

Some reactions of transition metal complexes containing unsaturated ligands with M—C(sp) or M—C(sp²) bonds

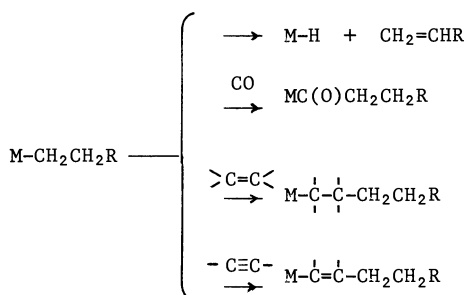
Michael I. Bruce

Jordan Laboratories, Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry,
 University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia 5001

Abstract - Compounds with M—C(sp²) or M—C(sp) bonds show a reactivity different from that of metal-alkyl complexes. This paper describes some reactions of transition metal acetylides, which are characterised by electrophilic additions to the β-carbon. Cycloaddition to olefins has given cyclobutenyl, butadienyl and allylic derivatives, while reactions with tropylium and arenediazonium salts generate new types of vinylidene complex. Unusual halogen-substituted vinylidene ligands are formed by direct addition of Cl₂, Br₂ or I₂ to metal acetylides. Subsequent reactions of these complexes are discussed. The conversion of cluster-bound acetylides to vinylidenes is described, and the mild reduction of an acetylide to carbon and methyl on an open Ru₅ cluster is an interesting example of the modification of reaction pathways of small molecules by metal clusters.

INTRODUCTION

The chemistry of metal-alkyl complexes, that is, those containing M—C(sp³) bonds, is characterised by a pattern of reactivity which includes elimination and insertion reactions:



However, there are few well established examples of insertion reactions occurring with complexes containing M—C(sp) or M—C(sp²) bonds, although there is no shortage of such complexes to study. Thus insertion of CO into the Fe—Ph bond on treatment of FePh(CO)₂-(η-C₅H₅) with PPh₃ has been described (1), while more recently the insertion of ethylene into the Ru—Ph bond of RuPh(PPh₃)₂(η-C₅H₅) has been studied; the products undergo β-H elimination (2). Sen (3) has found an elegant synthesis of CO—C₂H₄ copolymers by sequential insertion of CO and C₂H₄ into cationic palladium complexes; in alcohols, polyketoesters were formed. Many years ago, the reaction between Ru{C(CO₂Me)=CH(CO₂Me)}-(PPh₃)₂(η-C₅H₅) and C₂(CF₃)₂ was found to proceed by attack of the vinyl on the alkyne, giving a product with opposite configuration to that expected from a conventional insertion reaction into the Ru—C bond (4). The reactions between C₂(CO₂Me)₂ and *trans*-PdX(C₂R)(PR₃)₂ afforded *trans*-PdX{C(CO₂Me)=C(CO₂Me)(C₂R)}(PR₃)₂ (R = Et, Bu, Ph; R' = Et, Bu; X = Cl, Br, I), but for X = H, the alkyne inserts into the Pd—H bond instead (5).

Structural studies of a series of ruthenium complexes containing bonds from the metal to variously hybridised carbon atoms (Table 1) show that the M—C(sp) bond length in acetylides is close to that expected for a single bond, and contrasts markedly with those found for carbonyl, carbene and vinylidene ligands. Thus, in spite of the formal isoelectronic analogy between CO and RC₂⁻, there seems to be little, if any, back-bonding from the metal into the acetylide ligand. A theoretical study of electron distribution in the metal-acetylide system confirms this feature and also points to a build-up of electron density on the β-carbon atom (6).

