Table I. MLCT Bands, Rate Constants for Peroxydisulfate Oxidation, and Reduction Potentials of Complexes of Ru(NH₃)₅ and Fe(CN)₅ with **BPA**^{*a*}

complex	λ, nm	$10^{-3}\epsilon$, M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	$k, M^{-1} s^{-1}$	E°, V vs NHE
Fe ^{ll} (CN) ₅ BPA ³⁻	365 ^b	4.7	0.10	0.440
Ru ^{II} (NH ₃) ₅ BPA ^{2+c}	410	7.2	1.0×10^{5}	0.293
(NH ₃) ₅ Ru ¹¹¹ (BPA)Fe ^{li} (CN) ₅	368	4.3	4.3×10^{2}	
(NH ₃) ₅ Ru ^{II} (BPA)Fe ^{II} (CN) ₅ ⁻	408, 368 ^d	8.7, 5.7	5.0×10^{4e}	
(NH ₃) ₅ Ru ^{lli} (BPA)Fe ^{lli} (CN) ₅ ⁺	415, 365	1.4, 1.3		0.447, ^f 0.290 ^g
(NH ₃) ₅ Rh ^{III} (BPA)Fe ^{II} (CN) ₅	367	3.3	0.50	0.440
(NH ₃) ₅ Co ^{III} (BPA)Fe ^{II} (CN) ₅	365 ^b	4.5		
$(NH_3)_5Ru^{II}(BPA)Co^{III}(CN)_5^h$	403			

^aAt 25 °C, I = 0.10 M (NaCl), pH = 5.5 (H₂EDTA²⁻/CH₃CO₂⁻). ^bReference 6. ^c In 0.10 M HCl. ^dShoulder. ^eOxidation of Ru^{li}. ^fReduction of 2 to 1. ^sReduction of 1 to 3. ^hIn KBr pellet; solution studies precluded by insolubility of complex.

 \times 10⁻⁵ M were obtained by reduction of 1 with ascorbic acid¹⁰ or via eq 4 by mixing equimolar solutions of Ru^{II}(NH₃)₅BPA²⁺

$$Ru^{II}(NH_3)_5BPA^{2-} + Fe^{II}(CN)_5OH_2^{3-} \rightleftharpoons 3 \quad k_4, k_{-4}$$
 (4)

(prepared by reduction of $Ru^{III}(NH_3)_5BPA^{3+}$ with ascorbic acid or with zinc amalgam) and $Fe^{II}(CN)_5OH_2{}^{3-}.$ Solutions of 3 display the MLCT bands of both Ru(II) and Fe(II) centers (Table I). Values of $k_4 = (2.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ were measured by a competitive method (490 nm) with [4-acetylpyridine] = $2.3 \times$ 10^{-3} M and [Ru^{II}(NH₃)₅BPA²⁺] = (1.5-10) × 10⁻³ M.¹¹ Values of $k_{-4} = (1.9 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ were measured by the same procedure as for k_{-3} . When solutions of 3 are mixed with excess $S_2O_8^{2-}$, biphasic kinetics are observed at 410 nm. The first, rapid change corresponds to oxidation of 3 to 1 with a rate constant of $(5.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^4$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹. The second, slower changes corresponds to oxidation of 1 to 2^{12} with $k_1 = (4.6 \pm 0.3) \times 10^2$ M⁻¹ s^{-1} , in acceptable¹³ agreement with the value reported above.

Rate constants for the peroxydisulfate oxidations of Ru^{II}-(NH₃)₅BPA²⁺, Fe^{II}(CN)₅BPA³⁻, and (NH₃)₅Rh^{III}(BPA)Fe^{II}- $(CN)_5^{14}$ and relevant reduction potentials (cyclic voltammetry) are presented in Table I.

