

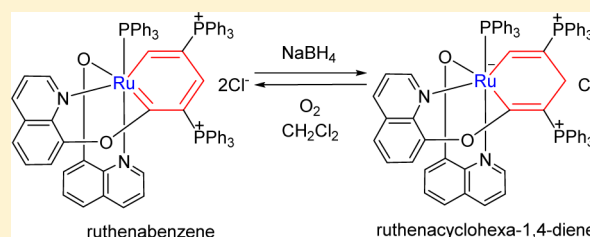
Interconversion between Ruthenacyclohexadiene and Ruthenabenzene: A Combined Experimental and Theoretical Study

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Supporting Information

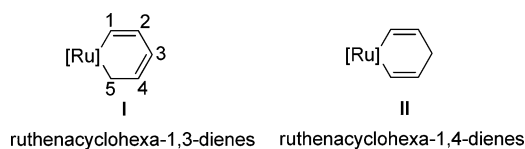
ABSTRACT: Treatment of ruthenabenzene $[(C_9H_6NO)Ru\{CC-(PPh_3)CHC(PPh_3)CH\}(C_9H_6NO)(PPh_3)]Cl_2$ (**1**) with $NaBH_4$ produces the first ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene $[(C_9H_6NO)Ru\{CC-(PPh_3)CH_2C(PPh_3)CH\}(C_9H_6NO)(PPh_3)]Cl$ (**2**), which was fully characterized. Under an oxygen atmosphere, complex **2** can easily convert to complex **1**. DFT calculations were carried out to rationalize the high regioselectivity in the reaction of the ruthenabenzene **1** with $NaBH_4$ and the interconversion between **1** and **2**.



INTRODUCTION

Metallacycles have attracted considerable attention because they can display unique properties and mediate various reactions to construct unsaturated molecules.¹ As one of the major models of six-membered metallacycles, the isolation and characterization of stable metallacyclohexadienes have been extensively investigated.^{2–4} Most of the well-characterized stable metallacyclohexadienes are those with late transition metals, especially iridium.^{2a–j} One of the common strategies previously employed is the formation of metallacyclohexadienes from various metallabenzene, including stibabenzene,^{3a} bismabenzene,^{3a} iridabenzene,^{2b,d,f–h,j} osmabenzene,^{2j} and ruthenabenzene.^{4c}

Chart 1



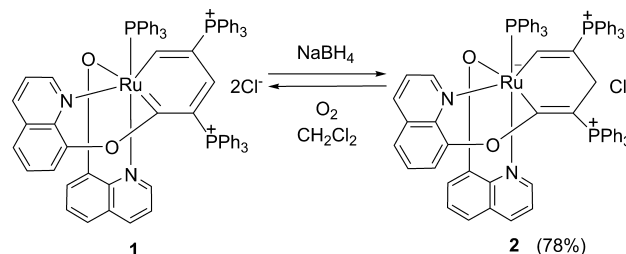
A previously reported example of a ruthenacyclohexa-1,3-diene (**I**),^{4a,b} which was better formulated as a ruthenabenzofuran,⁵ can convert to a tethered ruthenabenzene by protonation of a carbon atom of the five-membered ring of this ruthenabenzofuran. In our earlier study, we found that the nucleophilic addition reactions of metallabenzene $[M\{CHC(PPh_3)CHC(PPh_3)CH\}Cl_2 (PPh_3)_2]Cl$ ($M = Os$ or Ru) produced the metallacyclohexa-1,3-diene and η^2 -allene-coordinated metallacycles.^{4c} In this contribution, we present the synthesis of the first example of ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-dienes (**II**), which could be obtained from the nucleophilic addition reaction of ruthenabenzene with $NaBH_4$. The regioselectivity of the nucleophilic addition reaction and the interconversion

between ruthenacyclohexadiene and ruthenabenzene have been studied with the aid of density functional theory (DFT) calculations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Treatment of complex **1** with excess sodium borohydride in dichloromethane led to the formation of complex **2**, which can be isolated as a reddish-brown solid in 78% yield (Scheme 1). Complex **2** was characterized by NMR spectroscopy, and the structure was further confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

Scheme 1. Interconversion of Ruthenabenzene **1** and Ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene **2**



As complex **2** has good solubility in organic solvents, it is difficult to obtain a single crystal of **2** to determine its solid-state structure. Fortunately, the counteranion Cl^- in **2** can be easily replaced by BPh_4^- by treatment of **2** with $NaBPh_4$ to give ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene **2'**. The molecular structure of **2'** is shown in Figure 1, which reveals that it is a ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene complex. The $Ru1-C1$ (1.973(9) Å) and $C1-C2$ (1.349(11) Å) bond lengths compare well with

