Dalton Transactions



PAPER

View Article Online
View Journal | View Issue



Cite this: *Dalton Trans.*, 2024, **53**, 5881

Received 22nd December 2023, Accepted 18th February 2024 DOI: 10.1039/d3dt04325h

rsc.li/dalton

Twinned *versus* linked organometallics - bimetallic "half-baguette" pentalenide complexes of Rh(ı)†

Hugh J. Sanderson, ^{Da} Gabriele Kociok-Köhn, ^{Db} Claire L. McMullin ^{Da} and Ulrich Hintermair ^{D*a,c}

The application of $Mg[Ph_4Pn]$ and $Li\cdot K[Ph_4Pn]$ in transmetalation reactions to a range of Rh(i) precursors led to the formation of "half-baguette" $anti-[Rh^I(L)_n]_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ (L = 1,5-cyclooctadiene, norbornadiene, ethylene; n=1, 2) and $syn-[Rh^I(CO)_2]_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ complexes as well as the related iridium complex $anti-[Ir^I(COD)]_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$. With CO exclusive syn metalation was obtained even when using mono-nuclear Rh(i) precursors, indicating an electronic preference for syn metalation. DFT analysis showed this to be the result of π overlap between the adjacent $M(CO)_2$ units which overcompensates for d_{z^2} repulsion of the metals, an effect which can be overridden by steric clash of the auxiliary ligands to yield anti-configuration as seen in the larger olefin complexes. $syn-[Rh^I(CO)_2]_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ is a rare example of a twinned organometallic where the two metals are held flexibly in close proximity, but the two d^8 Rh(i) centres did not show signs of M-M bonding interactions or exhibit Lewis basic behaviour as in some related mono-nuclear Cp complexes due to the acceptor properties of the ligands. The ligand substitution chemistry of $syn-[Rh^I(CO)_2]_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ was investigated with a series of electronically and sterically diverse donor ligands (P(OPh)_3, P(OMe)_3, PPh_3, PMe_3, dppe) yielding new mono- and bissubstituted complexes, with $E-syn-[Rh^I(CO)(P(OR))_3]_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ (R = Me, Ph) characterised by XRD.

Introduction

The past decade has witnessed renewed interest in bimetallic complexes and the opportunities they offer in terms cooperative effects that derive from attractive or repulsive metal–metal interactions¹ within molecularly defined homometallic and heterobimetallic complexes of the s-, d- and f-block.^{2–4} Bimetallics featuring Rh(I) are a particularly useful test for intermetallic effects due to its diamagnetic nature, useful ¹⁰³Rh coupling information, wide range of known mononuclear complexes and rich reactivity (stoichiometric as well as catalytic). The majority of known bimetallic Rh(I) complexes consist of a ligand with two distinct binding sites connected by a linker moiety, where the size and nature of the linker determines the proximity and the extent of electronic communication between the two Rh(I) centres.^{5–19} With a view on

cooperative effects it is thus useful to distinguish between linked bimetallics (two monometallic complexes tethered together) and twinned bimetallics where the two metals are held closely enough for direct metal-metal interactions to exist. 20,21 This distinction is not purely a function of atomic distances but depends on orbital overlap and is thus a sliding scale akin to the Robin-Day classification, 22,23 where the extremes of a truly twinned bimetallic would be class III and a distantly linked bimetallic class I. A particularly interesting ligand platform to explore bimetallic effects is pentalenide $(\mathbf{Pn}^{2-}, C_8H_6^{2-})$, the bicyclic analogue of cyclopentadienide (Cp⁻, C₅H₅⁻), itself one of the most widely used ligands in organometallic chemistry.²⁴ The bicyclic nature of Pn²⁻ offers unique advantages over its monocyclic relative cyclooctatetraenide (COT²⁻, C₈H₈²⁻), including the formation of mono- and di-nuclear complexes paired with the ability to engage in a wide range of hapticities that allow for flexibility in the metal binding.²⁵ Monometallic Pn²⁻ complexes often show folding around the central bridgehead carbon-carbon bond to engage in η⁸ bonding, a mode that thus far is exclusive to early d- and f-block metals with a d⁰ electron count.^{26,27} Bimetallic Pn²⁻ complexes can be classified as either syn- or anti-based on the relative orientation of the two metals, and can exhibit a range of coordination modes to $\mathbf{Pn^{2-}}$ with η^5/η^5 , η^5/η^3 , η^3/η^3 and η^5/η^5 η^1 known to exist. 27 The η^1/η^1 mode is also known for Si and Sn. 28-30 Syn-Pn2- complexes are most common for the homo-

^aDepartment of Chemistry, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY, UK. E-mail: u.hintermair@bath.ac.uk

^bMaterial and Chemical Characterisation Facility, University of Bath, Claverton Down. Bath BA2 7AY. UK

^cInstitute for Sustainability, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7AY, UK † Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Additional analytical data (NMR, NIR, XRD); Computational methods. CCDC 2309145–2309154. For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: https://doi.org/10.1039/d3dt04325h

bimetallic double-sandwich (or perhaps more apposite, baguette) complexes of the type M2Pn2 which are known for Ti-Ni³¹⁻³⁵ as well as Rh and Pd.³⁶ Although intriguing compounds with regards to their structure, bonding and (photo) electrochemistry, in terms of chemical reactivity and potential use in bimetallic catalysis 1-4 the corresponding syn-bimetallic "half-baguette" complexes (analogous to the widely used mononuclear "half-sandwich" Cp complexes) would be very interesting to access and study. Several examples of such homobimetallic half-baguette complexes (M2LxPn) of Mn, 37,38 Fe, ³⁹⁻⁴³ Co, ⁴³ Ni, ⁴⁴ Ru, ^{45,46} Re^{37,38} Rh and Ir⁴⁷ have been reported bearing a range of differently substituted pentalenide frameworks, including Pn^R (R = Ph, Me, NMe₂, H), 1,3- $(SiMe_3)_2Pn^{2-}$, 1,3,5- $(SiMe_3)_3Pn^{2-}$ and 1,2,3,4,5,6- Me_6Pn^{2-} (Pn*). However, the factors that lead to syn/anti selectivity are not yet clear, nor have any of these complexes been used in ligand exchange reactions or catalysis. Intriguingly, the close proximity of two metals in syn bimetallic Pn^{2-} complexes can result in various and flexible degrees of metal-metal bonding. This can range from a double bond as in the homobimetallic baguette complex $[Ti(Pn^{\dagger})]_2$ $(Pn^{\dagger} = 1,4-(^{i}Pr_3Si)_2Pn)$ which can undergo a wide range of reactivity including CO2, 48,49 H2 and CH activation, 50,51 to cases where the metal centres repel each other, such as syn-[M(CO)₂]₂[Pn*] (M = Co, Rh, Ir) which were found to have M-M bond orders of -0.11, -0.06 and 0.16 for Co, Rh and Ir, respectively.^{27,47} Further modulation of the reactivity within pentalenide complexes can be achieved by ligand exchange reactions. O'Hare and co-workers have derivatised their monometallic group 4 Pn*2- dichloride complexes to introduce a variety of alkyl (Me, allyl, CH2Ph), phenyl and amide (NMe2, NPh2) ligands to study their effects on stoichiometric CO₂ activation, 52-54 and similar modulation has allowed for the synthesis of group 4 mixed sandwich complexes. 55-57 However, auxiliary ligand exchange reactions of late d-block pentalenide complexes are unknown save for Manriquez and co-workers who reported $[Cp*Ru^{II}(\mu:\eta^5:\eta^3Pn)Rh^{I}(COD)]$ will liberate COD form $[Cp*Ru^{II}(\mu:\eta^5:\eta^3Pn)Rh^{I}(CO)_2]$ when exposed atmosphere.58

We have recently described the facile and modular syntheses of tetra-substituted dihydropentalenes⁵⁹ and introduced the first tetra-arylated pentalenide, $M_2[Ph_4Pn]$ (M = Li, Na, K)⁶⁰ and the first alkaline earth pentalenide, Mg[Ph₄Pn].^{61,62} The increased solubility and ease of separation of MgX2 transmetalation by-products (through induced precipitation by addition of 1,4-dioxane^{63,64}) are key advantages of Mg[Ph₄Pn] over M₂[Ph₄Pn] which make it a prime candidate to explore the coordination chemistry of Ph₄Pn²⁻ by way of salt metathesis. The majority of known pentalenide complexes contain pentalenide scaffolds containing electron-donating groups (such as alkyl and trialkylsilyl substituents), and the electron-withdrawing nature of the phenyl substituents should make Ph₄Pn²⁻ significantly less reducing and thus more suited to bind to electron-rich, late d-block metals. Indeed, recent DFT calculations have shown that the presence of the four phenyl groups reduces the HOMO-LUMO gap of Ph₄Pn²⁻ by 0.26 eV relative to Pn²⁻

alongside a lowering in the absolute energy levels of both the HOMO and the LUMO (by 0.20 eV and 0.46 eV respectively).65 The phenyl groups of Ph₄Pn²⁻ may allow for additional metalarene interactions^{66–68} that have not been seen with known (non-arylated) pentalenide complexes. In this work, we report the synthesis and characterisation of a series of bimetallic Rh(1) half-baguette pentalenide complexes and compare the outcome of transmetalation with Mg[Ph4Pn] to that of Li-K[Ph4Pn]. Furthermore, we explore the reactivity of a dirhodium tetracarbonyl complex $(syn-[Rh^{I}(CO)_{2}]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn])$ in ligand substitution reactions to evaluate the tolerance of the Ph₄Pn²⁻ scaffold to a range of donor and acceptor ligands.

Results and discussion

Synthesis and structure of syn- and anti-bimetallic Rh(1) and Ir(1) complexes

Synthesis of [Rh^I(COD)]₂[Ph₄Pn] (1) and [Ir^I(COD)]₂[Ph₄Pn] (2). Previous half-baguette Rh(1) and Ir(1) pentalenide complexes have required the use of stannylated pentalenides and low reaction temperatures to avoid unwanted redox chemistry between the electron-rich (reducing) Pn*2- and the late d-block precusors.⁴⁷ In the case of the more π -accepting Ph₄Pn^{2−} this should be supressed sufficiently to allow room temperature reactions without the need for "softer" stannylated derivatives which are highly toxic. To test this idea the reaction of Mg[Ph₄Pn] and [Rh^I(COD)(μ-Cl)]₂ was carried out at room temperature in THF which gave an immediate colour change from orange to dark red indicative of a transmetalation reaction. The ¹H NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture revealed full consumption of Mg[Ph₄Pn] and showed the presence of a new singlet at 6.17 ppm (FWHM = 3.7 Hz) assigned to the two equivalent pentalenide wingtip protons (Hw) in a symmetrical transmetalation product. In THF-h₈ the COD signals were obscured by the solvent, however, redissolution into C₆D₆ showed three signals at 3.92 ppm, 2.08 ppm and 1.77 ppm, all shifted from those in the starting material $[Rh^{I}(COD)(\mu-Cl)]_{2}$. In $C_{6}D_{6}$ H_{w} was observed at 6.10 ppm (FWHM = 4.6 Hz) with a corresponding carbon (C_w) signal resolving as a doublet at 99.3 ppm with $^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 4.8 Hz, all indicative of the clean formation of $[Rh^{I}(COD)]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (1).

XRD analysis of single crystals of 1 grown from standing of a THF solution at −35 °C revealed the two rhodium(1) centres to be bound to Ph₄Pn²⁻ in an anti-geometry, with rhodium- C_5 -centroid (Rh- C_t) distances of 1.9391(11) Å and 1.9502(11) Å (Fig. 1). The C_w-C_t-Rh angles of 86.4° and 87.4° suggested the Rh(1) centres to sit closer to the wingtip carbons than the bridgehead carbons (CB), as also reflected in the corresponding Rh-C distances where the Rh-Cw distances were on average 0.15 Å shorter than the Rh-C_B distances. The heterobimetallic Pn^{2-} complex *anti*- $[Cp*Ru^{II}(\mu:\eta^5:\eta^3Pn)Rh^{I}(COD)]$ is the only other known pentalenide complex to contain a Rh¹(COD) fragment, exhibiting Rh-Ct distances (1.944 Å) and Rh-C_t-C_w angles (86.6°) similar to that of 1 in the solid state but without any reported Rh-C_w coupling in solution.⁵⁸

Dalton Transactions Paper

Fig. 1 Synthesis of $anti-[Rh^{l}(COD)]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (1) and $anti-[Ir^{l}(COD)]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (2) (top) and corresponding X-ray crystal structures with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level (bottom; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity).

Using the same procedure as described for 1, the analogous reaction of [Ir¹(COD)(μ-Cl)]₂ with **Mg[Ph₄Pn]** resulted in the formation of the isostructural and isoelectronic complex anti- $[Ir^{I}(COD)]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (2). The two equivalent H_{w} protons of 2 were found at the same chemical shift as in 1 (6.10 ppm in C_6D_6) but a 7 ppm upfield shift of C_w was noticed in the Ir complex (92.3 ppm vs. 99.1 ppm for Rh). XRD analysis of single crystals of 2 confirmed the anti-geometry of the two iridium(1) centres as in 1. The M-C_t distances in 2 (1.9241(19) Å, 1.9290(17) Å) were up to 0.026 Å shorter than in the rhodium complex 1 but otherwise the two compounds were iso-structural. The only previously reported iridium Pn²⁻ complex syn-[IrI(CO)2]2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Pn*]47 had an Ir-Ct distance of 2.167 Å, significantly longer than in 2. However, this difference is due to a combination of differences in the auxiliary ligands, Pn²⁻ frameworks, and geometry. 2 also exhibited some deviation towards Cw, as reflected in the shorter Ir-Cw distances than the Ir-C_B distances (by 0.17 Å) and the more acute C_w-C_t-Ir angles (86.3° and 86.9°), greater than what was noted for 1.

