotropic for hydrogen atoms) parameters were refined by a full-matrix least-squares procedure converging to a conven-

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tional R of 0.0391 for 732 independent reflections ($5.0° < 2\vartheta < 52.0°$) having $I \geqslant 2\sigma(I)$ [4]. The compound is isostructural with the corresponding vanadium derivative [5], although the unit cell parameters are larger because of the longer Nb—C bonds. As there is only one molecule per unit cell, both cation and anion have the crystallographically imposed $\bar{3}$ symmetry, with Nb and N lying on the inversion $\bar{3}$ axis at the special positions $\frac{1}{2}\ \frac{1}{2}\ \frac{1}{2}$ and 0 0 0, respectively, and with the phosphorus atom lying on a threefold axis.

The structure consists of $[Nb(CO)_6]^-$ anions and $[(Ph_3P)_2N]^+$ cations, whose geometries are in Fig. 1 and 2, respectively. In the anion the coordination geometry around the Nb atom is nearly perfectly octahedral (Nb—C, 2.089(5) Å: C—Nb—C, 89.2(3)°, C—0,1.163(7) Å). The Nb—C—O linkage is nearly linear (177.8(4)°). As no $Nb(CO)_6$ systems have been structurally characterized

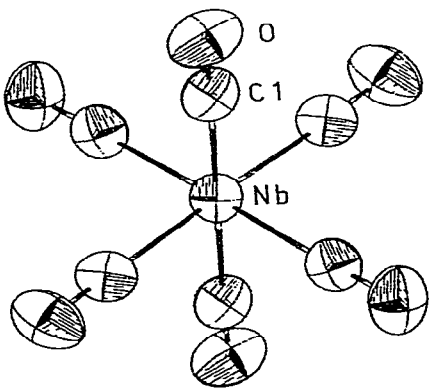

Fig. 1. Structural view of the $[Nb(CO)_6]^-$ anion.

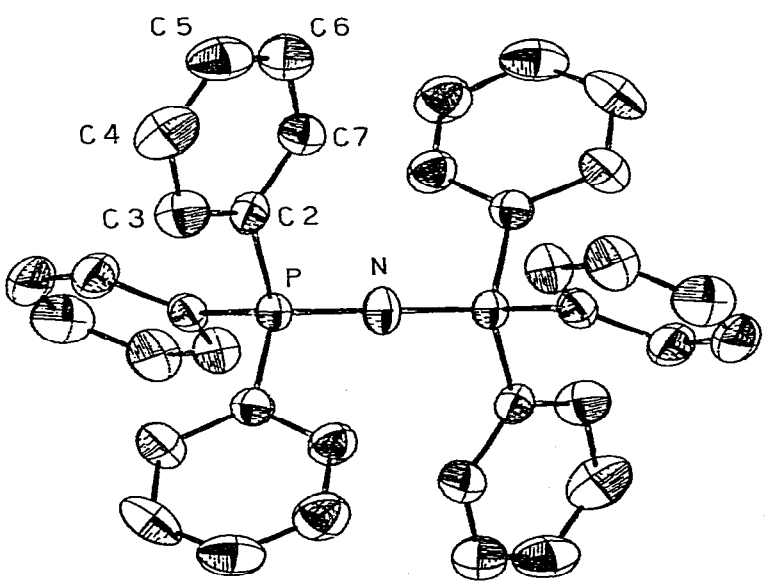

Fig. 2. Structural view of the $[(Ph_3P)_2N]^+$ cation.

previously, a comparison in terms of Nb—C, C—O and Nb—C—O parameters must be made with carbonylniobium complexes containing the cyclopentadienyl ring as ancillary ligand. The values found for our hexacarbonylniobate(−I) anion are in agreement with the literature data [6] for terminally bonded carbonyl groups in Nb complexes in oxidation states I and above.

In the cation, the P—N—P group is explicitly linear for symmetry requirements. Relevant structural parameters are: P—N, 1.547(2); P—C, 1.791(4); C—C(av.), 1.376(7) Å; N—P—C, 110.7(3); C—P—C, 108.2(4); C—C—P, 122.2(5) and 118.7(5); C—C—C(av.), 120.0(9)°. These values are similar to those found for the corresponding vanadium compound [5].