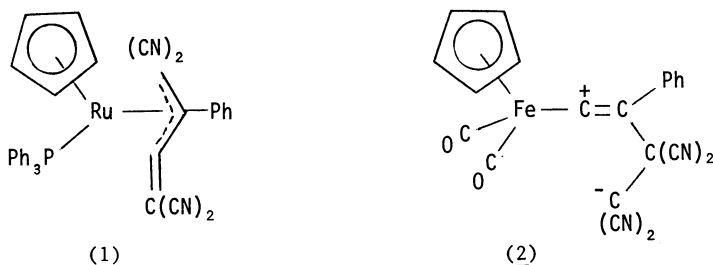
TABLE 1. Ru-C Bond Distances in Several Complexes Ru(C_R)(L)₂(η-C₅H₅)

C _R	L ₂	M-C (Å)	Reference
C(OPr ⁱ)=CHPh	(CO)(PPh ₃)	2.103(6)	<u>a</u>
<u>cis</u> -C(CO ₂ Me)=CH(CO ₂ Me)	(dppe)	2.071(12)	<u>b</u>
<u>trans</u> -C(CO ₂ Me)=CH(CO ₂ Me)	(CO)(PPh ₃)	2.080(8)	<u>b</u>
C(CO ₂ Me)=C(CO ₂ Me)C(CF ₃)=CH(CF ₃)	(PPh ₃) ₂	2.082(5)	<u>c</u>
C=C(CN) ₂ } CPh=C(CN) ₂	(CNBu ^t)(PPh ₃)	2.074(3)	<u>d</u>
"	(dppe)	2.068(3)	<u>e</u>
C≡CPh	(PPh ₃) ₂	2.016(3)	<u>f, g</u>
"	(dppe)	2.009(3)	<u>g</u>
C≡CPh	(PPh ₃) ₂	2.017(9)	<u>h</u>
CuCl			
C(OMe)Et	(PPh ₃) ₂	1.959(6)	<u>i</u>
CO	(PPh ₃) ₂	1.869(2)	<u>f</u>
C=CMe ₂	(PMe ₃) ₂	1.845(7)	<u>j</u>
C=CMePh	(PPh ₃) ₂	1.863(10)	<u>k</u>
C=CPh(C ₇ H ₇)	(dppe)	1.847(11)	<u>l</u>
C=CPh(N=NC ₆ H ₃ Me ₂ -3,4)	(PPh ₃) ₂	1.823(9)	<u>m</u>
C=CBr(C ₆ H ₄ Br-4)	(PPh ₃) ₂	1.809(17)	<u>n</u>

a M. I. Bruce, D.N. Duffy, M.G. Humphrey and A.G. Swincer, *J. Organomet. Chem.* **282**, 383 (1985); b M. I. Bruce, D.N. Duffy, M.G. Humphrey and G.A. Koutsantonis, unpublished results; c L.E. Smart, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* 390 (1976); d M. I. Bruce, J.R. Rodgers, M.R. Snow and A.G. Swincer, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* 271 (1981); e M. I. Bruce, T.W. Hambley, M.R. Snow and A.G. Swincer, *Organometallics* **4**, 501 (1985); f J.M. Wisner, T.J. Bartczak and J.A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **100**, 115 (1985); g M. I. Bruce and M.G. Humphrey, unpublished results; h N.V. Raghavan and R.E. Davis, *J. Cryst. Mol. Struct.* **6**, 73 (1976); i M. I. Bruce, M.G. Humphrey, M.R. Snow and E. Tiekink, unpublished results; j M. I. Bruce, F.S. Wong, B.W. Skelton and A.H. White, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* 2203 (1982); k M. I. Bruce, M.G. Humphrey, E. Poczman, M.R. Snow and E. Tiekink, unpublished results; l M. I. Bruce, C. Dean, M.G. Humphrey, G.A. Koutsantonis and M.R. Snow, unpublished results; m M. I. Bruce, D.N. Duffy and M.G. Humphrey, unpublished results; n M. I. Bruce, M.G. Humphrey, G.A. Koutsantonis and B.K. Nicholson, unpublished results.

