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KINETICS AND MECHANISM OF REACTIONS OF cis-(Piperidine)(L)Mo(CO)₄ COMPLEXES WITH PHOSPHINES AND PHOSPHITES

KHALIL J. ASALI ¹, HANI H. AWAD and GERARD R. DOBSON*

Department of Chemistry, University of North Texas, Denton, TX 76203, USA

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The kinetics and mechanism of ligand-exchange reactions of cis-(pip)(L)Mo(CO)₄ complexes (pip = piperidine; L = P(OCH₃)₃, P(OCH₂CH₃)₂, P(OCH₃CH₂)₃, P(C₆H₅)₃, P(OCH₂CH₂CH₃, P(C₆H₅CH), P(OCH₂CCH₃, P(C₆H₇)₃, P(OCH₂CH₂N₃); L' = P(OCH₃)₃, P(OCH₂CH₃), P(C₆H₅)₃, P(OCH₂CH₂)₃, P(n-C₄H₉)₃, P(OCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃; L' = P(OCH₃)₃, P(OCH₂CH₃), P(C₆H₅)₃, P(OCH₂CH₂)₃, P(n-C₄H₉)₃, P(OCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃), P(n-C₄H₉)₃)

cis-(pip)(L)Mo(CO)₄ + L' \rightarrow cis, trans-(L)(L')Mo(CO)₄ + pip

(2)

have been studied. Both the reactants and products (15 complexes) for these reactions have been synthesized and characterized. All reactions cleanly follow a mechanism involving initial Mo–pip bond-breaking, followed by competition between pip and L' for the resulting five-coordinate [(L)Mo(CO)₄] intermediate. These data complete the study of these systems for the series of metals, Cr, Mo, W. The activation parameters for Mo–pip bond-breaking in the reactions of cis-(pip)(L)Mo(CO)₄ with L' have been obtained. Where L is a trialkyl phosphite, both the enthalpies and entropies of activation are in very close agreement. These values, when compared to those for complexes where L is a trialkyl phosphine, support intramolecular N–H···O=P–hydrogen bonding in the phosphite complexes, but not in the phosphines. The data are interpreted in terms of a “fundamental” ligand exchange, involving [(L)Mo(CO)₄] and L'. The steric outcome of these reactions also is influenced by intramolecular hydrogen bonding. The reliability of the reported activation parameters in these and related systems is discussed. The consistency from complex to complex of the reported activation parameters strongly indicates that they can be accepted with confidence.

Keywords: Kinetics; piperidine; molybdenum; metal carbonyl; enthalpies of activation

*Corresponding author. Tel.: 817 565 2713. Fax: 817 565 4318.
¹Present address: Department of Applied Chemistry, Jordanian Institute of Science and Technology, Irbid, Jordan.
INTRODUCTION

There have been a large number of kinetic studies of ligand-exchange in Group VI metal carbonyls and their substitution products. However, these studies have not necessarily translated into a systematic overview of the field, especially for series of related complexes. As a consequence, a clear picture has yet to emerge of variations of M–L bond-strengths (L = Lewis base) down the series of Group VI metals, M = Cr, Mo, W. This is true both for the hexacarbonyls and in complexes in which the dissociating ligand is other than CO.

Yet such data, enthalpies of activation in particular, have become increasingly important in view of the interest in the determination of M–L bond-strengths through the application of time-resolved photoacoustic calorimetric methods (TRPAC). Moreover, in contrast to “stable” and isolable metal carbonyls and derivatives, there have been comparisons involving the dissociation of weakly binding nucleophiles, heretofore considered as “solvents,” alkanes, arenes and their halogenated substitution products, produced after flash photolysis, e.g.,

\[(\eta^2-C_6H_5R)Cr(CO)_5 + R'CH=CH_2 \rightarrow (R'CH=CH_2)Cr(CO)_5 + C_6H_5R\]  

Such studies have revealed discrepancies between Cr–L bond-strengths determined as activation parameters from kinetic studies and from TRPAC data, which may have a basis in nature rather than in systematic error inherent in the two methods of analysis. Thus, for example, data indicate that ligand exchange involving photogenerated arenes containing alkyl substituents of various chain-lengths (C_6H_5R) and alkenes also containing linear alkanes (R'CH=CH_2), Eq. (1), takes place through the intermediacy of the chains, perhaps involving retention of “agostic” C–H...Cr...H–C– binding in the transition state. This interpretation is consistent both with the stronger arene–Cr bond-strengths inferred from TRPAC vs. enthalpies of activation, and the near-zero entropies of activation observed for the latter.

