#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## A Normal Equilibrium Isotope Effect For Oxidative Addition of $H_2$ to ( $\eta^6$ -Anthracene)Mo(PMe\_3)\_3

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Received March 20, 2006.

Experimental data; computational data for calculation of equilibrium isotope effects.

#### **Experimental Details**

#### **General Considerations**

All manipulations were performed using a combination of dry glovebox, high vacuum, and Schlenk techniques under an argon atmosphere.<sup>i</sup> Solvents were purified and degassed by standard procedures. ( $\eta^6$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (AnH = anthracene) was prepared by the literature method.<sup>ii</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were measured on Bruker 300wb DRX, Bruker Avance 400 DRX and Bruker Avance 500 DMX spectrometers.

#### Determination of the Equilibrium Isotope Effects for Oxidative Addition of $H_2/D_2$ to ( $\eta^6$ -Anthracene)Mo(PMe\_3)\_3

In a typical experiment, a solution of ( $\eta^6$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (2 mg) in toluene-d<sub>8</sub> (0.5 mL) in a J-Young NMR tube was saturated with H<sub>2</sub> (1 atm at 24°C). The sample was placed in a constant temperature bath and removed periodically to monitor the conversion to a mixture with ( $\eta^4$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub> by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. In each case, the equilibrium was quenched by placing the NMR tube immediately in a dry ice-acetone bath at -78°C prior to recording the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum at 10°C. Analogous experiments were performed by saturating a solution of ( $\eta^6$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (2 mg) in toluene-d<sub>8</sub> (0.5 mL) with different pressures of H<sub>2</sub> (0.4, 0.6, and 0.8 atm respectively). The equilibrium constant at each temperature, *K* = [( $\eta^4$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>]/[( $\eta^6$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>][H<sub>2</sub>] was determined by using <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy to give the ratio [( $\eta^4$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>]/[( $\eta^6$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] while the molar concentration of H<sub>2</sub> was obtained by using a combination of Henry's law and the ideal gas law by a method similar to that described previously.<sup>iii</sup>

In brief, the calculation of equilibrium constants requires knowledge of the total amount of  $H_2$  initially present in the closed system, which is the sum of that in the gas phase above the solution and that in solution. The number of moles of  $H_2$  in the gas phase is determined by using the ideal gas law and knowledge of the partial pressure of  $H_2$  (*i.e.* the total pressure minus the partial pressure of the solvent<sup>iv</sup>) and the volume of the headspace above the solution, while the number of moles of  $H_2$  initially in solution

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is calculated from the solubility expression given by Clever,<sup>v</sup> adjusting for the partial pressure of  $H_2$  according to Henry's law.<sup>vi</sup>

At equilibrium, the concentration of H<sub>2</sub> is determined from the total number of moles of H<sub>2</sub> present at equilibrium which is obtained by using the ratio [( $\eta^4$ -AnH)Mo(PMe\_3)\_3H\_2]/[( $\eta^6$ -AnH)Mo(PMe\_3)\_3] to indicate how much of the H<sub>2</sub> initially present has been consumed. The concentration of H<sub>2</sub> in solution at equilibrium at each temperature is obtained by solving the two simultaneous equations that relate the partial pressure of H<sub>2</sub> in the gas phase to (*i*) the number of moles of H<sub>2</sub> in the gas phase *via* the ideal gas law, and (*ii*) the number of moles of H<sub>2</sub> in solution *via* Henry's law.

The equilibrium constant ( $K_{\rm H}$ ) was measured as a function of temperature and  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$  were determined from a van't Hoff plot over the temperature range 30–90°C (Table 1). An analogous procedure was used to determine  $K_{\rm D}$  as a function of temperature for the corresponding reaction between ( $\eta^6$ –AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>.<sup>vii</sup> To minimize systematic errors, the deuterium equilibrium isotope effect was determined at each temperature by evaluating the ratio  $K_{\rm H}/K_{\rm D}$  for each pair of samples prepared with the same initial partial pressures of H<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>. The equilibrium isotope effects listed in Table S1 correspond to an average of the values for all pairs.

