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DOI
10.1002/ejic.201800397

Publication date
2018

Document Version
Final published version

Published in
European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry

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Article 25fa Dutch Copyright Act

Citation for published version (APA):
Dinuclear Complexes

P-N Bridged Dinuclear Rh-METAMORPhos Complexes: NMR and Computational Studies

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Abstract: Sulfonamido-phosphoramidites are known to form six-membered ring Rh-P-N-Rh-P-N- dinuclear complexes. Apart from a single X-ray structure, little is known about their three dimensional structure in solution. This study proposes a 31P, 15N and 103Rh NMR investigation of the question, as well as a DFT study. The AA’MM’XX’ 6 spin system of the corresponding 15N-enriched dinuclear complex is notably described.

Introduction

Since the groundbreaking 1865 proposition of Kekulé,[1,2] the atomic six-membered ring structure has been found to be one of the most dominant cyclic arrangements in Nature. This arises from the relative stability of the six-membered ring vs. other ring sizes. In this study, we propose to prove: 1) that sulfonamido-phosphoramidite (METAMORPhos) ligands[3] promote a characteristic Rh-P-N-Rh-P-N- six-membered ring organometallic dinuclear structure,[4] 2) that a strong Rh–N bond exists in solution, 3) that 15N enrichment of this characteristic dinuclear complex leads to a rare AA’MM’XX’ 6-spin system including 31P, 103Rh, and 15N nuclei, in which we propose to solve the spin-spin couplings.[5] Moreover, we propose to investigate the 3D-geometries of those complexes through computational studies, and thereby investigate the possibility of several conformers/twistamers in solution.

Joining anionic phosphoramidite METAMORPhos ligand (HNEt3)(L1) to together with cationic RhI precursor Rh(nbd)2BF4 leads to dinuclear complex Rh2(nbd)2(L1)2 (Scheme 1, Figure 1), releasing one equivalent of (HNEt3)(BF4) salt and one nbd (norbornadiene) per Rh center. This dinuclear complex yields a characteristic AA’XX’ 4-spin system in the 31P NMR profile, which we originally reported in 2009.[4a] The 4-spin coupling system can be easily solved with Günther’s equations.[6] In the case of L1 (R = para-n-butyl-phenyl), J = 261 Hz, J′ = –3 Hz, JPP′ = 29 Hz and JXX is negligible. Because JPP′ was expected to be signiﬁcantly superior to JRR′, we originally assigned A-spins to 31P and X-spins to 103Rh, thus yielding the following coupling attributions: JRhP = 261 Hz, JRR′ = –3 Hz, JPP′ = 29 Hz and JRRh′ ca. 0 Hz.[7]

2009

METAMORPhos Ligands

Scheme 1. Preparation of Rh2(nbd)2(L1)2.

In the case of L2 (R = CF3), which we will utilize as second METAMORPhos ligand in this study, JRhP = 265 Hz, JRR′ = –3 Hz, JPP′ = 21 Hz. These NMR coupling constants confirm the symmetrical dinuclear disposition of Rh2(nbd)2(L1 or L2)2, but say little about the coordination mode of the dinuclear core in the organometallic complex. In particular, at this point, neither NMR nor HRMS distinguishes μ-P,N bridging (Structure I) vs. P, O bridging mode (Structure II). In 2009, early DFT calculations indicated that the μ-P,N bridging mode should be favored by approximately 6 kcal/mol.[4a] This was confirmed in 2013 when the racemic CF3- analogue of this complex based on (HNEt3)(±L2) was successfully crystallized and characterized by X-ray, thus demonstrating the P,N character of the ligand in a
Results and Discussion

When we first discovered the dinuclear complex \( \text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)_2 \) in 2009,[4a] we originally imagined it as a single most stable regioisomer. The first X-ray structure of such a dinuclear system, published in 2013,[8] comforted this idea. However, when we started to look deeper into the \(^{103}\text{Rh}\) NMR of those species in solution, it became clear that this notion needed further investigations. An initial \(^{103}\text{Rh}\) NMR study of dinuclear complex \( \text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)_2 \) was performed, in which we were hoping to find the XX’ half spin system corresponding to the AA’ part of the \(^{31}\text{P}\) NMR (Figure 1). However, the \(^1\text{H}-^{103}\text{Rh}\) HMQC spectra of \( \text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)_2 \) revealed a more complex situation than anticipated (Figure 2).[4a,9] In particular, it is unclear whether the projection along the \(^{103}\text{Rh}\) axis belongs solely to a second order XX’ half spin system (Figure 2), or if some additional lines are present as well.

