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ARTICLE · MAY 2006
DOI: 10.1515/znb-2006-0511

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Anionic Tungsten Carbonyl Complexes Containing Dithiocarboxylate, Dithiocarbamate, and Xanthate Ligands

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Z. Naturforsch. 61b, 570 – 576 (2006); received February 22, 2006

The reaction of Et₄N[W(CO)₅Cl] with sodium dithiobenzoate, ethylxanthate, or various dithiocarbamates gave the corresponding salts Et₄N[W(CO)₄(SSCX)] (X = Ph, NEt₂, N(H)₃-Bu, NPh₂, OEt) which contain the dithio ligand in a chelating bonding mode. Two of them (X = N(H)₃-Bu, NPh₂) were characterized by X-ray crystallography. The tungsten atom resides in the center of a slightly distorted octahedron surrounded by a symmetrically bidentate planar dithio ligand and four CO groups. Reaction with PPh₃ or PMe₃ at elevated temperature gave the tricarbonyl complexes Et₄N[W(CO)₃(PR₃)(SSCX)] and in one case a ring-opened addition product, Et₄N[W(CO)₄(PMe₃)(SC(S)OEt)]. For two of them X-ray structure determinations were carried out.

A comparison of the four structures shows that while the W–C bond length decreases progressively with increasing electron density at the tungsten atom, the W–S and W–P bond lengths remain essentially constant.

Key words: Tungsten, Dithiocarboxylate Complexes, Dithiocarbamate Complexes, Xanthate Complexes, Carbonyl Complexes

Introduction

We have shown recently that certain tungsten carbonyl anions such as [W(CO)₅(CN)]⁻ or the thiolate complexes [W(CO)₅(SR)]⁻ are sufficiently lipophilic to be absorbed by the lipid bilayer membrane of living cells [1–5]. This leads to a change in the dielectric properties of the membrane which can be monitored by a number of methods, most notably the “electrorotation” experiment [6]. Some of the tungsten carbonyl anions exhibit stronger effects and a markedly lower cytotoxicity compared to more conventional anions such as dipicrylamine or tetraphenylborate, which can be very important when in comes to practical applications [7]. In order to gain some insight into the relationship between structure and activity we decided to include tungsten tetracarbonyl complexes of dithiocarboxylates, dithiocarbamates, and xanthates in our studies. The bidentate coordination of these anions was expected to confer improved stability to these systems.

Dithiocarbamates and xanthates have been used extensively as ligands [8]. Their metal complexes are found in applications as diverse as agrochemicals, vulcanization promotors, or analytical reagents [9]. Dithiocarbamate complexes of the group 6 metals fall into roughly three categories: High oxidation state (d⁰, d¹, d²) complexes with additional π donor (mostly oxo or sulfido) ligands [10–15], medium oxidation state (d³) complexes with additional π acceptor (carbonyl, alkyn) ligands [16–24], and anionic d⁶ carbonyl complexes [25–31]. Similar compounds containing xanthates [25, 27, 28, 32] or dithiocarboxylates [33–35] as ligands have also been reported in the literature. In the d⁶ complexes the dithio anions may act as either mono- or chelating bidentate ligands wheras the chelating mode prevails for the electronic configurations d⁰ – d⁴.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis

Tetraethylammonium-chloropentacarbonyltungstate [36] reacts readily with the sodium salts of the various dithioanions to give the tetracarbonyltungstates 1 – 3 (eq (1)).

Monitoring the progress of the reaction by infrared spectroscopy showed that the corresponding
pentacarbonyl anions were involved as intermediates, but no particular effort was made to isolate them. The products were obtained as microcrystalline, air-stable compounds. The dithiobenzoate complex 1 has a deep purple color while the dithiocarbamate and xanthate derivatives are bright yellow. 2a had previously been synthesized in 55% yield directly from \([\text{W(CO)}_6], \text{Et}_4\text{NCl}\) and sodium-diethyldithiocarbamate [30]. Due to their ionic structure, 1–3 are soluble only in polar organic solvents such as THF, acetone, dichloromethane or acetonitrile. Their infrared spectra in the CO stretching region (Table 1) display the expected four bands which are shifted to low wavenumbers as a result of the negative charge. The 13C NMR signals of the carbonyl groups (Table 2) are shifted to low field and exhibit the expected couplings with 183W [34].

