Investigation of Formally Zerovalent Triphos Iron Complexes

Supplementary Information

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Experimental Procedures

General Considerations. All synthetic reactions were performed in an MBraun glovebox under an atmosphere of purified nitrogen. Aldrich or Acros anhydrous solvents were sparged with argon and stored in the glovebox over activated 4Å molecular sieves and sodium (Alfa Aesar) before use. Benzene- d_6 and tetrahydrofuran- d_8 were purchased from Cambridge Isotope 4Å Laboratories and dried over molecular sieves prior to use. Bis(2diphenylphosphinoethyl)phenylphosphine (Triphos) and iron(II) bromide were purchased from Acros, while iron(III) chloride, diphenylacetylene, and 2,2'-bipyridine were used as received from Aldrich. Iron(III) bromide and potassium metal were used as obtained from Strem. All of the gases in this study were obtained from Praxair, with the exception of carbon monoxide which was purchased from Aldrich. [(Ph₂PCH₂CH₂)₂PPh]FeCl₂ (1-Cl₂) was prepared from the straightforward addition of Triphos to iron dichloride (Strem) in THF solution, an adaptation of literature procedure.¹ Solution ¹H nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded at room temperature on either a Bruker AVANCE 400 MHz spectrometer or Varian MR 400. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are reported relative to SiMe₄ using ¹H (residual) and ¹³C chemical shifts of the solvent as secondary standards. ³¹P NMR data is reported relative to H₃PO₄. Elemental analyses were performed at Robertson Microlit Laboratories Inc., in Ledgewood, NJ. Solid state magnetic susceptibilities were determined at 23 °C using a Johnson Matthey magnetic susceptibility balance calibrated with HgCo(SCN)₄ and K₃Fe(CN)₆.

Electrochemistry. Electrochemical measurements were run with an EG&G Princeton Applied Research model 263A potentiostat. A conventional three-electrode setup was used for cyclic voltammetry, with a glassy carbon working electrode, a Pt-wire auxiliary electrode, and a Ag/Ag^+ reference electrode (0.01 M AgNO₃; 0.10 M NBu₄PF₆). Extra dry, deoxygenated tetrahydrofuran was used as solvent to prepare sample solutions. All measurements were made in a glovebox under inert atmosphere (Ar) at room temperature.

X-Ray Crystallography. Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were coated with polyisobutylene oil in a drybox and transferred to a nylon loop which was then mounted on the goniometer head of a Bruker APEX II diffractometer equipped with Mo K_{α} radiation. A hemisphere routine was used for data collection and determination of the lattice constants. The

space group was identified and the data were processed using the Bruker SAINT+ program and corrected for absorption using SADABS. The structures were solved using direct methods (SHELXS), completed by subsequent Fourier synthesis, and refined by full-matrix, least-squares procedures on $|F|^2$ (SHELXL). For (κ^2 -Triphos)₂FeCl₂, a molecule of toluene was located at an inversion centre and disordered by symmetry. The two components overlap such that some carbons could be modeled with full occupancy, others with half occupancy, to yield the proper total occupancies after superposition. Hydrogen atoms were not located for this molecule.

Preparation of [(Ph₂PCH₂)2Ph]FeBr₂ (1-Br₂): In the glove box, a 250 mL roundbottomed flask was charged with 0.250 g Triphos (0.468 mmol), 0.101 g (0.468 mmol) of FeBr₂, and approximately 75 mL of tetrahydrofuran. The resulting yellow solution was set to stir at an ambient temperature. After 17 hours, the reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and the filtrate was concentrated to yield a dark orange film. This material was scraped from the sides of the filter flask in the presence of approximately 5 mL of pentane and dried *in vacuo*. After repeating this process 2 additional times (to ensure removal of residual tetrahydrofuran), 0.327 g of a dark orange microcrystalline solid identified as **1-Br₂** was collected (93% yield). Analysis for C₃₄H₃₃Br₂FeP₃: Calcd. C, 54.41%; H, 4.40%. Found: C, 54.19%; H, 4.33%. Magnetic Susceptibility (Gouy Balance, 23 °C): μ_{eff} = 4.8 $\mu_{\rm B}$. ¹H NMR (tetrahydrofuran-*d*₈, 23 °C): δ (ppm) = 98.38 (2959.1 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 43.10 (1511.7 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 34.24 (1527.8 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 26.2 (855.48 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 16.3 (105.95 Hz, 4H, *phenyl*), 11.74-11.20 (m, 16H, *phenyl*), 9.94 (46.41 Hz, 1H, *phenyl*), 3.07 (71.64 Hz, 2H, *phenyl*), 2.44 (55.28 Hz, 2H, *phenyl*).

