### (Electronic Supplementary Information)

# Vinylidene rutheniums with an electrostructurally flexible NO ligand and their ruthenacyclobutene formation

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Table S1.Crystallographic data for 2a•2CH2Cl2, 4b•CH2Cl2, and 4b'

#### **Experimental Procedures**

**General Procedures.** Reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry dinitrogen, whereas subsequent workup was performed in air. Commercially available reagent grade chemicals were used without any further purification, including 54% HBF<sub>4</sub> solution of diethyl ether (Fluka). The starting materials RuCl<sub>3</sub>(PAr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(NO) (Ar= Ph (**1a**), *p*-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (**1b**)) were prepared by previously reported methods.<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}, and <sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> using a Varian Gemini-300 and a JEOL JNM-AL-400 spectrometer, referenced to the signals of TMS, solvents employed, or 85 % H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as standards, respectively. Infrared spectra (KBr pellets) were run on a JASCO FT/IR-420 spectrometer. Fast atom bombardment mass spectra (FAB-MS) were obtained on a JEOL JMS-SX102A or a JEOL JMS-700N spectrometers. Elemental analyses were performed using a PERKIN ELMER 2400II elemental analyzer.

Preparations of  $RuCl(NO)(PAr_3)_2 \{=C=CH(C_6H_4Me)\}$  (Ar= Ph (2a), p-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (2b)):  $HC=CC_6H_4Me$  (0.18 g, 1.55 mmol),  $Et_3N$  (0.15 g, 1.48 mmol), and  $(CuOTf)_2(C_6H_6)$  (5.4 mg, 11 µmol) were added to a  $C_6H_6$  (10 mL) solution of RuCl<sub>3</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(NO) (1a) (0.11 g, 0.14 mmol). The mixture was refluxed for 1h and evaporated to dryness. The residue was separated by chromatography on a silica gel using а toluene eluent. From the second red band,  $\operatorname{RuCl(NO)(PPh_3)_2}{=}C=CH(C_6H_4Me)}$  (2a) was isolated as a red solid (86 mg, 76%). From the first band, the collected fraction was further chromatographed on a silica gel column using hexane as an eluent. After additional preparative TLC purification with hexane, the divide compound  $(MeC_6H_4)C=C-C=C(C_6H_4Me)$  was isolated (ca. 12 mg, ca. 37% based on 1a), which was characterized by NMR, IR, and EI-HR-MS spectra. Similarly to the 2a formation from 1a under the support by the Cu(I) catalyst, the complex  $\operatorname{RuCl}_{3}\{P(C_{6}H_{4}Me)_{3}\}_{2}(NO)$  (1b) gave  $\operatorname{RuCl}(NO)\{P(C_{6}H_{4}Me)_{3}\}_{2}\{=C=CH-$ 

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 $(C_6H_4Me)$  (2b) in a 47% yield.

When the similar reaction was carried out for **1a** in the absence of the Cu(I) catalyst, the mono(alkynyl) complex  $\text{RuCl}_2\{\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Me})\}(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{NO})$  (**3a**) was obtained (29%) as a major product, besides **2a** in a decreased yield, 24%. Furthermore the complex **3a** was treated with HC=CPh in the presence of the Cu(I) catalyst and Et<sub>3</sub>N in refluxing C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, and the formation of diyne compounds, PhC=C-C=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me) and PhC=C-C=CPh, along with a HC=CPh dimerization, probably enyne product, was observed in hexane-extracted material.

**RuCl(NO)**(**PPh**<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>{=**C**=**CH**(**C**<sub>6</sub>**H**<sub>4</sub>**Me**)} (2**a**): IR (KBr, pellet): ν(C=C, N=O) 1651 (s) 1624 (s) 1604 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -40 °C): δ 7.59–7.31 (m, 30H, PPh<sub>3</sub>), 6.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1.2H, C<sub>6</sub> $H_4$ Me), 6.52 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 0.8H, C<sub>6</sub> $H_4$ Me), 6.30 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1.2H, C<sub>6</sub> $H_4$ Me), 5.79 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 0.8H, C<sub>6</sub> $H_4$ Me), 5.12 (t, J = 4.9 Hz, 0.4H, =C=CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)), 4.91 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 0.6H, =C=CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)), 2.21 (s, 1.8H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me), 2.10 (s, 1.2H, C<sub>6</sub> $H_4Me$ ). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -40 °C): δ 30.8 (s, 0.6P, PPh<sub>3</sub>), 29.1 (s, 0.4P, PPh<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -40 °C): δ 324.9 (t, J = 20 Hz, Ru= $C_{\alpha}$ ), 324.4 (t, J = 20 Hz, Ru= $C_{\alpha}$ ), 116.3 (brs, =C= $C_{\beta}$ ). FAB-MS (m/z): 776.8 ([M-(NO)]<sup>+</sup>), 690.7 ([RuCl(NO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), 655.9 ([Ru(NO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>38</sub>NClOP<sub>2</sub>Ru: C, 66.95; H, 4.74; N, 1.74. Found: C, 67.28; H, 4.91; N, 1.63.