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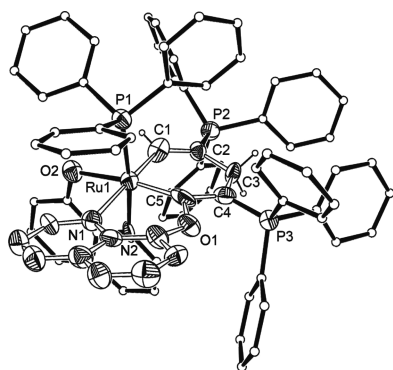


Figure 1. Solid-state structure of **2'** with thermal ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability. The counteranion, the solvent molecules, and some of the hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Ru1–P1 2.306(2), Ru1–N1 2.190(6), Ru1–N2 2.120(7), Ru1–O2 2.199(6), Ru1–C1 1.973(9), Ru1–C5 1.908(11), C1–C2 1.349(11), C2–C3 1.518(11), C3–C4 1.515(11), C4–C5 1.428(13), P2–C2 1.756(8), P3–C4 1.749(10); P1–Ru1–N2 172.52(19), N1–Ru1–O2 89.0(2), C1–Ru1–C5 90.3(4), Ru1–C1–C2 131.2(7), C1–C2–C3 124.3(8), C2–C3–C4 118.5(7), C3–C4–C5 123.1(8), C4–C5–Ru1 131.0(7).

those found in other ruthenium-vinylidene metallacycles.^{4c,6} Probably due to the neighboring O1 atom, the Ru1–C5 bond (1.908(11) Å) is slightly shorter than the Ru1–C1 bond, and the C4–C5 bond (1.428(13) Å) is slightly longer than the C1–C2 bond. The C2–C3 (1.518(11) Å) and C3–C4 (1.515(11) Å) bonds agree well with typical C(sp²)–C(sp²) single bonds within metallacycles. It is interesting that the metallacycle of **2** is essentially planar. The coplanarity is reflected by the mean deviation (0.0536 Å) from the least-squares plane through the six atoms Ru1, C1, C2, C3, C4, and C5, and the sum of angles in the six-membered ring is 718.4°, which is close to the ideal value of 720°.

Consistent with the solid-state structure, the ³¹P NMR spectrum displays signals at $\delta = 55.0$ (RuPPh₃), 12.4 (CPPh₃), and 9.7 (CPh₃) ppm, respectively. The ¹H NMR spectrum shows the RuCH signal at $\delta = 11.2$ ppm and the RuCHC(PPh₃)CH₂ signals at $\delta = 3.6$ ppm. The ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum shows the five carbon signals of the metallabenzene ring at 229.0 (C1), 103.3 (C2), 38.7 (C3), 76.6 (C4), and 246.3 (C5) ppm.

It is noteworthy that the ruthenacyclohexadiene complex **2** is highly sensitive to air in solution. The attempt to obtain the full spectroscopy characterization of complex **2** was very difficult. The high-resolution mass spectroscopy of the pure sample of **2** shows peaks at 619.14034 and 1239.29532 *m/z* (the positive-ion ESI-HRMS spectra are given in the Supporting Information). We speculated the peak of 619.14034 *m/z* may be attributed to complex **1**, which was formed from complex **2** under the conditions of measurement. To further investigate the stability/reactivity of **2**, it was subjected to air conditions. As shown in Scheme 1, when the solution of **2** in dichloromethane was exposed to air, slow transformation was observed during the course of 2 days of observation. The transformation proceeded better when operated under an oxygen atmosphere instead. As monitored by in situ NMR spectroscopy, when a solution of **2** in dichloromethane was stirred for 12 h under an oxygen atmosphere at room temperature, **2** was completely consumed to give **1** as exclusive product. It is reported that iridacyclohexa-1,4-dienes/osmacyclohexa-1,4-dienes are formed through addition of BH₄[−] to cationic iridabenzenes/osmabenzenes.²¹ Both these metallacyclohexa-1,4-dienes are reported to undergo slow air oxidation to return the original metallabenzenes. However, the ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene **2** is oxidized easily by air compared to the reported iridacyclohexa-1,4-dienes and osmacyclohexa-1,4-dienes.

