Mixed sandwiches of group 3 elements: synthesis and UPS studies of pentamethylcyclopentadienylcyclooctatetraene-scandium, -yttrium and -lanthanum

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Abstract

The mixed sandwich complexes Cp*MCOT (Cp* = \( \eta^5 \)-C\(_5\)Me\(_5\); M = Sc, Y, La; COT = \( \eta^8 \)-C\(_8\)H\(_8\)) have been prepared and characterized. IR spectra indicate that in the solid state the La compound is polymeric (Cp*LaCOT)_n, with cyclotetraene ligands. The complexes are strong Lewis acids and form bridging adducts Cp*MCOT · THF. For M = La the adduct has been isolated. The UPS spectra of Cp*MCOT are nearly identical with only minor differences in the ionizations from the highest \( e_2 \) (COT) and \( e_1 \) (Cp*) orbitals; this is interpreted as a strong indication that the bonding in the complexes is virtually completely ionic.

Introduction

Recent UPS studies of mixed sandwich compounds of group 4 elements Cp*MCHT and Cp*MCOT (Cp* = \( \eta^5 \)-C\(_5\)Me\(_5\); M = Ti, Zr, Hf; CHT = \( \eta^7 \)-C\(_7\)H\(_7\); COT = \( \eta^8 \)-C\(_8\)H\(_8\)) showed remarkably metal-independent ionization energies of electrons from HOMO’s with symmetry type \( e_1 \) and \( e_2 \). This suggests strongly dominant ionic bonding for these sandwiches with negatively charged carbocyclic rings, but consideration of intensities viz. the ratios of bands using He(I) or He(II) radiation, indicated a very substantial metal character for the C\(_n\)H\(_n\) ligand-based \( e_2 \) ionization [1]. This rather paradoxical observation led us to study analogous group 3 sandwiches Cp*MCOT, where the metals are more electropositive than their group 4 analogues [2].
Experimental

All the compounds described in this paper are extremely air sensitive. Experiments were carried out under nitrogen by standard inert gas techniques. Solvents (pentane, ether, THF) were distilled from Na/K/benzophenone. Elemental analyses were carried out at the Microanalytical Department of the University of Groningen under the supervision of Mr. A.F. Hamminga. IR spectra (Nujol/KBr) were recorded on a Pye-Unicam SP3-300 spectrometer, NMR spectra on a Perkin-Elmer R-24B ($^1$H, 60 MHz) and a Nicolet NT200 ($^{13}$C, 50.3 MHz) spectrometer. The photoelectron spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer PS18 spectrometer equipped with a Helectros Development He(I)/He(II) hollow cathode light source. The spectra were obtained between 100 and 230 °C and calibrated against He, Ar and Xe as internal standards. The starting materials ScCl$_3$·3THF, COTYCl·2THF were made from the oxides or chlorides by published methods [3,4]. Cp*Na·THF was made from Cp*H and NaH and THF as described by Den Haan et al. [5]. Cp*Li was made from Cp*H and BuLi in hexane. COT was purchased from Aldrich and distilled before use. K$_2$COT (ca. 0.3 M solution in THF) was prepared by treating COT with an excess of K in THF at room temperature.

LaCl$_3$·xTHF [6]

La$_2$O$_3$ was dissolved at 0 °C in concentrated hydrochloric acid and the solution was evaporated to dryness in vacuum. The LaCl$_3$·xH$_2$O obtained was finely ground and refluxed with an excess of SOCl$_2$ [7] until SO$_2$ and HCl evolution had stopped, then the remaining SOCl$_2$ was distilled off. The resulting LaCl$_3$ was dried in vacuum and then suspended in THF at room temperature, and the suspension was heated under reflux for 48 h. The LaCl$_3$·xTHF was filtered off, washed with pentane, dried, and stored in ampoules under nitrogen. The products thus obtained contained variable amounts of THF; elemental analyses showed between 1.2-1.5 mol of THF per mol of La for various runs. The procedure described here was performed on ca. 10 mol scale (La$_2$O$_3$), but can be scaled up without problems. Critical steps are (i) the drying of LaCl$_3$·xH$_2$O, which gives a very hard solid, and (ii) the pre-complexation of anhydrous LaCl$_3$ with THF, which must carried out in an excess of THF at or below room temperature to avoid polymerization of THF. Overall yields of LaCl$_3$·xTHF are about 90%.

Cp*ScCOT

To a suspension of 0.9 g (2.45 mmol) of ScCl$_3$·3THF in 35 ml of THF at room temperature was added 8.5 ml of a 0.29 M solution of K$_2$C$_8$H$_8$ in THF. The yellow solution was stirred for 0.75 h then 0.40 g (2.5 mmol) Cp*Na was added. The mixture was stirred for 0.75 h and the solvent then removed in vacuum. The yellow residue was extracted with ether. Concentration and cooling to -80 °C gave off-white crystals. Sublimation of this product (160 °C/0.1 mmHg) gave 0.35 g (1.23 mmol, 50%) of a white crystalline material. Analysis, found (calcd for C$_{18}$H$_{23}$Sc) in %: C, 75.95 (76.04); H, 8.09 (8.15); Sc, 15.83 (15.81). MS: $m/e = 284$ (100%).