Rh(I) and Ir(I) d⁸ complexes typically prefer 16 e⁻ configuration so a slight deviation from η^5 to η^3 may be expected, as η^5 coordination would yield a formal 18 e count for each metal. The hapticity of the L₃X₂-type pentalenide ligand can be quantified with the displacement parameter Δ defined as the difference in the mean M-C $_{\rm B}$ and M-C $_{\rm NB}$ distances (C $_{\rm NB}$ = nonbridgehead carbons). 47,69,70 Relatively small ring slippage values of $\Delta = 0.13$ and 0.15 can thus be calculated for 1 and 2, respectively, which suggest a formal η^{5} coordination of both Rh(1) and Ir(1) to Ph₄Pn²⁻. The slightly larger value for 2 compared to 1 may be attributed to increased atomic size of Ir versus Rh.47 In contrast, the Rh centre in anti- $[Cp*Ru^{II}(\mu:\eta^5:\eta^3Pn)Rh^{I}(COD)]$ was reported as bound η^3 to Pn²⁻, suggesting a formal 16 e⁻ count. However, based on the XRD data reported for this complex, a value of $\Delta = 0.20$ can be

calculated which is markedly less than what was reported for syn- $[Rh^{I}(CO)_{2}]_{2}[Pn^{*}]$ and that found for complex 5 (vide infra) which are both considered η^5 and thus 18 e⁻ per Rh(1). Complexes 1 and 2 also displayed close structural similarities to their mononuclear analogues [CpMI(COD)] (M = Rh, 71,72 Ir⁷³), with the COD ligand adopting the expected distorted boat conformation in all cases.

When the transmetalations of $[Rh^{I}(COD)(\mu-CI)]_{2}$ and $[Ir^{I}(COD)(\mu-Cl)]_{2}$ were performed using $Li\cdot K[Ph_{4}Pn]^{60}$ instead of Mg[Ph4Pn], the same colour changes (dark red for Rh, dark yellow for Ir) were observed and analysis by ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectroscopy confirmed the formation of 1 and 2, respectively (Fig. S4, S5, S9 and S10†). This observation showed that the nature of the counter cation(s) of Ph₄Pn²⁻ does not influence the outcome of transmetalation reactions in donor solvents such as THF where these salts exist as solvent-separated ion pairs, despite the formal presence of a LiCp-like unit⁶⁰ which was found to be too reducing in the case of reacting Li₂[Pn*] with Rh(1) and Ir(1) precursors.⁴⁷ This difference in reactivity likely reflects the electronic nature of the pentalenide used, in line with recent calculations showing Ph₄Pn²⁻ to have significantly lower frontier orbital energies than Pn²⁻ and its alkylated derivatives, 65 making it a less reducing π base (donor) and a better π acid (acceptor).

Synthesis of [Rh^I(NBD)]₂[Ph₄Pn] (3) and $[Rh^{I}(C_{2}H_{4})_{2}]_{2}[Ph_{4}Pn]$ (4). With the COD precursors yielding anti-isomers, it was interesting to extend the transmetalation to other olefinic precursors that possess a smaller steric profile than COD to see if the selectivity of the transmetalation was dictated by sterics. Therefore, the reaction of [Rh^I(NBD)(μ-Cl)]₂ with Mg[Ph4Pn] was carried out which led to the formation of anti- $[Rh^{I}(NBD)]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (3) (Fig. 2). Compared to 1 and 2, a slower formation of complex 3 was noticed with the colour change from orange to bright yellow occurring over the course

Fig. 2 Synthesis of anti-[Rh 1 (NBD)]₂[μ : η^{5} : η^{5} Ph₄Pn] (3) (top) and its X-ray crystal structure with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level (bottom; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity).

of several of minutes at room temperature. The ¹H NMR spectrum of the solution showed a new Ph₄Pn²⁻ environment with the emergence of a new H_w signal resolved as a doublet at 6.22 ppm (${}^2J_{RhH}$ = 0.8 Hz). The associated carbon shift, C_w , was also resolved as a doublet in the 13C(1H) NMR spectrum at 97.4 ppm (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 5.8 Hz). XRD analysis of single crystals of 3 showed the two Rh(I) centres to be located anti to each other as in 1 bearing COD instead of NBD (Fig. 2). The Rh-Ct distance of 1.938(3) Å in 3 was near identical to that of 1, and the Rh-C_t-C_w angle of 86.1° was marginally smaller than in 1. The ring slippage value of 0.15 was the same as in 1 and the rhodium thus best described as bonded η^5 to **Ph₄Pn²⁻**.

Utilising the ethylene complex $[Rh^{I}(C_2H_4)_2(\mu-Cl)]_2$ featuring a minimally substituted, monodentate olefin ligand in a transmetalation with Mg[Ph4Pn] in THF resulted in an immediate colour change from orange to dark yellow. The ¹H NMR spectrum of the mixture revealed the appearance of a new Hw signal at 6.21 ppm, indicating successful transmetalation. After 10 minutes a black solid started to form, presumed to be elemental rhodium from decomposition, indicating the product to be unstable at room temperature. Lower temperatures and lower polarity solvents did not fully prevent this decomposition but slowed it sufficiently for analysis. In C₆D₆ H_w of the product appeared as a doublet at 5.98 ppm (${}^2J_{RhH}$ = 0.7 Hz), 0.1-0.2 ppm upfield relative to the COD and NBD analogues. In the ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum C_w was resolved as a doublet at 98.6 ppm (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 5.2 Hz), suggesting the electronics of the COD, NBD and ethylene complexes to be very similar. Crystals of 4 could be grown from the reaction mixture at -35 °C after MgCl₂ had been removed via addition of dioxane and filtration. Complex 4 was found to be isostructural to 1 and 3 by XRD (Fig. 3), with an anti-configuration and Rh-Ct distances of 1.9408(9) Å and 1.9383(9) Å, and Rh-C_tC_w angles of 86.6° and 87.8°.

Synthesis of $[Rh^{I}(CO)_{2}]_{2}[Ph_{4}Pn]$ (5). The formation of the linked anti-bimetallics 1-4 suggested that to access a twinned

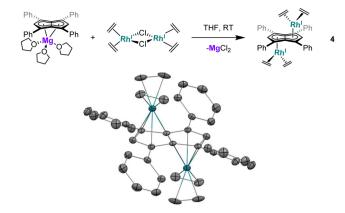


Fig. 3 Synthesis of anti- $[Rh^{I}(C_2H_4)_2]_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ (4) (top) and its X-ray crystal structure with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level (bottom; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity).

syn-Rh(1) bimetallic pentalenide complex a different auxiliary ligand would be needed. [Rh^I(CO)₂(μ-Cl)]₂ has previously been used to give the syn-dirhodium complex $[\mathbf{Rh}^{\mathbf{I}}(\mathbf{CO})_2]_2[\mathbf{Pn}^*]^{47}$ and as such the **Ph₄Pn**^{2−} analogue was targeted. Addition of a THF solution of [Rh^I(CO)₂(μ-Cl)]₂ to either Mg[Ph₄Pn] or Li·K [Ph4Pn] gave an immediate colour change to dark yellow (Fig. 4) and the corresponding ¹H NMR spectrum revealed a new Ph₄Pn²⁻ environment with a slight shift in H_w to a doublet at 6.91 ppm (${}^{2}J_{RhH}$ = 1.4 Hz) from the singlet at 6.80 ppm in Mg[Ph₄Pn]. In the ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum the associated C_w was found to be a doublet at 90.1 ppm (${}^1J_{RhC}$ = 7.0 Hz) and was shifted slightly downfield relative to complexes 1-4, likely a result of the increased acceptor ability of CO compared with COD, NBD and ethylene. The monometallic analogue of 5, [Rh^I(CO)₂(Ph₂Cp)] has been reported to have a ¹H NMR signal at 5.99 ppm with a coupling constant of ${}^2J_{RhH}$ = 0.5 Hz (C_6D_6) for the **Cp** proton between the two phenyl rings, 74 suggesting Ph₄Pn²⁻ to be a better acceptor ligand that binds more strongly to Rh(I) than Ph₂Cp⁻. The ¹³C{¹H} NMR

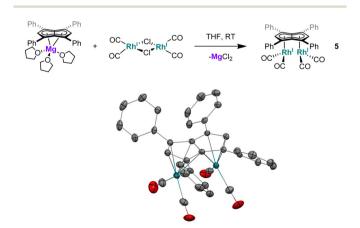


Fig. 4 Synthesis of syn-[Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[μ : η ⁵: η ⁵Ph₄Pn] (5, top) and its X-ray crystal structure with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level (bottom; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity).

Dalton Transactions Po

spectrum of 5 showed a doublet at 194.5 ppm ${}^{1}J_{\rm RhC}$ = 83.8 Hz) for the carbonyl groups, consistent with $[({\bf Rh^I(CO)_2(Ph_2Cp)}]]$ and $[{\bf Rh^I(CO)_2}]_2[{\bf Pn^*}]$, though in the latter a much smaller coupling constant of ${}^{1}J_{\rm RhC}$ = 49.1 Hz was reported. However, the IR data suggests a stronger Rh–CO bond in $[{\bf Rh^I(CO)_2}]_2[{\bf Pn^*}]$ than in 5 consistent with increased donor ability of ${\bf Pn^{*2^-}}$ compared to ${\bf Ph_4Pn^{2^-}}$ (Table 1).

The X-ray crystal structure of 5, depicted in Fig. 4, confirmed a syn-dirhodium arrangement. A comparison of the key structural features with syn-[RhI(CO)2]2[Pn*] as well as complexes 1-4 can be found in Table 2. As in the Pn^{*2} analogue, the two Rh^I(CO)₂ fragments were located next to each other on the Ph₄Pn²⁻ with an intermetallic distance of 2.9130(4) Å, too long to ascribe any direct Rh-Rh interaction36,47 as also reflected in a formal shortness ratio (FSR) of 1.16 using a R_1 value of 1.247.76,77 O'Hare related this increased distance to the C_5 rings of Pn^{*2-} being partially bent away at a hinge angle of 11.4° (defined as the angle between the plane of the C_{w} and non-wingtip carbons (C_{NW}) and the plane of C_{NW} and C_B),⁴⁷ with DFT analysis showing the HOMO of [RhI(CO)2]2[Pn*] to contain a Rh-Pn* antibonding component that is offset by the Rh-CO π -backdonation.^{27,47} 5 exhibited a smaller hinge angle of 10.2° due to the increased π -accepting ability of the phenyl substituents in Ph₄Pn²⁻. However, despite the changes in electronics of the pentalenide ligand an identical ring slippage value of $\Delta = 0.27$ was found. This is noticeably larger than for the anti-complexes 1-4 signifying a greater deviation towards η^3 in the syn-systems, further evidenced by the more acute Rh-C_t-C_w angles of 82.4° and 82.6°, suggesting some electronic repulsion between the Rh^I(CO)₂ fragments. While complex 4 had a L-Rh-L versus pentalenide dihedral angle of 86.1° (close to the ideal 90° geometry, Fig. S61†), in 5 the two L-Rh-L units were angled at 77.8° relative to the pentalenide. This outward bending together with the greater Δ value towards η^3

and 10.2° pentalenide hinging in 5 all contribute to an enlarged Rh–Rh distance signifying intermetallic repulsion. Previous DFT analysis of $[\mathbf{Rh^I(CO)_2}]_2[\mathbf{Pn^*}]$ had revealed an out of phase interaction of the metal d_{z^2} orbitals in the HOMO–1 leading to a formal negative bond order of -0.06.^{27,47}

The average Rh–CO bond length found in 5 was 1.876(1) Å, 0.01 Å longer than in *syn*-[Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[Pn*] suggesting less Rh–CO backbonding in 5. This was further supported by IR spectroscopy where 5 exhibited four carbonyl bands at 1992, 2025, 2046 and 2064 cm⁻¹, similar to what was reported for [Rh^I(CO)₂(Ph₂Cp)] (1962 and 2040 cm⁻¹),⁷⁴ and shifted to higher wavenumbers compared to *syn*-[Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[Pn*]⁴⁷ indicative of a stronger CO bond and weaker Rh–CO backbonding as a reflection of the increased π -accepting ability of Ph₄Pn²⁻ over Pn*²⁻.

Interested in whether the formation of the *syn*-isomer was partially influenced by the use of a dimeric rhodium precursor, the reaction was repeated with the monomeric [Rh^I(acac) (CO)₂], with the formation of 5 confirmed by NMR and IR spectroscopy. Moreover, the influence of the cation was found to be negligible as the reaction of either [Rh^I(acac)(CO)₂] or [Rh^I(CO)₂(μ -Cl)]₂ with **Li·K[Ph₄Pn]** also resulted in clean formation of 5 (Scheme 1).

