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Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4wp9w7jh

Journal
Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry, 28(3)

ISSN
0894-3230

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Publication Date
2015

DOI
10.1002/poc.3356

Peer reviewed
Structure and dynamics in unsymmetrically substituted five-coordinate iridacyclopentadiene complexes†

Kim K. Baldridgea*, Jay S. Siegeland Joseph M. O’Connorb**

The buta-1,3-dien-1,4-diy1 ligand is important as both a reactive ligand in alkyne cyclotrimerization reactions[3] and as a “spectator” ligand[4] in transition metal catalysts. Considerable attention has therefore been directed toward understanding the structure, properties, and reactivity of metallacyclopentadiene complexes. Interest in iridacyclopentadienes dates from Collman’s synthesis of five-coordinate [(PPh3)2Ir(CR = CRCR = CR|Cl)] (1, R = CO2CH3),[5] which was later shown to exist in the solid state as a distorted trigonal bipyramidal structure.[6] Related complexes, such as [(PPh3)2Ir(biph|Cl) (2, biph = biphenyl-2,2’-diyl)],[5] also exist in the solid state as distorted trigonal bipyramidal structures.[5]

Maseras, Eisenstein, and Crabtree have defined the parameter $\phi = [1/2(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) – \omega_1]$, the deviation of five-coordinate metallacyclopentadiene structures from an ideal Y-geometry, where $\phi = [1/2(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) – \omega_1]$, $\omega_1 = C_{\text{trans}} – Ir – X$ angle and $\omega_2 = C_{\text{trans}} – Ir – X$ angle (Fig. 2).[7] The symmetrically substituted complexes 1 and 2 exhibit Y/T-geometries in the solid state with $\phi = 5^\circ$ and 10°, respectively.

In order to further develop the chemistry of iridacyclopentadienes[8] we sought to establish the structures and properties of iridacycles in which the α-carbons (C1, C4) within a buta-1,3-dien-1,4-diy1 ligand bear different substituents. Here we report M06-2X/Def2-TZVPP density functional theory computations on the prototype metallacycle systems represented by structures 3 – 5 (Fig. 3). The results reveal a significant structural dependence on both the nature of the metallacycle substituents and the nature of the Y’1 ligand (halido or hydrido). In the case of the hydrido complexes, 3-H – 5-H, double well potentials are identified for the wag motion of the hydrido ligand within the plane of metallacycle ring.

For all iridacyclopentadiene complexes described herein the metallacycle ring is planar and the buta-1,3-dien-1,4-diy1 ligand exhibits alternating single [C(2) – C(3)] and double bond [C(1) – C(2) and C(3) – C(4)] lengths. In the case of the symmetric iridium–chlorido systems, 3-Cl and 4-Cl, the chlorido ligand is located within the plane of the metallacycle ring, and the calculated minimum energy structures are of pure Y geometry, with $\phi = 0^\circ$ (indicated as 3-Cl-I and 4-Cl-I in Table 1).[9] The potential energy surface for these chlorido structures is very flat. In particular, twisting about the Ir–PH3 bonds generates nearly identical energy structures with essentially no energetic cost. The Ir – Cl bond distance in 3-Cl-I (2.421 Å) is 0.032 Å longer than in 4-Cl-I (2.389 Å), consistent with a higher degree of donation by the chlorido ligand in the complex bearing the more electronegative fluorine ring substituents. Alternative Y/T- or pure T-structures were not found; however, in the case of 4-Cl a higher energy minima corresponding to a distorted trigonal bipyramid structure with cis PH3 ligands was located at 5.2 kcal higher energy (4-Cl-IV, Table 1).

For the unsymmetrically substituted metallacycle 5-Cl the minimum energy structure is best described as a Y/T-structure (5-Cl-III) with C(1) – Ir – Cl and C(4) – Ir – Cl angles...

Keywords: iridacyclopentadiene; metallacyclopentadiene; computation; dynamics; hydrido
of 152.1° and 131.5°, and $\phi = 10.3^\circ$ (Fig. 4). The chlorido ligand is located within the metallacycle ring mean plane but displaced away from the metallacycle carbon (Cl) bearing a fluorine substituent. In all attempts to find a minimum with the chlorido ligand on the side nearest the fluorine ring substituent, the starting structure optimizes to the other form to alleviate the steric repulsion between a fluorine lone pair and a chlorido ligand lone pair. As was the case for 4-Cl, a distorted trigonal bipyramidal structure with cis-PH$_3$ ligands, was located at higher energy (5-Cl-IV, 5.5 kcal). This higher energy isomer has the metallacycle carbon bearing the fluorine substituent in an axial position and metallacycle carbon (C4) bearing the hydrogen substituent in the equatorial plane (Fig. 4, right panel). The distorted trigonal bipyramidal structures 4-Cl-IV and 5-Cl-IV exhibit remarkably acute equatorial P – Ir – C angles of 74.3° and 74.7°, respectively. Related non-metallacycle structures have been observed previously for 5-coordinate iridium complexes in which the acute angle within the equatorial plane is opposite a pi-donor ligand within the equatorial plane is opposite a pi-donor ligand for 5-coordinate iridium complexes in which the acute angle within the equatorial plane is opposite a pi-donor ligand.