Peroxydisulfate discriminates by a factor of 10⁶ in its reactions with Ru^{II}(NH₃)₅BPA²⁺ and Fe^{II}(CN)₅BPA³⁻ (Table I). Therefore, the oxidation of 3 to 1, which proceeds at a rate comparable with that of Ru^{II}(NH₃)₅BPA²⁺, undoubtedly involves electron loss from Ru(II).¹² On the basis of present and earlier¹² reactivity patterns, it is apparent that the oxidation of 1 proceeds at an anomalously high rate for removal of an electron from a Fe(II) center. The ca. 10³ difference between 1 and (NH₃)₅Rh^{III}-(BPA)Fe^{II}(CN)₅ is particularly noteworthy since the two complexes have equal charges, geometry, and E° values. We propose that the oxidation of 1 proceeds via rapid and reversible isomerization to 1' (eq 5) and is followed by reaction of 1' with $S_2O_8^{2-}$

$$(NH_3)_5Ru^{III}(BPA)Fe^{III}(CN)_5 \rightleftharpoons (NH_3)_5Ru^{II}(BPA)Fe^{III}(CN)_5 \quad K_5 \quad (5)$$

(eq 6). In this interpretation, $k_1 = K_5 k_6$. K_5 , estimated from

$$+ S_2 O_8^{2-} \rightarrow 2 + SO_4^{*-} + SO_4^{2-} k_6$$
 (6)

 E° values of 0.44 and 0.29 V for reduction of Fe(III) and Ru(III) centers, respectively, is 2.9×10^{-3} . Therefore, $k_6 = 1.5 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ s^{-1} , a perfectly reasonable value for oxidation of a Ru(II) center. The key finding herein, namely, that the electron to be lost from a given site is first transferred (in a rapid preequilibrium) to a

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 Freshly prepared solutions of 2 could be reduced to 3 with ascorbic acid. But after several minutes, less than quantitative formation of 3 was observed. Evidently, solutions of 2 undergo decomposition upon aging, a phenomenon previously observed for the corresponding pyrazine complex: Yeh, A.; Haim, A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1985, 106, 369.
- (13) Solutions of 1 and 3 contain small and variable amounts of Ru-(NH₃)₅BPA^{3+/2+}, which are extremely efficient catalysts for the per-
- oxydisulfate oxidation of Fe(II) complexes. (14) Prepared by reaction of Fe^{II}(CN)₅OH₂²⁺ with Rh^{III}(NH₃)₅BPA³⁺ which in turn was prepared by reaction of Rh(NH₃)₅OH₂³⁺ with BPA following the procedure for making [Rh(NH₃)₅0/12 with BF4 for D.; Watts, R. J.; Ford, P. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1976, 98, 3188. Rate constants for formation and dissociation of (NH₃)₅Ru^{III}(BPA)Fe^{II}(CN)₅ are $(3.0 \pm 0.3) \times 10^3$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ and $(3.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3}$ s⁻¹, respectively.

site which is oxidized more readily, could have important implications in biological electron-transport chains.

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(15)On leave from the Departamento de Química Inorgánica, Analítica y Química Física, Universidad de Buenos Aires, República Argentina.

Department of Chemistry	José A. Olabe ¹⁵	
State University of New York	Albert Haim*	
Stony Brook, New York 11794		

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Facile Substitution of Triphenylphosphine in Wilkinson's Catalyst by Sn(N^tBu)₂SiMe₂. Syntheses and Molecular Structures of Square-Planar and Homoleptic Trigonal-Bipyramidal Stannylene Complexes of Rhodium(I)

It has been known for some time that certain tin(II) compounds, such as SnCl₃^{-,1} Sn(acac)₂^{,2} and Sn[N(SiMe₃)₂]₂^{,3} are excellent ligands for late transition elements-particularly those of the platinum-metal group. The monomeric, divalent tin species bear some resemblance, both in structure and reactivity, to carbenes and thus the name stannylene has been proposed for these compounds.4

A considerable portion of the research in our group has been concerned with synthesis and chemical characterization of the cyclic bis(amino)stannylene 1 and its lighter and heavier homo-



logues.⁵ The presence of both a filled σ -donor orbital and an

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Figure 1. Perspective drawing of 2. Phenyl rings of PPh₃ and hydrogens have been omitted for clarity. Selected dimensions (not mentioned in text): $Sn(1)-Rh-P(2) = 160.1 (1)^{\circ}$; $Sn(2)-Rh-P(1) = 161.8 (1)^{\circ}$; $Sn(1)-Rh-Sn(2) = 83.3 (1)^{\circ}$; $P(1)-Rh-P(2) = 97.3 (1)^{\circ}$; average N-Sn-N = 75.6 (4)°; average Sn-N = 2.06 (1) Å; average Si-N = 1.73 (1) Å.

empty low-lying π -acceptor orbital on the tin atom of monomeric 1 suggests electronic similarities to PR₃ (R = Alkyl, phenyl) and to a certain extent to the isolobal CO.⁶

Here we report on our initial results of the controlled reactions between the classical platinum-metal complex $RhCl(PPh_3)_3^7$ and 1. Our findings suggest that 1 is as good a ligand as any of the previously reported tin(II) compounds and that it may rival tertiary phosphines as ligand for soft acids.