Because parts of the characterization difficulties in those systems arise from the second order symmetry, we had originally decided that a convenient solution could be to simplify the spin system by performing a scrambling experiment.[4a] One of the aims was to suppress the second order AA’XX’ 4-spin system. Thus, \([\text{HNEt}_3]_[\text{(R)}-\text{L}^1]\) can be united with inequivalent \([\text{HNEt}_3]_[\text{(R)}-\text{L}^2]\) and \(\text{Rh}(\text{nbd})_2\text{BF}_4\) in a 1:1:1 ratio. Under those conditions, one obtains an approximately statistical mixture (ca. 25:50:25) of homo1-, hetero-, and homo2- complexes: \(\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)_2\), \(\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)(L^2)\), and \(\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^2)_2\) respectively.[4a] Therefore, in the case of the combination of (R)-\(L^1\) and (R)-\(L^2\), the statistical distribution indicates that no significant sorting occurs (Figure 3). As expected, in the hetero combination: \(\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)(L^2)\), the second order has completely disappeared and each phosphorus signal now displays a simple first order doublet of doublet (\(J_{\text{P-Rh}}\) and \(J_{\text{P1-P2}}\), Figure 3). This interpretation is confirmed by a special \(^{31}\text{P}\left(^{103}\text{Rh}\right)\) NMR experiment of this mixture, in which the latter signals become simple dou-
blets ($^3J_{P1-P2}$), while previously second ordered homo1 and homo2 complexes $Rh_2(nbd)_2(L^1)_2$ and $Rh_2(nbd)_2(L^2)_2$ become, as expected, singlets. In this particular system, $^3J_{P1or2-Rh1or2} = 268 \text{ Hz}$, $^3J_{P2or1-Rh2or1} = 258 \text{ Hz}$, and finally $^3J_{P1-P2} = 25 \text{ Hz}$. We then performed a $^{31}P-\text{Rh}$ HMOC experiment of the mixture. Strikingly, the first order $Rh_2(nbd)_2(L^1)(L^2)$ complex does not display as originally anticipated a single line per Rh atom along the $^{103}\text{Rh}$ axis (Figure 4). Indeed, each of the two inequivalent Rh atoms in $Rh_2(nbd)_2(L^1)(L^2)$ is in fact split in a least 6 individual lines, lacking any obvious symmetry. Moreover, the most outer lines are distant by at least 119 Hz, which arguably excludes any unexpected NMR coupling. This is supported by the fact that large $^3J_{\text{Rh-Rh}}$ couplings do not fit in our simulation models.[7] Moreover, $^1H-^{103}\text{Rh}$ NMR couplings arising from the nbd unit are known not to exceed 4 Hz.[9] This is in good accordance with the $^1H$ NMR profiles of our $Rh_2(nbd)_2(L)_2$ complexes, for which the largest vinylic signals do not exceed 3 to 4 Hz NMR couplings.[7]

It thus seems that the $^{31}P(^1H)$ NMR profile of $Rh_2(nbd)_2(L^1)(L^2)$, displaying one dd for each ligand, could be in fact an average/overlap of several species. In contrast to $^{31}P$, $^{103}\text{Rh}$ NMR benefits from a considerably larger span of chemical shifts, and is thus more sensitive to minor geometry changes. Likewise, $^{195}\text{Pt}$ NMR has also been found in previous studies to be very sensitive to minor geometrical changes in the coordination sphere of the metal center.[10] In the present case, several chair, boat and twist configurations may be envisaged, each potential configuration further sub-divided in twistameric and diastereomeric isomerism. A great number of those configurations might thus potentially co-exist in solution at room temperature. This intriguing possibility, which is reminiscent of the various possible conformers of cyclohexane and its organic derivatives,
called for a detailed DFT investigation. The full model minus the butyl chain of complexes $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)_2$, $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)(L^2)$, and $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^2)_2$ were thus respectively considered, under all imaginable conformer possibility. Only homo-chiral (R)-binaphthol derived dinuclear complexes were investigated. The mixed chiral (R)/(S) case was not considered because of the self-sorting effect (Scheme 1).