Electronic structure and reactivity

To gain deeper insight into the origin of *syn versus anti* formation on 4 and 5, comparative Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations were carried out on *syn-4*, *anti-4*, *syn-5* and *anti-5* (see ESI† for details). The optimised geometries of *anti-4* and *syn-5* showed good agreement with the crystallographic data, and *anti-4* was found to be 1.2 kcal mol⁻¹ lower in energy than *syn-4* whereas *syn-5* was 4.6 kcal mol⁻¹ more stable than *anti-5*. These results are fully in line with our experimental findings and show *syn/anti* selectivity in the transmetalation of

Table 1 Key NMR and IR data of complex 5 and related literature compounds

	δ H _w /ppm	δ C _w /ppm	δ CO/ppm	$\nu_{CO}/\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$
[Rh(CO) ₂] ₂ [Ph ₄ Pn] (5) [Rh(CO) ₂ (Ph ₂ Cp)] ⁷⁴	6.91 (${}^{2}J_{RhH} = 0.45 \text{ Hz}$) 5.99 (${}^{2}J_{RhH} = 0.45 \text{ Hz}$)	90.1 (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 6.96 Hz) 83.7 (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 3.17 Hz) and 85.4 (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 3.64 Hz)	194.5 (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 83.8 Hz) 191.3 (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 84.0 Hz)	2064, 2046, 2025, 2040, 1962
$[Rh(CO)_2]_2[Pn^*]^{47}$ $[Rh(CO)_2][Cp^*]^{75}$	n/a n/a	71.0 n/a	196.3 (${}^{1}J_{RhC} = 49.1 \text{ Hz}$) 195.1 (${}^{1}J_{RhC} = 75.6 \text{ Hz}$) ^a	2034, 1999, 1965, 1946 ^b 2016, 1948

^a Calculated from reported NMR data. ^b IR data recorded using a KBr pellet.

Table 2 Key NMR and structural parameters of complexes 1-5 and related literature compounds

	δ H _w /ppm	δ C _w /ppm	M-M/Å	$M\text{-}C_{t/}\!\mathring{A}$	M-C _t -C _w / $^{\circ}$	Ring slippage Δ
anti-[Rh ^I (COD)] ₂ [Ph ₄ Pn] (1)	6.17	99.3 (${}^{1}J_{RhC} = 5 \text{ Hz}$)	4.5305(5)	1.9391(11), 1.9502(11)	86.4, 87.4	0.11, 0.15
$anti-[Ir^{I}(COD)]_{2}[Ph_{4}Pn]$ (2)	6.28	93.6	4.5411(5)	1.9241(19), 1.9290(17)	86.3, 86.9	0.15
$anti-[Rh^{I}(NBD)]_{2}[Ph_{4}Pn]$ (3)	$6.22 \left(^2 J_{RhH} = 0.8 \text{ Hz}\right)$	$97.4 (^{1}J_{RhC} = 6 \text{ Hz})$	4.5462(9)	1.938(3)	86.1	0.15
anti- $[Rh^{I}(C_2H_4)_2]_2[Ph_4Pn]$ (4)	$5.98 \left(^2 J_{\rm RhH} = 0.7 \text{ Hz}\right)$	98.6 $(^{1}J_{RhC} = 5 \text{ Hz})$	4.4862(3)	1.9383(9), 1.9408(9)	86.6, 87.8	0.14, 0.10
anti- $[Cp*Ru^{II}(\mu:\eta^5:\eta^3Pn)Rh^{I}(COD)]^{58}$	5.84	n/a	4.4166(4)	1.944	86.6	0.20
syn-[Rh ^I (CO) ₂] ₂ [Ph ₄ Pn] (5)	$6.50 (^2 J_{RhH} = 1.7 \text{ Hz})$	89.8 (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 7 Hz)	2.913(6)	1.9917(9), 1.9940(9)	82.4, 82.6	0.27
syn-[Rh ^I (CO) ₂] ₂ [Pn*] ⁴⁷	n/a	n/a	2.9130(4)	1.976	83.0, 83.1	0.27

Pathway A Ph OC Rhi Cl Rhi Co OC Rhi Co OC

Pathway B

Pathway B

Ph. Mg. Ph. + OC. Rhi Cl. Rhi CO

$$C_6D_6$$
, RT

 C_6D_6 , RT

Scheme 1 Synthetic pathways to [Rh¹(CO)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn].

solvent-separated group 1 and group 2 pentalenide salts with Rh(I) and Ir(I) precursors to be thermodynamically controlled. NBO calculations on syn-4 and syn-5 returned Wiberg Bond Index (WBI) values of 0.06 and 0.05 between the two Rh(I) centres, respectively, indicating no significant M-M interactions. As reported for the Pn*2- system, 47 the HOMO-1 of syn-5 contained an out-of-phase (repulsive) interaction between the Rh d₂₂ orbitals, whilst an in-phase (attractive) interaction between the two co-planar Rh(CO)₂ moieties was found in the HOMO of syn-5 (Fig. 5). Interestingly, the HOMO of syn-4 contained a similar positive interaction between the two adjacent Rh(C₂H₄)₂ moieties (Fig. 6), suggesting that there is a general energetic preference for syn-metallation in pentalenide complexes of Rh(I) and Ir(I) with π acceptor ligands despite a repulsive M-M interaction. As the switch in isomer preference from syn to anti when going from CO to C₂H₄ shows, steric clashing between the ancillary ligands easily overrides the net electronic preference for syn to yield anti-geometry in a bimetallic more akin to two linked (or fused) Cp complexes.

To investigate whether the orientation of the metals resulted in any significant changes in their electronic structure the UV-vis spectra of 1, 5 and the monomeric derivative of 5, $[\mathbf{Rh^I(CO)_2(Ph_2Cp)}]$ were recorded in THF (Fig. S25†). All three displayed peaks attributable to π - π * transitions of the π -ligands (320 nm for 1 and 5, 350 nm for $[\mathbf{Rh(CO)_2(Ph_2Cp)}]$), with a slight red shift for the monometallic complex also observed in the group 1 salts of $\mathbf{Ph_4Pn^{2-}}$ and $\mathbf{Ph_2Cp^{-}}$, 60 suggesting the orientation of the metals to have negligible influence on the main electronic transitions.

Given the repulsive d_{z^2} interactions found in the HOMO-1 of the twinned *syn* bimetallics, we tested the influence of the metal orientation on the Lewis basicity of *anti*-3 and *syn*-5. Related mononuclear four-coordinate d^8 complexes are known to display nucleophilic behaviour by virtue of their filled, nonbonding d_{z^2} orbital which may act as a σ -donor to a range of Lewis acids.⁷⁸ This effect has even been seen (and exploited for intermetallic reactivity in metal-based Lewis pairs⁷⁹⁻⁸²) in formally five-coordinate 18 electron η^5 -CpRh(1) complexes that

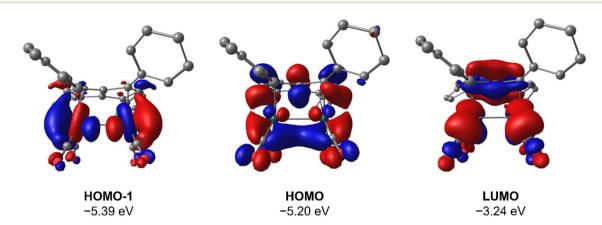


Fig. 5 HOMO-1, HOMO and LUMO of syn-[Rh(CO)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn] (syn-5) at the BP86/BS2//BP86/BS1 level of theory. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity.

Dalton Transactions Paper

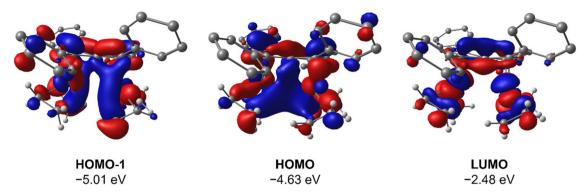


Fig. 6 HOMO-1, HOMO and LUMO of syn-[Rh(C₂H₄)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn] (syn-4) at the BP86/BS2//BP86/BS1 level of theory. Hydrogen atoms of the pentalenide omitted for clarity.

have an empty, non-bonding d₂ orbital, ⁷⁹ where their nucleophilic behaviour may either arise from an electron-rich Rh-L bond or a temporary $\eta^5 - \eta^3$ slip of the **Cp** ligand. However, addition of AlCl₃ to anti-3 and syn-5 in THF showed no changes in their ¹H NMR spectra even after one week at room temperature. Control reactions with 1 and [Rh^I(CO)₂(Ph₂Cp)] also showed no reactivity with AlCl₃, highlighting the low nucleophilicity of these complexes which may be ascribed to the phenyl groups lowering the HOMO and LUMO of the Pn²⁻ and increase the π -acceptor character of the ligand. ⁶⁵ This is in contrast to the electron-rich Rh(I) complexes furnished with strongly σ -donating phosphines (e.g. PMe₃) and electron rich π -ligands (e.g. \mathbf{Cp}^*) which serve to raise the energy of the HOMO and thus increase their nucleophilicity.83-85

Ligand substitution chemistry of [Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn] (5)

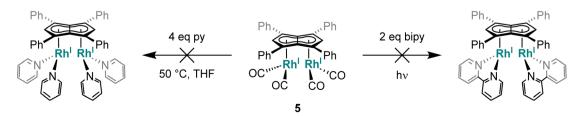
N-donor ligands. Interested in modulating the reactivity and electronic structure of the twinned bimetallic 5 by ligand exchange (either symmetrically or asymmetrically) we explored the introduction of N-based donor ligands. CpRhI(bipy) complexes are well-known compounds with interesting redox properties such as facile switching between Rh(I) and Rh(III) which has been utilised in a wide range of applications.86-92 However, the addition of two equivalents of bipy to a THF solution of 5 led to no change in the NMR spectra even after adding an excess and heating the mixture to 50 °C for one week (Scheme 2, and Fig. S26†). Performing the analogous reaction with pyridine yielded the same result, and even photolytic conditions⁹³ (exposure to 150 W white light for one hour)

did not allow displacement of the carbonyls of 5 with N-donor ligands.

This surprising inertness of 5 either reflects either a kinetic barrier due to steric shielding by the phenyl substituents of the pentalenide or a thermodynamic preference of the complex for strong acceptor ligands like CO. To probe this question further we tried to introduce a range of P-donor ligands with varying degrees of donor/acceptor abilities.

P-donor ligands

Phosphines. The addition of one equivalent of PPh3 to 5 in THF led to no discernible colour change over several days at room temperature, however, the 1H NMR spectrum showed a desymmetrisation of the pentalenide ligand consistent with monosubstitution to form $[Rh^{I}(CO)_{2};Rh^{I}(CO)]$ $(PPh_3)[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ (6) (Scheme 3). Two singlets at 6.23 ppm and 6.71 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum could be assigned to two new wingtips H_{wa} and H_{wb} respectively (as confirmed by ¹H-³¹P HMBC), indicating an electronically asymmetric Ph₄Pn²⁻ environment with one C₅-ring bound to a more electron-rich Rh^I(CO)(PPh₃) fragment and one C₅-ring bound to a more electron-deficient Rh^I(CO)₂ fragment. This was reflected with the chemical shift of H_{wb} being closer to that of H_w in 5, with the slight upfield shift of 0.2 ppm reflective of the delocalised electronic nature of the Ph₄Pn²⁻ anion. The ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of 6 revealed a doublet centered at 48.1 ppm (${}^{1}J_{RhP}$ = 202 Hz), similar to that reported for [CpRh^I(CO)(PPh₃)] (52.7 ppm, ${}^{1}J_{RhP}$ = 199.5 Hz). ⁹⁴ The UV-vis spectrum of 6 displayed similar π - π * transitions of the Ph_4Pn^2 in the UV region around 300 nm to that of 5, however, with an additional



Scheme 2 Attempted introduction of pyridyl ligands to syn-[Rh¹(CO)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn].

Scheme 3 Synthesis of mono and bis-triphenylphosphine derivatives of syn-[Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn] (5).

broad band centred at 838 nm (ε = 7383 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹) which was absent for the symmetrical complexes 5 and 11 (Fig. S56 and 57†) and indicated intermetallic charge transfer between the electronically inequivalent Rh(1) centres in 6.22,23

When two equivalents of PPh3 were added to 5, initially only the monosubstituted complex 6 was observed in the ¹H and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra of the solution (Fig. S31†), but over the course of 12 hours the emergence of a new doublet at 51.4 ppm (${}^{1}J_{RhP}$ = 198 Hz) along with the diminishing of the signals assigned to 6 was observed in the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum. The new signal is ascribed to the symmetrically disubstituted product 7, but full characterisation was impeded by the transformation not going to completion and all attempts at isolating 7 from the dynamic mixture being unsuccessful. The electronic similarity of 7 to 6 and to [CpRh^I(CO) (PPh₃)]⁹⁴ reflected in their NMR data strongly suggested each Rh^I(CO)₂ centre underwent mono-substitution instead of one Rh^I(CO)₂ centre undergoing double substitution to yield a species akin to $[CpRh^{I}(PPh_{3})_{2}]$ (31P = 57.3 ppm, $^{1}J_{RhP}$ = 222

Hz).95 Using more than two equivalents of PPh3 per 5 led to complex mixtures that contained 6 and 7 but also a multitude of other products (Fig. S31†), showing the introduction of phosphines to be more easily achievable than pyridines albeit with some barrier likely arising from steric hindrance (PPh3 being much larger than CO).