The addition of exactly 2 equiv of 1 to a RhCl(PPh₃)₃ suspension in toluene at -20 °C leads to the rapid formation of a single product in high yield. Only one doublet (-109.9 ppm,

$$\frac{\text{RhCl}(\text{PPh}_{3})_{3} + 2\text{Sn}(\text{N}^{\text{t}}\text{Bu})_{2}\text{SiMe}_{2} \xrightarrow[-\text{PPh}_{3}]{-\text{PPh}_{3}}{1}}{1} \xrightarrow[-\text{20 °C}]{-\text{20 °C}} cis-\text{Rh}[\text{Sn}(\text{N}^{\text{t}}\text{Bu})_{2}\text{SiMe}_{2}]_{2}(\text{PPh}_{3})_{2}\text{Cl} (1)$$

J(Rh-P) = 164 Hz) is observed in the ³¹P NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture from (1),⁸ while the ¹H NMR spectrum shows the product to contain two moieties of 1 and PPh₃ each. Absence of observable Sn-P couplings did not allow a firm assignment for the configuration of 2 and necessitated a single-crystal X-ray study of the toluene solvate (2·2-toluene).⁹

As can be seen in Figure 1, 2 crystallizes in a highly distorted square-planar cis geometry. Thus the plane defined by Rh-P-(1)-P(2) is twisted by 15.8° relative to the plane defined by the three metal atoms. Complex 2 may be considered to be derived from RhCl(PPh₃)₃ through the formal insertion of one stannylene unit into the Rh-Cl bond of the coordinatively unsaturated RhCl(PPh₃)₂¹⁰—known to be present in solution—followed by the subsequent coordination of a second moiety of 1. The most peculiar structural feature of 2 is the presence of a chlorine-bridged, chelating bis(stannylene) ligand. This fragment is somewhat reminiscent of the Sn₂Cl₅⁻ complex anion. It is pre-

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- (10) (a) Parshall, G. W. Homogeneous Catalysis: The Applications and Chemistry of Catalysis by Soluble Transition Metal Complexes; Interscience: New York, 1980; p 12.^{10b} (b) We have no evidence for this dissociative mechanism; an associate rate determining step would also be plausible for the 16-electron RhCl(PPh₃)₃.



Figure 2. Molecular structure of 3. For clarity only the quaternary carbons on N(11) and N(12) have been drawn. Selected dimensions: Rh-Sn(1) = 2.526 (1) Å; Rh-Sn(2) = 2.549 (1) Å; Rh-Sn(3) = 2.568 (1) Å; Rh-Sn(4) = 2.574 (1) Å; Sn(1)-Rh-Sn(2) = 87.3 (1)°; Sn(1)-Rh-Sn(3) = 178.1 (1)°; Sn(1)-Rh-Sn(4) = 95.7 (1)°; Sn(2)-Rh-Sn(3) = 93.7 (1)°; Sn(2)-Rh-Sn(4) = 122.3 (1)°.

sumably the presence of this Sn–Cl–Sn bridge that has led to the formation of only the cis isomer, despite the greater steric strain brought on by this configuration. The perspective view in Figure 1 demonstrates the symmetrical coordination of the chlorine atom through the empty p orbitals of the tin atoms. Both metal-metal bond distances in 2 are equal within experimental error: Rh–Sn(1) = 2.571 (2) Å, and Rh–Sn(2) = 2.577 (2) Å. Despite apparent chemical equivalence the rhodium–phosphorus bond lengths are decidedly different (Rh–P(1) = 2.273 (4) Å and Rh–P(2) = 2.328 (4) Å), a feature we ascribe to the distortion of the plane.