**RuCl(NO)**{**P**(**C**<sub>6</sub>**H**<sub>4</sub>**Me**)<sub>3</sub>}<sub>2</sub>{=**C**=**CH**(**C**<sub>6</sub>**H**<sub>4</sub>**Me**)} (2**b**): IR (KBr, pellet): v(C=C, N=O) 1650 (s) 1620 (s) 1598 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -40 °C):  $\delta$  7.33 (brs, 12H, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>), 7.09 (brs, 12H, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1.2H, CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)), 6.46 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 0.8H, CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)), 6.22 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1.2H, CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)), 5.72 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 0.8H, CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)), 5.11 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 0.4H, =C=CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)), 4.88 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 0.6H, =C=CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)), 2.26 (brs, 18H, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>), 2.09 (brs, 3H, CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -40 °C):  $\delta$  28.2 (s, 0.6P, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>), 26.6 (s, 0.4P, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -40 °C):  $\delta$  325.5 (t, J = 21 Hz, Ru= $C_{\alpha}$ ), 325.3 (t, J = 20 Hz, Ru= $C_{\alpha}$ ), 116.4 – 115.8 (m, =C= $C_{\beta}$ ). FAB-MS (m/z): 860.7 ([M-NO]<sup>+</sup>), 774.6 ([RuCl(NO)(P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), 739.7 ([Ru(NO)(P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>50</sub>NClOP<sub>2</sub>Ru: C, 68.72; H, 5.65; N, 1.57. Found: C, 69.01; H, 5.68; N, 1.44.

**RuCl<sub>2</sub>{C=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)}(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(NO) (3a):** IR (KBr, pellet): v(C=C) 2124 (w), v(N=O)1866 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.00 – 7.95 (m, 12H, PPh<sub>3</sub>), 7.41 – 7.33 (m, 18H, PPh<sub>3</sub>), 6.87 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me), 6.47 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me), 2.27 (s, 3H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  14.7 (s, PPh<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  135.5 (s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me), 134.7 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, PPh<sub>3</sub>), 130.7 (s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me), 130.5 (s, PPh<sub>3</sub>), 129.7 (t, J = 25 Hz, PPh<sub>3</sub>), 128.2 (s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me), 127.9 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, PPh<sub>3</sub>), 123.8 (s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me), 114.9 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, Ru-C=C), 98.0 (s, Ru-C=C), 21.3 (s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me). FAB-MS (*m*/*z*): 806 ([M-Cl]<sup>+</sup>), 776 ([M-Cl-(NO)]<sup>+</sup>), 691 ([RuCl(NO)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>37</sub>NCl<sub>2</sub>OP<sub>2</sub>Ru: C, 64.21; H, 4.43; N, 1.66. Found: C, 64.09; H, 4.42; N, 1.69.

Preparation of RuCl[C(COOMe)=CHC{=CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)}]{P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>}<sub>2</sub>(NO) (4b) and 4b'): Methyl propiolate (HC=CCOOMe) (34 µL, 0.38 mmol) and tetrafluoroboric acid, HBF<sub>4</sub> (4.5  $\mu$ L, 0.033 mmol, 54% in diethyl ether) were added to a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (5.0 mL) of RuCl(NO){P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>}<sub>2</sub>{=C=CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)} (**2b**) (0.17 g, 0.19 mmol). After the mixture was concentrated to ca. 1.0 mL, the residue was separated by chromatography on а silica gel using а CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> eluent to give  $RuCl[C(COOMe)=CHC\{=CH(C_6H_4Me)\}]\{P(C_6H_4Me)_3\}_2(NO)$  (4b (53 mg, 29%) and **4b'** (86 mg, 46%)).