When the smaller and more σ -donating trimethylphosphine was employed in place of PPh3 a colour change from the dark yellow of 5 to red was noticed over the course of five minutes at room temperature. The ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of this solution showed a signal centred at -24.0 ppm with second order coupling, indicative of a rhodium-phosphorous dimer (Fig. S34†).⁹⁶ Two broad peaks at -16.2 ppm and -34.4 ppm were also observed suggesting some fluxionality within the product(s) formed. Although all attempts at isolating a clean sample lead to decomposition, standing of a 1:1 THF/pentane solution of the crude reaction mixture at −35 °C overnight led to the formation of crystals of the ion pair [RhII(CO) (PMe₃)₄ [Ph₄Pn] (8, Fig. 7) where four PMe₃ ligands had

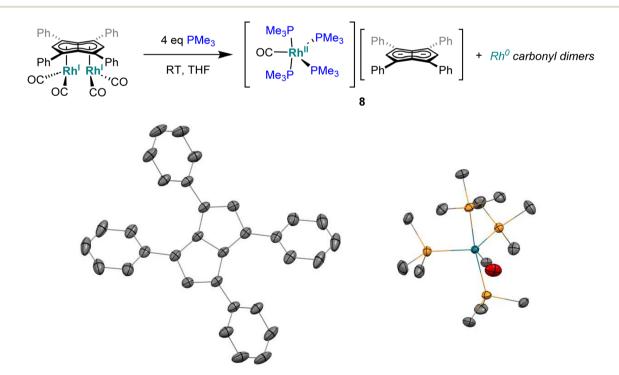


Fig. 7 Synthesis of [Rh^{II}(PMe₃)₄(CO)][Ph₄Pn] (8) (top) and its X-ray crystal structure with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level (bottom; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity).

Dalton Transactions Paper

detached the Rh-carbonyl centre from the pentalenide. To the best of our knowledge this is the first crystallographically characterised uncomplexed pentalenide and exhibits a perfectly co-planar core with the phenyl rings twisted by 21.2°-26.8° to minimise steric repulsion between adjacent rings and allow some conjugation of the charge into the phenyl substituents. This rotation is less than what was found for Li₂[Ph₄Pn]⁶⁰ (29.3°-35.8°) but within the range seen for Mg[Ph₄Pn] (17.1°-35.2)°.61

The cationic fragment of 8 consisted of a Rh(II) centre in a distorted trigonal bipyramidal geometry with PMe3 groups occupying both axial and two equatorial positions with one carbonyl group occupying the third equatorial site. Exchange between the equatorial and axial positions is likely responsible for the observation of two inequivalent, broad signals in the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra, although variable temperature NMR data were inconclusive (Fig. S35†) due to the paramagnetic nature of Rh(II) which was independently confirmed by the Evans method (Fig. S36†). In the solid state, the Rh-P_{eq} bonds were 0.056 Å longer than Rh-Pax bonds (2.3227(4)-2.3859(7) Å), with the axial PMe3 groups bent away from the equatorial PMe₃ to give a P_{ax}-Rh-P_{ax} angle of 165.6° to relive steric clash between the methyl groups. The related cation [RhI(CO) (PMe₃)₄]⁺ has previously been reported, 97 however, with no spectroscopic or crystallographic data provided. Mononuclear Rh(II) complexes are uncommon and often adopt square planar or octahedral geometries in the presence of bulky chelating ligands with 15 e⁻ or 19 e⁻ counts, respectively, 98-104

whereas the cation of 8 is a rare example of a five-coordinate 17 electron complex with monodentate ligands only. The formation of a dicationic Rh(II) complex from the two adjacent Rh (1) centres in 5 is likely the result of a disproportionation reaction induced by the introduction of the strongly σ-donating PMe₃ ligand, producing dimeric Rh(0) carbonyl species responsible for the signal at -24.0 ppm in the $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR spectrum of the product mixture.

To see if a bidentate ligand would span across the two rhodium centres (μ^2) or chelate around a single metal (κ^2) in 5 the introduction of bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane (dppe) was tested. Whereas the ¹H NMR spectrum showed no significant change in the position of H_w after adding dppe to 5 in THF, the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum showed a new doublet at 57.6 ppm $(^{1}J_{RhP} = 128.3 \text{ Hz})$ with C_{w} still exhibiting rhodium-carbon coupling. Crystals suitable for XRD, grown from standing of the reaction mixture at -35 °C, revealed the formation of the non-contact ion pair [Rh^I(dppe)₂][Rh^I(CO)₂(η⁵Ph₄Pn)] (9, Fig. 8) where one Rh(1) centre was bound to Ph_4Pn^{2-} in an η^5 coordination fashion with a Rh-Ct distance of 1.959(2) Å, 0.35 Å shorter than the equivalent distance in the di-Rh(1) complex 5. This significant shortening likely is a consequence of the monometallic coordination of Rh^I(CO)₂ to Ph₄Pn²⁻ leading to increased interaction of the cationic d⁸ centre with the dianionic 10π system. There was also less pronounced deviation to η^3 in 9 compared to 5, as evidenced by the slight increase in the Rh-C_t-C_w angle (84.1° vs. an average 82.5° in 5) and a decrease in the ring slippage value $\Delta = 0.23$ (cf. 0.27 in

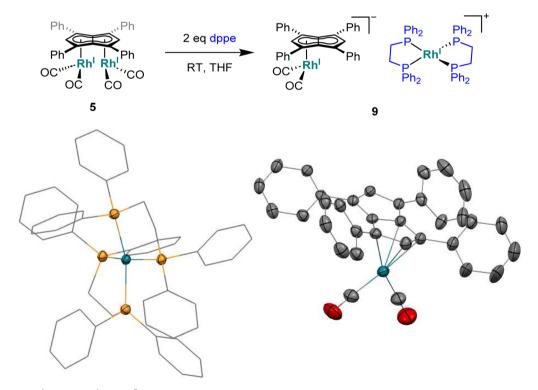


Fig. 8 Synthesis of [Rh¹(dppe)₂][Rh¹(CO)₂(η⁵Ph₄Pn)] (9) (top) and its X-ray crystal structure with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level (bottom; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity).

5). Moreover, a smaller hinge angle of 8.4° was found for 9, presumably due to a relaxation of Ph₄Pn² and the loss of steric strain from syn-dimetallation, whilst the uncomplexed C5-ring exhibited a hinge angle of 2°. The Rh-CO distances in 9 were also 0.016 Å shorter than in 5 suggesting a greater degree of back-bonding in the former, which was further supported by the IR spectrum of 9 exhibiting two CO bands at 1980 cm⁻¹ and 1918 cm⁻¹ (Fig. S41†). The $[Rh^{I}(CO)_{2}(\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn)]$ anion could also be crystallised with a [Mg₂Cl₃(THF)₆] cation when MgCl₂ was not removed by addition of dioxane prior to dppe addition (Fig. S42†). The cationic [Rh^I(dppe)₂]⁺ resulting from mono-demetallation of 5 by dppe has previously been reported with a ³¹P NMR signal at 57 ppm (${}^{1}J_{RhP}$ = 134.2 Hz), ¹⁰⁵ consistent with the NMR signature of 9 in the crude reaction mixture. The fact that one signal for H_w and C_w respectively was observed in the NMR spectra of 9 implies rapid ring slippage of the Rh^I(CO)₂ fragment across the pentalenide core in solution.

The above results show that although 5 does not react with mono- or bidentate pyridines, chelating phosphines readily bind to the $Rh^I(CO)_2$ centre to displace both carbonyls and lead to demetallation of the pentalenide. With monodentate phosphines progressive carbonyl substitution occurs on both $Rh^I(CO)_2$ centres which in the case of strong σ -donors can lead to a disproportionating demetallation reaction. Thus, ligand exchange reactions using less basic and more π -accepting phosphites with lower steric demand in comparison to phosphines were tried next.

Phosphites. As seen before with PPh₂, the addition of one equivalent P(OPh)₃ to a solution of 5 in THF resulted in the desymmetrisation of the Ph₄Pn²⁻ ligand with two new wingtip signals H_{wa} and H_{wb} appearing in the ¹H NMR at 6.22 ppm and 6.75 ppm, respectively, suggesting monosubstitution on one Rh centre of 5 to form [Rh^I(CO)₂;Rh^I(CO)(P $\{OPh\}_3\}$ $[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ (10). The two inequivalent wingtips could be distinguished by ${}^{1}H-{}^{31}P-HMBC$, with H_{Wa} at 6.22 ppm displaying a cross peak with the new ³¹P signal at 130.6 ppm. The difference in wingtip shift, Δw , of 0.53 ppm is similar to that observed with monosubstitution with PPh3 in 6 $(\Delta w = 0.48 \text{ ppm})$. Interestingly, while the magnitude of the Rh-P coupling in 10 was consistent with that reported for $[CpRh^{I}(CO)(P\{OPh\}_{3})]$ (${}^{1}J_{RhP}$ = 328.8 Hz), the ${}^{31}P\{H\}$ shift of the asymmetrically twinned bimetallic was found 70 ppm downfield compared to the mononuclear complex (130.6 ppm versus 62.7 ppm). 94 When an excess of P(OPh)3 was added to 5, the ¹H NMR spectrum showed an increase in the symmetry of the aromatic region again, with a single Hw signal emerging at 5.90 ppm (1 ppm upfield of that of 5) suggesting increased back-bonding from the metals to Ph_4Pn^2 . These signatures were consistent with each Rh^I(CO)₂ fragment undergoing monosubstitution each to give the symmetrically di-substituted complex $[Rh^{I}(CO)(P\{OPh\}_{3})]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (11) instead of forming inequivalent Rh^I(CO)₂ and Rh^I(P{OPh}₃)₂ moieties within the same complex. The ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of 11 showed a major peak centred at 129.3 ppm $\binom{1}{I_{RhP}}$ = 342.7 Hz), close to the shift of 10 indicating an electronically similar

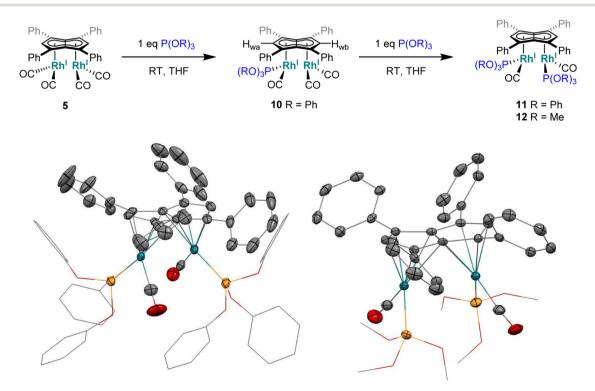


Fig. 9 Synthesis of E-syn-[Rh 1 (CO)(P{OPh}₃)] $_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5$ Ph₄Pn] (11) and E-syn-[Rh 1 (CO)(P{OMe}₃)] $_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5$ Ph₄Pn] (12) (top) and their X-ray crystal structure with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level (bottom; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity).

Dalton Transactions Paper

environment consistent with two Rh^I(P{OPh}₃)(CO) moieties. When two equivalents of P(OPh)3 were used a mixture of the mono- and bis-complexes 10 and 11 was observed, suggesting some (perhaps steric) barrier to forming the bis-product. With four or more equivalents of P(OPh)3 clean formation of 11 was consistently observed, with no signs of demetallation unlike when using phosphines. X-ray crystallographic analysis of 11, the first heteroleptic half-baguette pentalenide complex, confirmed retention of the syn-geometry of metal fragments with the phosphite ligands arranged in an E-geometry (Fig. 9). The Rh-Rh distance of 2.960 Å was slightly longer in 11 than in 5 (2.913 Å), leading to a FSR of 1.19, likely as a consequence of the increased steric crowding around each Rh(1) centre. The Rh-C_t distances were comparable to that of 5 (1.9969(12) Å and 2.0013(11) versus 1.997 Å) and the ring slippage values Δ were marginally lower (0.25 versus 0.27) revealing a slightly smaller degree of deviation towards η^3 than in 5. The hinge angle of 11 showed that the C5-rings deviated from planarity by an average of 8.5°, 1.7° less than in 5 whilst the angle between the L-Rh-L plane and Pn plane was 76.7°. The Rh-CO bond lengths were on average 0.03 Å shorter than in 5 suggesting an increase in Rh-CO back-bonding which was further supported by blueshifted CO bands at 1982 and 1961 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectrum of **11** (cf. 1992, 2025, 2046 and 2064 cm⁻¹ in 5). The analogous reaction with P(OMe)₃ led to the formation of a variety of products, including a bis-substituted product, E-syn-[Rh $^{I}(CO)(P{OMe}_{3})]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (12) which was found to be isostructural to 11 by single-crystal XRD exhibiting a ring slippage value of $\Delta = 0.27$, a hinge angle of 9.5° and an angle of 78.2° between the L-Rh-L plane and the plane of Ph₄Pn²⁻.

Conclusion

We have reported the synthesis of a series of bimetallic Rh(1) half-baguette complexes from transmetalation of Ph₄Pn²⁻ salts with [RhIL2X]2 complexes. With either Mg[Ph4Pn] or Li-K [Ph₄Pn] the same transmetalation product was obtained, consistent with the notion that in ethereal solution s-block pentalenides exist as solvent-separated ion pairs. 60,61 However, Mg [Ph₄Pn] provides practical advantages with cleaner formation of the transmetalation product and easy removal of MgCl₂ by induced precipitation of [MgCl₂(dioxane)]. [Rh^I(COD)]₂[Ph₄Pn] (1), $[Ir^{I}(COD)]_{2}[Ph_{4}Pn]$ (2), $[Rh^{I}(NBD)]_{2}[Ph_{4}Pn]$ (3) and [Rh^I(C₂H₄)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn] (4) all formed exclusively as linked antibimetallics, whilst the twinned syn-bimetallic [Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn] (5) was obtained regardless whether the monometallic [Rh^I(acac)(CO)₂] or bimetallic [Rh^I(CO)₂(μ-Cl)]₂ precursors were used. DFT calculations revealed a mix of repulsive M-M and attractive ML2-ML2 interactions which weakly favour syn arrangement in the absence of steric clash between the auxiliary ligands L. Neither anti-[Rh^I(NBD)]₂[Ph₄Pn] nor syn-[Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn] displayed Lewis-basic reactivity towards AlCl₃ due to being surrounded by π -acceptor ligands in a distorted trigonal-bipyramidal 18-electron configuration.