For the hexacarbonyls, several studies have provided data for M–CO bond-breaking, both in solution and in the gas phase. Discrepancies among the data, which could arise as a consequence of the different experimental methods used to obtain them, are also observed.

To ascertain the extent to which experimental uncertainties influence the data, series of independent but related complexes must be studied.
Where differences among members of the series on rate is small, activation parameters for members of the series are expected to be similar; any observed non-systematic differences thus can be attributed to experimental uncertainties inherent in the method of analysis.

We have chosen the ligand-exchange reactions of cis-(pip)(L)M(CO)$_4$ complexes (pip = piperidine),

$$
cis-(pip)(L)M(CO)_4 + L' \rightarrow cis, trans-(L')(L)M(CO)_4 + pip
$$

(2)
as such a series. Examples of these complexes for all three metals are known; activation data for several examples with M = Cr, W have already been reported; and the steric and electronic influences of L, L' on rates of pip dissociation are relatively small, and, at least for M = Cr, their influences on the activation parameters appear to be within the experimental uncertainties of the measurements. Moreover, activation parameters can be obtained for M-pip bond-breaking itself, rather than for a complex rate constant (vide infra). Thus, these series afford several independent measurements through which it should be possible to obtain reliable estimates of the activation parameters. These in turn can provide an estimate as to how these parameters vary along the series of metals, Cr, Mo, W and offer an interesting series of complexes for study via TRPAC.

**EXPERIMENTAL**

**Reagents**

Mo(CO)$_6$ (Climax Molybdenum) was sublimed under vacuum before use. Piperidine (Aldrich) was fractionally distilled from anhydrous KOH under nitrogen. Chlorobenzene (Fisher) was fractionally distilled from P$_2$O$_5$ under nitrogen. The ligands trimethylphosphite, tri(isopropyl)phosphite, triethylphosphite, triphenylphosphite and tri(n-butyl)phosphine (Aldrich) were fractionally distilled from sodium under a nitrogen bleed (0.2 torr). Triphenylphosphine (Fluka) was recrystallized from absolute ethanol and dried under vacuum. The “constrained phosphite,” 4-methyl-2,6,7-trioxo-1-phosphabicyclo[2.2.2]octane, P(OCH$_2$)$_3$CCH$_3$, was prepared through the published procedure, twice sublimed under reduced pressure into a wide-mouthed condenser, and recrystallized under nitrogen from hot $n$-hexane. The “constrained phosphine,” 1,3,5-triaza-7-phosphaadamantane, P(C$_6$H$_{12}$N$_3$), was prepared and purified according to the literature method.
Synthesis of the Complexes

The synthesis of the cis-(pip)$_2$Mo(CO)$_4$ precursor from Mo(CO)$_6$ employed the procedure of Darensbourg and Kump. The substrates for kinetics, cis-(pip)$(L)$Mo(CO)$_4$ ($L = P(OCH_3)_{3}$, $P(OC_6H_5)_{3}$, $P(OCH(CH_3))_{3}$, $P(OC_6H_5)_{3}$, $P(C_6H_5)_{3}$, $P(OCH_2)_{2}CCH_3$, $P(C_6H_{12}N_3)$), were also prepared by their methods. The precursor, cis-di(piperidine)tetracarbonylmolybdenum(0) (3.0 g) and a slight (1.1-fold) excess of $L$ were allowed to react under a nitrogen atmosphere for 5 min in 150 mL of boiling dichloromethane. The solvent was removed completely under reduced pressure, after which the solid was taken up in 45 mL of a 1 : 2 (v:v) mixture of dichloromethane and methanol. The solution was cooled in a freezer overnight, whereupon the yellow complexes precipitated and were collected by suction filtration. They were recrystallized from 50 mL of a 1 : 4 (v:v) chloroform/methanol solution and dried under vacuum. Two of these complexes, for $L = P(OCH_3)_{3}$ and $P(C_6H_5)_{3}$, had previously been prepared by similar methods.