**CO/PR₃ exchange**

The reactions of 2a and 3 with triphenylphosphine and trimethylphosphine were checked in order to test the lability of the ligands at tungsten and to increase the lipophilicity of the anion. In contrast to an earlier notion [37] we found that 2a and 3 do react with triphenylphosphine to give the tricarbonyl complexes 4a and 5 (eq. (2)). 4a had previously been obtained from \([\text{W(CO)}_3(\text{py})_3], \text{PPH}_3\) and sodium-diethylthiocarbamate [30]. Due to their ionic structure, 1–3 are soluble only in polar organic solvents such as THF, acetone, dichloromethane or acetonitrile. Their infrared spectra in the CO stretching region (Table 1) display the expected four bands which are shifted to low wavenumbers as a result of the negative charge. The 13C NMR signals of the carbonyl groups (Table 2) are shifted to low field and exhibit the expected couplings with 183W [34].

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The phospine derivatives are again yellow, air-stable compounds which are, like their precursor complexes, also soluble in polar solvents. That 6 is a tetracarbonyl complex is immediately obvious from its infrared spectrum which exhibits bands at 1998, 1882, 1866 and 1824 cm⁻¹, very similar to the spectra of 1–3 or the complexes \(\text{Et}_4\text{N}[\text{W(CO)}_4(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]\) [38] to which it might be reasonably compared. The tricarbonyl complexes 4a, 4b, and 5 have still lower CO frequencies. The 13C resonances of the CO ligands are shifted even further downfield and exhibit the requisite 31P–13C couplings (Table 3). Interestingly, and perhaps disappointingly, the chemical shift of the dithiocar-
bamate and xanthate carbon changes very little upon CO/PR₃ exchange and, at least when compounds 5 and 6 are compared, does not allow any distinction between mono- and bidentate coordination.

**Structures**

The structures of the anions of 2b (Fig. 1), 2c (Fig. 2), 4a (Fig. 3), and 5 (Fig. 4) exhibit a fairly regular octahedral coordination of the tungsten atom. Deviations arise from the small bite angle of the bidentate sulfur ligand which restricts the S–W–S angle to 68°. The trans pair of ligands is slightly bent away from the coordinated dithio ligand such that the C–W–C (trans) angles in 2b and 2c, and the P–W–C (trans) angles in 4a and 5, are reduced to values between 171 and 177°. The W–S bond lengths are close to those in 2a [30], and the W–P bond lengths in 4a and 5 are almost identical to those in the neutral complex [W(CO)₅(PPh₃)] [39]. The dithio ligands are coordinated symmetrically, i.e. the two W–S and C–S bond lengths in each complex are almost identical. The four-membered rings are nearly planar, the largest deviation is caused by close packing of the N(H)₄Bu group against the Et₄N⁺ cation. The phosphine substitution products 4a and 5 have even smaller interplanar angles [9.0(3)° and 4.0(2)°], respectively. In these cases the dithio ligands are bent away from the PPh₃ ligand indicating that the distortion is caused by steric repulsion. In 2b, 4a and 5 the dithio
ligands are almost perfectly planar. In 2c the dihedral angles around the C(5)–N(1) bond deviate significantly from the expected 0 or 180°, certainly as a result of the bulkiness of the two phenyl groups.

**Conclusions**

The synthesis of anionic tungsten carbonyl complexes designed for their possible application as reagents to modify the dielectric properties of lipid membranes was the principal goal of this work. In our hands, the reaction of Et₄N[W(CO)₅Cl] with salts of the anionic ligands gave cleaner products than any other method [25–35, 37]. The characterization of these compounds by IR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy (Tables 1, 2) gave the expected results. The data listed in Table 1 show that the dithiocarbamate ligands are even better electron donors than dithiobenzoate or ethylxanthate. This points to a contribution of a resonance structure with a C=N double bond (eq. (4)) which is in line with the observed NMR resonance of this C atom at higher field (Table 2) and also with the planar geometry around the N atom.