Attempted ligand exchange reactions syn-[Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[Ph₄Pn] with N-donor ligands were unsuccessful, whilst the introduction of strongly σ-donating and/or chelating phosphines led to rhodium abstraction from Ph₄Pn²⁻. With PMe₃ this process was accompanied by disproportionation, forming Rh(0)dimers and [Rh^{II}(PMe₃)₄(CO)][Ph₄Pn] (8). With dppe a single Rh(1) centre abstracted to yield $[Rh^{I}(dppe)_{2}][Rh^{I}(CO)_{2}(\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn)]$ (9) featuring an anionic, mono-nuclear pentalenide complex which could serve as a synthon to access heterobimetallic complexes in the future. PPh₃ and P(OPh)₃ reacted similarly towards 5 to successively yield the monosubstituted complexes [RhI(CO)2;RhI(CO) $(PPh_3)[Ph_4Pn]$ (6) and $[Rh^I(CO)_2;Rh^I(CO)(P\{OPh\}_3)][Ph_4Pn]$ (10) respectively. The di-substituted complexes E-syn-[Rh I (CO) $(PPh_3)_2[Ph_4Pn]$ (7) and *E-syn-*[Rh^I(CO)(P{OR}₃)]₂[Ph₄Pn] (R = Ph 11, R = Me 12) could be accessed using stoichiometric amounts of PPh3 and an excess of P(OR)3 respectively. The latter were characterised by XRD which showed each rhodium centre underwent monosubstitution, with overall retention of the syn-geometry and the phosphite ligands adopting E-conformation due to sterics. These results will be useful in guiding the targeted derivatisation of future transition metal pentalenide complexes to test and exploit intermetallic cooperation in linked and twinned bimetallics. Related monometallic Cp complexes have been employed in a range of chemistries including C-H and Si-H activation and cycloadditions 108-113 as well as synthons for heterometallic clusters, 114,115 offering a wealth of opportunities for bimetallic half-baguette pentalenide complexes.

Experimental

General considerations

All reactions were conducted under argon using standard Schlenk techniques or a MBraun Unilab Plus glovebox unless stated otherwise. All commercially available materials were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, Fisher or Acros.

Solvents

Methanol was dried and distilled over magnesium. Toluene was dried and distilled over sodium. THF, hexane and pentane were dried and distilled over potassium. C_6D_6 was distilled over CaH_2 and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. TMEDA, DME and 1,4-dioxane were distilled over CaH_2 .

Reagents

1,3,4,6-Tetraphenyl-1,2-dihydropentalene (Ph_4PnH_2), 60 Lithium potassium 1,3,4,6-tetraphenylpentalenide (Li- $K[Ph_4Pn]$), 60 Magnesium 1,3,4,6-tetraphenylpentalenide ($Mg[Ph_4Pn]$), 61 [$Rh^I(COD)(\mu$ - $CI)]_2$, 116 [$Ir^I(COD)(\mu$ - $CI)]_2$, 117 and [$Rh^I(NBD)(\mu$ - $CI)]_2$ were prepared according to literature procedures. [$Rh^I(CO)_2(\mu$ - $CI)]_2$ and [$Rh^I(C_2H_4)_2(\mu$ - $CI)]_2$ were used as received.

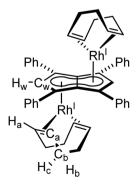
Analysis

NMR spectra were obtained using either a 500 MHz Bruker Avance III, a 500 MHz Bruker Avance III HD with nitrogen cooled CryoProbe Prodigy (BBO) or a 400 MHz Bruker AvanceNeo with room temperature iProbe. Spectra were recorded at 25 °C unless stated otherwise. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm and referenced to residual proton chemical shifts from the NMR solvent for ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectra. UV-vis, NIR and IR spectroscopy were performed inside a MBraun Unilab Plus glovebox. UV-vis and NIR spectra were obtained using a fibre-optic AvaSpec-2048L photospectrometer (UV-vis) and an AvaSpec-NIR256 (NIR) with an AvaLight-DH-S-BAL light source and 400 µm cables (Avantes), data was collected between 250 nm and 1000 nm with an integration time of 4 ms (UV-vis) and between 910 nm and 1700 nm with an integration time of 0.26 ms (NIR). IR spectra were obtained using a Bruker Alpha II FT-IR (recorded between 4000 and 400 cm⁻¹ with 24 scans at $2 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ resolution}$).

Single X-ray diffraction analysis was carried out at the Material and Chemical Characterisation (MC²) Facility at the University of Bath using a RIGAKU SuperNova Dual EoS2 single crystal diffractometer. Mass spectrometry was carried out at the Material and Chemical Characterisation Facility at the University of Bath using a Bruker MaXis HD ESI-QTOF with direct injection. Samples were prepared in THF inside an argon filled glovebox.

Synthesis of anti- $[Rh^{I}(COD)]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (1)

[Rh(COD)(μ-Cl)]₂ (16 mg, 0.03 mmol) was dissolved in 0.5 mL THF and added, by syringe, to a THF solution of $Mg[Ph_4Pn]$ (20 mg, 0.03 mmol) in THF (0.5 ml). The reaction was stirred for one hour during which all solid dissolved and a colour change to red was observed. Then dioxane (0.3 mL) was added and the solution stirred for another hour, during which a creamy white precipitate formed. The supernatant was extracted *via* filtration and concentrated to 0.2 mL volume. To this, pentane (0.5 mL) was added, and the mixture stood overnight at -35 °C. The supernatant was removed, and the resultant red powder dried under vacuum for one hour to give the product (5 mg, 20%). Crystals suitable for XRD could be grown from standing of a THF solution at -35 °C.



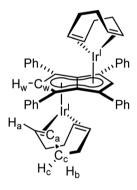
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6) δ: 7.44 (d, ${}^3J_{HH}$ = 7.2 Hz, 8H, ArH), 7.13–7.09 (m, 11H, ArH), 6.10 (s, 2H, H_w), 3.92 (bs, 8H, H_a), 2.08 (bs, 9H, H_c/H_b), 1.77 (d, ${}^2J_{HH}$ = 7.9 Hz, 8H, H_c/H_b).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 136.2, 129.7, 128.1, 126.8, 99.3 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 4.8 Hz, C_w), 91.2 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 4.3 Hz), 89.9, 72.9 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 13.6 Hz, C_a), 32.3 (C_b).

HR APCI-MS (+) m/z expected for [M + H] = 829.1782, found 829.1722

Synthesis of anti- $[Ir^{I}(COD)]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (2)

[Ir(COD)(μ -Cl)]₂ (20 mg, 0.03 mmol) was dissolved in 0.5 mL THF and added, by syringe, to a THF solution of Mg[Ph₄Pn] (20 mg, 0.03 mmol) in THF (0.5 ml). The reaction was stirred for one hour during which all solid dissolved and a colour change to red was observed. Then dioxane (0.3 mL) was added and the solution stirred for another hour, during which a creamy white precipitate formed. The supernatant was extracted *via* filtration and concentrated to 0.2 mL volume. To this, pentane (0.5 mL) was added, and the solution stood overnight at -35 °C. The supernatant was removed, and the resultant yellow powder dried under vacuum for one hour to give the product (12 mg, 39%). Crystals suitable for XRD could be grown from standing of a THF solution at -35 °C.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6) δ: 7.32–7.31 (m, 8H, ArH), 7.10–7.09 (m, 12H, ArH), 6.10 (s, 2H, H_w), 3.98 (bs, 8H, H_a), 2.00–1.98 (m, 9H, H_c/H_b), 1.74–1.72 (m, 8H, H_c/H_b)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 134.9, 130.2, 128.3, 127.2, 92.3 (C_w), 86.9, 86.3, 56.1 (C_a), 33.4 (C_b)

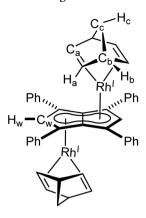
HR APCI-MS (+) m/z expected for [M + H] = 1009.2931, found 1009.2829

Synthesis of anti- $[Rh^{I}(NBD)]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (3)

Mg[Ph₄Pn] (20 mg, 0.03 mmol) was dissolved in THF (0.5 mL) and to this solution [Rh(NBD)(μ -Cl)]₂ (14 mg, 0.03 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added dropwise and stirred. Upon addition, complete dissolution of all solid was observed and a colour change to dark yellow was seen. The reaction was stirred for one hour during which a yellow precipitate formed. The precipitate was collected *via* filtration over a silica frit and washed with hexane (2 × 1 mL) and dried to afford the product as a yellow/orange powder (18 mg, 76%). Crystals suitable for XRD

Dalton Transactions Paper

could be grown from standing of a THF solution at −35 °C.



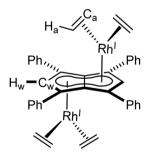
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆) δ: 7.35–7.33 (m, 9H, ArH), 7.07–7.06 (m, 13H ArH), 6.22 (d, ${}^2J_{\rm RhH}$ = 0.8 Hz, 2H, H_w), 3.4–3.32 (m, 8H, H_a), 3.17 (bs, 5H, H_b), 0.81 (s, 4H, H_c).

¹³C{¹H} NMR: (126 MHz, C₆D₆) δ: 136.8, 129.5, 128.4, 126.3, 97.4 (d, ${}^{1}J_{\rm RhC}$ = 5.8 Hz, C_w), 88.8 (d, ${}^{1}J_{\rm RhC}$ = 4.3 Hz), 88.1, 58.1 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\rm RhC}$ = 7 Hz, C_c), 48.5 (C_b), 41.3 (d, ${}^{1}J_{\rm RhC}$ = 10.3 Hz, C_a).

HR APCI-MS (+) m/z expected for [M + H] = 797.1156, found 797.1205.

Synthesis of $[Rh^{I}(C_2H_4)_2]_2[\mu:\eta^5:\eta^5Ph_4Pn]$ (4)

Mg[Ph₄Pn] (20 mg, 0.03 mmol) was dissolved in THF (0.5 mL) and to this solution [Rh(C₂H₄)₂(μ -Cl)]₂ (12 mg, 0.03 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added. An immediate colour change from orange to dark green was observed. Full conversion as determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. Crystals suitable for XRD could be grown from standing of a THF solution at -35 °C, after treatment with dioxane to remove MgCl₂ by-product. Due to the instability of this complex, it could not be cleanly isolated to obtain a yield.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆) δ: 7.41–7.39 (m, 8H, Ar–H), 7.10–7.09 (m, 12H, Ar–H), 5.98 (d, ${}^2J_{RhH}$ = 0.7 Hz, 2H, H_w), 2.19 (d, ${}^2J_{RhH}$ = 1.8 Hz, 16H, H_a).

¹³C{¹H} NMR: (126 MHz, C₆D₆) δ: 134.8, 130.8, 129.8, 127.2, 98.6 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 5.2 Hz, C_w), 91.8 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 4.3 Hz), 89.5, 50.4 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 14.2 Hz, C_a).

Synthesis of syn-[Rh^I(CO)₂]₂[μ : η ⁵: η ⁵Ph₄Pn] (5)

Method A: $[Rh(CO)_2(\mu\text{-Cl})]_2$ (12 mg, 0.03 mmol) was dissolved in THF (1 mL) and added dropwise to a solution of Mg[Ph₄Pn] (20 mg, 0.03 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) and stirred. A colour change from orange to dark yellow was observed along with

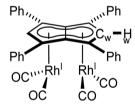
complete dissolution of Mg[Ph₄Pn]. The reaction was allowed to stir for one hour, after dioxane (0.3 mL) was added and the reaction stirred for a further hour during which a brown precipitate formed. The supernatant was collected via filtration and concentrated to ~0.3 mL. To this pentane (0.5 mL) was added and the solution stood overnight at -35 °C. The supernatant was decanted off and the powder dried under vacuum to give the product (7 mg, 32%). Crystals suitable for XRD could be grown from standing of a THF/pentane solution (2:1) at -35 °C.

Method B: [Rh(acac)(CO)₂] (8 mg, 0.031 mmol) was dissolved in THF (0.5 mL) and added dropwise to a solution of Mg[Ph₄Pn] (10 mg, 0.015 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL). A colour change from orange to dark yellow was observed alongside complete dissolution of Mg[Ph₄Pn]. Formation of the product was confirmed *in situ* by 1 H NMR.

Method C: Li-K[Ph₄Pn] (0.05 mmol) was generated *in situ* and to this a solution of [Rh(CO)₂(μ -Cl)]₂ (29 mg, 0.07 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added dropwise. A colour change from red to dark yellow was observed and the product identified *in situ* by ¹H NMR.

Method D: Li·K[Ph₄Pn] (0.05 mmol) was generated *in situ* and to this a solution of [Rh(acac)(CO)₂] (51 mg, 0.2 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added dropwise. A colour change from red to dark yellow was observed and the product identified *in situ* by 1 H NMR.