The reactions were also studied as a function of the incoming nucleophile, $L'$ for $L = P(OCH(CH_3)_{2})_{3}$, and their products, cis-(L)(L')Mo(CO)$_4$ ($L' = P(OCH_3)_{3}$, $P(OC_6H_5)_{3}$, $P(OCH(CH_3))_{3}$, $P(OC_6H_5)_{3}$, $P(C_6H_5)_{3}$, $P(OCH_2)_{2}CCH_3$, $P(C_6H_{12}N_3)$ and $P(n-C_6H_{13})_{3}$) were also characterized. Thus, cis-(pip)$(P(OCH(CH_3))_{2})_{3}$Mo(CO)$_4$ (0.5 g) and a two-fold excess of $L'$ were allowed to react in chlorobenzene under nitrogen at 40°C for 12 h, during which time the solution changed from yellow to colorless. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the reaction product(s) precipitated upon addition of 20 mL of cold n-hexane. They were collected by suction filtration and recrystallized from CHCl$_3$/CH$_3$OH (1 : 4 v:v) and dried under vacuum. Alternatively, the complexes can be prepared photochemically (15 min irradiation, Hanovia 450 W Hg lamp, quartz immersion reactor), and purified by the same methods. The carbonyl stretching spectra for all the complexes (Perkin Elmer 621, 1710 FT-IR, or Nicolet 20-SXB FTIR spectrophotometers), together with elemental analyses (Midwest Microlab, Indianapolis, IN), are given in Tables I and II.

Kinetic Studies

Rates of conversion of cis-(pip)$(L)$Mo(CO)$_4$ to cis- or cis, trans-(L)(L')Mo(CO)$_4$ (Eq. (2)) were followed at 430 nm, at which wavelength the reactants absorb but the products do not, by employing Beckman DU-2 or Perkin Elmer 124 UV/visible spectrophotometers. Preparation of the solutions for analysis and sampling techniques, which involved manual removal of
TABLE I Carbonyl stretching spectra for the complexes (cyclohexane solution)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L, L'</th>
<th>A'</th>
<th>A''</th>
<th>A''</th>
<th>A''</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cis-(pip)(L')Mo(CO)₄</td>
<td>2025 (m)*</td>
<td>1927 (s)</td>
<td>1905 (vs)</td>
<td>1876 (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₃)₃</td>
<td>2024b</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₂H₂)₃</td>
<td>2023 (m)</td>
<td>1923 (s)</td>
<td>1902 (vs)</td>
<td>1873 (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH₃)₂)₃</td>
<td>2022 (m)</td>
<td>1921 (s)</td>
<td>1900 (vs)</td>
<td>1870 (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C₆H₅)₃</td>
<td>2016c</td>
<td>1911 (s)</td>
<td>1899 (vs)</td>
<td>1868 (vs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₂)₂CCH₃</td>
<td>2016 (m)</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C₆H₄N₃)</td>
<td>2014 (m)</td>
<td>1905 (s)</td>
<td>1894 (vs)</td>
<td>1853 (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(O₂C₂H₄)₃</td>
<td>2031 (m)</td>
<td>1913 (s)</td>
<td>1909 (vs)</td>
<td>1868 (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH₃)₂)(L')(CO)₄</td>
<td>2034 (m)</td>
<td>1940 (s)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1920 (vs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₃)₃</td>
<td>2033 (m)</td>
<td>1936 (s)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1918 (vs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₂H₂)₃</td>
<td>2032 (m)</td>
<td>1932 (s)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1912 (vs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C₆H₅)₃</td>
<td>2026 (m)</td>
<td>1936 (s)</td>
<td>1914 (vs)</td>
<td>1898 (vs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₂)₂CCH₃</td>
<td>2043 (m)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1930 (sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH₃)₂)(L')(CO)₄</td>
<td>2022 (m)</td>
<td>1926 (s)</td>
<td>1907 (vs)</td>
<td>1890 (vs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C₆H₄N₃)</td>
<td>2040 (m)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1928 (vs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(n-C₆H₄)₃</td>
<td>2021 (m)</td>
<td>1926 (s)</td>
<td>1907 (vs)</td>
<td>1894 (s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a accidentally degenerate absorption for both trans and cis isomers.
*b Ref. [17].
*c Ref. [20].
*d Chlorobenzene solution