Cp*YCOT

Cp*Na (0.65 g, 4.1 mmol) was added at room temperature to a solution of 1.13 g (3.0 mmol) of COTYCl·2THF in 50 ml of ether. The mixture was stirred for 1.5 h
and the solvent then removed in vacuum. The residue was suspended in pentane, the pentane evaporated off, and the residual solid powdered then vacuum sublimed (150°C, 0.1 mmHg) to give 0.34 g (1.04 mmol, 35%) of white crystals of Cp*YCOT. Analysis, found (calcd for C_{18}H_{23}Y) in %: C, 66.07 (65.85); H, 7.20 (7.06); Y, 27.21 (27.08).

Fig. 1. IR spectra (Nujol) of (a) Cp*ScCOT, (b) Cp*YCOT, (c) (Cp*LaCOT)$_n$ and (d) Cp* LaCOT-THF.
Table 1

$^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR data for Cp*M COT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>$^1$H a</th>
<th>$^{13}$C b</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cp*</td>
<td>C$_8$H$_8$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cp*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cp*ScCOT</td>
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<td>6.30 (8H)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cp*YCOT</td>
<td>1.66 (15H)</td>
<td>6.30 (8H)</td>
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<td>Cp*LaCOT</td>
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<td>6.30 (8H)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cp*LaCOT·THF</td>
<td>1.77 (15H)</td>
<td>6.32 (8H)</td>
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</table>

$^a$ In C$_6$D$_6$, shifts in ppm relative to residual protons in solvent (δ 7.15 ppm), 30 °C. $^b$ In C$_6$D$_6$, shifts in ppm relative to solvent signal (δ 127.96 ppm), 20 °C, multiplicity and J(CH) (Hz) between brackets. $^c$ J(YC) 2.8 Hz. $^d$ Not recorded.

$^{Cp*LaCOT}$

A solution of K$_2$C$_8$H$_8$ (6.0 ml, 0.6 M) in THF was added dropwise at room temperature to a suspension of 1.24 g (3.6 mmol) of LaCl$_3$·1.4THF in 50 ml of THF followed by 0.6 g (4.2 mmol) of Cp*Li. After 2 h stirring the solvent was removed in vacuum. The residue was suspended in 50 ml of pentane and the pentane then evaporated off. The yellow powder left was dried in vacuum and sublimation (200-225 °C/10$^{-3}$ mmHg) then gave 0.95 g (2.5 mmol, 70%) of pale-yellow, crystalline Cp*LaCOT. Analysis, found (caled for C$_{18}$H$_{23}$La): C, 57.10 (57.25); H, 6.17 (6.13); La, 36.80 (36.72)%.

$^{Cp*LaCOT} \cdot THF$

Freshly sublimed Cp*LaCOT (0.105 g, 0.28 mmol) was dissolved in 5 ml of THF at room temperature. The solution was cooled to -80 °C, and the off-white crystals that separated were isolated and identified by IR (Fig. 1) and NMR spectroscopy (Table 1).

Results and discussion

The compounds Cp*MCOT (M = Sc, Y, La) form the first complete series of neutral group 3 (mixed) sandwich compounds. As a class they are not new, since analogous cyclopentadienyl complexes CpMCOT (M = Sc, Y) have been described [3,4].

The complexes are easily accessible through metathetical reaction of the metal halide MCl$_3$·nTHF and ring-introducing reagents such as Cp*Na, Cp*Li and K$_2$C$_8$H$_8$. The syntheses reported in this paper were carried out as one-pot reactions in which the reagents were mixed in the appropriate stoichiometry. The order of addition chosen was first K$_2$C$_8$H$_8$ then Cp*Na, but this is not essential; if the order is reversed the yields of Cp*MCOT are about the same. When the synthesis is carried out starting from a well-defined ring containing compound, e.g. COTYC1·2THF, the yield is also essentially the same as in a one-pot reaction. This indicates that the reaction mixtures are good sources of Cp*M and COTM fragments,
respectively, and that if the initial process is formation of other species like \( \text{Cp}^*\text{M}^2 \) derivatives or \([\text{COT}]_2\text{M}\)-anionic complexes, the kinetics of the reverse synproportionation reactions favour the synthesis of mono-ring species.