**RuCl[C(COOMe)=CHC{=CH(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)}]{P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>}<sub>2</sub>(NO) (4b): IR (KBr, pellet): v(N=O) 1768 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): \delta 7.94 (s, 1H, C(COOMe)=CH), 7.54 – 7.50**  (m, 12H,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 7.04 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 12H,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 6.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H,  $CH(C_6H_4Me)), 6.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, CH(C_6H_4Me)), 5.55 (s, 1H, CH(C_6H_4Me)), 3.28$ (s, 3H, COOMe), 2.27 (s, 21H, CH( $C_6H_4Me$ ) and P( $C_6H_4Me$ )<sub>3</sub>, overlapping). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  23.6 (s, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.8 (s, COOMe), 151.6 (t, J = 11 Hz, Ru– $C_{\alpha}$ ), 150.0 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, C(COOMe)=CH), 139.7 (s,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ , 135.7 (s,  $CH(C_6H_4Me)$ ), 135.2 (t, J = 9.6 Hz,  $Ru-C_{\alpha}$ ), 134.8 (s,  $CH(C_6H_4Me)$ ), 134.5 (t, J = 5.4 Hz,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 130.4 (t, J = 2.3 Hz,  $CH(C_6H_4Me)$ ), 128.3 (t, J = 5.0 Hz,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 128.2 (t, J = 24 Hz,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 128.1 (s,  $CH(C_6H_4Me)$ , 127.9 (s,  $CH(C_6H_4Me)$ ), 50.5 (s, COOMe), 21.4 (s,  $P(C_6H_4Me)$ ), 21.2 (s, FAB-MS (m/z): 940.4  $CH(C_6H_4Me)).$ 975.3  $([M]^{+}),$  $([M-C1]^{+}),$ 775.2  $([RuCl{P(C_6H_4Me)_3}_2(NO)]^+), 671.2 ([M-P(C_6H_4Me)_3]^+).$ Anal. Calcd for C<sub>55</sub>H<sub>54</sub>NClO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>Ru: C, 67.72; H, 5.58; N, 1.44. Found: C, 67.96; H, 5.85; N, 1.19.

 $RuCl[C(COOMe)=CHC\{=C(C_6H_4Me)(H)\}]\{P(C_6H_4Me)_3\}_2(NO) \quad (4b'): IR \quad (KBr, A) = CHC\{=C(C_6H_4Me)(H)\}\}$ pellet): v(N=O) 1806 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.54 – 7.48 (m, 12H, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>), 7.18 - 7.12 (m, 3H, C(COOMe)=CH and C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)(H), overlapping), 6.92 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 12H,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 6.74 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H,  $C(C_6H_4Me)(H)$ ), 6.46 (s, 1H,  $C(C_6H_4Me)(H)$ , 3.29 (s, 3H, COOMe), 2.40 (s, 3H,  $C(C_6H_4Me)(H)$ ), 2.23 (s, 18H, <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  24.7 (s, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}C{^{1}H}$  NMR  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3).$  $(CDCl_3)$ :  $\delta$  167.5 (s, COOMe), 156.6 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, C(COOMe)=CH), 148.4 (t, J = 13Hz, Ru– $C_{\alpha}$ ), 139.8 (s, P( $C_{6}H_{4}Me$ )<sub>3</sub>), 137.8 (s, C( $C_{6}H_{4}Me$ )(H)), 135.4 (s, C( $C_{6}H_{4}Me$ )(H)), 134.4 (t, J = 5.7 Hz,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 130.3 (s,  $C(C_6H_4Me)(H)$ ), 128.3 (t, J = 5.3 Hz,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ , 127.9 (t, J = 24 Hz,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 127.3 (s,  $C(C_6H_4Me)(H)$ ), 50.4 (s, COOMe), 21.3 (s,  $P(C_6H_4Me)_3$ ), 21.3 (s,  $C(C_6H_4Me)(H)$ ) (Two quaternary carbon resonance peaks can't be assigned because of overlapping.). FAB-MS (m/z): 975.3  $([M]^+)$ , 940.4  $([M-C1]^+)$ , 775.2  $([RuCl{P(C_6H_4Me)_3}_2(NO)]^+)$ , 671.2  $([M-P(C_6H_4Me)_3]^+)$ . Anal. Calcd for C<sub>55</sub>H<sub>54</sub>NClO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Ru: C, 67.72; H, 5.58; N, 1.44. Found: C, 67.25; H,

5.64; N, 1.37.