Method E: [MgⁿBu(THF)₂][Ph₄Pn] (10 mg, 0.012 mmol) was dissolved in C_6D_6 (0.5 mL) and to this a solution of [Rh (CO)₂(μ-Cl)]₂ (5 mg, 0.012 mmol) in C_6D_6 (0.5 mL) was added slowly. A colour change from bright yellow to dark yellow was observed and the product identified *in situ* by ¹H NMR.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 7.16 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7.1 Hz, 8H, ArH), 7.12 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7.3 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.04 (t, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7.7 Hz, 8H, ArH), 6.91 (d, ${}^{2}J_{RhH}$ = 1.4 Hz, 2H, H_w).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 194.5 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 83.8 Hz, CO), 133.7, 130.5, 128.2, 128.2, 112.1, 90.1 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 7.0 Hz, C_w), 81.9 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 4.3 Hz).

HR APCI-MS (+) m/z expected for [M + H] = 724.9706, found = 724.9677.

IR (ν_{CO} , cm⁻¹): 2064, 2046, 2025, 1992.

General procedure for ligand substitution reactions

5 was generated *in situ* by the addition of $[Rh(CO)_2(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (12 mg, 0.03 mmol in 0.3 mL THF) to Mg $[Ph_4Pn]$ (20 mg, 0.03 mmol in 0.5 mL THF) with formation confirmed by 1H NMR. An appropriate amount of ligand was then added (0.03 mmol, 0.06 mmol, or 0.12 mmol). Solid ligands were added as a THF solution (0.3 mL) and liquids were added

directly to the solution of 5, before dioxane (0.2 mL) was added, and the solution left to stand for 10 minutes after which it was syringe filtered to remove the precipitated $[MgCl_2(dioxane)]_{\infty}$. In the cases of 6, 7, 8 and 10 the products could not be cleanly isolated and were identified in situ using multi-nuclear 1D and 2D NMR techniques supported by mass spectrometry. The original NMR spectra can be found in Fig. S28-S47.†

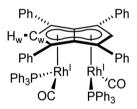
syn-[Rh^I(CO)₂;Rh^I(CO)(PPh₃)][μ : η^5 : η^5 Ph₄Pn] (6)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 6.71 (s, 1H, H_{wb}), 6.23 (s, 1H,

¹³C(¹H) NMR (126 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 195.2 (dd, ¹ J_{RhC} = 84.3 Hz, ${}^2J_{CP}$ = 3.3 Hz, CO), 93.4 (C_{wa}), 88.7 (d, ${}^1J_{RhC}$ = 6.5 Hz, C_{wb}). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (202 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 48.1 ppm (¹ J_{RhP} = 202

HR ESI-MS (+) m/z expected for $[M - Rh(CO)_2] = 799.1632$, found = 799.1622.

$syn-[Rh^{I}(CO)(PPh_{3})]_{2}[\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (7)

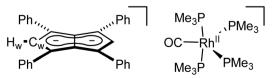


³¹P{¹H} NMR (202 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 51.4 (¹ J_{RhP} = 198 Hz).

HR ESI-MS (+) m/z expected for [M] = 1192.1547, found = 1192.1459; m/z expected for $[M - Rh(CO)(PPh_3)] = 799.1632$, found = 799.1590.

$[Rh^{II}(PMe_3)_4(CO)][Ph_4Pn]$ (8)

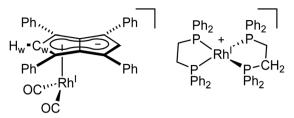
As per the general procedure, PMe₃ (0.12 mmol, 1M in THF) was added to a THF solution of 5. A colour change to dark red was observed. To this solution dioxane (0.2 mL) was added and subsequently filtered. Addition of pentane (1 mL, 1:1 ratio with THF) followed by standing of the solution at -35 °C yielded dark red crystals of [Rh^{II}(PMe₃)₄(CO)][Ph₄Pn] suitable for X-ray diffraction. Due to the instability of this complex, it could not be cleanly isolated to obtain a yield.



³¹P{¹H} NMR (202 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : -16.2 (bs), -34.4 (bs).

HR APCI-MS (-) m/z expected for $[M - Rh(CO)(PMe_3)_4] =$ 406.1722, found = 406.1769.

$[Rh^{I}(dppe)_{2}][Rh^{I}(CO)_{2}(\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn)]$ (9)



The crude reaction mixture was concentrated to circa 0.3 mL, 1 mL hexane added and the solution stood at -35 °C for one hour. The supernatant was removed and the solid dried under vacuum to afford the product (20.3 mg, 45%).

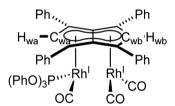
¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 7.29 (t, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7 Hz, 6H, ArH), 7.18-7.11 (m, 36H, ArH), 7.04 (t, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7.6 Hz, 8H, ArH), 6.91 (d, ${}^{2}J_{RhH}$ = 0.9 Hz, 2H, H_w), 2.11 (bs, CH₂).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 194.4 (d, ¹ J_{RhH} = 82.8 Hz, CO), 134.0, 133.6, 131.3, 130.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 121.1, 90.1 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 7.1 Hz, C_{w}), 81.9 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 4.4 Hz), 42.1 Hz (CH₂).

³¹P{¹H} NMR (202 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 57.6 (d, ¹ J_{RhP} = 128 Hz). **HR ESI-MS** (+) m/z expected for $[M - Rh(CO)_2(Ph_4Pn)] =$ 899.1756, found = 899.1715.

IR (ν_{CO} , cm⁻¹): 1980, 1918.

$syn-[Rh^{I}(CO)_{2};Rh^{I}(CO)(P\{OPh\}_{3})][\mu:\eta^{5}:\eta^{5}Ph_{4}Pn]$ (10)

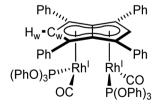


¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 6.75 (s, 1H, H_b), 6.22 (s, 1H,

¹³C(¹H) NMR (126 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 88.6 (d, ¹ J_{RhC} = 7.4 Hz, H_{wb}), 81.9 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 4.5 Hz, H_{wa}).

³¹P{¹H} NMR (202 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 130.6 (d, ¹ J_{RhP} = 328 Hz).

E-syn-[Rh^I(CO)(P{OPh}₃)]₂[μ : η ⁵: η ⁵Ph₄Pn] (11)



Using 0.12 mmol P(OPh)₃. Hexane (1 mL) was added to the crude reaction mixture, and the solution stood overnight at -35 °C. The supernatant was removed, and the resultant Dalton Transactions Paper

brown powder dried under vacuum for 2 hours to give the product (16.4 mg, 41%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 7.18–7.15 (m, 13H, ArH), 7.05–6.99 (m, 19H, ArH), 6.91–6.87 (m, 16H, ArH), 5.90 (s, 2H, H_w).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 152.8 (d, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 10.5 Hz), 135.4, 130.9, 129.7, 127.6, 126.7, 124.7, 122.4 (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 3.8 Hz), 109.6, 89.1 (m, C_w), 81.0 [CO not resolved].

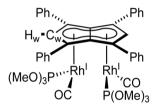
³¹P{¹H} NMR (202 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 128.5 (d, ¹ J_{RhP} = 344 Hz).

HR ESI-MS (+) m/z expected for [M - Rh(CO)(P{OPh}₃)] = 847.1479, found = 847.1561.

IR (ν_{CO} , cm⁻¹): 1982, 1961.

E-syn-[Rh^I(CO)(P{OMe}₃)]₂[μ : η ⁵: η ⁵Ph₄Pn] (12)

Using 0.06 mmol P(OMe)₃. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the resultant brown solid washed with *n*-hexane $(3 \times 0.5 \text{ mL})$ to afford the product (21.4 mg, 74%).



¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 7.20 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{HH}}$ = 7 Hz, 8H, ArH), 6.99–6.93 (m, 12H, ArH), 6.64 (s, 2H, H_w) [methyl groups obscured by solvent].

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, THF-H₈) δ: 136.5, 130.7, 127.3, 126.2, 110.1, 88.3 (${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 7 Hz, C_w), 80.1 (dd, ${}^{1}J_{RhC}$ = 10 Hz, ${}^{2}J_{PC}$ = 4 Hz), 52.2 (d, ${}^{2}J_{RhC}$ = 3 Hz, CH₃).

³¹P{¹H} NMR (202 MHz, THF-H₈) δ : 146.2 (d, ¹ J_{RhP} = 309 Hz).

HR ESI-MS (+) m/z expected for [M] = 916.0303, found = 916.0284.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Royal Society (award UF160458) and the University of Bath for funding this work. Dr Mandeep Kaur is acknowledged for help and advice with the synthesis and isolation of several compounds, and Dr Kathryn Proctor and Dr Samantha Lau for assistance with conducting air-sensitive mass spectrometry measurements. This research made use of the Anatra High Performance Computing (HPC) Service at the University of Bath (doi.org/10.15125/b6cd-s854).

References

- 1 J. Campos, Bimetallic cooperation across the periodic table, *Nat. Rev. Chem.*, 2020, **4**, 696–702.
- 2 C. M. Farley and C. Uyeda, Organic Reactions Enabled by Catalytically Active Metal–Metal Bonds, *Trends Chem.*, 2019, **1**, 497–509.
- 3 J. F. Berry and C. M. Thomas, Multimetallic complexes: synthesis and applications, *Dalton Trans.*, 2017, **46**, 5472.
- 4 J. M. Gil-Negrete and E. Hevia, Main group bimetallic partnerships for cooperative catalysis, *Chem. Sci.*, 2021, 12, 1982–1992.
- 5 R. H. Lam, S. T. Keaveney, B. A. Messerle and I. Pernik, Bimetallic Rhodium Complexes: Precatalyst Activation-Triggered Bimetallic Enhancement for the Hydrosilylation Transformation, ACS Catal., 2023, 13, 1999–2010.
- 6 M. S. Jeletic, I. Ghiviriga, K. A. Abboud and A. S. Veige, Mono- and bimetallic rhodium(1) complexes supported by new C₂-symmetric bis-N-heterocyclic carbene ligands: Metalation via C=C bond cleavage under mild conditions, *Organometallics*, 2007, **26**, 5267–5270.
- 7 F. Min, N. D. Jones, K. Friesen, L. Guanyang, M. J. Ferguson, R. McDonald, R. Lukowski and R. G. Cavell, Bimetallic, spirocyclic, methylene-bridged carbene complexes of rhodium and palladium derived by stepwise metalations of lithiated bis (diphenylphosphoranotrimethylsilylimido)methandiide, *Organometallics*, 2009, 28, 1652–1665.
- 8 L. A. Oro, D. Carmona and J. Reedijk, Dinuclear rhodium (i) compounds containing diolefins and the 1,6-bis(2'-ben-zimidazolyl)-2,5-dithiahexane ligand, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 1983, 71, 115–118.
- 9 C. Tan, H. Tinnermann, V. Wee, S. Tan, S. Sung, Q. Wang and R. D. Young, Synthesis of bimetallic rhodium phosphinine complexes with enhanced catalytic activity towards alkyne hydrosilylation, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 2023, **986**, 122617.
- 10 T. A. Koizumi, Y. Ohkura and E. Tsuda, Synthesis, structure, and electrochemical behavior of a new dinuclear Rh(III) complex bridged by a bpp— ligand (bpp— = 3,5-bis(2-pyridyl) pyrazolate), *Inorg. Chem. Commun.*, 2016, **67**, 25–28.
- 11 M. Mintert and W. S. Sheldrick, Dinuclear Rh(I,I) and Rh (II,II) complexes containing bridging asymmetrically 2,7-disubstituted naphthyridines, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 1997, 254, 93–98.
- 12 C. M. Thomas, A. Neels, H. Stoeckli-Evans and G. Süss-Fink, Rhodium-Catalysed Carbonylation of Methanol Using a New Multifunctional Ligand Isolation and Structural Characterisation of the Macrocycle [Rh₂I₆(CO)₂ (C₆H₄N₃CH₂CO₂C₄H₂SCO₂CH₂C₆H₄N₃)]₂, Eur. J. Inorg. Chem., 2001, 3005–3008.
- 13 M. E. Broussard, B. Juma, S. G. Train, W. J. Peng, S. A. Laneman and G. G. Stanley, A Bimetallic Hydroformylation Catalyst: High Regioselectivity and Reactivity Through Homobimetallic Cooperativity, *Science*, 1993, 260, 1784–1788.

