Title
Synthesis of a "Masked" Terminal Nickel(II) Sulfide by Reductive Deprotection and its Reaction with Nitrous Oxide

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0sh7c7x0

Authors
Hartmann, NJ
Wu, G
Hayton, TW

Publication Date
2016

DOI
10.1002/anie.201508232

Peer reviewed
Synthesis of a “Masked” Terminal Nickel(II) Sulfide via Reductive Deprotection and its Reaction with Nitrous Oxide

Nathaniel J. Hartmann, Guang Wu, and Trevor W. Hayton*

Abstract: Addition of 1 equiv of KSCP_2 to [L^6NiCl] ([L^6 = (2,6-Pr_2C_6H_3)CH_2]Cl, R = Me, Bu) in C_6H_6 results in the formation of [L^6Ni(SCP_2)] (1, R = Me; 2, R = Bu) in good yields. Subsequent reduction of 1 and 2 with 2 equiv of KC_8, in cold (-25 °C) Et_2O, in the presence of 2 equiv of 18-crown-6, results in the formation of “masked” terminal Ni^II sulfides, [K(18-crown-6)][L^6Ni(S)] (3, R = Me; 4, R = Bu), also in good yields. An X-ray crystallographic analysis of these complexes suggests that they feature partial multiple bond character in their Ni-S linkages. Addition of N_2O to a toluene solution of 4 provides [K(18-crown-6)][L^6Ni(N(S=NO)) (6), which features the first example of a thioytonitrile (K^2-SN=NO^2) ligand.

Metal-ligand multiple bonding in the late metals (groups 9, 10, 11) is relatively rare. This observation can be rationalized by the “oxo wall” concept,[3] which postulates that a tetragonal complex with a O^6 configuration (or greater) cannot form stable multiple bonds because of occupation of the M=E-s* orbitals. While no exceptions to the “oxo wall” concept are currently known, it can be circumvented by reducing the coordination number at the metal center. For example, two late metal oxides have been reported, namely [IrO(Mes)_3] (Mes = 2,4,6-Me_3C_6H_2) and [PtO(PCN)] (PCN = CH_2.CH_2.(Pt(Pr(tBu))_2(CH_2.CH_2.NMe_2)), and both feature four coordinate geometries.[4,5] Two recently isolated Ir nitride complexes also feature four coordinate geometries.[6,7] Similarly, a handful of isolable cobalt, nickel, and copper nitrides are known, such as [[Me_2N]Co(NAd)] (Me_2N = (2,6-Me_3C_6H_2)NC(Me)_2), [[dtepe]Ni(N(2,6-Pr_2C_6H_3)] (dtepe = PBu_3CH_2CH_2CH_2P(Bu)_2), [[(dippe)Ni(N(2,6-(Me_3C_6H_2))] and [[Me_2NN]Cu] ((N-Ad)] (Me_2N = (2,6-Me_3C_6H_2)NC(Me)_2), which also feature low coordination numbers (2-4).[6,11] Also of note are the closely related nickel carbene and phosphinite complexes, [[(dippe)Ni(N)] (E = CPh_3, P(2,6-Me_3C_6H_2)), reported by Hillhouse and co-workers.[12,13] This class of materials is highly reactive and is capable of effecting CO oxidation, C-H activation, and [2+2] cycloaddition, demonstrating their utility for small molecule activation.[14-25]

In contrast to the above-mentioned success with C, O, N, and P-donor multiple bonds, attempts to synthesize a stable late metal terminal sulfide have been unsuccessful. For example, Dieck and co-workers postulated that reaction of [L^6Ni(N)] ([L^6 = (2,6-Pr_2C_6H_3)NC(R)] (R = Me) with Ph_3P resulted in transient formation of [L^6Ni(S)], but it rapidly dimerizes to form a bisulfide complex.[26] Similarly, Jones and co-workers reported the transient formation of [(dipepe)Ni(S)], which could be trapped by a variety of nitrones.[27]

Recently, we reported the synthesis of a Th^V sulfide complex, [K(18-crown-6)][Th(S)(NR_2)] (R = SiMe_3), via reductive removal of the trityl protecting group.[28] Building on this work, we next attempted to apply this “reductive deprotection” reaction to the synthesis of an isolable late metal terminal sulfide. Herein, we report the synthesis of a “masked” terminal Ni^II sulfide and describe its reactivity with nitrous oxide.

Addition of 1 equiv of KSCP_2 to [L^6NiCl] (R = Me, Bu)[29] in C_6H_6 results in the formation of [L^6Ni(SCP_2)] (1, R = Me; 2, R = Bu) (Scheme 1). Their formulations were confirmed by elemental analysis and X-ray crystallography (full structural details can be found in the Supporting Information). Moreover, their ^1H NMR spectra are similar to those reported for other Ni^II β-diketiminate thiolate complexes, such as [L^6Ni(SPh)] and [L^6Ni(SEt)].[30,31]

Subsequent reduction of 1 and 2 with 2 equiv of KC_8, in cold (-25 °C) Et_2O, in the presence of 2 equiv of 18-crown-6, results in the formation of [K(18-crown-6)][L^6Ni(S)] (3, R = Me; 4, R = Bu). Complex 3 can be isolated as dark green blocks from hexanes/C_6H_6 in 66% yield, while complex 4 can be isolated as dark brown plates from toluene/isooctane in 88% yield (Scheme 1). Similarly, use of 2,2,2-cryptand in place of 18-crown-6 affords [K(2,2,2-cryptand)][L^6Ni(S)] (5), which can be isolated as brown needles in 89% yield after crystallization from hexanes (Scheme 1). The syntheses of 3, 4, and 5 also produce one equiv of [K(L)][CPh_3] (L = 18-crown-6, 2,2,2-cryptand), which precipitates from the reaction mixture as a bright red solid that can be separated from the Ni-containing products via filtration (Scheme 1). Interestingly, C-S bond cleavage has been observed previously in a Ni tritylthiolate complex.[32] For example, Riordan and co-workers reported the formation of [PhB(2,6-SBu_2)Ni]((μ-η^2,η^2-S_2) and -CPh_3 upon thermal decomposition of [(PhB(2,6-SB=BU)Ni(SCP_2)], however, there is no evidence for the generation of a terminal sulfide in this reaction.