In accord with its nearly perfect octahedral structure, the hexacarbonylniobate(−I) anion has one main carbonyl stretching vibration in aqueous solution, see Table 1. The shift of the unique band for niobium to higher wavenumbers with respect to vanadium is consistent with the generally assumed lower degree of π-back donation for 4*d* transition elements with respect to their 3*d* homologues [7]. In agreement with this, hexacarbonylniobate(−I) derivatives show a lower thermal stability than the corresponding vanadium complexes. In solvents of low dielectric constant, such as diethyl ether, more bands were observed due to the deformation by the cation, as noted for other carbonylmetalates [8].

TABLE 1

SPECTROSCOPIC DATA OF HEXACARBONYL DERIVATIVES OF VANADIUM(−I) AND NIOBIUM(−I)

Compound	$\tilde{\nu}$(CO) (cm^{-1})			Medium	Ref.
$NaV(CO)_6$	1923w	1877s	1775m	Et_2O	9
	1880sh	1851s		THF	This work
		1862s		H_2O[a]	This work
$NaNb(CO)_6$ (I)	1908w	1876s	1778m	Et_2O	This work, 10
	1887sh	1860s	1835sh	THF	This work
		1875s		H_2O[a]	This work
$[Ni(phen)_3]$ $[Nb(CO)_6]_2$ (II)	1916w	1889s	1838m	Nujol	This work
		1860s		Acetone	This work
$[(PPh_3)_2N]$ $[Nb(CO)_6]$ (III)		1845s		Nujol	This work
	1895w	1869s		Et_2O	This work
	1887sh	1857s		THF	This work
		1864s		Acetone	This work

[a] 0.01 mm CaF_2 cell.

Experimental

All operations were carried out under prepurified carbon monoxide or argon. The IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin—Elmer model 283 instrument equipped with grating, and each spectrum was calibrated with both CO and water vapour.

$NaNb(CO)_6$. The sodium salt, stabilized by tetrahydrofuran, was isolated as a yellow-orange solid sensitive to air and light by aqueous sodium hydroxide

treatment of the products resulting from the reductive carbonylation [13] of $NbCl_5$, followed by diethyl ether extraction and recrystallization from tetrahydrofuran. The salt was finally dried in vacuo at room temperature for 3—4 h. Complete decomposition was sometimes noted during attempts to eliminate tetrahydrofuran from the sodium derivative by prolonged treatment in vacuo. Anal. Found: CO, 48.0; Nb, 25.0. $NaNb(CO)_6 \cdot$ tetrahydrofuran calcd.: $C_{10}H_8NaNbO_7$: CO, 47.2; Nb, 26.1%.

$[Ni(phen)_3]\,[Nb(CO)_6]_2$. The sodium salt (0.48 mmol) dissolved in water (20 cm^3) was treated with a large excess of an aqueous solution of $[Ni(phen)_3]^{2+}$. The brick-red precipitate obtained was filtered off, washed with water and dried in vacuo (51% yield). Anal. Found: C, 51.3; H, 2.7; N, 7.2. $[Ni(phen)_3]\,[Nb(CO)_6]_2$, $C_{48}H_{24}N_6NbNiO_{12}$ calcd.: C, 51.4; H, 2.2; N, 7.5%.

$[(PPh_3)_2N]\,[Nb(CO)_6]$. The sodium derivative (2.2 mmol) was suspended in dichloromethane (18 cm^3) and treated with 2.1 mmol of $(PPh_3)_2NCl$. The reaction was over in a few minutes as evidenced by the formation of a yellow-orange solution and precipitation of sodium chloride. After filtration, diethyl ether was added to the filtered solution in order to decrease the solubility of the bis(triphenylphosphine)iminium derivative. After cooling to about −30°C, the yellow crystalline product was collected by filtration and dried in vacuo (30% yield). Anal. Found: C, 62.9; H, 3.7; N, 1.7. $[(PPh_3)_2N]\,[Nb(CO)_6]$, $C_{42}H_{30}NNbO_6P_2$ calcd.: C, 63.1; H, 3.8; N, 1.8%.

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