The first intramolecularly co-ordinated aryl tantalum compounds with amine donors : synthesis and X-ray crystal structure of $[\text{Ta}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{R})\text{NMe}_2\}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2\text{Cl}_2](\text{R} = \text{H}, \text{Me})$

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The First Intramolecularly Co-ordinated Aryl Tantalum Compounds with Amine Donors: Synthesis and X-Ray Crystal Structure of $[\text{Ta}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{R})\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2\text{Cl}_2]$ ($\text{R} = \text{H}, \text{Me}$)

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$[\text{Ta}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2\text{Cl}_3]$ reacts with $[\text{Zn}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{R})\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}_2]$ ($\text{R} = \text{H}, \text{Me}$) to afford the new tantalum(v) complexes $[\text{Ta}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{R})\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2\text{Cl}_2]$ in high yield; these complexes contain a five-membered $\text{Ta}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{N}$ chelate ring, in both the solid state and in solution, through intramolecular co-ordination of a trialkylamine ligand.

Chelating organic ligands are known to provide considerable stabilization of organometallic complexes of the early transition metals.¹ Considering the number of important processes in organotantalum chemistry, for instance C–H-activation² and alkene metathesis,³ it is remarkable that the use of such ligands has not been applied to control the reactivity and stability of organotantalum compounds. We have investigated 2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]phenyl systems as appropriate chelating ligands for tantalum(v) and now report the synthesis and characterization of the first organotantalum compounds possessing intramolecular co-ordination with amine donors.

The reaction of $[\text{Ta}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2\text{Cl}_3]$ ⁴ with $[\text{Zn}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}_2]$ ⁵ (0.5 equiv.) at -78°C in toluene–pentane (1:1) gave a dark red solution (and suspended ZnCl_2) from

which $[\text{Ta}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2\text{Cl}_2]$ (**1a**) was isolated as a red powder in 72% yield. The related compound $[\text{Ta}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{Me})\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2\text{Cl}_2]$ (**1b**) was prepared by a similar reaction of $[\text{Ta}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2\text{Cl}_3]$ with $[\text{Zn}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{Me})\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}_2]$ [†] in Et_2O at -78°C ; yield: 70–75%. Both (**1a**) and (**1b**) can be handled at room temperature; (**1a**) decomposes at *ca.* 115°C whereas the

[†] The preparation of this new compound is similar to that of $[\text{Zn}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}_2]$ (see ref. 5); ¹H n.m.r. data (200.13 MHz, C_6D_6) at 298 K for $[\text{Zn}\{(R)\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{Me})\text{NMe}_2\text{-2}\}_2]$: δ 1.22 [6H, d, *J* 6.7 Hz, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)$], 1.96 (12H, s, NCH_3), 3.14 (2H, q, *J* 6.7 Hz, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}$), 7.02–8.00 (8H, m, ArH).

thermal stability of (1b) is already limited at 30 °C. They react readily with water and slowly decompose on contact with air but can be stored under nitrogen at -30 °C for months.

Compound (1b) contains a chiral benzylic carbon centre that is close to the inner co-ordination sphere of tantalum; (1b) has been prepared with *R* and *R/S* ligand combinations.

The ¹H n.m.r. spectra of compounds (1a) and (1b)† show an interesting temperature dependence and to aid interpretation of the spectroscopic data an X-ray structural analysis of one of these compounds was carried out. Suitable crystals of (1a) were obtained from a diethyl ether-layered tetrahydrofuran (THF) solution at -30 °C. The X-ray structure (Figure 1)§ shows the complex to be a mononuclear tantalum species that has a distorted octahedral geometry. In this complex there are two chlorine atoms occupying axial *trans* positions with two *cis*-positioned C-bonded benzyl ligands in the meridional plane. The co-ordination sphere is completed by the N donor atom and the *ipso* C atom of the chelating 2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]phenyl ligand; the resulting five-membered Ta-C-C-N ring is puckered. Of the several interesting features of this structure probably the most important is the rather small bite angle of the chelate ring [N(1)-Ta(1)-C(11) 69.7(4)°] that seems to be compensated for by a rather wide angle of 115.0(5)° between the two benzyl ligands. The distortions in the meridional plane (see Figure 2) are such that it is possible to use an alternative description of the structure based on a distorted trigonal arrangement of the organo groups around tantalum with 'supplementary' co-ordination of the N-donor substituent. The long tantalum-nitrogen bond length of

Figure 1. X-Ray structure of [Ta{C₆H₄CH₂NMe₂-2}(CH₂Ph)₂Cl₂] (1a). ORTEP drawing with 30% probability ellipsoids. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) subtended at tantalum: Ta(1)-Cl(1), 2.312(3); Ta(1)-Cl(2), 2.335(3); Ta(1)-C(4), 2.187(1); Ta(1)-C(5), 2.236(1); Ta(1)-C(11), 2.154(1); Ta(1)-N(1), 2.496(9). Cl(1)-Ta(1)-Cl(2), 176.36(8); C(4)-Ta(1)-C(5), 115.0(5); C(5)-Ta(1)-C(11), 99.8(4); N(1)-Ta(1)-C(11), 69.7(4); N(1)-Ta(1)-C(4), 77.6(4).