TABLE II Elemental analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complex, L, L'</th>
<th>Calculated (%)</th>
<th>Found (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cis-(pip)(L')Mo(CO)₄</td>
<td>39.23</td>
<td>4.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₃)₃</td>
<td>43.13</td>
<td>6.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₂H₂)₃</td>
<td>38.18</td>
<td>4.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH₃)₂)₃</td>
<td>40.01</td>
<td>5.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C₆H₅)₃</td>
<td>53.75</td>
<td>4.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₂)₂CCH₃</td>
<td>35.57</td>
<td>5.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH₃)₂)₃</td>
<td>39.19</td>
<td>6.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH₃)₃</td>
<td>42.32</td>
<td>6.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C₆H₅)₃</td>
<td>54.88</td>
<td>5.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C₆H₄N₃)</td>
<td>38.31</td>
<td>5.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH₃)₂)(L')Mo(CO)₄</td>
<td>39.88</td>
<td>5.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(O₂C₂H₄)₃</td>
<td>51.25</td>
<td>4.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(n-C₆H₄)₃</td>
<td>48.55</td>
<td>7.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
aliquots of the reacting solutions for analysis, have been described previously. Initial substrate concentrations of ca. 1 x 10^{-3} M were employed. The temperature of the reacting solutions was maintained within ±0.05°C by employing Haake ED or Forma-Temp Jr. 2095 bath circulators. Kinetic data were taken both for pip/L' and L' solutions; in all cases at least 20-fold excesses of [pip] and [L'] vs. [Mo(CO)_4] were employed so as to maintain pseudo first-order reaction conditions. Plots of ln(A_t - A_0) vs. time (A_t and A_0 are the absorbances of the reaction solutions at time t and of a solvent/pip/L' blank, respectively) were linear to three or more half lives, and the correlation coefficients for most plots were 0.999 or better. Data were rejected at the 90% confidence limit (1.65 standard deviations). Limits of error, given in parentheses as the uncertainties of the last digit(s) of the cited value, are one standard deviation.

RESULTS

Reactions Studied

From the synthetic results it is clear that the ligand-substitution reactions are described by Eq. (2). Infrared data show that mixtures of cis- and trans-(P(OCH(CH_3)2)3)(L')Mo(CO)_4 products are produced for all L' but P(n-C_4H_9)3, where only the cis product is observed. These conclusions are based on a comparison of the relative intensities of the highest energy carbonyl stretching bands to those at ca. 1900 cm^{-1}, assigned as the E modes for the trans isomers, for a Mo(CO)_4 moiety of D_{4h} local symmetry.

Mechanism

Kinetic data were taken as a function of L, the coordinated ligand, in cis-(L)(L')(Mo(CO)_4), where L = P(OCH_3)3, P(OC_2H_5)3, P(OCH(CH_3)_2)3, P(OC_6H_5)3, P(OCH_2)3CCH_3, P(C_6H_12N_3) and L', the incoming nucleophile, is P(OCH(CH_3)2)3, and as a function of L' (= P(OCH_3)3, P(OC_2H_5)3, P(OCH(CH_3)_2)3, P(OC_6H_5)3, P(C_6H_5)3, P(OCH_2)3CCH_3 and P(n-C_4H_9)3), where L = P(OCH(CHOH)_3)3. At 31.1°C for varying ratios of [L']/[pip], all plots of k_{obsd} vs. [L']/[pip] were observed to be severely concave downward, (Figure 1) suggestive of the previously observed^13 mechanism involving competition between pip and L' for an [(L)Mo(CO)_4] intermediate produced after initial pip-Mo bond-breaking,

\[
cis-(L)(pip)Mo(CO)_4 \xrightleftharpoons[k_{-1}(pip)]{k_1} [(L)M(CO)_4] \xrightarrow{k_2[L']} (L)(L')Mo(CO)_4 \quad (3)
\]
The steady-state rate law for this mechanism is \( \text{d}[(\text{L})\text{Mo(CO)}_4]/\text{d}t \approx 0 \) under pseudo first-order reaction conditions \( ([\text{pip}](\text{L})\text{Mo(CO)}_4) \ll [\text{L'}], [\text{pip}] \), is,

\[
\text{k}_{\text{obsd}} = \frac{k_1k_2[L']}{(k_{-1}[\text{pip}] + k_2[L'])}.
\]  

(4)

The rearrangement of Eq. (4) affords,

\[
1/k_{\text{obsd}} = 1/k_1 + k_{-1}[\text{pip}] / k_1k_2[L'];
\]  

(5)

thus plots of \( 1/k_{\text{obsd}} \) vs. \( [\text{pip}]/[\text{L'}] \) are expected to be linear, with positive intercepts \( (1/k_1) \) and slopes \( (k_{-1}/k_1k_2) \). Moreover, where the reaction is run in the absence of pip, Eq. (4) reduces to,

\[
\text{k}_{\text{obsd}} = k_1,
\]  

(6)

and \( k_1 \) can be determined directly. Values of \( k_1 \) determined by either method are very similar. Typical examples of the “double reciprocal plots,” Eq. (5), are illustrated in Figure 2. Since we were largely concerned with the activation parameters for this mechanistic step, data at other temperatures were taken in the absence of added pip. The first-order rate constants for unimolecular pip–Mo bond-breaking, together with the “competition ratios,”
FIGURE 2 Plots of $1/k_{\text{obsd}}$ vs. [piperidine]/[P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$] for selected (piperidine)(L)-Mo(CO)$_4$ complexes in chlorobenzene at 31.1°C.