Preparation of [(**Ph**₂**PCH**₂**CH**₂)₂**PPh**]**FeCl**₃ (1-Cl₃): In the glove box, a 250 mL roundbottomed flask was charged with 0.141 g (0.869 mmol) of FeCl₃ and approximately 50 mL of tetrahydrofuran resulting in the formation of yellow solution. A second solution containing 0.465 g Triphos (0.870 mmol) in approximately 15 mL of tetrahydrofuran was prepared and added drop-wise to the iron trichloride solution while stirring. The reaction mixture darkened from yellow to reddish-orange in color until the halfway point of addition, at which point it began to turn green in color. Upon stirring at ambient temperature for 90 min, the resulting emerald green solution was filtered through Celite and the solvent was evacuated. The resulting solid was washed twice with about 10 mL of diethylether and then twice with 10 mL of pentane to remove any residual Triphos or tetrahydrofuran. After drying under vacuum, 0.586 g (0.843 mmol, 97% yield) of a dark green solid identified as **1-Cl₃** was collected. Analysis for C₃₄H₃₃Cl₃FeP₃: Calcd. C, 58.59%; H, 4.74%. Found: C, 58.38%; H, 4.88%. Magnetic Susceptibility (Gouy Balance, 23 °C): $\mu_{eff} = 4.3 \ \mu_B$. ¹H NMR (tetrahydrofuran- d_8 , 23 °C): δ (ppm) = 13.22 - 4.65 (m, *phenyl*), - 19.34 (615.72 Hz, 2H, CH₂), -24.32 (725.55 Hz, 2H, CH₂), -46.02 (1918.85 Hz, 2H, CH₂), -49.62 (2529.81 Hz, 2H, CH₂).

Preparation of [(**Ph**₂**PCH**₂**CH**₂)₂**PPh**]**FeBr**₃ (**1-Br**₃): In the glove box, a 250 mL roundbottomed flask was charged with 0.425 g of Triphos (0.796 mmol), 0.235 g (0.795 mmol) of FeBr₃ and approximately 100 mL of tetrahydrofuran. The resulting yellow solution was set to stir at ambient temperature. After 1 hour, the reaction had turned dark red-orange in color. After 20 hours, the resulting bright orange solution was filtered through Celite and the solvent was evacuated to yield a yellow film. The material was scraped from the sides of the filter flask in the presence of approximately 5 mL of pentane and then dried *in vacuo* to yield 0.571 g (0.688 mmol, 86% yield) of an olive green solid identified as **1-Br**₃. Analysis for C₃₄H₃₃Br₃FeP₃: Calcd. C, 49.22%; H, 3.98%. Found: C, 48.64%; H, 4.11%. Magnetic Susceptibility (Gouy Balance, 23 °C): $\mu_{eff} = 5.6 \mu_{\rm B}$. ¹H NMR (tetrahydrofuran- d_8 , 23 °C): δ (ppm) = 27.51 ppm (772.8 Hz), 9.84 (m), 8.68 (m), 6.55 (m), several resonances not located. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (tetrahydrofuran- d_8 , 23 °C): δ (ppm) = -22.10 (449.9 Hz).

Preparation of $[\kappa^3-(Ph_2PCH_2CH_2)_2PPh]Fe[\kappa^2-(Ph_2PCH_2CH_2)_2PPh]$ [1-(κ^2 -Triphos)]: In the glove box, a 20 mL vial was charged with 0.159 g (0.213 mmol) of 1-Br₂ and approximately 15 mL of tetrahydrofuran. To this resulting yellow solution, 0.025 g (1.065 mmol, 5 equivalents) of sodium metal was added and the vial was set to stir. After 2 hours it had turned reddish-yellow in color. After 16 hours the resulting dark red solution was filtered through Celite and the solvent was evacuated to obtain a dark red film. It was washed with approximately 10 mL of pentane and then dried under vacuum to yield 0.076 g (0.068 mmol, 32% recrystallized yield) of a dark red microcrystalline solid identified as $1-(\kappa^2-Triphos)$. Elemental Analysis for C₆₈H₆₆FeP₆: Calcd. C, 72.64%; H, 5.87%. Found: C, 71.90%, H 5.71%. ¹H NMR (benzene- d_6): δ (ppm) = 7.48-7.30 (m, 12H, *phenyl*), 7.12-6.99 (m, 20H, *phenyl*), 6.93 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H, *phenyl*), 6.86 (m, 2H, *phenyl*), 6.81 (m, 4H, *phenyl*), 6.73 (m, 4H, *phenyl*), 6.58 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, *phenyl*), 2.72 (broad