CYCLO-ADDITION REACTIONS OF METAL ACETYLIDES

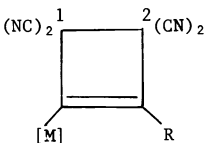
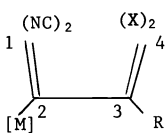
A survey of the reactions of some platinum acetylide complexes includes several addition and apparent insertion reactions (7). Our own studies on the synthesis and reactivity of a series of ruthenium acetylide complexes led us to look at the reaction between tetracyanoethylene (tcne) and Ru(C₂Ph)(PPh₃)₂(η-C₅H₅); unknown to us, Davison had commenced a study of similar reactions of the analogous complex Fe(C₂Ph)(CO)₂(η-C₅H₅) somewhat earlier, and his first results were published (8) as we were waiting for structural characterisation of our product. We soon found that these reactions are quite complex. They proceed by initial formation of deeply coloured paramagnetic (ESR) intermediates, which slowly transform into at least three types of isolable, diamagnetic complex. The nature of the intermediates is not clear; in some cases, the ESR spectra can be interpreted in terms of coupling of the unpaired electron to four N and one P nuclei. In others, rapid changes in the ESR spectra indicate the formation and decay of more than one intermediate complex.



Although the product isolated from the first reaction that we studied was the 'allylic' complex (1) (9), more detailed studies of these reactions, involving a range of olefins and metal acetylides, have shown that cyclobutenyl, butadienyl and allyl complexes, of varying stability, are formed sequentially (10). We have not yet obtained any evidence for the formation of a zwitterionic complex of the type (2) proposed by Davison and Solar (8); spectroscopic evidence suggests that (2) is indeed a cyclobutenyl complex, formed by formal (2 + 2) cycloaddition of the olefin to the acetylide. While a concerted reaction of this type is forbidden by the Woodward-Hoffmann rules, the observation of intermediates suggests

that this reaction proceeds stepwise. A notable feature of the C_4 ring in those complexes which have been studied crystallographically is the long C-C bond (see Table 2) opposite the ring C=C bond, which is the one that cleaves in the ring-opening reaction.

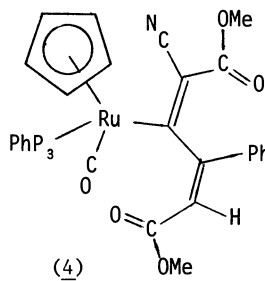
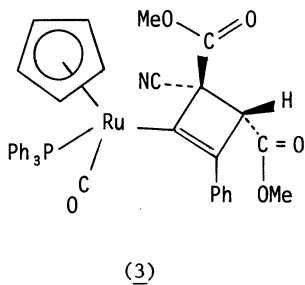
TABLE 2. Some Structural Parameters for σ -Cyclobutenyl and σ -Buta-1,3-dien-2-yl Complexes

Cyclobutenyl							
M	R	M-C	C(1)-C(2)	Reference			
W(CO) ₃ (η -C ₅ H ₅)	Ph	2.202(9)	1.602(13)	<u>a</u>			
Ru(PPh ₃)(L)(η -C ₅ H ₅)	Ph	2.07(2),	1.53(3),	<u>b</u>			
[L = (NC)C=C(CF ₃) ₂] (complex <u>6</u>)		2.01(2)	1.67(4)				
Butadienyl							
M	R	X	M-C(2)	C(1)=C(2), C(3)=C(4)	C(2)-C(3)	Torsion angle*	Ref.
Ru(dppe)(η -C ₅ H ₅)	Ph	CN	2.068(4)	1.382(5), 1.362(4)	1.478(4)	80.6	<u>c</u>
Ru(CNBu ^t)(PPh ₃)(η -C ₅ H ₅)	Ph	CN	2.074(3)	1.370(6), 1.346(6)	1.484(6)	81.5	<u>d</u>
Ru(CO)(PPh ₃)(η -C ₅ H ₅)	Me	CF ₃	2.106(5)	1.362(8), 1.328(8)	1.493(8)	80.6	<u>b</u>
Ru(PPh ₃) ₂ (η -C ₅ H ₅)	Ph	+	2.063(8)	1.37(1), 1.33(1)	1.52(1)	82.4	<u>e</u>
Fe(CO) ₂ (η -C ₅ H ₅)	Ph	CN	1.972(2)	1.347(4), 1.356(3)	1.476(3)	79.7	<u>f</u>
* C(1)C(2)/C(3)C(4)			+ X ₂ = H, C ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ -4				

a M.I. Bruce, T.W. Hambley, M.R. Snow and A.G. Swincer, *J. Organomet. Chem.* **226**, 1 (1982);
b M.I. Bruce, T.W. Hambley, M.R. Snow and A.G. Swincer, unpublished results; c M.I. Bruce,
 T.W. Hambley, M.R. Snow and A.G. Swincer, *Organometallics* **4**, 501 (1985); d M.I. Bruce,
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e M.I. Bruce, P.A. Humphrey, M.R. Snow and E. Tiekink, unpublished results; f M.I. Bruce,
 M.J. Liddell, M.R. Snow, A.G. Swincer and E. Tiekink, unpublished results

