Synthesis and Reactivity Studies of Rhenium Carbido Carbonyl Cluster Compounds

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The chemistry of transition-metal cluster compounds continues to receive attention [1]. The use of cluster compounds as models for heterogeneous catalysts remains an area of considerable interest. The relationship between ligands bonded to a cluster framework and organic fragments on metal surfaces has been recognized [2]. The incorporation of a ligand by a cluster compound and the reactions of that ligand are analogies for transformations of organic substrates by heterogeneous catalysts. Consequently, the systematic synthesis of cluster compounds and the exploration of their reactions are aspects of current research.

Our work began as an extension of our interest in the formation and interconversion of large rhenium carbonyl clusters [3]. The synthesis and characterization of new cluster compounds utilizing selective methods have been employed both to decrease and to increase nuclearity. The decapping reaction of $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{3-}$ provided $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{19}]^{2-}$ along with the mononuclear complex, $[\text{Re}(\text{CO})_4(\text{PPh}_3)_2]^+$ (eq 1).

$$[\operatorname{Re}_{7}C(\operatorname{CO})_{21}]^{3-} \xrightarrow{2\operatorname{Cp}_{2}\operatorname{Fe}^{+}} [\operatorname{Re}_{6}C(\operatorname{CO})_{19}]^{2-} + [\operatorname{Re}(\operatorname{CO})_{4}(\operatorname{PPh}_{3})_{2}]^{+}$$
(1)

The structure of the cluster anion in [PPN]₂[Re₆C(CO)₁₉] shows eighteen terminal carbonyl ligands, three to each metal atom. Two unique positions exist for the nineteenth carbonyl ligand, one symmetrically edge-bridging (I) and the other nearly terminal but with weak bridging interactions to the other two rhenium atoms defining the triangular face (II). ¹³C NMR studies on [Re₆¹³C(¹³CO)₁₉]²⁻ showed rapid scrambling of the carbonyls even at -85 °C. Sunlamp irradiation of [Re₆C(CO)₁₉]²⁻ in the presence of H₂ gave [H₂Re₆C(CO)₁₈]²⁻ [4].



In further exploration of the unique photoreactivity of $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{19}]^{2-}$, we found that the reaction of $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{19}]^{2-}$ with Mo(CO)₆ and Ru₃(CO)₁₂ under photolytic conditions provided the new mixed-metal clusters, $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{18}\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4]^{2-}$ and $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{18}\text{-}$ Ru(CO)₃]²⁻. These are the first large rhenium carbonyl cluster compounds that contain either

a group VI or a group VIII transition metal cap. The cluster anion in [PPN]₂[Re₆C(CO)₁₈-Mo(CO)₄] is composed of a Re₆C octahedral core with a face capped by Mo(CO)₄. The relationship between [Re₆C(CO)₁₈Mo(CO)₄]²⁻ and [Re₆C(CO)₁₈Ru(CO)₃]²⁻ with (η^4 -C₄R₄)-Mo(CO)₄ [5,6] and (η^4 -C₄R₄)Ru(CO)₃ [5], respectively, extends the isolobal analogy of η^4 -diene ligands to the triangular face of the unsaturated [Re₆C(CO)₁₈]²⁻. Previously, we have proposed the analogy between the cyclopentadienyl ligand and the [Re₇C(CO)₂₁]³⁻ trianion based on the characterization of various [Re₇C(CO)₂₁ML_π]²⁻ compounds [7] (see below).



[Re₆C(CO)₁₈Mo(CO)₄]²⁻ and [Re₆C(CO)₁₈Ru(CO)₃]²⁻ provided the opportunity to compare the physical properties and reactivity of two closely related clusters. The variable temperature ¹³C NMR spectrum of [PPN]₂[Re6¹³C(¹³CO)₁₈Mo(¹³CO)₄] is consistent with the solid state structure at -40 °C, but the carbonyl ligands undergo complete scrambling at ambient temperature. The ¹³C NMR spectrum obtained for [PPN]2[Re6¹³C(¹³CO)₁₈- $Ru(^{13}CO)_3$ indicated an octahedral $Re_6C(CO)_{18}$ core capped by a $Ru(CO)_3$ fragment and showed no evidence for fluxional behavior at 20 °C. An irreversible oxidation wave was observed for [PPN]2[Re₆C(CO)₁₈Mo(CO)₄] while two quasi-reversible oxidation waves were observed for [PPN]₂[Re₆C(CO)₁₈Ru(CO)₃]. A comparison of the absorption spectra of [PPN]2[Re₆C(CO)₁₈Mo(CO)₄] and [PPN]2[Re₆C(CO)₁₈Ru(CO)₃ showed that the comparable transitions for [PPN]2[Re₆C(CO)₁₈Ru(CO)₃] are higher in energy. The molybdenum cap in $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{18}\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4]^2$ was cleaved to give $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{19}]^2$ upon heating or after treatment with acetonitrile. $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{18}\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4]^2$ reacted with H₂ under photolytic conditions to give [H₂Re₆C(CO)₁₈]²⁻. Under thermal conditions, [Re₆C(CO)₁₈Mo(CO)₄]²⁻ reacted with H₂ to give a mixture of $[H_2Re_6C(CO)_{18}]^{2-}$ and $[Re_6C(CO)_{19}]^{2-}$. The thermal reaction of H₂ (40 psig) with [Re₆C(CO)₁₈Mo(CO)₄]²⁻ gave exclusively [H₂Re₆C(CO)₁₈]²⁻. The ruthenium cap in $[Re_6C(CO)_{18}Ru(CO)_3]^2$ - did not undergo a decapping reaction under similar conditions.