m, 1H, CH₂P), 2.42 (broad m, 1H, CH₂P), 2.18 (broad m, 2H, CH₂P), 2.04 (broad m, 3H, CH₂P), 1.75 (broad m, 4H, CH_2P), 1.31 (broad m, 4H, CH_2P), 0.82 (broad m, 1H, CH_2P). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (benzene- d_6): δ (ppm) = 146.3 (m, *i*-phenyl), 145.9 (m, *i*-phenyl), 145.4 (m, *i*-phenyl), 144.5 (m, *i-phenyl*), 143.5 (m, *i-phenyl*), 141.2 (m, *i-phenyl*), 140.4 (d, $J_{CP} = 16.6$ Hz, *i-phenyl*), 140.0 (d, $J_{CP} = 16.5$ Hz, *i-phenyl*), 135.1 (d, $J_{CP} = 10.5$ Hz, *i-phenyl*), 134.8 (d, $J_{CP} = 11.9$ Hz, phenyl), 134.5 (s, phenyl), 134.4 (m, phenyl), 133.8 (d, J_{CP} = 8.4 Hz, phenyl), 133.7 (s, phenyl), 133.6 (s, phenyl), 133.4 (s, phenyl), 133.3 (d, $J_{CP} = 8.9$ Hz, phenyl), 132.5 (d, $J_{CP} = 6.8$ Hz, phenyl), 131.4 (d, $J_{CP} = 7.0$ Hz, phenyl), 129.2 (d, $J_{CP} = 6.0$ Hz, phenyl), 129.0 (m, phenyl), 128.9 (s, phenyl), 128.5 (s, phenyl), 128.3 (s, phenyl), 128.0 (s, phenyl), 127.9 (m, phenyl), 127.7 (d, $J_{CP} = 7.1$ Hz, phenyl), 127.6 (s, phenyl), 127.4 (d, $J_{CP} = 8.3$ Hz, phenyl), 127.1 (d, $J_{CP} = 8.3$ Hz, phenyl), 126.8 (d, $J_{CP} = 8.3$ Hz, phenyl), 126.4 (s, phenyl), 37.3 (pseudo t, $J_{CP} = 19.8$ Hz, CH_2P), 36.1 (m, CH_2P), 35.3 (pseudo t, $J_{CP} = 16.8$ Hz, CH_2P), 31.9 (pseudo t, $J_{CP} = 26.1$ Hz, *C*H₂P), 30.1 (dd, $J_{CP} = 27.2$ Hz, *C*H₂P), 27.8 (pseudo t, $J_{CP} = 23.6$ Hz, *C*H₂P), 25.2 (pseudo q, $J_{CP} = 9.2 \text{ Hz}, CH_2P$, 23.6 (m, CH_2P). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (benzene- d_6): δ (ppm) = 119.23 (m, Fe-P), 99.11 (m, Fe-P), 82.74 (m, Fe-P), 76.95 (m, Fe-P), 68.24 (m, Fe-P), -12.08 (d, J_{PP} = 19.65 Hz, CH₂CH₂PPh₂).



¹H NMR spectrum of **1**-(κ^2 -**Triphos**) in benzene- d_6 .