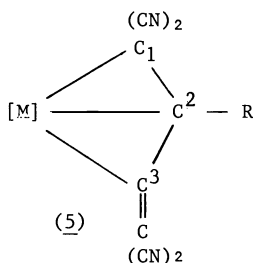
The reaction is limited at present to the more electrophilic olefins, as suggested by the results obtained with 4-XC₆H₄CH=C(CN)₂; isolated yields of 88 and 14% of the cyclo-adduct were obtained with X = NO₂ and H, respectively, but no reaction occurred with X = NMe₂. Structural studies of some of these products suggest that steric effects control the direction of addition of the olefin to the acetylide group, the carbon bearing the bulkiest substituents being attached to the β -carbon of the acetylide ligand (11).

We have also used the olefins CH(CO₂Me)=C(CN)(CO₂Me) and (CF₃)₂C=C(CN)₂ in these studies. Addition of the former gives products whose stereochemistry is consistent with the *trans* geometry of the olefin determined by ¹³C NMR; chromatography of the cyclobutenyl complex (3) affords three isomeric forms which differ only in the degree of rotation of the ester groups. Heating of (3) gave the butadienyl complex (4), from which it is evident that the expected conrotatory ring-opening process has occurred; the presence of the transition metal substituent therefore does not affect this process (12).



X-ray studies of several of the butadienyl complexes show that the C_4 system is significantly non-planar (torsion angles about the central C-C bond are about 80° ; see Table 2) and that the C-C single and C=C double bonds are localised. While the diene system does not enter into cycloaddition reactions with substrates such as maleic anhydride, cyclohexene or methyl vinyl ether, on heating or irradiation, chelation by attachment of the further C=C to the metal centre affords a series of substituted *exo*-methyleneallyl complexes (5; Table 3). The η^3 -ligand has unusual structural and ^{13}C NMR parameters which suggest that a more appropriate formulation for these complexes is as methylenemetallacyclobutenes, related to Schrock's metallacyclobutadiene systems.

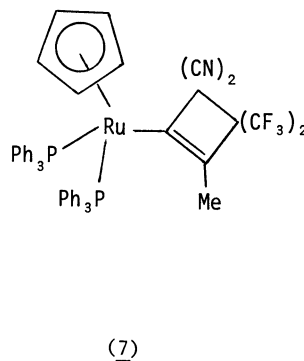
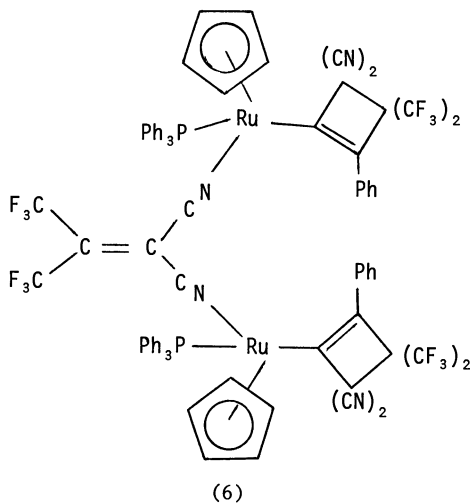
TABLE 3. Some Structural and ^{13}C NMR Parameters for Allylic Complexes^a



M	R	M-C (Å)			$\delta(^{13}C)$ (ppm)		
		C(1)	C(2)	C(3)	C(1)	C(2)	C(3)
$W(CO)_2(\eta-C_5H_5)$	Ph	2.285(8)	2.253(7)	2.075(8)	79.4	4.7	206.6
$Ru(PPh_3)(\eta-C_5H_5)$	Ph	2.231(4)	2.135(4)	1.919(5)	85.1	7.3	218.8
$Ru(PPh_3)(\eta-C_5H_5)$	Me	-	-	-	82.9	11.0	218.3

^a M. I. Bruce, T.W. Hambley, M.R. Snow and A.G. Swincer, *Organometallics* 4, 501 (1985).