TABLE III Data for thermal reactions of cis-(pip)(L)Mo(CO)$_4$ with P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$/pip solutions in chlorobenzene, solvent at 31.1°C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$L, L'$</th>
<th>$\theta^a (L, L')$</th>
<th>$\nu^a (L, L')$</th>
<th>$10^5k_1$ (s$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$k_2/k_{-1}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$/P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>101, 114</td>
<td>2087.3, 2075.9</td>
<td>1.00(2)</td>
<td>0.67(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C$_6$H$_5$)$_3$/P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>102, 114</td>
<td>2079.5, 2075.9</td>
<td>1.56(8)</td>
<td>0.65(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$/P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>107, 114</td>
<td>2063.3, 2075.9</td>
<td>1.66(2)</td>
<td>0.51(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$/P(OCH$_2$)$_3$/CCH$_3$</td>
<td>109, 114</td>
<td>2075.9, 2087.3</td>
<td>2.78(6)</td>
<td>0.90(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$/P(OCH$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>114, 107</td>
<td>2075.9, 2079.5</td>
<td>2.76(4)</td>
<td>0.76(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH$_2$)$_3$/P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>114, 109</td>
<td>2075.9, 2076.3</td>
<td>2.62(4)</td>
<td>0.66(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P(OCH$_2$)$_3$/P(OCH$_2$)$_3$/P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>114, 114</td>
<td>2075.9, 2075.9</td>
<td>2.61(6)</td>
<td>0.54(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH$_2$)$_3$/P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>114, 128</td>
<td>2059.9, 2085.3</td>
<td>2.87(7)</td>
<td>0.384(15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$/P(n-C$_6$H$_4$)$_3$</td>
<td>114, 132</td>
<td>2075.9, 2060.3</td>
<td>2.87(6)</td>
<td>0.63(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$/P(C$_6$H$_5$)$_3$</td>
<td>114, 145</td>
<td>2075.9, 2068.9</td>
<td>2.81(9)</td>
<td>0.34(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C$_6$H$_5$)$_3$/P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>128, 114</td>
<td>2085.3, 2075.9</td>
<td>7.94(7)</td>
<td>0.89(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P(C$_6$H$_5$)$_3$/P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_2$)$_3$</td>
<td>145, 114</td>
<td>2068.9, 2075.9</td>
<td>30(1)</td>
<td>0.38(2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$k_2/k_{-1}$, for attack at the intermediate by $L'$ and pip, respectively, at 31.1°C are given in Table III. Individual values of $k_{\text{obsd}}$, where the reactions were studied in the absence and presence of both pip and $L'$, are given in the supplementary material. All interpretations of the data are in agreement with those originally put forth by Hyde and Darenbourg.$^{13}$
Activation parameters determined from data taken at several temperatures are presented in Table IV.

DISCUSSION

Rates as a Function of L

Table III exhibits first-order rate constants for dissociation of pip from cis-(pip)(L)Mo(CO)₄ at 31.1°C as a function of L. The systematics of the variation in $k_1$ as a function of the steric and electronic properties of L were evaluated by employing the relationship,

$$\log(k_1) = a\theta + b\nu + c,$$

where $\theta$ and $\nu$ are the Tolman steric and electronic parameters. For all L this equation did not fit the data well; however, elimination of the two phosphines, P(C₆H₁₂)₃ and P(C₆H₁₂N₃), greatly improved the fit and the use of a Tolman cone angle of 114° for P(OCH(CH₃)₂)₃ afforded an equation,

$$\log(k_1) = 0.0343\theta + 0.00163\nu - 11.9,$$

for which $R = 0.9993$. The influence of the properties of L on $k_1$, while small, is predominantly steric.