The complexes \( \text{Cp}^*\text{MCOT} \) are electronically unsaturated 16e compounds and may be expected to coordinate a Lewis base to give 18e adducts \( \text{Cp}^*\text{MCOT} \cdot \text{L} \), and is observed for all the metals. For \( \text{M} = \text{La} \) the THF adduct was isolated and characterized (IR, NMR). The THF is loosely complexed, and heating the complexes in vacuum gives the Lewis-base free sandwiches \( \text{Cp}^*\text{MCOT} \). Sublimation is an excellent method for obtaining the pure complexes \( \text{Cp}^*\text{MCOT} \). The scandium and yttrium compounds sublime under conditions (ca. 150 °C/0.1 mmHg) comparable with those reported for mixed sandwiches of group 4 [8]. \( \text{Cp}^*\text{LaCOT} \) is considerably less volatile, and requires more drastic conditions for sublimation (200-225 °C/10⁻³ mmHg). This suggests that the lanthanum compound, in contrast to the scandium and yttrium analogues, is not monomeric in the solid state [9] but associated into either polymeric or oligomeric structures. Solubility differences present the same picture. \( \text{Cp}^*\text{ScCOT} \) and \( \text{Cp}^*\text{YCOT} \) are quite soluble in non-coordinating solvents like pentane and benzene in contrast to \( \text{Cp}^*\text{LaCOT} \). All complexes are very soluble in a basic solvent such as THF. For Y and La, the THF adducts are undoubtedly present in solution, which means that the associates present in solid \( \text{Cp}^*\text{LaCOT} \) have been broken up. An interesting question is which ligands are bridging in the lanthanum sandwich. Association through bridging cyclopentadienyl ligands has been found for several complexes of the 4f-element e.g. \((\text{Cp}_3\text{Pr})_n\) [10], \((\text{Cp}_3\text{La})\) [11], \((\text{Cp}^*_2\text{Yb} \cdot \text{THF})_n\) [12] \((\text{Cp}^*_2 = \eta^8\text{-MeC}_5\text{H}_4\) ). Cyclooctatetraene is also well-known to act as a bridging ligand, e.g. in \([\text{COTNd}_2\text{THF}][\text{Nd}(\text{COT})_2]\) [13] and \((\text{COT})_3\text{Ti}_2\) [14]. IR data indicate that association takes place through the eight-membered ring. When the spectra of the three sandwiches and the adduct \( \text{Cp}^*\text{LaCOT} \cdot \text{THF} \) are compared, the similarities between the scandium and yttrium analogues, the sandwich structure. Furthermore, \( \text{Cp}^*\text{LaCOT} \), though very sparingly soluble, seems to dissolve as a monomer in benzene. The only difference with the two other sandwiches is the \( \text{Cp}^* \) resonance, which is found at slightly higher field. The resonances of \( \text{Cp}^*\text{LaCOT} \cdot \text{THF} \) are considerably shifted in \( \delta^8\)-THF; the \( \text{Cp}^* \) protons are now at lower and the \( \text{C}_8\text{H}_8 \) protons at higher field compared with the corresponding signals from the sandwich itself and from the THF adduct in \( \text{C}_6\text{D}_6 \). The virtual invariance of the \( \text{C}_8\text{H}_8 \) and \( \text{Cp}^* \) protons chemical shifts within the complete series suggests a largely ionic component in the bonding of the ligands. The available \( ^{13}\text{C} \) NMR data are consistent with this view. Unfortunately it is impossible to compare these data with those for the corresponding group 4 compounds since, owing to the paramagnetism of the latter, NMR data are
not available. UPS spectroscopy proves to be a better tool in studying the bonding and charge distribution in these group 3 and group 4 compounds.

**UV-photoelectron spectra**

The He(I) and He(II) UP spectra of Cp*ScCOT and Cp*YCOT are presented in Fig. 2; the vertical ionization energies are summarized in Table 2. A reliable spectrum of Cp*LaCOT could not be obtained, since owing to the low volatility of the compound samples had to be heated (180-220 °C) to give sufficiently intense spectra and at this temperature thermal decomposition occurs and the spectra of mainly decomposition products are seen. In most spectra, however, there is a broad band at about 7.5 eV, which corresponds closely with the band from the other two compounds, and from this we conclude that in the gas phase Cp*LaCOT is a sandwich with the same bonding characteristics as those of Sc and Y. The assignment of the spectra is straightforward on the basis of comparison with those of the corresponding Ti and Zr complexes and with help of the MO-diagram given by Clark and Warren [1,15].

The broad band at about 7-8 eV is a superposition of two ionization peaks which correspond to ionisation from mainly ligand $e_2$(COT) and $e_1$(Cp*) orbitals (assignment tentatively after comparison with CpTiCOT [1]). In the He(II) spectra the intensity of this band is slightly increased relative to the broad ionization band above 10 eV indicating that there is still some mixing with metal d-orbitals. On the

<table>
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<th>Compound</th>
<th>$IE$ (eV) $^a$</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$e_2$(COT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cp*ScCOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cp*YCOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cp*LaCOT</td>
<td>7.23</td>
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</table>

$^a$ ±0.05 eV. $^b$ These ionisations could not be assigned due to presence of thermolysis products.
low energy side of the broad band above 10 eV two shoulders can be seen and are assigned to $e_1(COT)$ and $a_1(Cp^*)$. Upon comparing the ionisations in compounds Cp*MCOT for M = Ti, Zr with those for M = Sc, Y and La, we see that for the latter metals the energies decrease, reflecting the lower electronegativities of the group 3 elements and higher ionicity of the metal-to-ring bonding.

Acknowledgement

We thank Mr. A. Terpstra for recording the photoelectron spectra.

References