Eisenstein has previously noted that replacing a weak sigma-donor, good pi-donor chlorido ligand in Ir(biph)Cl (PH$_3$)$_2$ with a hydrido ligand converts the Y-structure to a T-structure. In the metallacycles examined here, changing the nature of the X ligand from chlorido to hydrido leads to the symmetric iridium systems, 3-H and 4-H, which both adopt homomeric Cs symmetric ground state structures, as shown in Table 1: 3-H/3-H-III and 4-H/4-H-III, respectively. For both complexes, the ground state structures are separated by $C_{2v}$ symmetric transition states (3-H-I and 4-H-I), leading to a symmetric double well potential for the hydrido wag motion within the mean plane of the metallacycle ring (Fig. 5). The barrier to interconversion from the two identical forms on the respective potential surfaces is essentially the same (2.1 vs 1.8 kcal/mol, respectively) whether the peripheral ring substituents are hydrogen or fluorine (Fig. 5, left panel).

The unsymmetric complex, 5-H, introduces a much different minimum energy structure (5-H-V) with cis-phosphine ligands and the hydrido ligand trans to a phosphine (Fig. 6). In addition, there are now three structures with the hydrido ligand positioned within the metallacycle ring plane (5-H-II, 5-H-II', 5-H-III), none of which is a pure Y-structure. Two of these structures, 5-H-II and 5-H-III, are essentially T-structures with nearly identical $\phi$ values of 39.2° and 39.4°, respectively. The structure with the hydrido ligand proximal to fluorine $F_{pro}$ (5-H-II) is 2.7 kcal higher in energy than the isomer with the hydrido ligand proximal to a ring hydrogen $H_{pro}$ (5-H-III). The third structure with the hydrido ligand located in the metallacycle plane (5-H-II', 6.3 kcal) is the transition state structure connecting 5-H-II and 5-H-III. As such, an unsymmetric double well potential is obtained for the hydrido wag motion in 5-H, the depths of the well depending on the degree of steric and electronic interactions in the structure (Fig. 5). The hydrido wag transition state structure, separating the two minima, gives a barrier of 3.6 kcal from the lowest energy structure, and only 0.9 kcal/mol from the higher energy structure.

In summary, these results indicate that for five-coordinate iridacyclopentadiene–chlorido complexes, Y/T and T-structures 3-Ch/4-Ch-I and 3-Ch/4-Ch-II are high in energy compared to the pure Y-structures 3-Ch/4-Ch-I, as previously observed in the calculations of Eisenstein on 3-Cl. However, the introduction of an unsymmetrically substituted ring system, as in 5-Cl, leads to

Figure 1. Representative examples of structurally characterized five-coordinate iridacyclopentadienes

Figure 2. The position of the X ligand within the equatorial plane is defined by the parameter $\phi$

Figure 3. Metallacyclopentadiene complexes used in the current study
unfavorable fluoride–chlorido interactions that destabilize the Y-structure in favor of a Y/T-structure ($\phi = 10.3^\circ$). Replacement of the chlorido ligand by hydrido favors T-structures ($\phi = 39–40^\circ$), as in 3-H-II/III and 4-H-II/III, and a shallow double well potential exists for the hydrido ligand wag motion within the plane of the metallacycle ring. For the unsymmetrically substituted metallacycle–hydrido complex 5-H an unsymmetrical double well potential exists with T-structures 5-H-II and 5-H-III interconverting via the Y/T-structure 5-H-II’. Efforts are underway to prepare unsymmetrically substituted iridacyclopentadiene-chlorido and hydrido complexes with bulky ring substituents in order to establish structure–selectivity relationships for addition of a sixth ligand at iridium.

COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

The conformational analyses of the molecular systems described in this study, including structural and orbital arrangements as well as property calculations, were carried out using the GAMESS\textsuperscript{[12]} software package. The hybrid metal density functional with kinetic energy density gradient, M06-2X\textsuperscript{[13,14]}, was used together with the Def2-TZVPP basis set.\textsuperscript{[15]} Full geometry optimizations were performed and uniquely characterized via second derivatives (Hessian) analysis to determine the number of imaginary frequencies (0 = minima; 1 = transition state), and effects of zero point energy. Visualization and analysis of structural and property results were obtained using Avagadro\textsuperscript{[16]} and WEBMO.\textsuperscript{[17]}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complexes</th>
<th>I (Y-structure)</th>
<th>II (Y/T- or T-structure)</th>
<th>III (Y/T- or T-structure)</th>
<th>IV (cis-PH$_3$-structure)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>No.</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>Y’</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-H</td>
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</table>

Figure 4. M06-2X/Def2-TZVPP computational results for 5-Cl. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (deg) for 5-Cl-III: Ir – Cl 2.406, Ir – C(1) 1.986, Ir – C(4) 2.006, C(1) – C(2) 1.339, C(2) – C(3) 1.449, C(3) – C(4) 1.339; C1 – Ir – C(l) 152.1, C(4) – Ir – Cl 131.5. For 5-Cl-IV: Ir – Cl 2.361, Ir – C(1) 2.027, Ir – C(4) 2.014, C(1) – C(2) 1.343, C(2) – C(3) 1.447, C(3) – C(4) 1.341; P(1) – Ir – C(4) 74.7, Ir – P(1) 155.7, Cl – Ir – C(4) 129.1, P(1) – Ir – P(2) 98.9

Figure 5. Double-Well Potentials for metallacycle hydrido complexes 3-H–5-H

Table 1. M06-2X/Def2-TZVPP computational results for iridium prototype systems 3 – 5
We thank the NSF (grant CHE-1214024) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (KKB) for support of this work. This article is published in Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry as a special issue honoring Prof. Charles L. Perrin: scholar, mentor, and friend.

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\( \phi = 0 \) (see ref. 7).


[9] Previous calculations by Eisenstein on the model complex \( \left[ \text{PH}_{4}\right]\left[\text{IrCl}_{4}\right] \) at the B3LYP/BASIS SET level of theory indicated a pure Y-structure with

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