**Table S1.** Equilibrium Constant and Equilibrium Isotope Effect Data for Oxidative Addition of H<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> to ( $\eta^6$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. The EIEs correspond to the average of the  $K_{\rm H}/K_{\rm D}$  values for pairs of samples prepared with similar partial pressures of H<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>.

| Temp/°C | $K_{\rm H}/{ m mol}~{ m L}^{-1(a)}$ | $K_{\rm D}/\operatorname{mol} L^{-1(b)}$ | EIE(c)  |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--|---------|
| 30      | $1.59(5) \times 10^4$               | $1.60(6) \times 10^{4}$                  | 0.99(1) |
| 40      | $8.18(42) \times 10^3$              | $7.95(53) \times 10^3$                   | 1.03(2) |
| 50      | $4.07(27) \times 10^{3}$            | $3.80(30) \times 10^3$                   | 1.07(3) |
| 60      | $2.21(18) \times 10^3$              | $1.97(21) \times 10^{3}$                 | 1.13(5) |
| 70      | $1.18(13) \times 10^{3}$            | $9.9(11) \times 10^2$                    | 1.20(4) |
| 80      | $6.46(90) \times 10^2$              | $5.07(60) \times 10^2$                   | 1.27(8) |
| 90      | $3.50(68) \times 10^2$              | $2.84(69) \times 10^{2}$                 | 1.25(9) |

(a)  $\Delta H = -13.9(2)$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>,  $\Delta S = -26.5(6)$  e.u..

(b)  $\Delta H = -14.8(2) \text{ kcal/mol}, \Delta S = -29.5(6) \text{ e.u.}.$ 

(c) To minimize systematic errors, the deuterium equilibrium isotope effect was determined at each temperature by evaluating the ratio  $K_H/K_D$  for each pair of samples prepared with the same initial partial pressures of H<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>, rather than comparing the average values of  $K_H$  and  $K_D$ , each of which was measured by evaluating samples prepared with different concentrations.



**Figure S1.** van't Hoff plot for Oxidative Addition of H<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> to ( $\eta^6$ -AnH)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>

#### Computational Details and Calculation of Equilibrium Isotope Effects

All calculations were carried out using DFT as implemented in the Jaguar 4.0, 4.1 and 6.0 suites of *ab initio* quantum chemistry programs.<sup>viii</sup> Geometry optimizations and frequency calculations were performed with the B3LYP density functional<sup>ix</sup> and the 6-31G\*\* basis set for C, H, N, O, Si, and P, while Mo and W were represented using the Los Alamos LACVP basis set\* that includes relativistic effective core potentials. For ( $\eta^4$ -AnH)Mo(PH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, the geometry used for the frequency calculations of ( $\eta^4$ -AnH)Mo(PH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>H\*<sub>2</sub> (H\* = H, D) was taken from the literature;<sup>ii,xi</sup> the geometries and frequencies of Ir(PH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CO)H\*<sub>2</sub>Cl,<sup>xii</sup> [H<sub>2</sub>Si(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]WH\*<sub>2</sub>,<sup>xiii</sup> and W(CO)<sub>5</sub>H\*<sub>2</sub>xiv were also taken from the literature.

The equilibrium isotope effects (EIEs) were determined by the expression EIE =  $K_{\rm H}/K_{\rm D}$  = SYM • MMI • EXC • ZPE where SYM is the symmetry factor,<sup>xv</sup> MMI is the mass-moment of inertia term, EXC is the excitation term, and ZPE is the zero point energy term (Scheme S1).<sup>xvi</sup> The SYM term is determined by the symmetry number ratio

of the species involved and is unity for oxidative addition of  $H_2/D_2$  to  $L_nM$ ; the MMI term is determined by their structures (*i.e.* their masses and moments of inertia);<sup>xvii</sup> and the EXC and ZPE terms are determined by their vibrational frequencies. The EIE was determined at 1 degree intervals over the range 0 – 3000 K.