Some regular geometric trends emerge when the structures of 2c and 4a are compared with those of their parent compounds [W(CO)₅] [40] and [W(CO)₅(PPh₃)] [39]. With successive replacement of CO groups by the better donors PPh₃ or dithiocarbamate, the W–C bonds become shorter due to the increased back donation into the π* levels of the remaining CO ligands. This contraction is roughly three times as big for the W–C bonds trans to the new ligand than those cis (e.g. –4.2 vs. –1.5 pm for the pair [W(CO)₆] and [W(CO)₅(PPh₃)], and –9.8 vs. –3.3 pm for the pair [W(CO)₆] and 2c). This rule of thumb even holds for the pair 2c/4a, where the W–C bond trans to P (and cis to S) contracts by –5.0 pm while the other two shrink only by –1.5 pm. The interrelation of M–C and M–P bond lengths and electron density has been noted quite some time ago and is usually discussed within a σ/π bonding model [41, 42]. The similarity of the W–P bond lengths of [W(CO)₅(PPh₃)], 4a, and 5 then indicates that σ bonding effects, which should give rise to a lengthening of the W–P bond upon replacing two CO ligands by a dithiocarbamate or xanthate, and π bonding effects, which should lead to a contraction, almost cancel. This is perfectly in line with the notion that PR₃ ligands are to some degree capable of undergoing π interactions with low-valent transition metal complexes [43].

**Experimental Section**

All experiments were carried out in Schlenk tubes under an atmosphere of nitrogen using suitably purified solvents. – IR: Bruker IFS 25. – ¹H NMR: Bruker AMX 400, Jeol JNM-LA 300, δ values relative to TMS. The signals of the Et₄N⁺ cation [δ = 1.35 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 53.0 (s, 3H, NCH₂CH₃)] are similar for all compounds and have therefore been omitted from the lists of spectral data. – ¹³C NMR: Bruker AMX 400, Jeol JNM-LA 300, δ val-
Table 4. Details of the structure determinations of compounds 2b, 2c, 4a, and 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Empirical formula</th>
<th>Formula mass</th>
<th>Crystal colour/habit</th>
<th>Crystal system</th>
<th>Space group</th>
<th>a [Å]</th>
<th>b [Å]</th>
<th>c [Å]</th>
<th>α [°]</th>
<th>β [°]</th>
<th>γ [°]</th>
<th>V [Å³]</th>
<th>D (g cm⁻³)</th>
<th>Dcalc (g cm⁻³)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2b</td>
<td>C₇₂H₆₂N₂O₅S₂W</td>
<td>574.42</td>
<td>yellow plate</td>
<td>monoclinic</td>
<td>P2₁/c</td>
<td>11.0161(11)</td>
<td>10.8057(7)</td>
<td>16.7423(11)</td>
<td>88.127(1)</td>
<td>84.885(1)</td>
<td>100.513(1)</td>
<td>248.1 (s, SS)</td>
<td>4.470</td>
<td>3.565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2c</td>
<td>C₇₂H₆₂N₂O₅S₂W</td>
<td>670.51</td>
<td>orange block</td>
<td>triclinic</td>
<td>P1</td>
<td>11.989(12)</td>
<td>15.1922(10)</td>
<td>17.6423(11)</td>
<td>81.0042(7)</td>
<td>80.161(1)</td>
<td>100.513(1)</td>
<td>2696.8(3)</td>
<td>5.371</td>
<td>4.295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a</td>
<td>C₇₄H₈₄N₃O₇S₄W</td>
<td>808.70</td>
<td>yellow prism</td>
<td>triclinic</td>
<td>P1</td>
<td>19.889(12)</td>
<td>21.2534(14)</td>
<td>21.2534(14)</td>
<td>100.513(1)</td>
<td>80.161(1)</td>
<td>100.513(1)</td>
<td>3241.7(4)</td>
<td>4.508</td>
<td>4.295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>C₇₂H₆₂N₂O₅S₂W</td>
<td>781.63</td>
<td>yellow plate</td>
<td>monoclinic</td>
<td>P2₁/c</td>
<td>11.0161(11)</td>
<td>10.8057(7)</td>
<td>16.7423(11)</td>
<td>88.127(1)</td>
<td>84.885(1)</td>
<td>100.513(1)</td>
<td>248.1 (s, SS)</td>
<td>4.470</td>
<td>3.565</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A solution of Et₄N[W(CO)₅Cl] (980 mg, 2.00 mmol) and sodium dithiocarbamate or xanthate (2.05 mmol) in acetonitrile (20 ml) was heated under reflux for 2 h. Gas evolution was observed, and the yellow solution turned dark brown.