14 J. H. Ho, S. W. S. Choy, S. A. MacGregor and B. A. Messerle, Cooperativity in bimetallic dihydroalkoxylation catalysts built on aromatic scaffolds: Significant rate enhancements with a rigid anthracene scaffold,

- Organometallics, 2011, 30, 5978-5984.
 15 S. W. S. Choy, M. J. Page, M. Bhadbhade and B. A. Messerle, Cooperative catalysis: Large rate enhancements with bimetallic rhodium complexes, Organometallics, 2013, 32, 4726-4729.
- 16 M. Maekawa, K. Sugimoto, T. Kuroda-Sowa, Y. Suenaga and M. Munakata, Syntheses and structures of dinuclear rhodium(ı) complexes and 1-D zigzag-chain rhodium(ı) co-ordination polymers bridged by rod-like bidentate nitrogen ligands, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 1999, 4357–4362.
- 17 T. Nakajima, M. Maeda, A. Matsui, M. Nishigaki, M. Kotani and T. Tanase, Unsymmetric Dinuclear Rh^I₂ and Rh^IRh^{III} Complexes Supported by Tetraphosphine Ligands and Their Reactivity of Oxidative Protonation and Reductive Dechlorination, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2022, 61, 1102–1117.
- 18 K. Masada, K. Okabe, S. Kusumoto and K. Nozaki, A dinuclear Rh(-I)/Rh(I) complex bridged by biphilic phosphinine ligands, *Chem. Sci.*, 2023, 14, 8524–8530.
- 19 L. J. Watson and A. F. Hill, C-H activation in bimetallic rhodium complexes to afford N-heterocyclic carbene pincer complexes, *Dalton Trans.*, 2023, 52, 2164–2174.
- 20 S. Sun, C. A. Dullaghan, G. B. Carpenter, A. L. Rieger, P. H. Rieger and D. A. Sweigart, Synthesis and Structure of Bimetallic η^4, η^6 -Naphthalene Complexes Containing a Mn-Mn Moiety Bonded in a syn-Facial Manner: A General Route to Homo- and Heteronuclear Bimetallic Complexes of Polyarenes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1995, **34**, 2540–2542.
- 21 J. A. Reingold, K. L. Virkaitis, G. B. Carpenter, S. Sun, D. A. Sweigart, P. T. Czech and K. R. Overly, Chemical and electrochemical reduction of polyarene manganese tricarbonyl cations: Hapticity changes and generation of Synand Anti-facial bimetallic η^4 , η^6 -naphthalene complexes, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2005, **127**, 11146–11158.
- 22 K. D. Demadis, C. M. Hartshorn and T. J. Meyer, The Localized-to-Delocalized Transition in Mixed-Valence Chemistry, *Chem. Rev.*, 2001, 101, 2655–2685.
- 23 W. Kaim, Concepts for metal complex chromophores absorbing in the near infrared, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 2011, 255, 2503–2513.
- 24 P. Jutzi and N. Burford, Structurally Diverse π -Cyclopentadienyl Complexes of the Main Group Elements, *Chem. Rev.*, 1999, **99**, 969–990.
- 25 S. Bendjaballah, S. Kahlal, K. Costuas, E. Bévillon and J. Y. Saillard, The Versatility of Pentalene Coordination to Transition Metals: A Density Functional Theory Investigation, Chem. – Eur. J., 2006, 12, 2048–2065.
- 26 O. T. Summerscales and F. G. N. Cloke, The organometallic chemistry of pentalene, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 2006, 250, 1122–1140.

- 27 F. G. N. Cloke, J. C. Green, A. F. R. Kilpatrick and D. O'Hare, Bonding in pentalene complexes and their recent applications, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 2017, **344**, 238–262.
- 28 Y. A. Ustynyuk, A. K. Shestakova, V. A. Chertkov, N. N. Zemlyansky, I. V. Borisova, A. I. Gusev, E. B. Tchuklanova and E. A. Chernyshev, Synthesis, structure and fluxional behaviour of isomeric bis(trimethylstannyl)dihydropentalenes, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1987, 335, 43–57.
- 29 F. G. N. Cloke, M. C. Kuchta, R. M. Harker, P. B. Hitchcock and J. S. Parry, Trialkylsilyl-substituted pentalene ligands, *Organometallics*, 2000, 19, 5795–5798.
- 30 R. T. Cooper, F. M. Chadwick, A. E. Ashley and D. O'Hare, Synthesis and Characterization of Group 4 Permethylpentalene Dichloride Complexes, Organometallics, 2013, 32, 2228–2233.
- 31 A. F. R. Kilpatrick, J. C. Green, F. Geoffrey, N. Cloke and N. Tsoureas, Bis(pentalene)di-titanium: a bent doublesandwich complex with a very short Ti-Ti bond, *Chem. Commun.*, 2013, 49, 9434.
- 32 G. Balazs, F. G. N. Cloke, L. Gagliardi, J. C. Green, A. Harrison, P. B. Hitchcock, A. R. M. Shahi and O. T. Summerscales, A dichromium(II) bis(η^8 -pentalene) double-sandwich complex with a spin equilibrium: Synthetic, structural, magnetic, and theoretical studies, *Organometallics*, 2008, 27, 2013–2020.
- 33 A. E. Ashley, R. T. Cooper, G. G. Wildgoose, J. C. Green and D. O'Hare, Homoleptic Permethylpentalene Complexes: 'Double Metallocenes' of the First-Row Transition Metals, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2008, 130, 15662– 15677.
- 34 S. C. Binding, J. C. Green, W. K. Myers and D. O'Hare, Synthesis, Structure, and Bonding for Bis(permethylpentalene)diiron, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2015, 54, 11935–11940.
- 35 G. Balazs, F. G. N. Cloke, A. Harrison, P. B. Hitchcock, J. Green and O. T. Summerscales, Mn₂ bis(pentalene): A mixed-spin bimetallic with two extremes of bonding within the same molecule, *Chem. Commun.*, 2007, 873– 875.
- 36 O. T. Summerscales, C. J. Rivers, M. J. Taylor, P. B. Hitchcock, J. C. Green and F. G. N. Cloke, Double-sandwich pentalene complexes $M_2(\text{pent}^{\dagger})_2$ (M = Rh, Pd; Pent † = 1,4-Bis(triisopropylsilyl) pentalene): Synthesis, structure, and bonding, *Organometallics*, 2012, 31, 8613–8617.
- 37 S. C. Jones, T. Hascall, S. Barlow and D. O'Hare, Pentalene Complexes of Group 7 Metal Carbonyls: An Organometallic Mixed-Valence System with Very Large Metal-Metal Electronic Coupling, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2002, 124, 11610–11611.
- 38 S. C. Jones, P. Roussel, T. Hascall and D. O'Hare, Convenient solution route to alkylated pentalene ligands: New metal monoalkylpentalenyl complexes, Organometallics, 2006, 25, 221–229.
- 39 D. F. Hunt and J. W. Russell, Phenylpentalenediiron pentacarbonyl, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1972, 46, C22–C24.

40 D. F. Hunt and J. W. Russell, A Stable Transition Metal π Complex of Dimethylaminopentalene, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1972, **94**, 7198–7199.

Dalton Transactions

- 41 W. Weidemüller and K. Hafner, Synthesis of Carbonyliron Complexes of Pentalene and Its Derivatives, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1973, **12**, 925–925.
- 42 D. F. Hunt and J. W. Russell, Iron carbonyl complexes of pentalene and dihydropentalene, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1976, **104**, 373–376.
- 43 A. E. Ashley, G. Balázs, A. R. Cowley, J. C. Green and D. O'Hare, syn-Permethylpentalene Iron and Cobalt Carbonyl Complexes: Proximity Bimetallics Lacking Metal-Metal Bonding, *Organometallics*, 2007, 26, 5517–5521.
- 44 A. Miyake and A. Kanai, Allyldihydropentalenylene Complexes of Transition Metals, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1971, **10**, 801–802.
- 45 S. A. R. Knox, F. Gordon and A. Stone, Approaches to the Synthesis of Pentalene via Metal Complexes, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 1974, 7, 321–328.
- 46 J. A. K. Howard, S. A. R. Knox, F. G. A. Stone, A. C. Szary and P. Woodward, Pentalene complexes from cyclo-octatrienes: Crystal structure of η ,-(1,5-bistrimethylsilyl)pentalene-1,1,2,2,3,3,3,3-octacarbonyl-triangulo-triruthenium, $\{Ru_3(CO)_8[C_8H_4(SiMe_3)_2]\}$, J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 1974, 788–789.
- 47 F. M. Chadwick, A. E. Ashley, R. T. Cooper, L. A. Bennett, J. C. Green and D. M. O'Hare, Group 9 bimetallic carbonyl permethylpentalene complexes, *Dalton Trans.*, 2015, 44, 20147–20153.
- 48 A. F. R. Kilpatrick and F. G. N. Cloke, Reductive deoxygenation of CO₂ by a bimetallic titanium bis(pentalene) complex, *Chem. Commun.*, 2014, **50**, 2769–2771.
- 49 A. F. R. Kilpatrick, J. C. Green and F. G. N. Cloke, The Reductive Activation of CO₂ Across a Ti=Ti Double Bond: Synthetic, Structural, and Mechanistic Studies, Organometallics, 2015, 34, 4816–4829.
- 50 N. Tsoureas, J. C. Green and F. G. N. Cloke, C-H and H-H activation at a di-titanium centre, *Chem. Commun.*, 2017, 53, 13117–13120.
- 51 N. Tsoureas, J. C. Green and F. G. N. Cloke, Bis(pentalene) dititanium chemistry: C-H, C-X and H-H bond activation, *Dalton Trans.*, 2018, 47, 14531–14539.
- 52 R. T. Cooper, F. M. Chadwick, A. E. Ashley and D. O'Hare, Double CO_2 activation by 14-electron η^8 -permethylpentalene titanium dialkyl complexes, *Chem. Commun.*, 2015, **51**, 11856–11859.
- 53 F. M. Chadwick, R. T. Cooper and D. O'Hare, Zirconium and Hafnium Permethylpentalene Compounds, *Organometallics*, 2016, 35, 2092–2100.
- 54 E. A. Hamilton, A. F. R. Kilpatrick, Z. R. Turner, D. A. X. Fraser, J. C. Buffet and D. O'Hare, CO₂ activation by permethylpentalene amido zirconium complexes, *Dalton Trans.*, 2021, **50**, 4494–4498.
- 55 K. Jonas, P. Kolb, G. Kollbach, B. Gabor, R. Mynott, K. Angermund, O. Heinemann and C. Kruger, Mononuclear Pentalene and Methylpentalene Complexes

- of Titanium, Zirconium, and Hafnium, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 1997, **36**, 1714–1718.
- 56 F. M. Chadwick, R. T. Cooper, A. E. Ashley, J. C. Buffet and D. M. O'Hare, Early transition metal permethylpentalene complexes for the polymerization of ethylene, *Organometallics*, 2014, 33, 3775–3785.
- 57 D. A. X. Fraser, Z. R. Turner, J. C. Buffet and D. O'Hare, Titanium and Zirconium Permethylpentalene Complexes, Pn*MCpRX, as Ethylene Polymerization Catalysts, *Organometallics*, 2016, 35, 2664–2674.
- 58 F. Burgos, I. Chá Vez, J. M. Manriquez, M. Valderrama, E. Lago, E. Molins, F. Delpech, A. Castel and P. Riviè, A New Heterobimetallic Ru,Rh Complex with a Dianionic Pentalene as Bridging Ligand. Synthesis, Crystal Structure, and Catalytic Activity of [Cp*Ru(μ ,- η ⁵, η ³-C₈H₆) Rh(η ⁴-COD)], Organometallics, 2001, **20**, 1287–1291.
- 59 N. A. Jenek, M. Balschun, S. M. Boyt and U. Hintermair, Connect Four: Tetraarylated Dihydropentalenes and Triarylated Monocyclic Pentafulvenes from Cyclopentadienes and Enones, J. Org. Chem., 2022, 87, 13790–13802.
- 60 S. M. Boyt, N. A. Jenek, H. J. Sanderson, G. Kociok-Köhn and U. Hintermair, Synthesis of a Tetraphenyl-Substituted Dihydropentalene and Its Alkali Metal Hydropentalenide and Pentalenide Complexes, *Organometallics*, 2022, 41, 211–225.
- 61 H. J. Sanderson, G. Kociok-Köhn and U. Hintermair, Synthesis, Structure, and Reactivity of Magnesium Pentalenides, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2023, 62, 15983–15991.
- 62 F. G. N. Cloke, Pure Appl. Chem., 2001, 73, 233-238.
- 63 W. T. Ford and J. B. Grutzner, ¹H and ¹³C Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectra of Cyclopentadienylmagnesium Compounds in Tetrahydrofuran, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1972, 37, 2561–2564.
- 64 P. Sobota and B. Duda, Influence of MgCl₂ on Grignard reagent composition in tetrahydrofuran. III, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1987, 332, 239–245.
- 65 N. A. Jenek, A. Helbig, S. M. Boyt, S. B. Reeksting, G. Kociok-Köhn, H. Helten and U. Hintermair, The coming of age: Understanding and tuning the electronic structure of pentalenides, *ChemRxiv*, 2023.
- 66 P. Zhao, C. D. Incarvito and J. F. Hartwig, Direct observation of β-aryl eliminations from Rh(I) alkoxides, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2006, **128**, 3124–3125.
- 67 S. Sakamoto, T. Taniguchi, Y. Sakata, S. Akine, T. Nishimura and K. Maeda, Chain: Catalysts for Living Polymerization of Phenylacetylene and Potential Helical Chirality of 1,3,5-Hexatrienes, *Helical Struct.*, 2021, 60, 22201–22206.
- 68 T. Osswald, I. S. Mikhel, H. Rüegger, P. Butti and A. Mezzetti, Secondary ligand-metal interactions in rhodium(III) and iridium(III) phosphoramidite complexes, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2010, 363, 474–480.
- 69 J. W. Faller, R. H. Crabtree and A. Habib, Control of Slippage and Conformation in Indenyl Complexes, *Organometallics*, 1985, 4, 929–935.

70 J. L. Atwood, W. E. Hunter, D. C. Hrncir, E. Samuel, H. Alt and M. D. Rausch, Molecular Structures of the $Bis(\eta^5$ -indenyl)dimethyl Derivatives of Titanium, Zirconium, and Hafnium, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1975, **14**, 1757–1762.