The reaction of either $[H_2Re_6C(CO)_{18}]^{2-}$ or $[HRe_6C(CO)_{18}]^{3-}$ with $(AuPPh_3)Cl$ in the presence of 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) gave $[Re_6C(CO)_{18}(AuPPh_3)_2]^{2-}$. The bicapped $[Re_6C(CO)_{18}(AuPPh_3)_2]^{2-}$ complex reacted with $(AuPPh_3)NO_3$ to give $[Re_6C(CO)_{18}(AuPPh_3)_4]$. The $[Re_6C(CO)_{18}(AuPPh_3)_2]^{2-}$ complex also reacted with $[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$ to give $[Re_6C(CO)_{18}(AuPPh_3)_2Rh(CO)_2]^{-}$. Capping the " $[Re_6C(CO)_{18}]^{4-}$ " core with precursors other than gold to give $[Re_6C(CO)_{18}ML_n]^{3-}$ has been explored briefly.

The two electron oxidation of metal carbonyl cluster compounds followed by the addition of a two-electron donor ligand is a developing method to synthesize new cluster compounds. The term "redox activation" has been used to describe this process involving the treatment of anionic cluster compounds with oxidizing agents to facilitate reactivity [8]. Recently, the term "oxidative substitution" has been proposed to describe this process [9]. Treatment of $[PPN]_3[Re_7C(CO)_{21}]$ with two equivalents of Cp_2Fe^+ in the presence of diazomethane gave $[PPN][Re_7C(CO)_{21}(CH_2)]$. The structure of the cluster anion (III) shows the methylene ligand bridging a rhenium-rhenium edge. The rhenium-rhenium distance for the edge bridged by the methylene ligand was found to be shorter than the other rhenium-rhenium distances.



Treatment of $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}(\text{CH}_2)]^-$ with acetonitrile gave $[\text{Re}_6\text{C}(\text{CO})_{18}(\text{CH}_2)]^{2-}$. The decapped species was identified as $[\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCCH}_3)_3]^+$. The treatment of large carbonyl cluster compounds by acetonitrile has been reported to give smaller cluster compounds by removing one or more vertices from the parent cluster [10]. A comparison of the ${}^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of $[\text{PPN}][\text{Re}_7{}^{13}\text{C}({}^{13}\text{CO})_{21}(\text{CH}_2)]$ and $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Re}_6{}^{13}\text{C}({}^{13}\text{CO})_{18}(\text{CH}_2)]$ showed hindered site exchange for carbonyl ligands associated with metal atoms bonded to the methylene carbon. The ${}^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Re}_6{}^{13}\text{C}({}^{13}\text{CO})_{18}(\text{CH}_2)]$ also confirmed that the methylene ligand is edge-bridging.

Treatment of $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{3-}$ with one equivalent of Cp_2Fe^+ gave the $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}^-(\text{CO})_{21}]^{2-}$ radical, which could be observed by infrared spectroscopy. Introduction of tributylin hydride or a silane gave $[\text{HRe}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{2-}$. The $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{2-}$ radical also reacted with solvents such as acetone or THF to give $[\text{HRe}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{2-}$. The $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{2-}$ radical also reacted with solvents such as acetone or triphenylmethane. The $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{2-}$ radical apparently disproportionated in the presence of carbon monoxide to form $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{3-}$ and $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{-}$, followed by the reaction of $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{21}]^{-}$ with carbon monoxide to give $[\text{Re}_7\text{C}(\text{CO})_{22}]^{-}$. The nature of the counter ion in the cluster compound and the Cp_2Fe^+ oxidant also played a role in the reactivity.

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