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Ruthenium jumps! Reaction of a phenylruthenium complex with internal alkynes gives rise to the 1,4-Ru migration to form the *o*-vinylaryl complex, providing the first example of remote migration of a group 8 metal center.

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Remote rearrangement of the metal center in a $(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)Ru(n)$ complex[†]

Koichi Takano, Yousuke Ikeda, Shintaro Kodama and Youichi Ishii*

Reaction of $[(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)RuCl(Ph)(PMe_3)]$ with internal alkynes in the presence of NaBAr^F₄ gave rise to the 1,4-Ru migration to form the *o*-vinylaryl complex, providing the first example of 1,4-metal migration of a group 8 metal center; in one case further isomerization to an η^3 -allyl complex was observed.

C-H bond activation by intramolecular 1,4-metal migration has recently attracted considerable attention as the key step in the transition metal catalyzed synthetic reactions.¹ In this process, a transition metal center is at first introduced into the carbon atom four bonds away from the 'target' C-H group by a standard organometallic method, and then exchanges its position with the hydrogen atom to complete the C-H activation. This chemistry was established by Miura, Larock, and others using $Rh(I)^2$ and $Pd(II)^3$ complexes, and since then 1.4-migration reactions of these metals have been investigated actively from synthetic as well as mechanistic points of view. Although 1,4-migration of other metals such as cobalt,⁴ iridium,⁵ nickel⁶ and platinum^{3f} was also reported, only group 9 and 10 metal centers with a d^8 electron configuration have served as the effective reaction sites throughout these studies, which limits generality of the 1,4-metal migration.

In the course of our investigation into the activation of internal alkynes by using group 9 d^6 metal complexes, we have recently disclosed that the Rh(m) center in [Cp*Rh(CR¹=CR²Ph)(PR₃)][BAr^F₄] (R = Ph, Me; R¹, R² = alkyl, aryl; Ar^F = 3,5-(CF₃)₂C₆H₃), which is formed from the reactions of [Cp*RhCl(Ph)(PR₃)] with R¹C = CR² in the presence of NaBAr^F₄, takes part in the vinyl-to-aryl 1,4-migration to form the *o*-(vinyl)aryl complexes [Cp*Rh{*o*-C₆H₄CR²=CHR¹}-(PR₃)][BAr^F₄] under very mild conditions.^{7*a,b*,8} Furthermore, similar reactions of the iridium analog complex [Cp*IrCl(Ph)(PMe₃)] with

internal alkynes result in not only 1,4- but also direct 1,3-Ir(\mathfrak{m}) migration, providing the first experimental evidence for the direct 1,3-metal migration accompanied by the C–H bond activation.^{7c,9} To broaden the scope of the 1,4-metal migration, we have now aimed to expand the reaction site to group 8 metal complexes. Herein we describe the first example of the 1,4-migration of a Ru(\mathfrak{n}) center.

When $[(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)RuCl(Ph)(PMe_3)]$ (1), which was prepared by the reaction of $[(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)RuCl_2(PMe_3)]$ with PhMgCl, was allowed to react with $PhC \equiv CPh$ in the presence of NaBAr^F₄ in $C_2H_4Cl_2$ at room temperature for a few min, the color of the reaction mixture turned red from orange, and the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum showed a new singlet at δ -0.58. After recrystallization, the o-(vinyl)arylruthenium complex $[(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)Ru\{o-C_6H_4C(Ph)=CHPh\}(PMe_3)][BAr_4^F]$ (2a) with a Ru-(vinyl CH) agostic interaction was obtained in 89% yield as the sole product (Scheme 1). In the ¹H NMR spectrum, the vinyl proton of 2a appears as a doublet at δ –4.47 (d, $^{2}J_{PH}$ = 13.7 Hz), confirming the presence of an effective agostic interaction. In fact, this vinyl signal exhibits considerably large high-field shift compared with those of closely related Rh(III) and Ir(III) complexes such as $[Cp^*M{o-C_6H_4C(Ph)=CHPh}(PMe_3)][BAr^F_4]$ $(M = Rh, \delta 0.38; M = Ir, \delta - 0.30).^7$



Scheme 1 Reaction of 1 with PhC = CR and NaBAr^F₄.

Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Chuo University, 1-13-27 Kasuga, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

E-mail: yo-ishii@kc.chuo-u.ac.jp; Fax: +81-3-3817-1895; Tel: +81-3-3817-1901

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Fig. 1 ORTEP drawings of **2a** (left) and **4** (right). The anionic part and hydrogen atoms except for H1 of **2a** are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å): **2a**, Ru1–P1, 2.3190(10); Ru1–C1, 2.426(4); Ru1–C4, 2.065(4); Ru1–H1, 1.87(4); C1–C2, 1.354(5). **4**, Ru1–P1, 2.3517(16); Ru1–C1, 2.201(5); Ru1–C2, 2.165(5); Ru1–C3, 2.168(5); C1–C2, 1.452(6); C2–C3, 1.459(7).

The molecular structure of **2a** has been determined unambiguously by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study (Fig. 1, left). Complex **2a** displays a three-legged piano-stool structure with the η^6 -C₆Me₆, PMe₃, and *o*-(vinyl)aryl ligands as well as the agostic vinyl C-H group. The Ru1–C1 distance is obviously longer than regular ruthenium–carbon σ -bond lengths but comparable with common agostic Ru–CH distances.¹⁰ This structure clearly indicates that **2a** was formed by the vinyl-to-aryl 1,4-Ru migration from the vinyl-ruthenium intermediate [(η^6 -C₆Me₆)Ru{C(Ph)=CPh₂}(PMe₃)][BAr^F₄] (**3a**) with a Ru–(*o*-CH of Ph) agostic interaction, which was too reactive to be characterized.¹¹ Considering the isoelectronic nature of (η^6 -C₆Me₆)Ru(π) and Cp*Rh(π) fragments, the present 1,4-Ru(π) migration is presumed to proceed *via* the σ -complex assisted metathesis process (σ -CAM).^{7,12,13}

Similarly, the reaction of 1 with PhC \equiv CMe at 0 °C afforded $[(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)Ru\{o-C_6H_4C(Me)=CHPh\}(PMe_3)][BAr^F_4]$ (2b) in 80% isolated yield,¹⁴ and its structure was also confirmed by a preliminary X-ray diffraction study. 2b exhibits a singlet at δ –0.26 in the ³¹P{¹H} NMR and a high-field shifted vinyl signal at δ –4.24 (d, ²J_{PH} = 10.3 Hz) in the ¹H NMR, the latter of which is diagnostic of an agostic interaction.¹⁵

It would be interesting to note that a deuterium labeling experiment using $[(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)RuCl(C_6D_5)(PMe_3)]$ (1-d₅) and $PhC \equiv CPh$ failed to give the product fully deuterated at the vinyl CH group; instead we observed the vinyl CH signal with 0.5 H intensity in the ¹H NMR, suggesting the formation of $[(\eta^{6}-C_{6}Me_{6})Ru\{o-C_{6}D_{4}C(Ph)=CDPh\}(PMe_{3})][BAr_{4}^{F}]$ (2a-d₄/d₁) and $[(\eta^{6}-C_{6}Me_{6})Ru\{o-C_{6}H_{4}C(C_{6}D_{5})=CHPh\}(PMe_{3})][BAr^{F}_{4}]$ (2a- d_{5}/d_{0}) in a 1 : 1 ratio (see ESI^{\dagger}). This result clearly demonstrates that 3a- d_5 is rapidly interconverting between $3a \cdot d_5$ and $3a' \cdot d_5$ by the C=C bond rotation,16 and the subsequent 1,4-Ru migration can proceed from both structures to give $2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_4/d_1$ and $2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_5/d_0$ (Scheme 2). In addition, according to our previous study, vinylto-aryl 1,4-metal migration is a reversible process, and it is reasonable to consider that $2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_4/d_1$ and $2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_5/d_0$ are in equilibrium at room temperature.^{7b,c,17} It should also be mentioned that the C=C bond rotation of 3a is even more facile than that of the rhodium system; only transfer of a D atom to the vinyl position was observed in the reaction of $[Cp*Rh(C_6D_5)(PPh_3)]^+$ with PhC \equiv CPh.^{7a}





Although a considerable number of C–H activation reactions utilizing the 1,4-metal migration have been described in the literature,¹ they are exclusively performed at group 9 and 10 complexes. Very recently, Gunnoe reported that the reaction of [Cp*FePh(CO)(NCMe)] with MeC \equiv CMe ends in the formation of [Cp*Fe(η^{5} -1-hydroxy-2,3-dimethylindenyl)], where a novel coupling reaction of the Ph, CO and MeC \equiv CMe ligands leads to an indenyl skeleton. For this transformation, 1,4-migration of the iron(π) center was suggested to be involved,¹⁸ while no experimental evidence for 1,4-migration of group 8 metals has been reported. The present reaction provides the first example of 1,4-metal migration in a structurally well-defined group 8 metal complex and reinforces Gunnoe's proposal.