When reaction 1 is allowed to continue at room temperature, the formation of a second product, at the expense of **2**, is observed by NMR techniques. This new compound, **3**, is also produced, in nearly quantitative yield, according to eq 2. NMR spectral

$$RhCl(PPh_{3})_{3} + 5Sn(N^{t}Bu)_{2}SiMe_{2} \xrightarrow[-3PPh_{3}]{60 \circ C, 1 h} Rh[Sn(N^{t}Bu)_{2}SiMe_{2}]_{5}Cl (2)$$

0.11

evidence $({}^{1}H, {}^{31}P)$ shows 3 to be free of PPh₃ and to contain the cyclic bis(amino)stannylene 1 as its only ligand. The comparatively mild conditions employed in reaction 2 have thus led to the complete substitution of triphenylphosphine by 1. An air-sensitive dark red crystal of the toluene solvent (3-toluene) was subjected to a single-crystal X-ray analysis,¹¹ the results of which can be seen in Figure 2.

In the solid state pentakis[bis(aminostannylene)]rhodium(I) chloride is present in an almost ideal trigonal-bipyramidal geometry, the pseudo-3-fold axis passing through Sn(3), Rh, and Sn(1). The molecule is situated on a crystallographic mirror plane, which contains, among others, the Rh, Sn(1), Sn(3) and Cl atoms. We find, again, the interesting structural element of two stannylene moieties bridged by the chlorine atom. In contrast to the square-planar complex 2, however, the tin-chloride bond distances here are distinctly nonsymmetrical, being Sn(3)-Cl = 2.585 (3) Å and Sn(4)-Cl 2.768 (3) Å. This is presumably due to the electronic nonequivalence of axial and equatorial ligands.¹² The

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(2) Å, b = 22.33 (2) Å, c = 22.63 (2) Å; V = 8363 Å³, Z = 4; D(calcd) = 1.448 g cm⁻³; μ(Mo Kα) = 18.10 cm⁻¹; empirical absorption correction. Data were collected out to 45° in 2θ, leading to 2737 unique observed (I > 3σ(I)) reflections. Agreement indices: R = 0.034; R_w = 0.036.

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presence of this chelating bis(stannylene) unit dominates the relative orientation of the remaining ligands. There are two distinct trends in the Rh–Sn bond distances. First, one can observe the expected longer metal-metal bonds of four-coordinate vs three-coordinate tin. Second, the rhodium-tin bond distances of the equatorial ligands are shorter than those of the axial stannylenes. This latter feature is in line with the general trends observed in a number of related trigonal-bipyramidal d⁸ systems.¹³ Compounds containing rhodium-tin bonds have been known for only 25 years;^{1c} few of these have been X-ray structurally characterized. To our knowledge, no homoleptic trigonal-bipyramidal Rh/Sn complexes have been reported, although accounts of studies on the structually similar [Rh(SnCl₃)₄SnCl₄]⁵⁻ and Pt(SnCl₃)₅³⁻ have appeared in the literature.^{14,15}

In summary, the cyclic stannylene 1 seems to be a highly useful ligand in its ability to stabilize low-valent metal complexes. The facile replacement of PPh₃ by 1 is particularly noteworthy, since $SnCl_2$ apparently does not react with $RhCl(PPh_3)_3$ at all.¹⁶ Platinum-metal/tin(II) chloride mixtures are known to be useful catalysts for a number of industrial processes,¹⁷ and our efforts toward understanding the bonding in these interesting complexes and their chemical behavior are continuing.

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Supplementary Material Available: An Experimental Section, ORTEP drawings and complete atomic numbering schemes for 2-2-toluene and 3-toluene, and tables of crystallographic parameters, final positional and anisotropic thermal parameters for non-hydrogen atoms, isotropic thermal parameters, bond lengths, and bond angles for the two structures (16 pages); tables of observed and calculated structure factors (36 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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Institute for Inorganic Chemistry	Michael Veith*
Saarbrücken University	Lothar Stahl
D-6600 Saarbrücken, West Germany	Volker Huch

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Synthesis, Structure, and Reactivity of Cerium(III) Alkoxides. 2. Thermal Decomposition of $Ce(OC'Bu_3)_3$ and the Structure of $[Ce(OCH'Bu_2)_3]_2$