$$EIE = K_{H}/K_{D} = SYM \cdot MMI \cdot EXC \cdot ZPE$$

$$SYM = \frac{\{(\sigma n)^{R}_{H}/(\sigma n)^{R}_{D}\}}{\{(\sigma n)^{P}_{H}/(\sigma n)^{P}_{D}\}} \qquad MMI = \frac{(M^{P}_{H}/M^{R}_{H})^{3/2}(I^{P}_{H}/I^{R}_{H})^{1/2}}{(M^{P}_{D}/M^{R}_{D})^{3/2}(I^{P}_{D}/I^{R}_{D})^{1/2}}$$
$$EXC = \frac{\prod \{[1 - \exp(-u^{R}_{iH})]/[1 - \exp(-u^{R}_{iD})]\}}{\prod \{[1 - \exp(-u^{P}_{iH})]/[1 - \exp(-u^{P}_{iD})]\}} \qquad ZPE = \frac{\exp\{\sum (u^{R}_{iH} - u^{R}_{iD})/2\}}{\exp\{\sum (u^{P}_{iH} - u^{P}_{iD})/2\}}$$

where  $u_{iX} = hv_{iX}/k_BT$ , R = H<sup>\*</sup><sub>2</sub>, and P = L<sub>n</sub>MH<sup>\*</sup><sub>2</sub> (H<sup>\*</sup> = H, D) Scheme S1. Calculation of EIEs.

## **Cartesian Coordinated for Geometry Optimized Structures**

# $(\eta^4-AnH)Mo(PH_3)_3H_2$

| <u>atom</u> | <u>x</u> | У        | <u>Z</u> |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mo1         | -0.01203 | 0.190553 | 0.223757 |
| P2          | -2.35893 | 0.237951 | 0.938487 |
| P3          | 2.331904 | 0.69204  | 0.741411 |
| P4          | 0.162514 | -2.09281 | 1.104067 |
| C5          | 2.893721 | -0.29308 | -3.06816 |
| C6          | 2.260459 | 2.440152 | -2.83993 |
| C7          | 3.799929 | 0.673289 | -3.60449 |
| C8          | 5.014507 | 0.304427 | -4.23582 |
| H9          | 5.259278 | -0.75196 | -4.32067 |
| C10         | 5.876332 | 1.261599 | -4.73796 |
| H11         | 6.801915 | 0.960939 | -5.22125 |
| C12         | 5.556692 | 2.633867 | -4.62495 |
| H13         | 6.237733 | 3.381573 | -5.02222 |
| C14         | 4.38157  | 3.024215 | -4.01077 |
| H15         | 4.134097 | 4.079527 | -3.92071 |
| C16         | 3.476924 | 2.066028 | -3.48774 |
| C17         | 1.404564 | 1.489235 | -2.33355 |
| C18         | 0.147973 | 1.782308 | -1.62396 |
| H19         | -0.07149 | 2.826103 | -1.42292 |

| C20 | -0.95044 | 0.889384 | -1.75255 |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|
| H21 | -1.97628 | 1.241937 | -1.76617 |
| C22 | -0.63935 | -0.50148 | -1.855   |
| H23 | -1.41276 | -1.25183 | -1.97525 |
| C24 | 0.760606 | -0.81928 | -1.81348 |
| H25 | 1.030787 | -1.87295 | -1.81259 |
| C26 | 1.726072 | 0.093149 | -2.45132 |
| H27 | 0.012369 | 0.185897 | 1.962877 |
| H28 | -0.11597 | 1.728124 | 0.947288 |
| H29 | -3.40783 | -0.05487 | 0.025319 |
| H30 | -2.82603 | -0.59985 | 1.985425 |
| H31 | -2.92345 | 1.436827 | 1.444391 |
| H32 | 3.316194 | 0.696376 | -0.28203 |
| H33 | 2.651527 | 1.94255  | 1.32069  |
| H34 | 3.046642 | -0.10604 | 1.675111 |
| H35 | 1.340198 | -2.54991 | 1.767666 |
| H36 | -0.75447 | -2.58201 | 2.077022 |
| H37 | 0.051408 | -3.18785 | 0.194505 |
| H38 | 3.145981 | -1.34851 | -3.14982 |
| H39 | 2.01947  | 3.497054 | -2.74693 |