The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue dissolved in THF/acetone 1:1 and filtered over a layer of silica gel (1 cm) and celite (5 cm). The yellow-brown filtrate was evaporated to dryness and the residue washed with diethyl ether.

2a: Yield 0.89 g (78%), yellow powder. – M. p. 68 °C (dec). – ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆, 20 °C): δ = 1.19 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6 H, NCH₂CH₃), 3.67 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 4 H, NCH₂CH₂). – ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-d₆, 20 °C): δ = 2.13 (s, CH₃), 28.6 (s, CH₃), 126.6 (s, CH₃), 124.4 (s, CH₃), 175.2 (s, C=O). – δ = 12.6 (s, NCH₂CH₃), 44.2 (s, NCH₂CH₂), 204.6 (s, J(W, C) = 128 Hz, cis-CO), 214.0 (s, J(W, C) = 172 Hz, trans-CO), 214.5 (s, SSCN), – C₉H₆₃N₃O₄S₂W (574.42): calc. C 35.55, H 5.26, N 4.88, S 11.16; found C 35.35, H 5.29, N 4.95, S 11.05.

2b: Yield 0.77 g (67%), brown powder. – M. p. 55 °C (dec). – ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆, 20 °C): δ = 2.13 (s, CH₃), 28.6 (s, CH₃), 126.6 (s, CH₃), 124.4 (s, CH₃), 175.2 (s, C=O). – δ = 12.6 (s, NCH₂CH₃), NH signal not detected. – ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-d₆, 20 °C): δ = 22.8 (s, NCH(CH₃)₂), 55.3 (s, NCH₂CH₃), 204.8 (s, J(W, C) = 128 Hz, cis-CO),
214.2 (s, trans-CO), 217.8 (s, SSCN). – C\textsubscript{17}H\textsubscript{30}N\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4}S\textsubscript{2}W (574.42); calcd. C 35.55, H 5.26, N 4.88, S 11.16; found C 35.24, H 4.84, N 4.31, S 11.52.

2e: Yield 0.66 g (49%), yellow-brown powder. – M. p. 52 °C (dec). – 1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-\textsubscript{d\textsubscript{6}}, 20 °C): \(\delta = 7.23-7.44\) (m, 10 H, C\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}H), \(\delta = 12.87\) (s, C\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}H), 129.1 (s, C\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}H), 129.8 (s, C\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}H). – IR (CH\textsubscript{3}\textsubscript{CN}): \(\tilde{\nu} = 1989, 1784, 1767\) (CO) cm\textsuperscript{-1}.

0.38 mmol) or PMe\textsubscript{3} (80 µmol): \(\delta = 7.26-7.31\) (m, 8 H, PC\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}), 7.36–7.40 (m, 4 H, PC\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}), 6.72–6.78 (m, 5 H, PC\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}). – 13C\textsubscript{1}NMR (100 MHz, acetone-\textsubscript{d\textsubscript{6}}, 20 °C): \(\delta = 218.6\) (d, J = 28 Hz, 3 H, OCH\textsubscript{2}CH\textsubscript{3}), 227.2 (d, J = 6 Hz, CO), 212.3 (d, J = 4 Hz, P = 4 Hz, SSCO), \(\delta = 24.8\) (s, J(W/P) = 190 Hz). – C\textsubscript{19}H\textsubscript{39}N\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}PS\textsubscript{2}W (623.43); calcd. C 34.68, H 5.50, N 2.25, S 10.29; found C 34.08, H 5.31, N 2.01, S 10.16.