The poor fit for the two phosphine complexes is evident from the values of $k_1$ which are greater than are those for the phosphites by more than an order of magnitude. This is attributable to relatively strong pip–phosphite –P–O…H–N–Mo– hydrogen binding in the phosphites, supported by the crystal structure of cis-(pip)(P(OCH₃)₃)Mo(CO)₄ and discussed by Atwood and Darenbourg. What is not clear is why the values for $k_1$ for L = P(C₆H₁₂N₃) and P(C₆H₅)₃, are nearly identical (Table III), despite the very large differences in $\theta$ between them.

There is a much less significant influence of the steric properties of L for Mo than for Cr, expected based on the relative sizes of these atoms; for Cr, a ca. 15-fold change in rate constant is observed along the series of alkyl phosphites vs. 2.6-fold for the Mo analogues.

Rates as a Function of L'

For reactions of cis-(pip)(P(OCH(CH₃)₂)₃)Mo(CO)₄ with various L' (Table III), values of $k_1$ for the seven incoming L' are the same, within ±5%, as expected for a reaction step which is independent of the identity
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$L, L', L''$ ($L''$ dissocitates)</th>
<th>$Cr$</th>
<th>$Mo$</th>
<th>$W$</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\Delta H^*$ (kcal/mol)</td>
<td>$\Delta S^*$ (cal/K mol)</td>
<td>$\Delta H^*$ (kcal/mol)</td>
<td>$\Delta S^*$ (cal/K mol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, CO, CO$^*$</td>
<td>37.6(6)</td>
<td>17.8(16)</td>
<td>30.6(3)</td>
<td>4.6(10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, CO, CO$^*$</td>
<td>38.6(12)</td>
<td>19(3)</td>
<td>28.4(24)</td>
<td>-1.5(46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, P(OCH$_3$)$_3$, pip</td>
<td>29.8(2)</td>
<td>17.0(9)</td>
<td>27.9(5)</td>
<td>12(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, P(OCH$_2$)$_3$, pip</td>
<td>30.0(2)</td>
<td>19.9(7)</td>
<td>27.7(3)</td>
<td>11.99(9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_3$)$_3$, pip</td>
<td>29.4(4)</td>
<td>20(1)</td>
<td>27.4(4)</td>
<td>12(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, P(OCH$_2$)$_3$, pip</td>
<td>29.4(2)</td>
<td>20.0(6)</td>
<td>27.0(2)</td>
<td>12.2(6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, P(OCH$_2$)$_3$, CCH$_3$, pip</td>
<td>29.8(2)</td>
<td>16.2(8)</td>
<td>27.4(3)</td>
<td>10(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, P(C$_6$H$_5$N$_3$)$_3$, pip</td>
<td>25.0(2)</td>
<td>9.3(5)</td>
<td>23.7(3)</td>
<td>3.9(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, P(C$_6$H$_5$)$_3$, pip</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>26(2)</td>
<td>10(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P(C$_6$H$_5$)(CH$_3$)$_2$</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha$-phen, CO</td>
<td>26.0(16)</td>
<td>7(5)</td>
<td>25.1(12)</td>
<td>7.4(24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM-$\alpha$-phen, CO</td>
<td>25.2(1)</td>
<td>5.9(4)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For consistency, all data were recalculated from experimental values; these data were not given for ($\alpha$-phen)Mo(CO)$_4$.

$^b$-$\alpha$-Phen = $\alpha$-phenanthroline; TM-$\alpha$-phen = 2,4,7,8-tetramethyl-$\alpha$-phenanthroline.
of the incoming nucleophile. Competition ratios, $k_2/k_{-1}$, are the ratios of
the rate constants for attack by L' and pip, respectively, at the intermediate.
Since values of $k_{-1}$ should be the same for all L', these ratios should reflect
the discriminating abilities of L' toward the intermediate.

The competition ratios do not differ substantially from unity for the smallest L, L', in general decrease monotonically with increasing size of L', and
are little influenced by the electronic nature of L' as reflected in the Tolman $\nu$
values.\(^{22}\) These observations are consistent with what we might call a "fundamental" ligand-exchange mechanism, one in which pip and L' interact at
an intermediate which differs little from [(L)Mo(CO)\(_4\)] and for which the
enthalpy of activation approaches zero. Such a mechanism would be expected
to involve little discrimination of the metal carbonyl moiety among incoming nucleophiles since rates of combination of carbonylmetal frag-
ments with L are extremely rapid (ps–fs time-scale).\(^{24}\) Discrimination can
result, however, where steric interactions become significant. Several X-ray
structural studies of cis-(L)\(_2\)M(CO)\(_4\) complexes (L = P(C\(_6\)H\(_5\))\(_3\)\(\cdot\)(CH\(_3\))., 
\(n = 0, 1, 2\)) support the existence of such steric interactions.\(^{25}\) In contrast, the
"fundamental" ligand exchange is not observed in some other systems. For
example, in ligand-exchange for (RC\(_6\)H\(_5\))Cr(CO)\(_5\) complexes with linear
alkenes, competition ratios vary widely and consistently with an exchange
mechanism involving the alkyl chains in both RC\(_6\)H\(_5\) and R'CH=CH\(_2\).\(^{3}\)

