Supplementary Information

Studies Towards the Catalytic Anti-Markovnikov Functionalisation of Alkenes

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The ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR(CDCl₃) spectrum and hydride region of ${}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of 4. (see note below)



The ³¹P{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of **4** at 145.7MHz

The high field ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of **4** at 360.1MHz



Figure S2

A typical ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR(CDCl₃) spectrum of the clusters 6 and 10, present as a mixture in the inorganic products derived from 5 according to eqn (S1)



Figure S3

The ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR(CDCl₃) spectrum of **6**, in the bridging phosphido region, derived from **5** by heating with 1-octene in 2-propanol under alkaline conditions. The spectrum shows excellent agreement with the spectrum published by Braunstein and co-workers.³



The ³¹P{¹H} NMR(CDCl₃) spectrum of the mixture of products obtained by heating **5** with 1-octene in toluene with 2-propanol, but without added acid or base. The coupling constants observed for **7** within the mixture agree with those reported by Longoni and co-workers,⁴ and so provided a method of identification. The spectrum of **8** has been reported by Dixon and co-workers.⁵



Figure S5

Expansion of the ³¹P{¹H} NMR(CDCl₃) spectrum of **7** in the bridging phosphido region ~ 225 ppm and at ~ 60 ppm. Longoni and co-workers,⁴ also show these expansions.



Figure S 6

The ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR(CDCl₃) spectrum of the mixture of products obtained by heating **5** with 1-octene in toluene with 2-propanol, with added HBF₄. Although this is a complex mixture, the peaks assigned to **11** can be used to suggest a structure (see below)



The ³¹P{¹H} NMR(CDCl₃) spectrum of **11** in the bridging phosphido region. The structure was assigned on the basis of the similarity of the spectrum in the bridging phosphido region to that of $[Pt_2(\mu-H)(\mu-PPh_2)Br(PPh_3)_3]PF_6$ as reported by Braunstein and co-workers⁶



Figure S8

The ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR(CDCl₃) spectrum of the mixture of products obtained by heating **5** in methanol but without1-octene, and without the addition of acid or alkali.



 δ 149 [¹J(Pt-P) 1854.4 Hz; ²J(P-P) 255.1 Hz]





Notes concerning the NMR spectra

Figure S1 The ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of **4** shown in Figure **S1** has been reported previously by Venanzi and co-workers¹ and Paonessa and Trogler², but in each case at ~36 MHz. The superficial appearance of the published spectrum² is therefore quite different to that given here, which was recorded at 145.7 MHz. The numbering of the phosphorus atoms is that used by Venanzi. Our chemical shifts in CDCl₃ corresponded closely to those given previously, which were measured in acetone-d₆.

Figure S7 The structure assigned to 11 from the recorded ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR (CDCl₃) data is:



The details of the spectrum are: $\delta P(1) 12.81$; $\delta P(2) 24.45 dd$; $\delta P(3) 19.81 ddd$; $\delta P(4) 174.5 dd$ in phosphido region.

 ${}^{1}J[P(1)-Pt(1)] = 2978.6 \text{ Hz}; {}^{1}J[P(2)-Pt(2)] = 3080 \text{ Hz}; {}^{1}J[P(3)-Pt(2)] = 3543 \text{ Hz}; {}^{1}J[P(4)-Pt(1)] = 2729 \text{ Hz};$ ${}^{1}J[P(4)-Pt(2)] = 3000 \text{ Hz}; {}^{2}J[P(2)-P(3)] = 8.7 \text{ Hz}; {}^{2}J[P(2)-P(4)] = 257 \text{ Hz};$ ${}^{2}J[P(3)-P(4)] = 15 \text{ Hz}; {}^{2}J[P(2)-Pt(1)] = 4.6 \text{ Hz}; {}^{2}J[P(3)-Pt(1)] 456 \text{ Hz}; {}^{3}J[P(1)-P(3)] = 139.6 \text{ Hz}.$

11 was also detected in a solution of 5 (20.0 mg, 0.0131 mmol) in methanol (35.0 cm³) which had been irradiated with uv light (366 nm) from a medium pressure mercury lamp for 2³/₄ hours, by which time the solution had developed a deep clear-yellow colouration. The methanol was removed under reduced pressure, to yield a yellow powder which was analysed by ³¹P{¹H} NMR(CDCl₃). The powder was found to be a mixture of 5 and 11. The integrated ratio of these products was approximately 3:1. **Figure S10** Mass Spectrum of 1-methoxy-1-vinyloxyhexane, showing peak at m/z=115 not present in 4-methoxyoctane.



