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ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Manuscript ID: OB-ART-04-2016-000884

TITLE: The kinetics and mechanism of the organo-iridium catalysed racemisation of amines Matthew J. Stirling, Joseph M. Mwansa, Gemma Sweeney, A. John Blacker, and Michael I. Page

- 1. Rate data for racemisation
- 2. Synthesis of catalyst











¹HNMR of 6,7-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-3,4 dihydroisoquinoline





(S) 6, 7-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (deuterated)





(R)-6, 7-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (deuterated)





(R)-6, 7-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (non-deuterated)

Spec.no.20075: Joe



(S)-6, 7-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-1, 2, 3, 4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (non-deuterated)



The substituted tetramethylcyclopentadienes were synthesised from known starting materials in two steps in good yield, **(Scheme 1)**.



Scheme 1 Synthesis of substituted tetramethylcyclopentadienes x and y

Reaction conditions: Preparation of iridium Cp* chloride dimers are often achieved by refluxing pentamethylcyclopentadiene with iridium trichloride (hydrate) in alcoholic solvent. However, all attempts to prepare the iridium complex of *N*,*N*-2,3,4,5-hexamethylcyclopenta-2-,4-diene carboxamide (**x**), or 1-trifluoromethyl-2,3,4,5-tetramethylcyclopentadiene (**y**) by this route were unsuccessful. An alternative procedure for the preparation of iridium Cp' halide complexes was performed by way of the cyclooctadiene complexes. The cyclooctadienyl complex of (**x**) was prepared by the reaction of iridium cyclooctadiene chloride with the corresponding cyclopentadienyl anion, which was in turn prepared by the treatment of the substituted cyclopentadiene (**x**) with "butyl lithium in THF at -78°C. The addition of iodine to a solution of the resultant cod complex in dichloromethane at room temperature, followed by heating to 45°C for eight hours afforded the required iridium complex dimer (**13a**).



<u>Preparation of di-μ-iodo-(η⁵-N,N,-2,3,4,5-hexamethylcyclopenta-2,4-dienyl</u> carboxamide)iridium(III) iodide dimer (13a)

To a solution of (1,5-cyclooctadiene)(η^{5} -*N*,*N*,-2,3,4,5-hexamethylcyclopenta-2,4-dienyl carboxamide)iridium (2.00g, 4.05mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (100mL), at room temperature under argon, was added solution of iodine (2.06g, 8.12mmol, 2.0eq.) in CH₂Cl₂ (30mL) in a drop-wise fashion. The colour of the reaction mixture changed from orange to deep red/purple during the addition. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for one hour and then heated to 45°C for 8 hours. After cooling overnight, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to leave a deep red solid, which was triturated with diethyl ether and collected by filtration (2.31g, 89%). IR (solid) 1647, 1443, 1398, 1373 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500MHz, 343K, DMSO) δ ppm 1.94 (6H, *s*, 2x CH₃), 1.96 (6H, *s*, 2x CH₃), 2.94 (6H, *s*, N(CH₃)₂); ¹³C NMR (500MHz, DMSO) δ ppm 10.22 (2x CH₃), 10.83 (2x CH₃), 34.95 (N(CH₃)₂), 55.38 (Cp[']-C), 93.35 (Cp[']-C), 99.25 (Cp[']-C), 161.66 (C=O); HRMS Calcd for C₂₄H₃₆I₃Ir₂N₂O₂ (M-I)⁺ 1146.9123, found 1146.9097.



 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR of di- μ -iodo-(η^5 -N,N,-2,3,4,5-hexamethylcyclopenta-2,4-dienyl carboxamide)iridium(III) iodide dimer (13a)