Isomerization after Ligand-Exchange

Carbonyl stretching data (Table II) indicate that both cis- and trans-
(L)(L')Mo(CO)\(_4\) products are produced for all L' except where L =
P(OCH(CH\(_3\))\(_2\))\(_3\) and L' = P(n-C\(_4\)H\(_9\))\(_3\), where no isomerization is observed.
The cis to trans isomerization has been studied by Darensbourg\(^{26}\) and by
Howell\(^{27}\) and their associates, who have attributed it to a non-dissociative
"twist" of three ligands about a C\(_3\) axis through a trigonal prismatic transition
state. It may be speculated that the accessibility of this isomerization
process is hindered by intramolecular –M–P–C–H···O–P–hydrogen
bonding, such as is observed in cis-(P(C\(_6\)H\(_5\))\(_3\))(P(OCH(CH\(_3\))\(_2\))\(_3\))Mo(CO)\(_4\).\(^{28}\)
This would account for the failure of cis-(P(n-C\(_4\)H\(_9\))\(_3\))(P(OCH(CH\(_3\))\(_2\))\(_3\))Mo(CO)\(_4\)
to undergo isomerization even though the trans isomer might be
favored on steric grounds.

Activation Parameters

For the five cis-(pip)(L)Mo(CO)\(_4\) complexes for which L is a phosphite, the
activation parameters for M–pip bond-breaking are in close agreement with
one another, with $\Delta H_1^+$ values varying from 27.0(2) to 27.78(3) kcal/mol, with the largest experimental uncertainty of 0.4 kcal/mol. This remarkable consistency is a consequence of the very small influences of the steric and electronic nature of phosphites on reactivity via $M$–pip bond-breaking. These complexes are very amenable to kinetics study in comparison to the hexacarbonyls: they are non-volatile; their reactions can be studied near ambient temperature; unlike the hexacarbonyls, the concentrations of the leaving group can be fixed with certainty; they are amenable to study in the visible rather than the infrared spectral region; and values of $k_1$ can be obtained both directly and indirectly. The activation parameters for cis-(pip)(P(C$_6$H$_5$)$_3$)Mo(CO)$_4$ reported by Hyde and Darenbourg$^{13}$ (Table IV) are in excellent agreement with the values reported here.

The activation parameters for the analogous Cr systems ($L =$ phosphite) also are in very close agreement, in the ranges, $\Delta H^+ =$ 29.2(2) to 30.0(2) kcal/mole and $\Delta S^+ =$ 16.2(8) to 20(1) cal/K mol. At 31.1°C, values of $k_1$ differ little as a function of the metal and the identity of the phosphite, and are quite similar to $k_1$ for $L =$ CO, that is, for dissociation of pip from (pip)M(CO)$_3$ ($M =$ Cr, Mo).$^{13}$

The activation enthalpies for the W complexes$^{15}$ are less consistent; two sets, for $L =$ P(OCH(CH$_3$)$_3$)$_2$ and P(OCH$_2$)$_3$CCH$_3$ are the same, within experimental uncertainty, but two others, for $L =$ P(OCH$_2$)$_3$CCH$_3$ and P(CH$_3$)$_2$(C$_6$H$_5$)$_2$. differ significantly from these, and fail to show the influence of $\cdot$N–H·$\cdot$O–P$\cdot$ hydrogen bonding (vide supra). However, the free energies of activation vary over a more narrow range, differing by only 2.3(6) kcal/mol.$^{29}$ It is also to be noted that values of $k_1$ are much more sensitive to the identity of $L$, perhaps suggesting subtle mechanistic differences between W vs. Cr and Mo. Significantly more positive entropies of activation for dissociation of piperidine from Cr than from Mo in the alkyl phosphate complexes, ca. +18 vs. +11 cal/K mol, can be interpreted in terms of greater crowding about the smaller Cr atom and stronger intramolecular $\cdot$N–H·$\cdot$O–P$\cdot$ binding in cis-(pip)(L)Mo(CO)$_4$ complexes, which would afford greater constraint in the ground state.