3: Yield 1.01 g (93%), yellow powder. – M. p. 74 °C (dec). – 1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d\textsubscript{6}, 20 °C): \(\delta = 1.34\) (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H, OCH\textsubscript{2}CH\textsubscript{3}), 4.43 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2 H, OCH\textsubscript{2}CH\textsubscript{3}), \(\delta = 14.10\) (s, OCH\textsubscript{2}CH\textsubscript{3}), 66.7 (s, OCH\textsubscript{2}CH\textsubscript{3}). – IR (THF): \(\tilde{\nu} = 1883, 1766, 1746\) cm\textsuperscript{-1}.

A solution of 4b (80 µmol) and diethyl ether and hexane. – The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the excess phosphine removed by extraction with diethyl ether and hexane.

4a: Yield 0.18 g (90%), yellow solid. – M. p. 34 °C (dec). – IR (CH\textsubscript{3}CN): \(\tilde{\nu} = 1889, 1772, 1757\) (CO) cm\textsuperscript{-1}. – 1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d\textsubscript{6}, 20 °C): \(\delta = 0.94\) (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6 H, NCH=CH\textsubscript{2}), 3.33 (q, J(1H, H) = 7.0 Hz, 4 H, NCH=CH\textsubscript{2}), 7.22–7.30 (m, 8 H, PC\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}), 7.35–7.40 (m, 2 H, PC\textsubscript{6}H\textsubscript{5}), \(\delta = 1.26\) (s, NCH=CH\textsubscript{2}), \(\delta = 12.87\) (s, NCH=CH\textsubscript{2}). – IR (THF): \(\tilde{\nu} = 1889, 1757\) (CO) cm\textsuperscript{-1}.

215.1 (d, J = 4 Hz, SSCN), 218.4 (d, J(W/C) = 165 Hz, J(P/C) = 49 Hz, CO), 221.2 (d, J(W/C) = 179 Hz, J(P/C) = 6 Hz, CO), – 31P\textsuperscript{1}NMR (162 MHz, acetone-d\textsubscript{6}, 20 °C): \(\delta = -27.9\) (s, J(W/P) = 193 Hz). – C\textsubscript{19}H\textsubscript{39}N\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}PS\textsubscript{2}W (622.49); calcd. C 36.66, H 6.32, N 4.50, S 10.38; found C 36.41, H 5.91, N 4.22, S 10.05.

5: Yield 0.19 g (97%), orange-yellow solid. M. p. 66 °C (dec). – IR (CH\textsubscript{3}CN): \(\tilde{\nu} = 1898, 1784, 1767\) (CO) cm\textsuperscript{-1}.

A solution of 5 in diethyl ether and hexane. – The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the excess phosphine removed by extraction with diethyl ether and hexane.

4a: Yield 0.18 g (90%), yellow solid. – M. p. 34 °C (dec). – IR (CH\textsubscript{3}CN): \(\tilde{\nu} = 1889, 1772, 1757\) (CO) cm\textsuperscript{-1}.

1.51 g (moles): \(\tilde{\nu} = 1989, 1882, 1866, 1824\) (CO) cm\textsuperscript{-1}.

X-ray structure determinations

Single crystals of 2b, 2c, 4a, or 5 were sealed to a glass fiber with frozen hydrocarbon oil. A Bruker Smart Apex CCD instrument with D8 goniometer was used for data collection (graphite monochromator, Mo-K\textsubscript{α} radiation, \(\lambda = 0.71073\) Å). The structures were solved using Patterson methods and refined with full-matrix least squares against I\textsuperscript{2} (SHELXS-97) [46]. Hydrogen atoms were included in their calculated positions and refined in a riding model. The details of the measurements are summarized in Table 4. Further data may be obtained from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. 2b: CCDC 298204, 2c: CCDC 298202, 4a: CCDC 298203, 5: CCDC 298201. These data can be obtained free of charge at www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html.

Acknowledgment

We are indebted to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for the generous support of this work.