The conversion of **1** to **2** has been investigated by means of DFT calculation. The optimized structures of the full model complexes **1**²⁺ and **2**⁺ reproduce well the structural features of the cationic ruthenabenzene **1** and ruthenacyclohexadiene **2**.⁷ The nucleus-independent chemical shift (NICS) values were computed for the metallabenzene ring. The calculated NICS(1) and NICS(1)_{zz} values of **1**²⁺ are −3.2 and −11.3 ppm. The values are comparable to those reported for other metallaromatics.⁸ The calculated negative NICS values indicate aromaticity associated with the metallabenzene ring in complex **1**. In agreement with the aromaticity of **1**, ruthenabenzene **1** is unreactive toward common nucleophiles and electrophiles such as H₂O, MeOH, [PyH]Br₃, and NOBF₄. In our exploratory experiments, only strong nucleophile NaBH₄ can react with **1** to produce ruthenacyclohexadiene **2**. The reactions of **1** with other strong nucleophiles such as MeONa, NaH, or KOH afford only the product of C–P cleavage, which were described in our previous report.⁶ⁿ

The natural population analysis⁹ on the full model of **1**²⁺ demonstrates the five different charges of the carbon atoms in the metallacycle (from C1 to C5: −0.159, −0.569, −0.113, −0.550, and 0.338), which suggests that C3 is relatively more electrophilic than C1. Further examination of the contribution to the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO, Figure 2) of **1**²⁺ from C1 (12.3%) and C3 (20.2%) also suggests that the nucleophilic attack at C3 is more favorable.

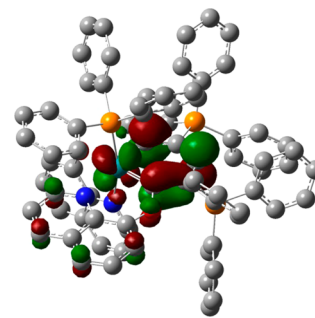


Figure 2. Spatial plot of the LUMO (isovalue = 0.04) of dicationic ruthenabenzene **1**²⁺. All hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

To understand the regioselectivity of the reaction, we have calculated thermodynamics and kinetics of the conversions of ruthenabenzene **1** to ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene **2** or ruthenacyclohexa-1,3-diene **3**. Figure 3 gives the energy profile calculated for the reactions, and the labels of the model compounds are followed by a double prime (") to differentiate them from their corresponding experimental compounds. As shown in Figure 3, path b is less favorable than path a. Furthermore, the ruthenacyclohexa-1,3-diene complex **3**" is relatively unstable. Therefore, the formation of the ruthenacyclohexa-1,3-diene complex **3**" is kinetically and thermodynamically less favorable, consistent with the experimental results that the reaction of **1** with NaBH₄ obtains the net ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene product **2**. In addition, the calculated energy of **2**⁺ is

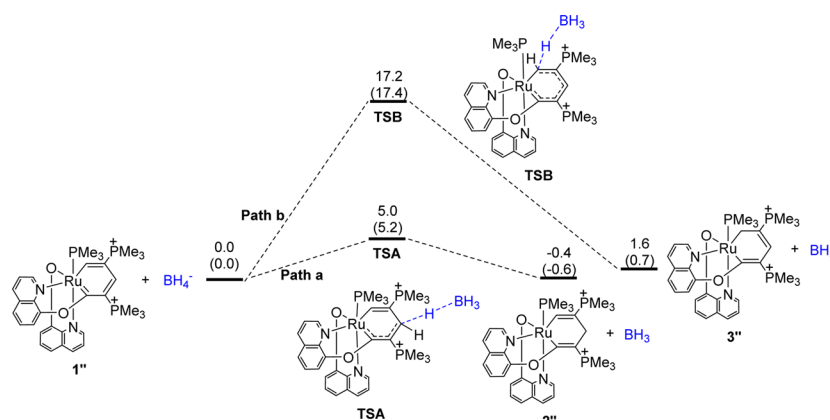


Figure 3. Energy profile calculated for the formation of 2⁺ and 3⁺ from the reaction of 1 with NaBH₄. The relative free energies and electronic energies (in parentheses) are given in kcal/mol.

1.6 kcal/mol lower than that of 3⁺. The relative energies obtained are not much different from those obtained from the PMe₃ model calculations presented in Figure 3.

In this context, it should be further mentioned that Wright and coauthors²¹ have theoretically rationalized the high regioselectivity observed in the hydride addition to C3 of the irida- and osmabenzene rings by consideration of the condensed Fukui functions. Besides the electronic effect, they believed steric factors also clearly play a role in determining the outcome of the reactions. We think that the surrounding bulky 8-hydroxyquinoline and PPh₃ groups of our ruthenabenzene 1 may also partly hinder the nucleophilic attack at C1. Thus, the electronic effect, together with the steric effect, contributes to the regioselectivity for nucleophilic attack at C3 of ruthenabenzene 1.

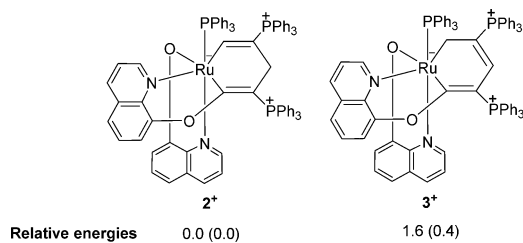


Figure 4. Relative energies of 2⁺ and 3⁺. The free energies and relative electronic energies (in parentheses) are given in kcal/mol.