All DFT calculations were originally performed in the gas-phase. It was found that the six-membered Rh-P-N-Rh-P-N has at least seven optimizable conformers of various energies for each dinuclear complex. Two boat conformers were notably found, in which the P-N lines are quasi parallel, and which differ "only" by the arrangement of the binaphthol and sulfone units ($B1$ and $B2$). A chair configuration ($S$) was also identified, as well as four twistamers ($Twist\ a\-\ d$, Figure 5). Importantly, in all cases, $Twist\ b$ dominates all other conformers. For $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)_2$, $Twist\ b$ dominates the next most stable conformer ($Twist\ a$) by 25 kJ/mol. In $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)_2$, the next most stable conformer is the boat $B2$, by 44 kJ/mol, and in the hetero complex $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)(L^2)$ the next most stable conformers is the chair $S$ by 49 kJ/mol. All energies and structures are provided in the SI. Clearly, at room temperature, the equilibrium co-existence of several regio-isomers seems excluded by these gas-phase DFT calculations. We then also quantified solvent effects by a series of COSMO calculations (supporting Information, Tables S13–S15). While there is some effect on relative conformer stability, the overall picture remains unchanged, especially that $Twist\ b$ is by far the most stable conformer. Noteworthy to mention, in all three complexes, the most stable $Twist\ b$ displays a similar Rh–Rh distance, of 3.34 Å for $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(L^1)_2$. 

![Figure 5. The seven conformers: Boat B1, B2, Chair S, Twistamers a, b, c, and d, all represented for $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(R\cdot L^1)_2$, in the gas phase.](image-url)
Figure 6. ORTEP representation (30% probability) of the known X-ray structure of \(\text{Rh}_2\text{nbd}_2{(\text{R-L}_2)}_2\text{Rh}_2\text{nbd}_2{(\text{S-L}_2)}_2\), the \(\text{Rh}_2\text{nbd}_2{(\text{R-L}_2)}_2\) part is represented (CCDC-931393, top)\cite{8} and corresponding computed optimized geometry of \(\text{Rh}_2\text{nbd}_2{(\text{R-L}_2)}_2\) in the most stable conformer \textit{Twist b} (gas phase, bottom picture).

Scheme 2. Synthesis of (HNEt\textsubscript{3})(\textsuperscript{15N-L\textsubscript{3}}) and \(\text{Rh}_2\text{nbd}_2{(\text{15N-L}_2)}_2\).
3.32 Å for Rh₂(nbd)₂(L²)₂, and of 3.31 Å for the mixed complex Rh₂(nbd)₂(L¹)(L²). In the solid state X-ray structure of Rh₂(nbd)₂(L²)₂, the Rh–Rh distance is 3.1460(4) Å. Again, the apparent deviation may come from comparing gas-phase (DFT) and solid state. In general, surprisingly, the contrasting electronic and steric parameters of L¹ (NTs) vs. L² (NTf) do not seem to impact much the Rh–Rh distance nor the relative energies and structures of the various conformers (Figure 5). Likewise, the N–Rh bond, which is strategic to maintain the six-membered ring dinuclear structure of the complex, is remarkably consistent in the most stable Twist b isomer of Rh₂(nbd)₂(L²)₂ (2.189 Å), of Rh₂(nbd)₂(L¹)₂ (2.206 Å), and the X-ray structure of the latter [2.185(3) Å]. For a visual comparison, we have reproduced the known X-ray structure of Rh₂(nbd)₂(R-L₂)₂, Rh₂(nbd)₂(S-L²)₂ and the computated most stable Twist b conformer of Rh₂(nbd)₂(R-L²)₂ in Figure 6.

The reality and strength of the N–Rh bond in solution was then looked at with ¹⁵N enrichment. In order to do so, a 99 % ¹⁵N-enriched METAMORPhos analogue of L¹ was prepared in two simple steps: (HNEt₃)(¹⁵N-L³). The latter displays a characteristic ¹J₁P-¹⁵N = 70 Hz (Scheme 2). It should be noted that while the ¹J₁P-¹⁵N NMR coupling in ¹⁵N-TsNH₂ is quite large, at 80 Hz, no NMR coupling could be detected between the ¹⁵N of (HNEt₃)(¹⁵N-L³), and the proton of the HNEt₃ cation. This is in good agreement with the ionic character of the phosphoramidite. (HNEt₃)(¹⁵N-L³) was then united with Rh(nbd)₂BF₄ to produce the characteristic dinuclear complex Rh₂(nbd)₂(¹⁵N-L³)₂. The resulting ³¹P{¹H} NMR profile is presented in Figure 7, together with its corresponding simulation. By analogy with Rh₂(nbd)₂(L¹)₂, which is electronically and sterically most similar, the following NMR coupling constants: ²J₁₁P-¹⁵N = 261 Hz, ³J₁₁P-¹⁵N = –3 Hz, ²J₁₁P-¹⁵N = 29 Hz and ³J₁₁P-¹⁵N = 0 Hz can be considered unchanged. Unfortunately, the strategic ¹J₁₁N-¹⁵N does not impact the ³¹P{¹H} NMR simulation of Rh₂(nbd)₂(¹⁵N-L³)₂. Indeed, a small (2 Hz) or large value (50 Hz) yields the same profile. In other words, one cannot utilize the ³¹P{¹H} simulation to iteratively determine ¹J₁₁N-¹⁵N. On the other hand, ¹J₁₁P-¹⁵N could be approached by iterative ³¹P{¹H} simulations and found to be 88 Hz.