[1] N. J. Hartmann, Dr. G. Wu, Prof. Dr. T. W. Hayton
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106
E-mail: hayton@chem.ucsb.edu

Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/anie.200000000.
The formulations of complexes 3, 4, and 5 were confirmed through elemental analysis, $^1$H NMR spectroscopy, and X-ray crystallography. The solid-state structures of 4 and 5 are shown in Figure 1, while selected metrical parameters can be found in Table 1. Complexes 3, 4, and 5 feature identical coordination environments about their Ni centers. In the solid state, each exhibits a planar $\Sigma(L-Ni-L)$ ~ 360$^\circ$, Y-shaped geometry. The Ni-S bond lengths in 3-5 range from 2.0635(6)-2.0843(1) Å. All three complexes feature long S-K interactions, which range from 3.00(4)-3.3795(1) Å. Not surprisingly, complex 5, which features the strongest K$^+$ chelator (2,2,2-cryptand), exhibits the longest S-K interaction. Interestingly, the Ni-S-K angles vary widely, from 153.73(3)$^\circ$ (for 3) to 177.9(1)$^\circ$ (for 4), a disparity we ascribe to crystal packing. Also of note, complex 4 exists as a dimer in the solid state; its monomer units are connected via bridging interaction between the [K(18-crown-6)]$^+$ cations (Figure 1). Finally, the Ni-N distances in 3-5 are typical of those found in other three-coordinate Ni$^{II}$ diketiminate complexes.  

The Ni-S bond lengths in complexes 3, 4, and 5 are amongst the shortest known, and are intermediate between the adduct cation-sulfur single (2.13 Å) and double bonds (1.95 Å). For comparison, [L$^{II}$Ni]$_2$(μ-S)$_2$ possesses comparable Ni-S bond lengths of 2.0631(7), 2.0972(6), and 2.0714(4) Å, respectively, despite each possessing a bridging S$^2$ ligand. Overall, this suggests similar magnitudes of $\pi$-bonding in both classes of materials.  

### Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths and Angles for the Nickel(II) Sulfide Complexes 3, 4, and 5.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bond (Å) / Angle (°)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ni-S1</td>
<td>2.0635(6)</td>
<td>2.0643(2)</td>
<td>2.0843(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-K1</td>
<td>3.1212(7)</td>
<td>3.094(1)</td>
<td>3.3795(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-N (av.)</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>1.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The combined characterization data for complexes 3-5 reveal that the S-K interaction is conserved in both solution and the solid state. However, preliminary reactivity data suggest that the S-K interaction is quite labile, permitting these complexes to behave as “masked” terminal sulfides. For example, exposure of complex 4 to an atmosphere of nitrous oxide (N$_2$O) results in a rapid color change from dark brown to yellow. Isolation of the resulting product via crystallization from
troleum/isooctane provides [K(18-crown-6)][L$^{[5]}$Ni(SN=NO)] (6) as an orange crystalline solid in 62% yield (eq 1). Complex 6 crystallizes in the triclinic space group P-1, and its solid state molecular structure is shown in Figure 2. Complex 6 features an unprecedented $k^2$-thiohyponitrite ([SN=NO]$^{[6]}$) ligand, formed by [3 + 2] cycloaddition of N$_2$O across the Ni-S bond. The S-N and O-N distances in the [SN=NO]$^{[5]}$ moiety are 1.787(6) Å and 1.308(1) Å, respectively, and are suggestive of single bonds, while the N-N bond length of 1.154(9) Å is indicative of a double bond. These parameters are consistent with the presence of a dianionic hyponitrite moiety, which, in combination with the diamagnetism of 6, as revealed by its $^1$H NMR spectrum (see SI), is consistent with the anticipated Ni$^{II}$ oxidation state assignment.

In summary, cleavage of the C-S bond in [L$^{[5]}$Ni(SC$_2$H$_5$)] by reductive deprotection allows access to a family of "masked" terminal Ni$^{II}$ sulfides, namely [K(L)]([L$^{[5]}$]Ni(S)]. The Ni-S distances in this class of materials are amongst the shortest observed, suggesting the presence of partial multiple bond character. [K(18-crown-6)][L$^{[5]}$Ni(S)] reacts with N$_2$O to form a novel thio-hyponitrite complex, [K(18-crown-6)][L$^{[5]}$Ni(SN=NO)], confirming the lability of the S-K interaction. Going forward, we will continue to explore the small molecule reactivity of this class of complexes. In addition, we will target the synthesis of their oxygen congeners.

Acknowledgements

We thank the National Science Foundation (CHE 1361654) for financial support of this work. This research made use of the SQUID Magnetometer of the Materials Research Laboratory, an NSF MRSEC (DMR 1121053), and the 400 MHz NMR Spectrometer of the Chemistry Department, an NIH SIG (2S10Od012077-01A1).

Keywords: Nickel • Nitrogen Oxides • Protecting Group • Sulfide

Late metal sulfides: Reductive deprotection of β-diketinate supported nickel tritythiolates results in the formation of the first "masked" terminal nickel sulfide complexes. Surprisingly, 4 reacts with nitrous oxide (N₂O) via [3 + 2] cycloaddition across the Ni-S bond to form an unprecedented cis-thiohyponitrite complex (6).