In summary, the first example of a ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene has been synthesized by the nucleophilic addition reaction of ruthenabenzene. Both experimental and theoretical studies suggest that the metallacycle of the starting ruthenabenzene has an aromatic character, which can undergo a nucleophilic addition reaction only with the strong nucleophile NaBH₄. The theoretical study shows that the regioselectivity for nucleophilic attack at C3 of ruthenabenzene is mainly of electronic origin. In addition, the ruthenacyclohexa-1,4-diene can readily convert to ruthenabenzene under an air atmosphere, consistent with the small calculated energy of the conversion.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Comments. All manipulations were carried out at room temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques, unless otherwise stated. Solvents were distilled under nitrogen from sodium benzophenone (*n*-hexane, diethyl ether) or

calcium hydride (CH₂Cl₂, CH₂ClCH₂Cl). The starting material [(C₉H₆NO)Ru{CC(PPh₃)CHC(PPh₃)CH}(C₉H₆NO)(PPh₃)]Cl₂ (1) was synthesized by literature procedures.⁶ⁿ NMR experiments were performed on a Bruker AV II-400 spectrometer (¹H 400.1 MHz; ¹³C 100.6 MHz; ³¹P 162.0 MHz). ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are relative to TMS, and ³¹P NMR chemical shifts are relative to 85% H₃PO₄. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Bruker En Apex Ultra 7.0T FTMS mass spectrometer.

Synthesis. [(C₉H₆NO)Ru{CC(PPh₃)CH₂C(PPh₃)CH}(PPh₃)-(C₉H₆NO)]Cl (2). A mixture of 1 (0.10 g, 0.08 mmol) and sodium borohydride (0.20 g, 5.3 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was stirred for 4 h to give a brown solution with some white precipitate. The mixture was filtered to remove the white precipitate. The volume of the filtrate was reduced to about 1 mL. Addition of diethyl ether (10 mL) to the solution gave a reddish-brown precipitate, which was collected by filtration, washed with diethyl ether (2 × 2 mL), and dried under vacuum. Yield: 80 mg, 78%. ¹H NMR (400.1 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 11.2 (d, J(PH) = 29.2 Hz, 1 H, RuCH), 8.8–5.8 (m, 57 H, PPh₃, C₉H₆NO), 3.6 ppm (m, 2 H, RuCHC(PPh₃)CH₂). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162.0 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 55.0 (RuPPh₃), 12.4 (CPPPh₃), 9.7 ppm (CPPPh₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 246.3 (dd, J(PC) = 14.1, 4.9 Hz, RuC), 229.0 (dd, J(PC) = 14.4, 5.5 Hz, RuCH), 169.0–107.7 (m, PPh₃, C₉H₆NO), 103.3 (dd, J(PC) = 64.2, 12.2 Hz, C(PPh₃)), 76.6 (dd, J(PC) = 74.8, 12.2 Hz, C(PPh₃)), 38.7 ppm (dd, J(PC) = 30.3, 20.8 Hz, RuCHC(PPh₃)CH). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₇₇H₆₀ClN₂O₂P₃Ru]⁺ 1239.29111, found 1239.29532.

[(C₉H₆NO)Ru{CC(PPh₃)CH₂C(PPh₃)CH}(C₉H₆NO)(PPh₃)](BPh₄) (2⁺). A solution of NaBPh₄ (20 mg, 0.06 mmol) in CH₃OH (0.5 mL) was added slowly to a solution of complex 2 (50 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH₃OH (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min to give a reddish-brown suspension. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with CH₃OH (2 × 3 mL), and then dried under vacuum. Yield: 52 mg, 85%. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₇₇H₆₀ClN₂O₂P₃Ru]⁺ 1239.29111, found 1239.29222.

Computational Details. All structures were optimized at the B3LYP level of DFT.¹⁰ In addition, the frequency calculations were performed to confirm the characteristics of the calculated structures as minima. In the B3LYP calculations, the effective core potentials of Hay and Wadt with a double- ζ valence basis set (LanL2DZ) were used to describe the Ru and P atoms, whereas the standard 6-31G(d) basis set was used for the C, O, N, B, and H atoms¹¹ for all calculations. Polarization functions were added for Ru ($\zeta(f) = 1.235$) and P ($\zeta(d) = 0.34$)¹² in all calculations. NICS values were calculated at the B3LYP-GIAO/6-31G(d) level. All optimizations were performed with the Gaussian 03 software package.¹³ See Supporting Information for the Cartesian coordinates.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT**■ Supporting Information**

Details of X-ray crystallography of compound **2'**, positive-ion ESI-HRMS spectra of **2** and **2'**, and Cartesian coordinates for all calculated structures. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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