In order to determine the strategic ¹J₁₁N-¹⁵N coupling, another ³¹P-¹⁰³Rh HMQC experiment was conducted on Rh₂(nbd)₂(¹⁵N-L³)₂. The resulting 2D profile is presented in Figure 7. Four large doublets are clearly visible along the ¹⁰³Rh axis, each corresponding to one of the four great line packages along the ³¹P axis. Each ¹⁰³Rh-directed doublet displays the same large coupling: ¹J₁₁N-¹⁵N = 30 +/- 1 Hz. Importantly, the projection along the ¹⁰³Rh axis gives approximately the same pattern which had been observed for Rh₂(nbd)₂(L¹)₂ and Rh₂(nbd)₂(L²)₂, only each line doubled by a 30 Hz coupling (¹J₁₁N-¹⁵N). The full spin system is represented in Scheme 3.

Conversely, it is mildly surprising that the ²J₁₁N-¹⁵N across the Rh atom was found to be very small, less than 1 Hz. It is well known however that small coordination angles (cis coordination) can dramatically decrease the NMR coupling between two inequivalent ³¹P spins at a metal center. By extension, the rather short N–Rh–P angle [93.22(7)° in the crystal structure of Rh₂(nbd)₂(R-L²)₂Rh₂(nbd)₂(S-L²)₂] may account for a similar

Figure 7. AA’ part of AAA’MM’XX’ 6-spin system of Rh₂(nbd)₂(¹⁵N-L³)₂ in ³¹P{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 202.3 MHz) and corresponding simulation (top), corresponding ³¹P-¹⁰³Rh HMQC NMR experiment (121.5 and 9.4 MHz respectively, middle down), and zoom in of the latter spectrum.

Scheme 3. AA’MM’XX’ 6 spin system based on ³¹P, ¹⁵N and ¹⁰³Rh, all none displayed NMR couplings are approximately 0 Hz.
effect. It should be noted that the $^{31}$P($^1$H) NMR simulation does not accommodate a $J_{1S-N-P}$ larger than 1 Hz, above which the simulated $^{31}$P($^1$H) profile becomes significantly more complex (more lines) than reality. In order to illustrate this point, simulations at $J_{1S-N-P} = 0$, 1, 2, and 5 Hz are provided in supplementary information. Finally, it should be noted that $J_{Rh-1S-N}$ is probably small, certainly much smaller than the $J_{1S-N-Rh} = 30 \pm 1$ Hz. However, its value does not affect the $^{31}$P($^1$H) NMR simulation, rendering iterative estimation impossible. The $^{103}$Rh axis projections are moreover too broad for direct determination. In contrast, we can however safely say that $J_{1S-N-1S}$ can 0 Hz, as any other value significantly alters the $^{31}$P($^1$H) NMR simulation compared to reality.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we reported here the first AA′MM′XX′ 6-spin system based on $^{31}$P, $^{15}$N and $^{103}$Rh. It is as far as we know also the first such AA′MM′XX′ 6-spin system to involve a transition metal. $^{15}$N-enrichment of METAMORPhos has allowed the NMR characterization of the Rh–N bond in the six-membered ring Rh$_2$(nbd)$_2$(L)$_2$ complex, in solution. The $J_{1S-N-Rh}$ was found to be 30 Hz, which is for the best of our knowledge also one of the largest ever reported NMR coupling between $^{15}$N and $^{103}$Rh.$^{[11]}$ This relatively high value suggests the existence of a strong N–Rh bond in the dinuclear complex in solution. Moreover, $^{103}$Rh NMR characterization and computational studies revealed that several conformers/twistamers are conceivable, even if Twistamer b seems to have a significant advantage over the other conformers according to those DFT studies. The interpretation of the multiple $^{103}$Rh NMR lines observed for these complexes remains therefore open. In general, the characteristic dinuclear disposition of these complexes could have an impact on the development of future cooperative catalysis applications, such as asymmetric hydrogenation reactions. We hope that this study will also inspire characterization and computational solutions for other organometallic coordination problems, particularly those based on cooperative dinuclear complexes.