Figure S11 Mass Spectrum of 4-methoxyoctane showing peak at m/z=101 not present in 1-methoxy-1-vinyloxyhexane.



Comments on the fate of 12 during the catalytic reactions, and some background information relating the newly discovered catalytic activity of 12 to Jensen and Trogler's earlier work.

We were not able to characterise any of the inorganic products derived from 12 in the catalytic tests. However, on the basis of our ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR studies, we deduced that some of these products may have contained a catalytic cluster, with one or more Pt-PPh₂-Pt bonds, which may have been responsible for the formation of *trans*-2-octenal. The role of 12 in the formation of *trans*-2-octenal is unknown.

An attempt was made to compare the reactivity of $1[BF_4]$ and $12[BF_4]$ towards 1-octene, and if possible, to characterise any compounds arising from the interaction of these catalytic precursors and 1-octene. In the absence of 1-octene both complexes are stable in CD₂Cl₂ for many months at room temperature in the dark, but on the addition of 1-octene a reaction occurs in both cases. In the case of $12[BF_4]$ the peak at ~59 ppm in the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum decreases over a period of a month and new peaks with coupling to ¹⁹⁵Pt appear at δ 44.2, 43.58, and 43.0 ppm. These peaks may be due to organometallic compounds of platinum. We were unable to isolate and characterise this species, which on further standing led to dppePtCl₂. The ¹H NMR spectrum showed that there was very little isomerisation of the 1-octene to internal isomers. In contrast 1[BF₄] caused the double bond isomerisation of the 1-octene within a few hours, but there was little change in the ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ spectrum of the complex until after a month. These experiments were carried out with both treated and untreated 1-octene, and also in $CDCl_3$ in place of CD_2Cl_2 , but with the same results. These NMR observations demonstrate that the reactivity of 12[BF₄] and 1[BF₄] towards 1-octene differ fundamentally. However, further work is necessary to establish the reactivity of the trinuclear complex 12[BF₄] towards 1-octene and any intermediates that might participate in a catalytic cycle leading to the formation of 1-methoxyoctane. Both $1[BF_4]$ and $12[BF_4]$ catalysed the double bond isomerisation of 1-octene in the catalytic experiments.

It is possible that Jensen and Trogler's original catalytic system contained a trinuclear complex. In later studies, $Trogler^7$ suggested that the 3-coordinate species (Me₃P)PtH₂ was a viable intermediate in the decomposition of (Me₃P)₂PtH₂, given in

eqn (S2). He discovered that solutions of $(Me_3P)_2PtH_2$ decomposed to $Pt(PMe_3)_4$, "unidentified cluster complexes" and platinum metal, according to eqn (S2). The highly reactive 14-electron species $[(Me_3P)_2Pt^0]_{solv}$ in THF, was considered to be a transient intermediate in this reaction.

$$(Me_{3}P)_{2}PtH_{2} \xrightarrow{\{(Me_{3}P)_{2}Pt^{0}\}_{solvated}} Pt(PMe_{3})_{4} + Pt_{clusters} + Pt_{metal}$$
(S2)
reductive elimination of H₂

Therefore, as part of his workup procedure, Trogler^8 purged the residual hydrogen gas from his freshly prepared solutions of *trans*-[(Me₃P)₂PtHCl] with nitrogen, to decompose any impurities of (Me₃P)₂PtH₂.

We postulate that an alternative to eqn (S2) is the formation of clusters as given in eqn (S3),

$$n[(Me_3P)_2PtH_2] \xrightarrow{H_2} [(Me_3P)Pt]_nH_x + \dots$$
(S3)

so that Trogler may have unwittingly had a cluster complex in his catalytic system. The feasibility of eqn (2) is implied by the already known syntheses of the four platinum clusters ${Pt_5H_8[P(Bu^t)_2Ph]_5}, {Pt_4H_2[P(Bu^t)_3]_4}, {Pt_4H_8(PPr^i_2Ph)_4}$ and ${Pt_3(\mu-H)_3H_3[P(Bu^t)_3]_3}^{10}$ which were successfully carried out according to eqn (S4) albeit at high pressure with hydrogen gas at 300 atm., although at room temperature.

$$n[(alkyl_{3}P)Pt(CH_{2}CH_{2})_{2}] \xrightarrow{H_{2}} \{[(alkyl_{3}P)Pt]_{n}(H)_{x}\}$$
(S4)
where n>2

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