Well-characterized homoleptic metal alkoxides are of considerable interest as precursors to metal oxides. Both thermolytic and hydrolytic methods have been employed to convert alkoxides to the corresponding oxides.¹ Little, however, is known concerning the mechanistic steps involved in the thermal decomposition of metal alkoxides, especially those that lack accessible β -hydrogen atoms.² This contrasts with extensive mechanistic information available for the decomposition of the corresponding metal alkyl

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Figure 1. The molecular structure of 3 drawn with 40% probability thermal ellipsoids. Distances: Ce-O(1), 2.363 (3) Å; Ce-O(2), 2.142 (2) Å; Ce-O(3), 2.152 (3) Å. Angles: O(1)-Ce-O(1'), 74.3 (1)°; O(1)-Ce-O(2), 115.4 (1)°; O(1)-Ce-O(3), 114.0 (1)°; O(2)-Ce-O(3), 113.3 (1)°; O(2)-Ce-O(1'), 107.8 (1)°; O(3)-Ce-O(1'), 126.7 (1)°; Ce-O(1)-Ce', 105.7 (1)°.

species.³ Herein, we report the preliminary results of our study of the thermal decomposition of Ce(OC'Bu₃)₃ (1) and the related [LiOC'Bu₃]_n (2) to the corresponding M(OCH'Bu₂)_n derivatives (M = Ce, Li).⁴ Our study provides a glimpse of the nucleation process that occurs during the formation of a metal oxide from the corresponding alkoxide through the loss of hydrocarbon fragments.

Ce(OC'Bu₃)₃ (1) was synthesized by the reaction of Ce[N- $(SiMe_3)_2$]₃ with HOC'Bu₃ in pentane, and was isolated as an O₂and H₂O-sensitive yellow solid. 1 is monomeric in solution, and although its crystal structure has not been determined, it is safe to assume that it is also monomeric in the solid state. We have previously shown that the compound Ce(2,6-^tBu₂-C₆H₃O)₃ is monomeric in the solid state,⁵ and models indicate that OC'Bu₃ is significantly more bulky than 2,6-^tBu₂-C₆H₃O.

The lithium analogue, 2, was obtained from 'Bu₃COH and "BuLi in alkane solvent. It was assumed to be oligomeric based on the fact that the THF complex $[('Bu_3CO)Li(\mu-THF)]_2$, was shown to be a dimer in the solid state.^{4b}

Thermolysis of solid 1 at 150 °C under vacuum resulted in its decomposition to $[Ce(OCH^{1}Bu_{2})_{3}]_{2}$ (3)⁶ and isobutylene. In addition, a small quantity of ${}^{1}Bu_{2}CO$ was detected, indicating the formation of a cerium(III) hydride. These results are summarized in eq 1. Hydrolysis of a $C_{6}D_{6}$ solution of the solid residue left

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Ce(OC}^{t}\text{Bu}_{3})_{3}(\text{solid}) \xrightarrow[100]{150 \circ C} 90\%}{} \frac{1}{2} \text{ECe(OCH}^{t}\text{Bu}_{2})_{3}]_{2} + 3/-C_{4}\text{H}_{8}} \\ \hline 10\% \\ (1/n) \text{ECe(OCH}^{t}\text{Bu}_{2})_{2}\text{H}]_{n} + \\ 3/-C_{4}\text{H}_{8} + \stackrel{t}{}\text{Bu}_{2}\text{CO} (1) \end{array}$

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 (6) ¹H NMR (C₆D₆) (25 °C) (ppm): 31.5 (br, terminal OCH^{*}Bu₂); 7.0

⁽b) 'H NMR (C₆D₆) (25 °C) (ppm): 31.5 (br, terminal OCH'Bu₂); 7.0 (br, terminal OCH'Bu₂); -18.0 (br, bridging OCH'Bu₂). The resonance due to bridging OCH'Bu₂; could not be located. The broadness of the spectrum was due to the paramagnetic Ce(III) ion. This compound was also independently synthesized by the reaction of Ce[N(SiMe₃)₂]₃ with 3 equiv of HOCH'Bu₂ in pentane.