Experimental Section

Synthetic Procedures and Selected Characterization (for Spectra, See SI): All reactions were carried out in dry glassware under argon or nitrogen atmosphere. Every solution addition or transfer was performed with syringes. All solvents were dried and distilled with standard procedures. Chromatographic purifications were performed by flash chromatography on silica gel 60–200 μm, 60 Å. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance experiments were performed either on a Varian Inova500 spectrometer ($^1$H: 500 MHz, $^{13}$C: 125.7 MHz), Varian Mercury 400 ($^1$H: 300.1 MHz, $^{19}$F: 282.4 MHz, $^{31}$P: 121.5 MHz), or Bruker DRX300 ($^1$H: 300 MHz, $^{13}$C: 121.5 MHz, $^{10}$Rh: 9.4 MHz). All available spectra can be found in the SI.

Rh$_2$(nbd)$_2$(L). The synthesis was partly described in a previous publication.$^{[4a]}$ $^{31}$P($^1$H) NMR (202.3 MHz, CDCl$_3$, room temp.): $\delta = 95.869$ (AA′XX′ half spin system, $J_{P-Rh} = 260.7$,$^2$, $J_{P-Rh} = -2.6$ Hz, $J_{P-P} = 28.7$ Hz, $J_{Rh-Rh} \approx 0$ Hz) ppm. MS (FAB$^+$): m/z calcd. for C$_2$H$_{38}$N$_2$O$_2$P$_2$Rh$_2$S$_2$ ([M]$^+$): 1442.18; obsd.: 1442.2. $^{31}$P–$^{103}$Rh HMQC (121.5 and 9.4 MHz, CD$_2$Cl$_2$):

C$_2$H$_{38}$N$_2$O$_2$P$_2$Rh$_2$S$_2$ ([M]$^+$): 1442.18; obsd.: 1442.2. $^{31}$P–$^{103}$Rh HMQC (121.5 and 9.4 MHz, CD$_2$Cl$_2$):

Rh$_2$(nbd)$_2$(L). The synthesis was partly described in a previous publication.$^{[4a]}$ $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$, room temp.): $\delta = 103.78$ (AA′XX′ half spin system: $J_{P-Rh} = 258$ Hz, $J_{P-Rh} = -3.0$ Hz, $J_{P-P} = 21.2$ Hz, $J_{Rh-Rh} \approx 0$ Hz) ppm. $^{19}$F NMR (282.4 MHz, CD$_2$Cl$_2$, room temp.): $\delta = -75.969$ (s, CF$_3$), –148.734 (s, Et$_3$NHBF$_4$) ppm. MS (FAB$^+$): m/z calcd. for C$_{56}$H$_{40}$F$_6$N$_2$O$_8$P$_2$Rh$_2$S$_2$ ([M]$^+$): 1313.97; obsd.: 1313.9. $^{31}$P–$^{103}$Rh HMQC (121.5 and 9.4 MHz, CD$_2$Cl$_2$):

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Rh$_2$(nbd)$_2$(L)$_2$: The synthesis was partly described in a previous publication.$^{[4a]}$ $^{15}$N–$^{103}$Rh HMQC (121.5 and 9.4 MHz, CD$_2$Cl$_2$):
(9.2 mmol), Et3N (23 mmol) was added to it under strong magnetic stirring. The suspension was stirred at room temp. for 1 h. The solvent was evaporated. The product was dissolved in THF, filtered and the solvents evaporated. Finally the product was crystallized from CH2Cl2/Hexanes (2:3). Isolated yield: 17.5 %, white crystals: Ts-15NH2.