Table IV presents activation parameters in solution for carbonyl dissociation in systems in which they have been obtained for Cr, Mo and W hexacarbonyls,$^{6,7}$ for (o-phenanthroline)M(CO)$_4$ complexes$^{30,31}$ as well as for the cis-(pip)(L)M(CO)$_4$ complexes. A perusal of these values shows, in most instances, that enthalpies of activation along the series Cr, Mo, W do not differ greatly and are significantly smaller than are those for the hexacarbonyls in keeping with "cis labilization" of CO by amines.$^{32}$ The enthalpies of activation are greater for Cr by about 2 kcal/mol (7 data sets) in the most clearly-defined data, for $M =$ Cr and Mo, for all but the
hexacarbonyls. For Mo(CO)$_6$, however, the data are quite different, with $\Delta H^*_f$ some $7-10$ kcal/mole less for Mo than for Cr.$^{6,7}$ Moreover, while the entropies of activation for almost all substituted Cr and Mo complexes are highly positive, for Mo(CO)$_6$ it is about zero.

If data for Cr(CO)$_6$ and Mo(CO)$_6$ were to be comparable with the data for the substituted complexes, one would anticipate both their enthalpies and entropies of activation to be more similar. One cannot rule out a less positive entropy of activation for Mo(CO)$_6$ than for the cis-(pip)(L)Mo-(CO)$_4$ systems (L = phosphite) because of the expectation of less release of steric strain in the hexacarbonyls. However, this effect is not observed for Cr in Cr(CO)$_6$, where one would anticipate it to be more important.$^7$ Note that the enthalpy of activation for CO dissociation from Mo(CO)$_6$ in the gas phase reported by Golden and co-workers, 40.5(30) kcal/mol,$^{11}$ is more in line with the cis-(pip)(L)Mo(CO)$_4$ results. The presence of intramolecular hydrogen bonding in the (pip)(L)Mo(CO)$_4$ complexes (L = phosphite) means that activation enthalpies obtained for them do not directly reflect Mo–pip bond-strengths.

The preceding discussion suggests that the energetics for CO dissociation from Mo(CO)$_6$ in solution is anomalous when compared to those for other Mo carbonyl systems, or that the enthalpy of activation reported for CO dissociation from Mo(CO)$_6$ may be larger, and the entropy of activation more positive than has been reported;$^6,7$ those data were taken over a relatively narrow temperature range (13° in each report)$^7,8$ In any event, where data from which activation parameters are taken are not very extensive, reported activation parameters should be viewed with circumspection. Where enthalpies of activation are to be employed to estimate bond-strengths, the structures of the reacting species and a detailed knowledge of the ligand exchange must be considered. It will be important to re-investigate appropriate previously studied systems.

**Supplementary Material**

Values of rate constants for the reactions are available from the authors on request.

**Acknowledgments**

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**References**

[23] This value, 114°, is the original value derived for the steric parameter, \( \theta \), based on the Ni(CO)\( _4 \)L system, with the substituents on P folded back (Ref. [22]). The cone angle of 130° ultimately used by Tolman is based on equilibrium constants for the reaction, NiL\( _4^{eq} \) + NiL \( \rightarrow \) NiL\( _3 \) (C.A. Tolman, W.C. Seidel and L.W. Gosser, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 96, 53 (1974).
[29] It is sometimes observed that this is the case where the entropies and enthalpies of activation differ markedly. One might speculate that such a result may be the result of an error or imprecision in the measurement of a temperature under which the reaction was carried out. Such imprecisions or errors are expected to be particularly significant where the reaction is studied over a relatively narrow range of temperatures.
[31] Data for carbonyl dissociation for (2,2'-dipyridyl)M(CO)\( _4 \) (M = Cr, Mo, W) (J.R. Graham and R.I. Angelici, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 87, 5590 (1965) have been criticized (M.N. Memering and G.R. Dobson, Inorg. Chem., 12, 2490 (1973)); thus they have not been included in Table IV. Note also that (o-phenanthroline)M(CO)\( _4 \) is another excellent system for which to obtain extensive activation data, since ring-substituted phenanthrolines are readily available. For M = Cr, activation parameters for (o-phenanthroline)Cr(CO)\( _4 \) and (2,4,7,8-tetramethyl-o-phenanthroline)Cr(CO)\( _4 \) are and are within experimental uncertainty (Ref. [30]; Table IV).