An unusual complex formed from $(CF_3)_2C=C(CN)_2$ and $Ru(C_2Ph)(PPh_3)_2(\eta-C_5H_5)$ is the deep blue binuclear cyclobutenyl complex (6), in which a third molecule of the electrophilic olefin bridges the two metal centres. The intense colour may be a consequence of the presence of the extended $Ru-N=C-C=N-Ru$ system. With the corresponding propynyl complex, the reaction follows the more usual pattern to give the cyclobutenyl complex (7) (13).

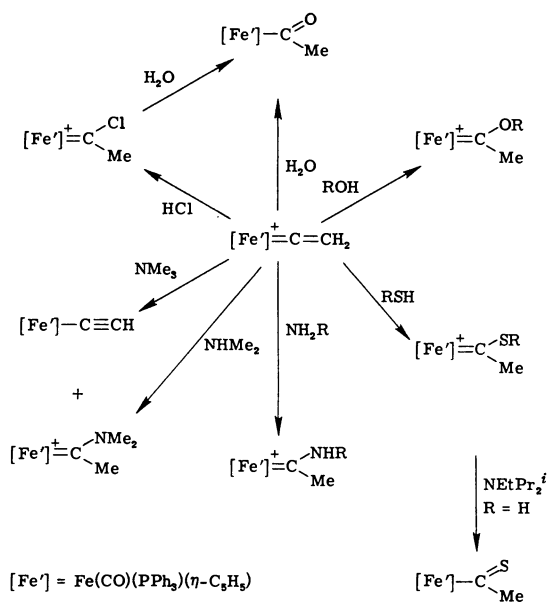
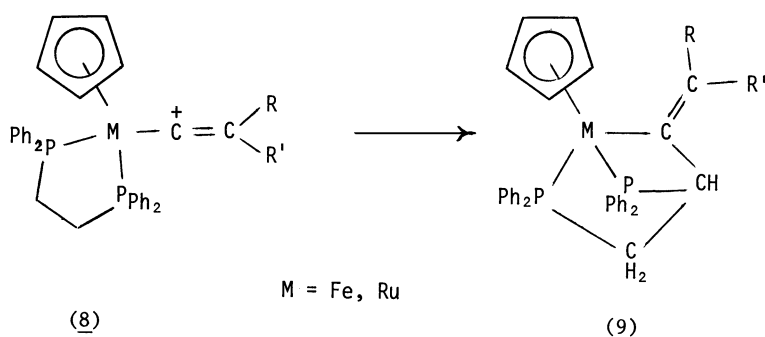


These reactions result from nucleophilic attack of the electron-rich metal acetylide (in particular, the β -carbon) on the electrophilic olefins, and are not observed with conventional alkynes such as C_2Ph_2 . The presence of the metal substituent serves to 'activate' the $C\equiv C$ triple bond, facilitating transfer of electron density to the β -carbon. Work continues to find metal-ligand combinations which will permit reaction between the acetylide ligands and less electrophilic olefins.

NOVEL VINYLIDENE COMPLEXES

Transition metal acetylide complexes react with protons or alkylating agents to form the corresponding vinylidene complexes, which can be isolated in many cases (14). Some can be obtained directly from 1-alkynes and suitable metal-containing precursors. These compounds are of interest as containing the unstable tautomer of the alkyne, and undergo numerous reactions (Scheme 1). Although the α -carbon is highly electron-deficient and should be susceptible to nucleophilic attack, most of the kinetically stable vinylidene complexes fail to react with H^- , Me^- , MeO^- or MeS^- , for example, probably because of the steric protection afforded to the α -carbon by ligands surrounding the vinylidene ligand. However, deprotonation of the dppe complexes (8) results in intramolecular attack of the carbanion on the α -carbon, with formation of the tricyclic complexes (9) (15,16).