**X-ray Crystal Structure Determinations:** Crystallographic data are summarized in Table S1. X-ray quality single crystals were obtained from  $CH_2Cl_2$  / MeOH (for **2a**•2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and **4b**•CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) and benzene / hexane (for **4b**<sup>\*</sup>). Diffraction data were collected at room temperature on a Rigaku AFC7 diffractometer equipped with a MSC/ADSC Quantum CCD area detector by using graphite-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation. Seven preliminary data frames were measured at 0.5° increments of  $\omega$ , in order to assess the crystal quality and preliminary unit cell parameters. The intensity images were obtained with  $\omega$  scans of 0.5° interval per frame for duration of 30 s (**2a**•2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) and 35 s (**4b**•CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and **4b**<sup>\*</sup>). The frame data were integrated using an MSC d\*TREK program package, and the data set were corrected for absorption using a REQAB program.

The calculations were performed with a TEXSAN program package. Crystal structures were solved by direct methods for  $2a \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2$  and  $4b \cdot CH_2Cl_2$  and by Patterson methods for  $4b^{\circ}$ , and refined on  $F^2$  by the full-matrix least squares method. In the case of  $2a \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2$ , each asymmetric unit contains a half molecule of 2a and one  $CH_2Cl_2$  solvent molecule, and one of the chloride atom of the solvent molecule is disordered with occupancy factors of 0.5 / 0.5. Anisotropic refinement was applied to all non-hydrogen atoms except for the solvent molecules of  $2a \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2$ , and hydrogen atoms were put at calculated positions with C-H distances of 0.97 Å, while hydrogen atoms of all solvent molecules were not located.

	$2a \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2$	4b•CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	4b'
formula	C47H49NCleOP2R1	$C_{\epsilon\epsilon}H_{\epsilon\epsilon}NCl_{2}O_{2}P_{2}Ru$	CeeHerNClO2P2Ru
fw	977.14	1060.44	975.51
cryst system	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic
space group	<i>P</i> 2,/m (No. 11)	P - 1 (No. 2)	P - 1 (No. 2)
color of crystal	orange	amber	amber
crystal size (mm)	$0.35 \times 0.15 \times 0.06$	$0.80 \times 0.40 \times 0.03$	$0.20 \times 0.20 \times 0.20$
a (Å)	9 523(3)	10 957(1)	12 712(2)
$h(\text{\AA})$	22 815(7)	15.466(1)	12.712(2) 12 742(1)
$C(\dot{A})$	10.988(2)	17 537(2)	15.086(2)
$\alpha$ (deg)	90	78 638(2)	80.906(2)
$\beta$ (deg)	103 112(4)	78.038(2)	75,435(2)
p(deg)	103.112(4)	71.3409(9)	75.455(2) 88.018(2)
$\gamma$ (deg)	90	71.5065(6)	33.018(2)
V (A )	2524.9(11)	2000.7(3)	2474.0(3)
Z (3)	2	2	2
$\rho_{\rm calc} ({\rm g}{\rm cm}^3)$	1.396	1.324	1.309
$\mu$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	7.28	5.48	4.78
$2\theta_{\max}$ (deg)	55.0	55.0	55.0
no. of all reflns collected	19792	23134	21470
no. of unique reflns	5302	11356	10553
$R_{\rm int}$	0.067	0.027	0.034
no. of obsd reflns <sup><i>a</i></sup>	2441	6974	6957
no. of parameters	266	595	568
$R^{b}$	0.135	0.091	0.068
<i>Rw</i> <sup>c</sup>	0.191	0.122	0.086
$\operatorname{GOF}^{d}$	1.15	1.40	1.02

## Table S1. Crystallographic data for $2a \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2$ , $4b \cdot CH_2Cl_2$ , and 4b'

<sup>*a*</sup> All data. <sup>*b*</sup>  $R = \Sigma |Fo^2 - Fc^2| / \Sigma Fo^2$ . <sup>*c*</sup>  $Rw = \{\Sigma w (Fo^2 - Fc^2)^2 / \Sigma w (Fo^2)^2\}^{1/2}$ .

<sup>*d*</sup> GOF =  $[\{\Sigma w (|Fo| - |Fc|)^2\}/(No - Np)]^{1/2}$ , where *No* and *Np* denote the number of data and parameters.

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