Preparation of $[\kappa^3-(Ph_2PCH_2CH_2)_2PPh]Fe(\kappa^2-2,2'-bipyridine)$ (1-Bpy). In the glove box, a 250 mL round-bottomed flask was charged with 0.208 g (0.278 mmol) of 1-Br₂, 0.217 g (1.390 mmol, 5 equivalents) of 2,2'-bipyridine and approximately 100 mL of diethylether. The mixture was allowed to cool at -35 °C for 30 min when a dark red color was observed. Then to the mixture, 0.032 g (1.390 mmol, 5 equivalents) of sodium metal was added and set to stir at ambient temperature. After 1 hour the resulting solution had turned deep purple. After 18 hours the solution was filtered through Celite and the solvent was evacuated to obtain 0.202 g of a dark purple microcrystalline solid. This was dissolved in approximately 10 mL of toluene and twice filtered through a Celite column (to remove any residual salt). The toluene was removed *in vacuo* to yield a dark purple solid identified as 1-Bpy (0.165g, 76%). This solid was dissolved in minimum amount of diethylether (approximately 10 mL), filtered through Celite and stored in the freezer (-35 °C) until dark purple color crystals were deposited at the bottom of the vial. After decanting the residual solvent, crystals of 1-Bpy were dried and collected (0.093 g, 45% recrystallized yield). Alternatively, this complex was prepared upon heating a mixture of 0.0106 g (0.0094 mmol) 1-(κ^2 -Triphos) and 0.0074 g (0.047 mmol) 2,2'-bipyridine in benzene- d_6 to

80°C for 23.5 hours. ¹H NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 8.23 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, *bpy*), 7.96 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, *bpy*), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, *bpy*), 7.51 (m, 2H, *phenyl*), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, *bpy*), 7.05 (m, 4H, *phenyl*), 7.01 (m, 9H, *phenyl*), 6.83 (m, 6H, *phenyl*), 6.76 (m, 5H, *bpy* and *phenyl*), 6.66 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, *bpy*), 6.14 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, *bpy*), 5.97 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, *bpy*), 2.40 (m, 2H, *CH*₂P), 1.82 (m, 6H, *CH*₂P). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 156.8 (s, *bpy*), 155.1 (d, *J*_{CP} = 11.7 Hz, *bpy*), 146.5 (s, *phenyl*), 145.7 (s, *phenyl*), 141.6 (m, *phenyl*), 141.4 (m, *phenyl*), 139.8 (m, *phenyl*), 132.7 (m, *phenyl*), 132.5 (m, *phenyl*), 132.4 (s, *phenyl*) 129.2 (s, *phenyl*), 129.1 (s, *phenyl*), 129.0 (m, *phenyl*), 127.7 (s, *phenyl*), 123.9 (s, *bpy*), 122.7 (s, *bpy*), 120.1(s, *bpy*), 116.5 (s, *bpy*), 115.4 (s, *bpy*), 112.2 (s, *bpy*), 30.0 (m, *PCH*₂*CH*₂P). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 112.93 (t, *J*_{PP} = 7.7 Hz, Fe-*P*Ph), 91.59 (d, *J*_{PP} = 7.7 Hz, Fe-*P*Ph₂).







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³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of **1-Bpy** in benzene- d_6 .



Figure S1. The molecular structure of $(\kappa^2$ -Triphos)₂FeCl₂ at 30% probability ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms and the co-crystallized toluene molecule have been omitted for clarity. A: 2-x, 1-y, 1-z.



Figure S2. Observation of the free phosphine substituent in **1-Br₃** by ³¹P NMR spectroscopy (tetrahydrofuran- d_8 , 23°C).

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Figure S3. ³¹P NMR spectrum of **1**-(κ^2 -**Triphos**) (benzene- d_6 , 23 °C).



Figure S4. Electronic absorption spectra of $1-(\kappa^2-\text{Triphos})$ (top) and 1-Bpy (bottom).

Table S1. Crystallographic Parameters for $(\kappa^2$ -Triphos)₂FeCl₂.

Empirical formula	C_{75} H_{74} Cl_2 Fe P_6		
Formula weight	1287.91		
Temperature	120(2) K		
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		
Crystal system	Triclinic		
Space group	P-1		
Unit cell dimensions	a = 10.3077(7) Å	$\alpha = 71.48(1)^{\circ}.$	
	b = 10.9001(8) Å	$\beta = 84.08(1)^{\circ}.$	
	c = 15.4955(11) Å	$\gamma = 77.60(1)^{\circ}$.	
Volume	1611.2(2) Å ³		
Z	1		
Density (calculated)	1.327 Mg/m ³		
Absorption coefficient	0.510 mm ⁻¹		
F(000)	674		
Crystal size	0.25 x 0.15 x 0.15 mm ³		
Theta range for data collection	2.01 to 25.89°.		
Index ranges	-12<=h<=12, -13<=k<=	13, -19<=l<=19	
Reflections collected	16475		
Independent reflections	6231 [R(int) = 0.0306]		
Completeness to theta = 25.89°	99.3 %		
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equ	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.9274 and 0.8831	0.9274 and 0.8831	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	6231 / 30 / 394		
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.050		
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0346, wR2 = 0.0346	864	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0432, $wR2 = 0.0927$		
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.551 and -0.261 e.Å ⁻³		

Table S2. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for $(\kappa^2$ -Triphos)₂FeCl₂.