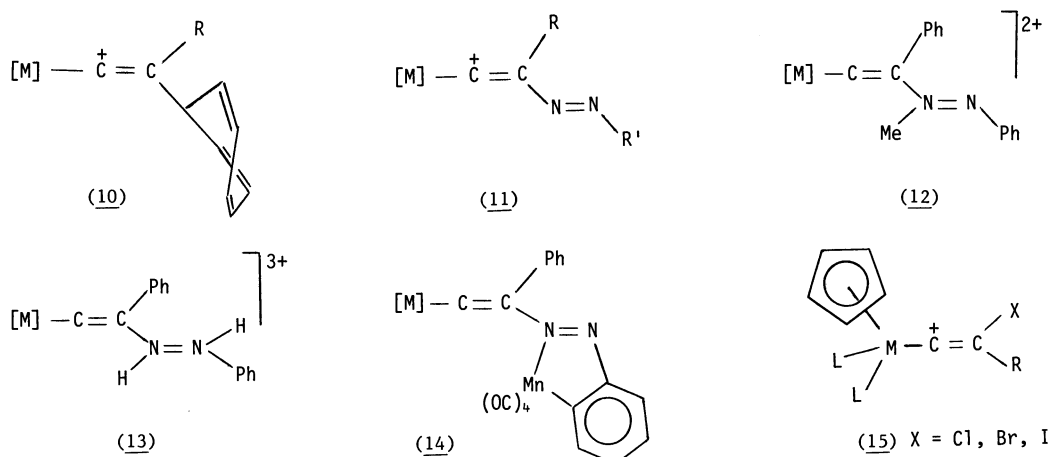
Scheme 1

Some Reactions of a Cationic Vinylidene Complex^a

Extension of the protonation and alkylation reaction to other electrophiles has met with limited success. We have recently isolated cationic cycloheptatrienyl- (10) and aryldiazo-vinylidene complexes (11) from reactions between metal acetylides and tropylium or arenediazonium salts, respectively (17). Again, reactions of these derivatives with anionic or neutral nucleophiles has failed to elaborate the vinylidene ligand any further; indeed, the stability of the cations from which these are derived is manifest in several reactions, e.g. with Me^- or MeO^- , which result in regeneration of the parent metal acetylide.

^a B.E. Boland-Lussier and R.P. Hughes, *Organometallics* **1**, 635 (1982). See also M.I. Bruce and A.G. Swincer, *Aust. J. Chem.* **33**, 1471 (1980), for related reactions of ruthenium complexes.

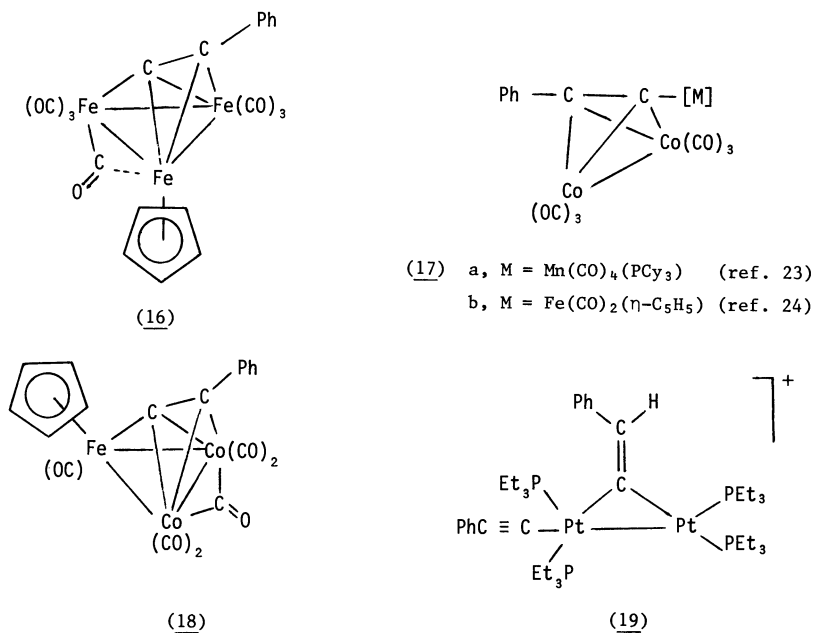
However, we have been able to alkylate, diprotonate and cyclometallate the aryldiazo-vinylidene ligands to give (12), (13) and (14), respectively.



