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NITROGEN COMPLEXES OF DICYCLOPENTADIENYLTITANIUM(III) COMPOUNDS.

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In nitrogen-fixation systems based on Cp_2TiCl_2 , \underline{viz} .: Cp_2TiCl_2/Na -naphthalide or $Cp_2TiCl_2/RMgBr$, R=alkyl, the exact nature of the active species is still unknown. It has been suggested that Cp_2TiCl_2 is first converted to low-valent titanium compounds. The latter compounds then form complexes with nitrogen, whereupon nitrogen is reduced. So far, nitrogen complexes of titanium have not been isolated. We felt that a study of compounds of the type $Cp_2Ti^{III}R$ may be of importance in connection with the above mentioned nitrogen-fixation reactions. The compounds Cp_2TiR were synthesized according to:

$$Cp_2TiCl + RMgBr \xrightarrow{ether} Cp_2TiR + MgClBr.$$

Complexes with R=phenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 2,6-dimethylphenyl, pentafluorophenyl and benzyl were isolated and characterized. With the exeption of $Cp_2Ti(2,6-dimethylphenyl)$ the compounds reacted at low temperatures with molecular nitrogen:

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$$Cp_2TiR + N_2 \xrightarrow{\text{toluene}} (Cp_2TiR)_2N_2$$
.

The nitrogen complexes were isolated as deep-blue cristalline compounds and characterized by elemental analysis, physical and chemical properties. The thermal stabilities of the complexes appeared to be strongly dependent on the nature of the group R, in the opposite sense as the stabilities of the nitrogen-free complexes.

The nitrogen complexes in which the phenyl group bears no ortho-substituents and the benzyl compound decomposed at about 70°; the other complexes were found to be thermally less stable. Thermal decomposition quantitatively yielded N_2 together with RH and a dark Ti-containing residue in which the Cp_2Ti -group was no longer present. With HCl the nitrogen complexes reacted according to:

$$(Cp_2TiR)_2N_2 + 2 HC1 \longrightarrow 2 Cp_2TiC1 + 2 RH + N_2.$$

With bromine the reaction was as follows:

$$(Cp_2TiR)_2N_2 + 3 Br_2 \longrightarrow 2 Cp_2TiBr_2 + 2 RBr + N_2$$
.

The complexes dissolved in toluene showed an intense absorption at 590 - 600 m\$\mu\$ (\$\epsilon\$ ~ 4. 10\$^4 1/mol.cm). The IR spectra (recorded in nujol) showed that the Cp2Ti-moiety and Ti-R bonds are present. No absorption in the 2200 - 1800 cm\$^{-1}\$ range contributable to end-on coordinated nitrogen was observed. ESR and magnetic-susceptibility measurements indicated the complexes to be diamagnetic. In accordance with the analysis and properties described we formulate the complexes as (Cp2TiR) $_2$ N2; the N2 group probably is coordinated to both Ti-atoms. (Cp2TiC6H5) $_2$ N2 reacted with Na-naphthalide in THF. Atter addition of HCl to the reaction mixture, N2H4 and NH3 were found to be present among the reaction porducts; their yield depended on the ratio (Cp2TiC6H5) $_2$ N2: Na-naphthalide.

The reaction of Cp_2TiCl with RMgBr (R=alkyl) did not result in the isolation of the corresponding alkyl complexes Cp_2TiR and $(Cp_2TiR)_2N_2$ so far. However in the reaction of Cp_2TiCl and C_2H_5MgBr the formation of a deep-blue nitrogen complex was observed at low temperatures. After addition of HCl to this reaction mixture NH_3 was found.