ORGANOOSMIUM (VI) HYDROXO COMPLEXES AND THE SYNTHESIS OF HETEROBIMETALLIC CATALYSTS FOR AEROBIC ALCOHOL OXIDATION

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Organometallic hydroxo complexes are a small, but growing class of compounds.¹ With the increasing use of water as a benign, non-polluting solvent, a fundamental understanding of the synthesis and reactivity of hydroxo complexes will be of great importance.² Organometallic complexes containing terminal hydroxo ligands react with electrophiles and acid to produce a variety of interesting complexes. The synthesis, reactivity and structure of osmium (VI) hydroxo complexes will discussed, as well as applications and possible applications of these relatively rare complexes.

Organometallic osmium(VI) hydroxo compounds cis and trans [N(n- Bu_{4} [Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂(OH)₂] result from the substitution of chloride for hydroxide ligands in precursor compounds. Depending on the molecular structure, these compounds behave as nucleophiles, Bronsted bases, or Lewis bases in their reactions. The *cis* analog $[N(n-Bu)_{4}]$ $[Os(N)(CH_2SiMe_3)_2(OH)_2]$ reacts readily with CO₂ to produce a carbonate compound $[N(n-1)]_2$ Bu_{4} [Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂(CO₃)]. The *trans* isomer [N(*n*-Bu)₄][Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂(OH)₂] (Figure 1) reacts with CO_2 to slowly form the same carbonate compound. It is protonated by other acids to give a neutral hydroxo dimer $\{O_{s}(N)(CH_{2}SiMe_{3})_{2}(\mu-OH)\}_{2}$. The *trans* isomer also reacts with K_2CrO_4 heterobimetallic and acid generate the oxidation catalyst to $[NBu_4][Os(N)(CH_2SiMe_3)_2(\mu-O)_2CrO_2]$. The anti isomer of $\{Os(N)(CH_2SiMe_3)_2(\mu-OH)\}_2$ reacts with Pd(bpy)(OSiMe₃)₂ to produce a coordinatively unsaturated, heterometallic complex $\{Os(N)(CH_2SiMe_3)_2\}_2(\mu_3-O)_2Pd(bpy).^3$

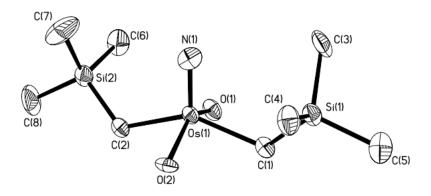
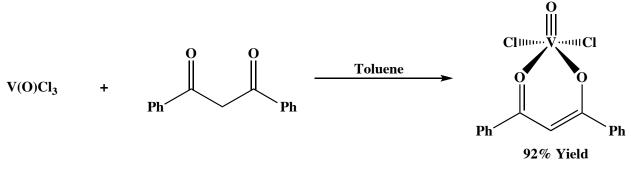


Figure 1: An ORTEP diagram of the anion [Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂

The heterocyclic compound 2,5-diformylfuran (DFF) is a ligand and a starting material in the synthesis of nematocides and natural products, but is relatively expensive (30-65 / 100 mg).⁴⁵ The heterobimetallic complex [NBu₄][Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂(μ -O)₂CrO₂]^{3,6} catalyzes the aerobic oxidation of 5-hydroxymethyl-furfural (HMF) to 2,5-diformylfuran (DFF). The oxidation is temperature dependent. At 65 °C and 20 psi O₂, 5 mol % [NBu₄][Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂(μ -O)₂CrO₂] catalyzes the oxidation of HMF to DFF in as high as 76 % yield. Currently we are exploring new methods of immobilizing [NBu₄][Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂(μ -O)₂CrO₂] on silica supports.

Although oxovanadium(V) chloride is inexpensive and easily purified, it is a very strong oxidant, reacts with trace amounts of water, and is difficult to use as a starting material for the synthesis of oxovanadium (V) complexes.⁷ The ligands dibenzoyl methane and N-phenyl salicylaldimine react with VOCl₃ in toluene to generate the complex V(O)Cl₂(DBM) (DBM=C₆H₅C(O)CHC(O)C₆H₅) and a complex of the general formula $C_{13}H_{11}Cl_3NO_2V$. The square pyramidal complex V(O)Cl₂(DBM) (Scheme 1) is a black solid that is stable in solution, but reacts with trace water. The complex $C_{13}H_{11}Cl_3NO_2V$ is unstable in the solution phase. In a solution of ether/hexane, V(O)Cl₂(DBM) reacts with NaOSiMe₃ to yield the uncharacterized intermediate V(O)(DBM)(OSiMe₃)₂, which reacts with the organometallic dihydroxo complex [NBu₄][*cis*-Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂(OH)₂] to generate Os(N)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂(DBM).



Scheme 1: Synthesis of V(O)Cl₂DBM from VOCl₃

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