- 71 H. Adams, N. A. Bailey, B. E. Mann, B. F. Taylor, C. White and P. Yavari, Activation energies for molecular tumbling and cyclopentadienyl rotation in $[M(\eta^5-C_5H_5)(\eta^4-\text{cod})](M=\text{Rh or Ir}; \text{cod} = \text{cyclo-octa-1,5-diene})$ and the X-ray crystal structure of and bonding in $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5-C_5H_5)(\eta^4-\text{cod})]$, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 1987, **9**, 1947–1951.
- 72 M. Graf, H. C. Böttcher, P. Mayer and M. Scheer, Synthesis and Molecular Structures of $[Rh(\eta^5-C_5H_5)(coe)_2]$ (coe = ciscyclooctene) and $[Rh(\eta^5-C_5H_5)(\eta^4-cod)]$ (cod = cis,cis- η , 4 –1,5-cyclooctadiene), *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.*, 2017, **643**, 1323–1325.
- 73 I. Y. Ilyin, I. V. Mirzaeva, T. S. Sukhikh, D. V. Bonegardt and T. V. Basova, Study Of The Correlation Between The Structure Of The [Ir(cod)Cp] Complex and its Thermal Properties, *J. Struct. Chem.*, 2021, **62**, 1863–1871.
- 74 H. Schumann and S. Stenz, Carbonyl(diphenylcyclopentadienyl) and carbonyl(tetraphenylcyclopentadienyl) rhodium(1) complexes, *Z. Naturforsch., B: J. Chem. Sci.*, 2001, **56**, 1293–1296.
- 75 T. Piou, F. Romanov-Michailidis, M. Romanova-Michaelides, K. E. Jackson, N. Semakul, T. D. Taggart, B. S. Newell, C. D. Rithner, R. S. Paton and T. Rovis, Correlating reactivity and selectivity to cyclopentadienyl ligand properties in Rh(III)-catalyzed C-H activation reactions: An experimental and computational study, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2017, 139, 1296–1310.
- 76 F. A. Cotton, in *Multiple Bonds Between Metal Atoms*, ed. F. A. Cotton, C. A. Murillo and R. A. Walton, Springer-Verlag, 3rd edn, 2006, pp. 35–68.
- 77 L. Pauling, Atomic Radii and Interatomic Distances in Metals, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1947, **69**, 542–553.
- 78 P. Pyykkö, Strong closed-shell interactions in inorganic chemistry, *Chem. Rev.*, 1997, **97**, 597–636.
- 79 S. Bajo, M. G. Alférez, M. M. Alcaide, J. López-Serrano and J. Campos, Metal-only Lewis Pairs of Rhodium with s, p and d-Block Metals, *Chem. – Eur. J.*, 2020, 26, 16833– 16845.
- 80 S. Bajo, M. M. Alcaide, J. López-Serrano and J. Campos, Dehydrogenative Double C–H Bond Activation in a Germylene-Rhodium Complex, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2021, 27, 16422–16428.
- 81 M. G. Alférez, J. J. Moreno, C. Maya and J. Campos, Polarized Au(ı)/Rh(ı) bimetallic pairs cooperatively trigger ligand non-innocence and bond activation, *Dalton Trans.*, 2023, 52, 3835–3845.
- 82 M. Navarro, J. J. Moreno, M. Pérez-Jiménez and J. Campos, Small molecule activation with bimetallic systems: a landscape of cooperative reactivity, *Chem. Commun.*, 2022, **58**, 11220–11235.
- 83 B. Klingert and H. Werner, Basische Metalle, XLII. Die Metall-Basizität der Komplexe C₅Me₅Rh(PMe₃)₂, C₅Me₅Rh (C₂H₄PMe₃ und C₅Me₅Rh(C₂H₄)P₂Me₄: Neue Pentamethyl-

- cyclopentadienylrhodium(I)- und -rhodium(III)-Verbindungen, *Chem. Ber.*, 1983, **116**, 1450–1462.
- 84 A. K. Swarnakar, M. J. Ferguson, R. McDonald and E. Rivard, Transition metal-mediated donor-acceptor coordination of low-oxidation state Group 14 element halides, *Dalton Trans.*, 2016, 45, 6071–6078.
- 85 R. Bissert, H. Braunschweig, R. D. Dewhurst and C. Schneider, Metal-Only Lewis Pairs Based on Zerovalent Osmium, *Organometallics*, 2016, **35**, 2567–2673.
- 86 D. Lionetti, V. W. Day and J. D. Blakemore, Synthesis and Electrochemical Properties of Half-Sandwich Rhodium and Iridium Methyl Complexes, *Organometallics*, 2017, 36, 1897–1905.
- 87 H. Nakai, K. Jeong, T. Matsumoto and S. Ogo, Catalytic C-F bond hydrogenolysis of fluoroaromatics by $[(\eta^5-C_5Me_5)]$ Rh^I(2,2'-bipyridine)], *Organometallics*, 2014, 33, 4349–4352.
- 88 M. Aresta and E. Quaranta, Synthesis, characterization and reactivity of [Rh(bpy)(C₂H₄)Cl]. A study on the reaction with C₁ molecules (CH₂O, CO₂) and NaBPh₄, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1993, 463, 215–221.
- 89 J. Lutz, F. Hollmann, T. V. Ho, A. Schnyder, R. H. Fish and A. Schmid, Bioorganometallic chemistry: biocatalytic oxidation reactions with biomimetic NAD⁺/NADH co-factors and [Cp*Rh(bpy)H]⁺ for selective organic synthesis, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 2004, **689**, 4783–4790.
- 90 S. I. Johnson, H. B. Gray, J. D. Blakemore and W. A. Goddard, Role of Ligand Protonation in Dihydrogen Evolution from a Pentamethylcyclopentadienyl Rhodium Catalyst, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2017, 56, 11375–11386.
- 91 V. Ganesan, D. Sivanesan and S. Yoon, Correlation between the Structure and Catalytic Activity of [Cp*Rh (Substituted Bipyridine)] Complexes for NADH Regeneration, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2017, **56**, 1366–1374.
- 92 C. L. Pitman, O. N. L. Finster and A. J. M. Miller, Cyclopentadiene-mediated hydride transfer from rhodium complexes, *Chem. Commun.*, 2016, 52, 9105–9108.
- 93 M. A. Wright and J. A. Wright, PhotoCORMs: CO release moves into the visible, *Dalton Trans.*, 2016, **45**, 6801–6811.
- 94 T. E. Bitterwolf, Protonation and dimerization reactions of cyclopentadienylrhodiumcarbonylphosphine and phosphite derivatives, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 1986, 122, 175–184.
- 95 D. M. Haddleton and R. N. Perutz, Solution and matrix photochemistry of (η-cyclopentadienyl)bis(ethane) rhodium, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1985, 1372–1374.
- 96 A. Bara-Estaún, C. L. Lyall, J. P. Lowe, P. G. Pringle, P. C. J. Kamer, R. Franke and U. Hintermair, Understanding Rh-catalysed Hydroformylation with Phosphite Ligands through Catalyst Speciation Analysis by Operando FlowNMR Spectroscopy, *ChemCatChem*, 2023, 15, e202201204.
- 97 D. Milstein, cis-Hydridoacylrhodium(III) Complexes Not Stabilized by Chelation. Reductive Elimination and Decarbonylation, *Organometallics*, 1982, **1**, 1549–1551.
- 98 D. G. DeWit, Reactivity of mononuclear rhodium(II) compounds, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 1996, **147**, 209–246.
- 99 P. Paul, B. Tyagi, A. K. Bilakhiya, M. M. Bhadbhade and E. Suresh, Stable mononuclear rhodium(II) polypyridyl

complexes:synthesis, spectroscopic and structural characterisation, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 1999, 2009–2014.

Dalton Transactions

- 100 M. P. García, M. V. Jiménez, A. Cuesta, C. Siurana, L. A. Oro, F. J. Lahoz, J. A. López, M. P. Catalán, A. Tiripicchio and M. Lanfranchi, Synthesis and reactivity of mononuclear (pentachlorophenyl)rhodium(II) complexes. Structural relevance of rhodium-o-chlorine secondary bonding, *Organometallics*, 1997, 16, 1026–1036.
- 101 R. T. Hamazawa, T. Nishioka, I. Kinoshita, T. Takui, R. Santo and A. Ichimura, Thiacalix[3]pyridine produces a stable mononuclear rhodium(II) complex with mutual Jahn–Teller effect, *Dalton Trans.*, 2006, **60**, 1374–1376.
- 102 M. Feller, E. Ben-Ari, T. Gupta, L. J. W. Shimon, G. Leitus, Y. Diskin-Posner, L. Weiner and D. Milstein, Mononuclear Rh(II) PNP-type complexes. Structure and reactivity, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2007, 46, 10479–10490.
- 103 D. A. Smith, D. E. Herbert, J. R. Walensky and O. V. Ozerov, Monomeric rhodium(II) complexes supported by a diarylamido/bis(phosphine) PNP pincer ligand and their reactivity toward dihydrogen, *Organometallics*, 2013, 32, 2050–2058.
- 104 K. Fuchigami, N. P. Rath and L. M. Mirica, Mononuclear Rhodium(II) and Iridium(II) Complexes Supported by Tetradentate Pyridinophane Ligands, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2017, 56, 9404–9408.
- 105 B. R. James and D. Mahajan, Bis(ditertiaryphosphine) complexes of rhodium(i). Synthesis, spectroscopy, and activity for catalytic hydrogenation, *Can. J. Chem.*, 1979, 57, 180–187.
- 106 H. A. Bent, An appraisal of valence-bond structures and hybridization in compounds of the first-row elements, *Chem. Rev.*, 1961, **61**, 275–311.
- 107 D. P. Drolet and A. J. Lees, Solution Photochemistry of $(\eta^5 C_5R_5)Rh(CO)_2$ (R = H, Me) Complexes: Pathways for Potosubstitution and C-H/Si-H Bond Activation Reactions, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1992, **114**, 4186–4194.
- 108 G. M. Reisner, I. Bernal, M. D. Rausch, S. A. Gardner and A. Clearfield, On the cyclodimerization of acetylenes to cyclobutadiene problem: the synthesis, crystal and molecular structure of (η^5 -cyclopentadienyl)-(η , 4 -1,2-diphenylcyclobuta[l]phenanthrene)rhodium, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1980, **184**, 237–254.
- 109 R. S. Dickson and H. P. Kirsch, The effects of bulky substituents in the reactions of alkynes with $(\eta, -C_5H_5)M(CO)_2$, M = Co or Rh, *Aust. J. Chem.*, 1981, 34, 1401–1411.

- 110 P. A. Corrigan, R. S. Dickson, S. H. Johnson, G. N. Pain and M. Yeoh, The role of binuclear rhodium complexes as possible intermediates in the formation of cyclopentadie-none-rhodium complexes. Reactions between $(\eta, -C_5H_5)$, Rh₂(CO)(CF₃C₂CF₃) and symmetrically disubstituted alkynes, *Aust. J. Chem.*, 1982, 35, 2203–2214.
- 111 M. Kajitani, T. Suetsugu, R. Wakabayashi, A. Igarashi, T. Akiyama and A. Sugimori, An "adduct" between $CpRh(S_2C_2Z_2)$ and $ZC\equiv CZ$ ($Z=COOCH_3$) as an intermediate in CpRh(I)-catalyzed synthesis of tetramethyl-2,3,4,5-thiophenetetracarboxylate from elemental sulfur and $ZC\equiv CZ$, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1985, 293, C15–C18.
- M. Kajitani, R. Ochiai, R. Kikuchi, M. Okubo, T. Akiyama and A. Sugimori, Formation of (η-cyclopentadienyl)(1,2-disubstituted 1,2-ethylenedithiolato)cobalt(III) and -rhodium (III) in reactions of (η-cyclopentadienyl)cobalt(I) or -rhodium(I) species with 1,4-dithiins, *Polyhedron*, 1990, 9, 1123–1125.
- 113 M. Nomura, H. Hatano, T. Fujita, Y. Eguchi, R. Abe, M. Yokoyama, C. Takayama, T. Akiyama, A. Sugimori and M. Kajitani, Formation, structure, and reactivities of 1:1 adducts between quadricyclane and (η⁵-cyclopentadienyl) (1,2-diphenyl- or -dimethoxycarbonyl-1,2-ethenedithiolato)rhodium(III), J. Organomet. Chem., 2004, 689, 997–1005.
- 114 D. A. Lesch and T. B. Rauchfuss, Synthesis, Reactivity, and 125 Te NMR Studies of (C_5H_5) RhFe $_2$ Te $_2$ (CO) $_x$ (x = 6, 7), Inorg. Chem., 1983, 22, 1854–1857.
- 115 J. Washington and J. Takats, Alternative Synthesis and Fluxional Behavior of triangulo- $Os_2Rh(CO)_9(C_5R_5)$ (R = H, Me), Organometallics, 1990, **9**, 925–928.
- 116 J. Tönnemann, J. Risse, Z. Grote, R. Scopelliti and K. Severin, Efficient and Rapid Synthesis of Chlorido-Bridged Half-Sandwich Complexes of Ruthenium, Rhodium, and Iridium by Microwave Heating, Eur. J. Inorg. Chem., 2013, 2013, 4558–4562.
- 117 J. L. Herde, J. C. Lambert, C. V. Senoff and M. A. Cushing, Cyclooctene and 1,5-Cyclooctadiene Complexes of Iridium (1), *Inorg. Synth.*, 2007, **15**, 18–20.
- 118 P. A. Boeg, J. Ø. Duus, J. H. Ardenkjær-Larsen, M. Karlsson and S. Mossin, Real-Time Detection of Intermediates in Rhodium-Catalyzed Hydrogenation of Alkynes and Alkenes by Dissolution DNP, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 2019, **123**, 9949–9956.