H NMR (500 MHz, CD2Cl2, 298 K): δ = (ppm): 7.823 (broad d = small second order, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 aromatic H), 7.375 (broad d = small second order, J = 8 Hz, 2 aromatic H), 4.933 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, Ts-15N=), 2.469 (s, CH3 of Ts moiety). 13C{1H} NMR (125.7 MHz, CD2Cl2, 298 K): δ = (ppm): 144.301 (s, Cquat), 139.188 (s, 2CH, = 4 Hz, Cquat), 130.262 (s, CH), 126.832 (s, CH), 21.798 (s, CH3 of Ts-15NH2), 1.6 mmol of this compound was then dissolved in 12 mL of THF and Et3N (4 mmol). A 5 mL of THF solution of R-(-)-1,1’-Bi-2-naphthol-PCI (7.0 mmol, 1 equiv) was added dropwise under strong magnetic stirring, leading to a suspension, which was stirred at room temp. overnight. The solution was then filtered and the solvents evaporated. The product was submitted to 10 mL of EtO and subsequently evaporated. The process was repeated twice. The product was then washed with 10 mL of EtO. The product obtained as a white powder with a close to quantitative yield.

31P{1H} NMR (202.3 MHz, CD2Cl2, 298 K): δ = (ppm): +171.9 (very broad m), 31P{1H} NMR (121.5 MHz, THF unlocked, room temp.) approx. 174 ppm [sharp d, J31P{1H} = 70 Hz]. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CD2Cl2, 298 K): δ = (ppm): 10.2 (broad, s, NH), 8.017–6.925 (aromatic area), 2.788 (dq, q: δ = 10.2 ppm; J = 8.5 Hz, 2 aromatic H), 1.453 (s, CH2, free nbd), 1.318 (s, CH3 of Et3NH+). 13C{1H} NMR (125.7 MHz, CD2Cl2, 298 K): δ = (ppm): note: due to the large number of lines, NMR coupling steps were not systematically solved, only the visible lines are observed: 133.37 (Cquat), 131.89 (Cquat), 131.19 (Cquat), 130.58 (CH), 129.53 (CH), 128.90 (CH), 128.69 (CH), 127.15 (CH), 126.75 (CH), 126.59 (CH), 126.47 (2CH), 125.20 (CH), 124.97 (CH), 124.57 (CH), 122.80 (CH), 45.52 (CH2 of Et3NH+), 21.70 (CH3), 8.46 (CH of Et3NH+).

Rh2(nbd)2(15N-L3): Ligand (HNEt2)15N(N-L3) (0.10 mmol, 1 equiv.) was united with Rh(nbd)2BF4 (0.10 mmol, 1 equiv.) and dissolved in THF. The solution was then filtered and the solvents evaporated. The product was united with Rh(nbd)2BF4 (0.10 mmol, 1 equiv.) and dissolved in THF.

Quantum Chemical Calculations: All DFT calculations were performed in the gas-phase using the B3LYP functional[12] and the def2-TZVP[13] basis for all atoms. The rhodium atom carries a quasirelativistic effective core potential (def2-ecp)[14] replacing 28 core electrons. The D3 correction by Stefan Grimme[15] was used to account for dispersion interaction. For the sake of completeness, the dispersion contribution to relative conformer energies is documented in the supporting Information, Tables S7–S9. All calculations were performed with TURBOMOLE.[16] For geometry optimization steps the Berry algorithm[17] as implemented in Gaussian 09[18] was used, using the “external” interface of that program. This means, all energies, gradients, and force constants are calculated with TURBOMOLE, and the Gaussian program decides on which steps to take on the potential energy surface. Except in a single case (see supporting Information, Table S6), all minima were characterised by frequency calculations having no negative Hessian eigenvalue. To assess the importance of solvent effects on relative conformer energies, geometry optimizations have also been performed with the COSMO model[19] (see supporting Information, Tables S13–S15). While solvation somewhat affects the relative stability, it does not change the overall trend.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank Han Peeters for the mass spectrometry experiments, and NRSCC, BASF, and EZ for financial support. This work was also supported in part (A. L. S.) by the Council for the Chemical Sciences of The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (CW-NWO). The authors affiliated to the TU Kaiserslautern also acknowledge the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)-funded transregional collaborative research center SFB/TRR 88 “Cooperative effects in homo and heterometallic complexes” (www.3MET.DE).

Keywords: METAMORPhos · Rhodium · Dinuclear complexes · Density functional calculations · AA’MM’XX 6 spin system · NMR spectroscopy

[8] F. G. Terrade, M. Lutz, J. N. H. Reek, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2013, 19, 10458, the X-ray structure of $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(R-L^2)_2\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(S-L^2)_2$: CCDC-931393. CCDC 931393 (for $\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(R-L^2)_2\text{Rh}_2(\text{nbd})_2(S-L^2)_2$) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.


Received: March 28, 2018