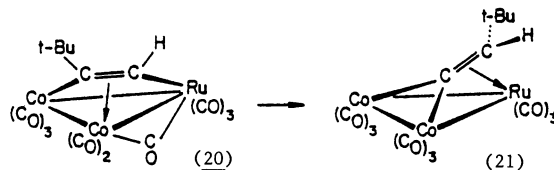
We were also somewhat surprised to find that addition of halogens (Cl_2 , Br_2 or I_2) to the iron, ruthenium or osmium acetylide complexes afforded almost quantitative yields of the deep green halovinylidene complexes (15). In some reactions of the phenylacetylides, the 4-position of the phenyl group was also halogenated (18). Again, these complexes are not proving to be the sought-for doorway to functionalised vinylidene complexes: attempts to replace the halogen by metallation or substitution have so far given only the parent acetylide.

REACTIONS OF METAL ACETYLIDES WITH METAL COMPLEXES, AND RELATED CHEMISTRY

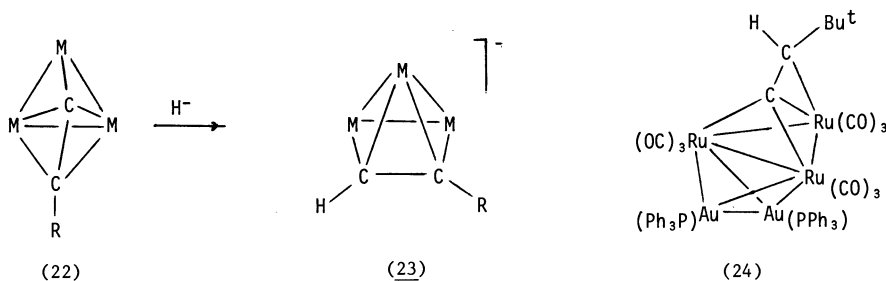
A fruitful source of novel and unusual structures in the early years of organometallic chemistry was the addition of metal substrates to acetylenes; new examples continue to be found, although rationalisation of their formation is often more with hindsight. The first studies of similar reactions with metal acetylides were carried out many years ago, although as with simple alkynes, reactions with iron or cobalt carbonyls, for example, give numerous products in small to infinitesimal yields. Early studies of the reaction of $Fe_2(CO)_9$ with $Fe(C_2Ph)(CO)_2(\eta-C_5H_5)$ resulted in the identification of the trinuclear cluster (16) (19, 20), while the similar reactions of Group 6 and ruthenium analogues have since been described (21, 22). Evidence for the $C \equiv C$ triple bond retaining its usual complexing powers towards cobalt carbonyl is found in the formation of (17a) and (17b) in the reactions of the parent acetylides with $Co_2(CO)_8$ (23, 24); thermal conversion of the latter to (18) has subsequently been achieved (24).



We have studied the addition of hydrogen to cluster-bound acetylides as a possible route to vinylidene complexes. The addition of $[\text{PtH}(\text{PET}_3)_2(\text{OCMe}_2)]^+$ to $\text{trans-Pt}(\text{C}_2\text{Ph})_2(\text{PET}_3)_2$ gave the binuclear complex (19) (25), and the facile conversion of $\text{Co}_2\text{Ru}(\mu_3\text{-HC}\equiv\text{CCMe}_3)(\mu\text{-CO})(\text{CO})_8$ (20) to $\text{Co}_2\text{Ru}(\mu_3\text{-C}=\text{CHCMe}_3)(\text{CO})_9$ (21) was demonstrated by Bernhardt and Vahrenkamp (26); Silvestre and Hoffmann (27) have recently made a theoretical study of the transformation of 1-alkynes to vinylidenes on metal centres.

