

## Carboxylatodirrhodium(II) complexes with orthometallated tris(*p*-methoxyphenyl)phosphine and their reactions with pyrazole and imidazole.

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### Streszczenie

Exchange reactions of the acetato bridges in  $[\text{cis-Rh}_2(\text{I-OAc})_2\{\text{l-(C}_6\text{H}_3\text{-4-OMe)P(C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-4-OMe)}_2\}_2(\text{HOAc})_2][\text{[1(HOAc)}_2\text{]}]$  for trifluoroacetato and propionato bridges give new dirrhodium(II) complexes with two orthometallated molecules of tris(*p*-methoxyphenyl)phosphine (PMP):  $[\text{cis-Rh}_2(\text{I-O}_2\text{CCF}_3)_2\{\text{l-(C}_6\text{H}_3\text{-4-OMe)P(C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-4-OMe)}_2\}_2(\text{HO}_2\text{CCF}_3)_2][\text{[2(HO}_2\text{CCF}_3)_2\text{]}]$  and  $[\text{cis-Rh}_2(\text{I-O}_2\text{CCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2\{\text{l-(C}_6\text{H}_3\text{-4-OMe)P(C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-4-OMe)}_2\}_2(\text{HO}_2\text{CCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}]$  and  $[\text{[2(H}_2\text{O)(PrOH)}][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}]$  respectively. X-ray structures of the complexes  $[\text{2(H}_2\text{O)(PrOH)}][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}]$  and  $[\text{3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}]$  have been determined. The Rh–Rh distances in  $[\text{2(C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_2\text{]}]$  and  $[\text{3(C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_2\text{]}]$  are a little longer than those in  $[\text{2(H}_2\text{O)(PrOH)}][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}]$  and  $[\text{3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}][\text{[3(HO}_2\text{CEt)}_2\text{]}]$ . Reactions of all these complexes with pyrazole and imidazole were investigated using UV–Vis spectroscopy. It has been found that pyrazole molecules are coordinated to [1], [2] and [3] complexes more strongly than imidazole. Reactions with pyrazole were also studied using NMR spectroscopy. © 2006 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. Keywords: Dirrhodium(II) complexes; Functionalized phosphines; Pyrazole; Imidazole; Orthometallation

1. Introduction  
Chemistry of dirrhodium(II) complexes with phosphines has been intensively studied since the discovery of the product of the reaction of rhodium tetraacetate with triphenylphosphine – one of the first examples of a bimetallic orthometallated compound [1]:  $[\text{cis-Rh}_2(\text{I-OAc})_2\{\text{l-(C}_6\text{H}_4\text{)-PPh}_2\}_2(\text{HOAc})_2]$ . Great attention has been paid to different orthometallated dirrhodium(II) compounds with triaryl and alkyl-aryl phosphines because of the growing interest in the problem of activation of the C–H bond [2–21]. Dirrhodium(II) acetato complexes with orthometallated phosphines belong to the group of very efficient cytostatic agents [21]. It has been proven that electrochemical properties and catalytic activity of dirrhodium(II) carboxylato complexes in carbene transfer reactions depend not only on the ortho-metallated phosphine, but also on the carboxylato bridges [3, 10, 16]. Antitumour activity of  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{I-O}_2\text{CR})_4$  complexes also strongly depend on the R substituent [22]. In

this work, we present the results of investigations on the interactions of the [cis-Rh<sub>2</sub>(I-OAc)<sub>2</sub>{I-(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>-4-OMe)P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-4-OMe)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>(HOAc)<sub>2</sub>][1(HOAc)<sub>2</sub>], [cis-Rh<sub>2</sub>(I-O<sub>2</sub>CCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>{I-(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>-4-OMe)P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-4-OMe)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>][2(HO<sub>2</sub>CCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] and [cis-Rh<sub>2</sub>(I-O<sub>2</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>{I-(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>-4-OMe)P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-4-OMe)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>][3(HO<sub>2</sub>CEt)<sub>2</sub>]/EHO<sub>2</sub>CEt complexes with pyrazole (Hpz) and imidazole (Him) in order to establish the influence of the different substituents of the carboxylato bridges on the reactivity of these complexes in the reactions of the formation of adducts with aromatic nitrogen-donor ligands

#### Słowa kluczowe

Dirhodium(II) complexes, Functionalized phosphines, Pyrazole, Imidazole, Orthometallation<sup>1</sup>

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