Complex 2a is stable at 50 °C, and no further reaction was observed at this temperature. In contrast, 2b was further isomerized slowly at room temperature (Scheme 3). When an in situ generated C₂H₄Cl₂ solution of **2b** was stirred at room temperature for 48 h, the color of the reaction mixture turned orange from red, and formation of a new complex showing a ³¹P{¹H} NMR signal at δ 3.03 was observed. Purification of this reaction mixture by column chromatography and recrystallization afforded the η^3 -allyl complex $[(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)Ru\{\eta^3-CH_2C(Ph)CHPh\}-$ (PMe₃)][BAr^F₄] (4) in 59% yield as pale yellow crystals. The ¹H NMR of 4 shows a set of CH signals of the η^3 -allyl ligand at δ 5.29 (br, CH₂C(Ph)CHPh), 3.61 (d, ${}^{2}J_{HH} = 3.7$ Hz, syn-CH₂C(Ph)CHPh), and 1.91 (dd, ${}^{3}J_{PH}$ = 18.3 Hz, ${}^{2}J_{HH}$ = 3.7 Hz, *anti-CH*₂C(Ph)CHPh), and the molecular structure of 4 has been determined unambiguously by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study (Fig. 1, right). The bond lengths and angles of the η^3 -allyl ligand in 4 are comparable to those of known η^3 -allyl ruthenium complexes.¹⁹ It should be pointed out that the transformation of 2b into 4 can be viewed as a formal 1,3-metal migration accompanied by CH activation.



Scheme 3 Isomerization of 2b to 4.



To gain mechanistic information regarding this isomerization, we have performed deuterium labeling experiments by using $1-d_5$ and examined the destination of the deuterium atoms in 4 by means of ¹H NMR. According to our previous study,^{7c} we have hypothesized two mechanisms for the isomerization of 2b into 4 as illustrated in Scheme 4. Path A is constituted of the rotation of the Carvl-Cvinvl bond in 2b and the subsequent aryl-to-allyl 1,4-Ru migration, and this route would lead to $4 \cdot d_1/d_4$ in which one deuterium atom is introduced into the C3 atom (see Fig. 1) of the η^3 -allyl ligand. On the other hand, path B includes the direct vinyl-to-allyl 1,3-Ru migration from 3b' which is in turn generated from 2b through the aryl-to-vinyl 1,4-Ru migration (vide supra) followed by the rotation of the C=C bond. In path B, $4-d_0/d_5$, which has no deuterium atom in the η^3 -allyl moiety, is expected to be formed. The ¹H NMR of the actual reaction product showed selective formation of $4 - d_1/d_4$, indicating that only path A is operative in the present reaction system, and the 1,3-Ru migration is not included (see ESI[†]).

This result is in stark contrast to a related reaction with an iridium complex. Thus, we have recently reported the formation of a similar η^3 -allyliridium complex, $[Cp*Ir{\eta^3-CH_2C(Ph)CHPh}](PMe_3)][BAr^F_4]$, by the reaction of $[Cp*IrCl(Ph)(PMe_3)]$ with $PhC \equiv CMe$ and $NaBAr^F_4$, and its deuterium labeling experiment with $[Cp*IrCl(C_6D_5)(PMe_3)]$ demonstrated that both path A and B are operative with the iridium system, where path B (direct 1,3-Ir migration) is the major reaction route (30:70).^{7c} It is interesting to point out that the reaction mechanism for the present formal 1,3-metal migration is strongly dependent on the metal center involved, although we must await further investigation including DFT calculations to clarify the origin of such metal dependency.

In conclusion, we have revealed that the reaction of $[(\eta^6-C_6Me_6)Ru(Ph)(PMe_3)]^+$ with $PhC \equiv CR$ (R = Ph, Me) afforded the *o*-(vinylaryl) complex **2a,b** by way of the alkyne insertion into the Ru–Ph bond to generate **3a,b** followed by the vinyl-to-aryl 1,4-migration. Complex **2b** was further isomerized to η^3 -allyl complex **4**, and the deuterium labeling experiments

disclosed that this isomerization proceeds through the rotation of the $C_{aryl}-C_{vinyl}$ bond in **2b** and the second aryl-to-allyl 1,4-Ru migration. These reactions provide the first example of 1,4-migration of a Ru(π) center. A mechanistic study involving DFT calculations and synthetic applications of this reaction are now in progress.

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