Figure 2. Projection [Cl(1)-Cl(2)] showing interligand angles (°) and deviations (Å) from the least-squares plane defined by Ta(1), C(4), C(5), and C(11).

† ¹H n.m.r. data (200.13 MHz, CD₃C₆D₅), for (1a) at 294 K: δ 2.09 (6H, s, NCH₃), 3.14 (4H, s, CH₂Ph), 3.66 (2H, s, CH₂N), 6.65-8.07 (14H, m, ArH); for (1a) at 213 K: δ 1.89 (6H, s, NCH₃), 3.05 and 3.22 (4H, s, CH₂Ph), 3.46 (2H, s, CH₂N), 6.40-8.35 (14H, m, ArH); for (1b) at 294 K: δ 0.95 [3H, d, *J* 6.7 Hz, C₆H₄CH(CH₃)], 1.91 and 2.29 (6H, s, NCH₃), 3.23 (4H, s, CH₂Ph), 4.12 (1H, q, *J* 6.7 Hz, C₆H₄CH), 6.65-8.23 (14H, m, ArH); for (1b) at 213 K: δ 0.77 [3H, d, *J* 6.7 Hz, C₆H₄CH(CH₃)], 1.72 and 2.08 (6H, s, NCH₃), 2.85-3.61 (4H, m, CH₂Ph), 4.03 (1H, q, *J* 6.7 Hz, C₆H₄CH), 6.55-8.37 (14H, m, ArH).

§ *Crystal data* for (1a): [Ta{C₆H₄CH₂NMe₂-2}(CH₂Ph)₂Cl₂], C₂₃H₂₆Cl₂NTa, *M* = 568.32, triclinic space group *P* $\bar{1}$, *a* = 9.055(2), *b* = 9.614(1), *c* = 13.910(3) Å, α = 72.93(1), β = 80.91(2), γ = 72.74(1)°, *U* = 1102.1(4) Å³, *Z* = 2, *D*_c = 1.712 g cm⁻³, μ(Mo-Kα) = 51.8 cm⁻¹. A block-shaped crystal (0.15 × 0.20 × 0.63 mm) of (1a), mounted in a Lindemann glass capillary, was used for data collection on an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4F diffractometer with Zr-filtered Mo-Kα radiation (θ_{max} = 28°). The heavy atoms were located with routine Patterson techniques (SHELXS-86) and the remaining non-H atoms were introduced at calculated positions except those on C(4) and C(5) which were found in a difference Fourier map. Empirical absorption and extinction corrections were applied (DIFABS). Full-matrix least-squares refinement converged at a final *R* value of 0.049; *R*_w = 0.057; w⁻¹ = [σ²(*F*) + 0.001363 *F*²] for 3427 unique reflections with *I* ≥ 2.5σ(*I*). Atomic co-ordinates, bond lengths and angles, and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. See Notice to Authors, Issue No. 1.

2.496(9) Å is similar to Sn-N bond lengths in organotin(IV) complexes with this type of chelating ligand.⁶

The ¹H n.m.r. spectrum of (1b) (200.13 MHz, CD₃C₆D₅) at 213 K is in fact consistent with the solid state structure of (1a) with intramolecular co-ordination of the N-donor unit; there are patterns for two inequivalent benzyl ligands and the two methyl groups of the NMe₂ unit afford anisochronous resonances at δ 1.72 and 2.08. In the presence of the chiral centre these groups can only be diastereotopic when the nitrogen centre is a stable tetrahedral array on the n.m.r. time scale, *i.e.* when the nitrogen centre is co-ordinated to tantalum and inversion of configuration is blocked. Upon raising the temperature fluxionality becomes evident; the benzyl groups become equivalent whilst the two NMe₂ signals broaden and eventually coalesce at 333 K. A process which can render these two methyl groups homotopic is dissociation of the Ta-N bond since this allows pyramidal inversion at nitrogen and rotation around the CH(Me)-N bond (reco-ordination of the N-donor is optional). At this temperature (1b) decomposes slowly with loss of toluene. The corresponding ¹H n.m.r. spectra of (1a) reflect similar behaviour; at 213 K there are two distinct singlets for the benzyl α protons (δ 3.05 and 3.22) that coalesce at 238 K. From these data we can conclude that the underlying fluxionality of these compounds is restricted to a

scrambling process of the benzyl ligands that does not involve the axial chlorine ligands and that may be initiated by dissociation of the Ta-N bond.

These preliminary results clearly show that tantalum compounds with an intramolecularly co-ordinating N-donor ligand site are readily accessible. We are currently investigating the scope of our synthetic method with 8-(dimethylamino)-1-naphthyl and 2-(dimethylamino)benzyl ligands that likewise afford cyclometallated tantalum compounds but in which the chelate rings have different steric constraints; the thermal decomposition of these compounds involving C-H activation reactions is currently being studied.

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