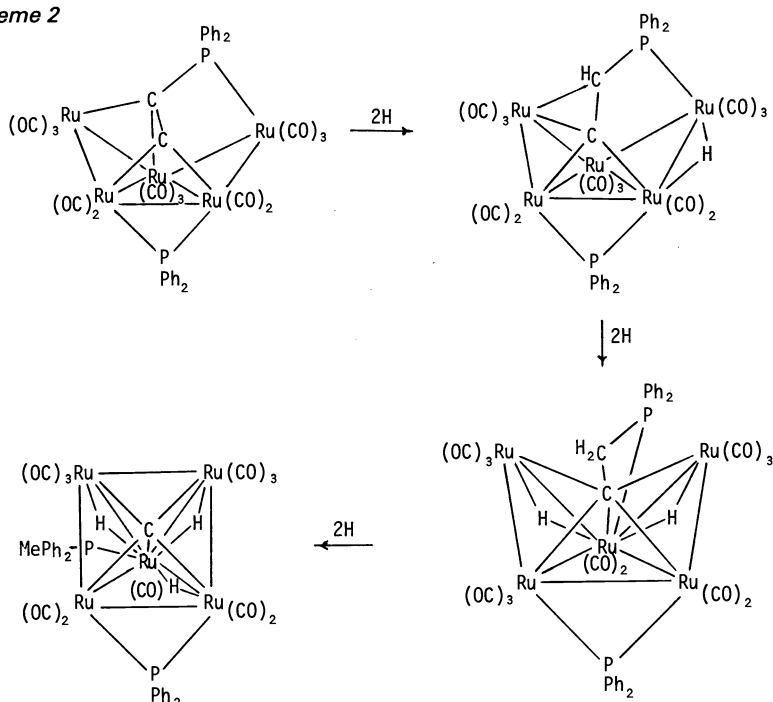


Addition of hydride to μ_3 -acetylide complexes (22) would be expected to open the trigonal-bipyramidal C_2M_3 cluster to the open square-pyramidal arrangement (23), with concomitant addition of the hydrogen to the α -carbon. The resulting anion can be protonated to effect the addition of H_2 ($\text{H}^- + \text{H}^+$) to the original cluster. It has been known for some years that addition of H_2 to $\text{Ru}_3(\mu\text{-H})(\mu_3\text{-C}_2\text{CMe}_3)(\text{CO})_9$ gives $\text{Ru}_3(\mu\text{-H})_3(\mu_3\text{-CCH}_2\text{CMe}_3)(\text{CO})_9$ by addition of two H to the β -carbon; the intermediate vinylidene complex was not detected (28). However, sequential addition of hydride and $[\text{O}\{\text{Au}(\text{PPh}_3)\}_3]^+$ to the cluster acetylide gave complex (24) corresponding to addition of H_2 and $\text{'Au}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2\text{'}$ (isolobal with H_2) to the cluster (29).



Another surprising example was found during our studies of the reactivity of the open Ru_5 cluster (25; Scheme 2) (30). The extended interaction of the diphenylphosphino-acetylide ligand with the five metal atoms was expected to result in considerable activation towards other small molecules. In cyclohexane solution, (25) reacts with dihydrogen (1 atm., r.t.)

Scheme 2

Reduction of an acetylide to C + Me on an Open Ru_5 Cluster (ref. 31)

to take up successively one, two and three molecules of H₂, forming complexes (26), (27) and (28), respectively; the first and last of these have been fully characterised crystallographically (31). In the context of this paper, the most interesting features of this reaction are the successive addition of one, two and three hydrogen atoms to the β-carbon of the cluster-bound acetylide to give C=CHPPH₂, C-CH₂PPH₂ and finally (C + CH₃PPH₂) ligands attached to the cluster. Scheme 2 also shows the cleavage of the acetylenic C≡C bond in the last step with concomitant formation of a carbido cluster derived from Ru₅C(CO)₁₅; the unusual course of this reduction of a C≡C triple bond to carbon and methyl is determined by the formation of strong metal-metal bonds.

Acknowledgements This paper is a brief account of work achieved by several excellent coworkers, named in the references, to whom I am pleased to express my thanks; the essential structural contributions from Professor Allan White (University of Western Australia) and Dr Michael Snow (University of Adelaide) and their groups are also gratefully acknowledged. This work was supported by grants through the Australian Research Grant Scheme.

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