# W(PH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>I<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>

| <u>atom</u> | <u>x</u> | У        | <u>Z</u> |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| W1          | 0        | 0        | 0.911053 |
| I2          | -1.97333 | 0        | -1.32427 |
| I3          | 1.973334 | 0        | -1.32427 |
| P4          | 2.237027 | 0        | 1.925073 |
| P5          | -2.23703 | 0        | 1.925073 |
| P6          | 0        | 2.434724 | 0.466404 |
| P7          | 0        | -2.43472 | 0.466404 |
| H8          | 0        | 0.894016 | 2.364558 |
| H9          | 0        | -0.89402 | 2.364558 |
| H10         | 2.285243 | 0        | 3.341769 |
| H11         | 3.131439 | 1.069418 | 1.687589 |
| H12         | 3.131439 | -1.06942 | 1.687589 |
| H13         | -2.28524 | 0        | 3.341769 |
| H14         | -3.13144 | -1.06942 | 1.687589 |
| H15         | -3.13144 | 1.069418 | 1.687589 |
| H16         | 1.066238 | 3.234284 | 0.951239 |
| H17         | -1.06624 | 3.234284 | 0.951239 |
| H18         | 0        | 2.863603 | -0.87464 |
| H19         | 1.066238 | -3.23428 | 0.951239 |
| H20         | 0        | -2.8636  | -0.87464 |

| H21  | -1 06624 | -3 23428 | 0 951239 |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1121 | -1.00024 | -5.25420 | 0.751257 |

## Mo(CO)<sub>5</sub>H<sub>2</sub>

| <u>atom</u> | <u>x</u> | У        | <u>Z</u> |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| H1          | -1.42028 | -0.91131 | 0.403994 |
| C2          | -1.32614 | 1.34585  | -1.06939 |
| C3          | 1.494009 | 0.577417 | -1.44163 |
| Mo4         | -0.03057 | 0.029091 | -0.12568 |
| H5          | 0.970518 | 1.361878 | 0.434422 |
| C6          | 1.233556 | -1.27109 | 0.881451 |
| C7          | -0.56431 | -1.50655 | -1.43834 |
| C8          | -0.70383 | 0.730654 | 1.687352 |
| O9          | -2.04674 | 2.073963 | -1.59079 |
| O10         | 2.341342 | 0.922657 | -2.13195 |
| O11         | 1.932452 | -1.99124 | 1.44161  |
| O12         | -1.07953 | 1.121964 | 2.69654  |
| O13         | -0.89346 | -2.36748 | -2.11901 |

| <u>atom</u> | <u>x</u> | У | <u>Z</u>     |
|-------------|----------|---|--------------|
| H1          | 0        | 0 | 0.371283125  |
| H2          | 0        | 0 | -0.371283125 |

# Vibrational Frequencies

## Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>) (η<sup>4</sup>-AnH)Mo(PH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>

| 60.91  |
|--------|
| 63.26  |
| 86.69  |
| 97.3   |
| 104.45 |
| 109.88 |
| 132.73 |
| 142.35 |
| 148.69 |
| 153.13 |
| 172.95 |

 $\mathbf{H}_2$ 

247.79

249.02

265.15

286.4

292.27

316.94

323.7

362.37

380.24

398.55

456.08

486.25

493.8

500.98

523

524.33

534.15

549.41

563.28

569.13

580.75

635.35

642.77

682.84

740.7

747.41

762.89

770.98

775.48

807.73

825.34

827.25

846.47

865.58

877.57

883.83

891.55

906.35

910.76

939.98

951.05

982.75

14

- 1033.01
- 1050.83
- 1053.13
- 1065.18
- 1066.11
- 1084.83
- 1126.29
- 1135.11
- 1137.76
- 1142.39
- 1147.01
- 1153.41
- 1162.36
- 1167.09
- 1179.48
- 1191.18
- 1204.39
- 1265.33
- 1272.29
- 1286.53
- 1320.1
- 1371.42
- 1378.28

1462.82

1469.06

1506.99

1511.59

1553.38

1624.57

1655.11

1666.75

1755.04

1863.1

2352.1

2366.87

2383.53

2399.49

2401.63

2403.47

2411.5

2419.89

2448.02

3160.75

| 3167.34 |
|---------|
| 3168.46 |
| 3172.19 |
| 3185.45 |
| 3190.57 |
| 3199.09 |
| 3202.26 |
| 3214.01 |

# Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>) (η<sup>4</sup>-AnH)Mo(PH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>D<sub>2</sub>

| 60.8   |
|--------|
| 63.07  |
| 86.68  |
| 97.2   |
| 104.19 |
| 109.73 |
| 132.65 |
| 142.14 |
| 148.57 |
| 152.73 |
| 172.28 |
| 195.69 |

17

247.37

247.69

265.02

282.52

286.73

315.49

320.78

361.03

378.73

398.34

419.35

437.4

481.48

492.1

501.16

515.73

527.92

543.17

550.15

562.47

564.87

580.58

624.7

637.48

640.69

680.1

746.11

762.99

770.55

775.48

821.97

825.74

846.44

865.64

880.68

891.31

906.28

910.25

937.29

951.03

982.6

983.88

1052.9

1065.07

1065.9

1084.61

1126.24

1134.84

1137.51

1142.25

1147.00

1153.23

1162.17

1165.66

1179.46

1191.16

1204.34

1249.35

1265.38

1272.28

1286.53

1320.04

1326.45

1444.72

1462.95

1469.03

1506.94

1511.56

1553.38

1624.57

1655.12

1666.77

2352.06

2366.73

2383.45

2399.47

2401.61

2403.4

2411.5

2419.78

2447.94

3160.75

3165.02

3168.46
3172.19
3185.45
3190.56
3199.09
3202.25
3214.01

# Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

#### $W(PH_3)_4I_2H_2$

| 10.79  |
|--------|
| 66.61  |
| 77.63  |
| 79.89  |
| 82.65  |
| 106.00 |
| 109.44 |
| 114.53 |
| 128.11 |
| 145.46 |
| 155.00 |
| 163.25 |
| 165.15 |

245.31

280.36

284.73

293.05

316.48

504.32

550.40

564.02

569.96

588.14

599.75

625.16

626.00

687.03

884.75

889.93

1045.51

1052.52

1069.55

1076.90

1096.34

- 1136.87
- 1138.28
- 1139.47
- 1140.37
- 1147.64
- 1149.03
- 1918.19
- 1931.57
- 2420.05
- 2421.41
- 2422.67
- 2424.43
- 2427.83
- 2430.90
- 2443.44
- 2444.04
- 2444.42
- 2447.29
- 2502.80
- 2504.27

### Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

#### $W(PH_3)_4I_2D_2$

- 10.91 66.59
- 77.57
- 79.81
- 82.58
- 105.71
- 109.41
- 114.44
- 127.98
- 145.37
- 154.64
- 163.24
- 165.15
- 240.80
- 244.25
- 280.33
- 281.63
- 292.97
- 316.44
- 437.67
- 535.83

001.00

568.34

570.61

602.84

621.14

625.04

662.04

668.99

767.49

1045.46

1055.91

1068.92

1091.25

1128.79

1132.23

1136.82

1138.26

1139.38

1140.05

1147.52

1148.20

| 1372.92 |
|---------|
| 2420.05 |
| 2421.39 |
| 2422.65 |
| 2424.42 |
| 2427.81 |
| 2430.65 |
| 2443.37 |
| 2444.02 |
| 2444.42 |
| 2447.27 |

2504.20

### Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

## Mo(CO)<sub>5</sub>H<sub>2</sub>

- 55.99 61.23
- 76.04
- 82.77
- 88.54
- 94.77

27

98.74

286.06

328.47

347.07

352.17

372.61

374.53

384.93

404.42

432.04

440.18

457.45

468.83

507.42

535.99

568.07

572.29

590.59

669.34

759.52

1711.86

1732.83

2106.88 2128.6 2129.37 2188.91

#### Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

### Mo(CO)<sub>5</sub>D<sub>2</sub>

55.42 61.22 76.03 82.31 88.54 94.69 98.45 234.23 296.29 301.58 319.93 369.44 372.38 381.94 384.56

449.67

464.43

486.72

501.54

507.4

544.32

589.14

609.56

629.56

1225.72

1231.94

2082.74

2106.5

2127.28

2128.61

# Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

#### ${\rm H}_2$

4469.80

Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

#### $D_2$

#### References

- (i) (a) McNally, J. P.; Leong, V. S.; Cooper, N. J. in *Experimental Organometallic Chemistry*, Wayda, A. L.; Darensbourg, M. Y., Eds.; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 1987; Chapter 2, pp 6-23.
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