Fe(1)- $Cl(1)$	2.3656(5)
Fe(1)-P(1)	2.6861(5)
Fe(1)-P(2)	2.6166(5)
Cl(1)-Fe(1)-P(1)	96.745(16)
Cl(1)-Fe(1)-P(2)	93.143(17)
Cl(1A)-Fe(1)-P(1)	83.255(16)
P(2)-Fe(1)-P(1)	77.858(16)
P(2)A-Fe(1)-P(1)	102.142(16)

Table S3. Crystallographic Parameters for 1-Bpy.

Empirical formula	$C_{44} H_{41} Fe N_2 P_3$	$C_{44} H_{41} Fe N_2 P_3$		
Formula weight	746.55			
Temperature	140(2) K			
Wavelength	0.71073 Å			
Crystal system	Monoclinic			
Space group	P2(1)/n			
Unit cell dimensions	a = 14.8559(19) Å	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$.		
	b = 14.3443(18) Å	$\beta = 109.030(1)^{\circ}.$		
	c = 18.850(2) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$.		
Volume	3797.4(8) Å ³			
Z	4			
Density (calculated)	1.306 Mg/m ³			
Absorption coefficient	0.557 mm ⁻¹			
F(000)	1560			
Crystal size	0.40 x 0.30 x 0.10 mm ³			
Theta range for data collection	2.03 to 27.68°.			
Index ranges	-19<=h<=19, -18<=k<=2	-19<=h<=19, -18<=k<=18, -24<=l<=24		
Reflections collected	41383			
Independent reflections	8717 [R(int) = 0.0735]	8717 [R(int) = 0.0735]		
Completeness to theta = 27.68°	98.3 %	98.3 %		
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equ	Semi-empirical from equivalents		
Max. and min. transmission	0.9464 and 0.8078	0.9464 and 0.8078		
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²		
Data / restraints / parameters	8717 / 0 / 451			
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.021			
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0473, wR2 = 0.10	064		
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0799, wR2 = 0.12	R1 = 0.0799, $wR2 = 0.1204$		
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.699 and -0.575 e.Å ⁻³	1.699 and -0.575 e.Å ⁻³		

Table S4. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for 1-Bpy.

C3

Fe(1)-N(1)	1.956(2)		
Fe(1)-N(2)	1.936(2)		
Fe(1)-P(1)	2.1628(8)		
Fe(1)-P(2)	2.1608(8)	Ð	
Fe(1)-P(3)	2.2045(8)		
N(1)-C(1)	1.361(3)		
N(1)-C(5)	1.383(3)	(P)	
N(2)-C(10)	1.378(3)		
N(2)-C(6)	1.399(3)		
C(1)-C(2)	1.360(4)	P2	
C(2)-C(3)	1.412(4)	Fel	~
C(3)-C(4)	1.355(4)		
C(4)-C(5)	1.409(4)		(
C(5)-C(6)	1.420(4)		
C(6)-C(7)	1.401(4)		
C(7)-C(8)	1.366(4)		
C(8)-C(9)	1.408(4)		
C(9)-C(10)	1.366(4)		
N(2)-Fe(1)-N(1)	80.75(9)		
N(2)-Fe(1)-P(2)	98.38(7)		
N(1)-Fe(1)-P(2)	179.09(7)		
N(2)-Fe(1)-P(1)	104.83(7)		
N(1)-Fe(1)-P(1)	95.43(7)		
P(2)-Fe(1)-P(1)	85.02(3)		
N(2)-Fe(1)-P(3)	138.77(7)		
N(1)-Fe(1)-P(3)	95.74(7)		
P(2)-Fe(1)-P(3)	84.75(3)		
P(1)-Fe(1)-P(3)	116.38(3)		
C(5)-N(1)-Fe(1)	116.18(17)		
C(6)-N(2)-Fe(1)	115.90(17)		
N(1)-C(5)-C(6)	113.2(2)		
N(2)-C(6)-C(5)	113.3(2)		

References

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