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Published in:
Angewandte Chemie International Edition in English

DOI:
[10.1002/anie.198703301](https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.198703301)

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
1987

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Pattiasina, J. W., Bolhuis, F. V., & Teuben, J. H. (1987). Titanium Hydride Formation through Hydrogen Transfer from 2-Methylpyridine to a Titanium Fulvene Compound; the First Structurally Characterized Terminal Titanium Hydride. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition in English*, 26(4).
<https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.198703301>

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Titanium Hydride Formation through Hydrogen Transfer from 2-Methylpyridine to a Titanium Fulvene Compound; the First Structurally Characterized Terminal Titanium Hydride

By Johannes W. Pattiasina, Fré van Bolhuis, and Jan H. Teuben*

In a study of the thermolysis of compounds of the type $[\text{Cp}^*_2\text{TiR}]$ ($\text{Cp}^* = \eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5$; $\text{R} = \text{H}$ or alkyl), we observed stepwise hydrogen abstraction from one of the Cp^* ligands.^[1]

We are currently focusing our attention on the reactivity of these modified Cp^* ligands. In **1** the tetramethylfulvene ligand may be coordinated either as a combined cyclopentadienyl-alkyl ligand, the "tucked-in" mode **A**,^[2] or as a neutral conjugated triene **B**.^[3]

In a series of exploratory studies with a variety of substrates with active protons, e.g., acids and alcohols, **1** reacted as a cyclopentadienyl-alkyl complex with transfer of hydrogen from the substrate to the fulvene ligand, thus restoring the original Cp^* ligand.^[4]

A completely different and unprecedented reaction took place when **1** was exposed to pyridine derivatives. At -80°C the dark purple **1** reacts quickly with 2-methylpyridine in Et_2O to give a dark green solution, which changes to an intense dark blue on warming to room temperature. Concentration and cooling of the solution to -30°C resulted in the formation of beautiful dark blue crystals of **2**.^[5]

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The molecular structure of **2** (Fig. 1)^[6] shows that hydrogen transfer from the 6-position of 2-methylpyridine to titanium, concurrent with C-C bond formation between pyridine and the methylene group of the fulvene ligand, has taken place. In this way a Cp^* ligand is functionalized with a pyridine ligand to form a chelating ligand.

Fig. 1. Molecular crystal structure of $[\text{Cp}^*\{\text{C}_5\text{Me}_4\text{CH}_2(\text{C}_5\text{H}_3\text{MeN})\}\text{TiH}]$ **2**.

Compound **2** is the first structurally characterized dicyclopentadienyltitanium hydride with a terminal Ti-H bond. The Ti-H distance (1.70(4) Å) is substantially longer than in other 3d-transition metal terminal hydrides, but comparable with hydrides of the early transition metals of the 4d and 5d series.^[7] Until now only structure determinations of titanium hydrides with bridging hydrogen atoms, e.g., complexes containing a Ti-H-Ti, Ti-H-Al, or Ti-H-B structural element, have been published. In these complexes the Ti-H distances vary between 1.69(10) and 1.94(7) Å.^[7]

The location of the pyridyl fragment with respect to the Ti atom and especially the Ti-N distance (2.340(3) Å) indicate that we are dealing with a dative Ti-N bond.^[8] The angle formed between the Ti atom and the centroids of the substituted cyclopentadienyl rings is 142.7° ; the distances between Ti and the centroids (2.086 and 2.064 Å) are close to those found in unsubstituted Cp^*_2Ti derivatives.^[9]

The dihedral angle between the plane containing both ring centroids and Ti and the H-Ti-N plane is 91.6° ; the H-Ti-N angle is $91(2)^\circ$. From this it is clear that **2** has all the characteristics of a regular $\text{Cp}^*_2\text{M(L)X}$ molecule. The C15-C20 bond deviates slightly from the ring plane (7.4°) toward the metal. The other C(ring)-C(methyl) bonds point away from the metal, thereby producing the normal "dish" shape of the Cp^* ligands.^[10] The C15-C20-C21 angle ($111.5(3)^\circ$) shows that C20 is almost perfectly sp^3 hybridized.

The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **2**^[5] affords assignments of the protons of the cyclopentadienyl ligands. Owing to the paramagnetism of **2**, the signals are broad and shifted strongly. The hydride resonance could not be located, a problem also encountered for the related compound $[\text{Cp}^*_2\text{TiH}]$.^[3] In the IR spectrum, $\bar{\nu}(\text{Ti-H})$ is found at 1475 cm^{-1} , slightly lower than for $[\text{Cp}^*_2\text{TiH}]$. The assignment was confirmed by the synthesis of the deuteride: $\bar{\nu}(\text{Ti-D})$ was observed at 1065 cm^{-1} ($\bar{\nu}(\text{Ti-H})/\bar{\nu}(\text{Ti-D}) = 1.38$). The ESR spectrum shows a well-resolved doublet, centered at

$g = 1.985$ ($a_{\text{H}} = 11.5$ G), and a clear hyperfine splitting due to interaction with titanium isotopes (^{47}Ti , $I = 5/2$, ^{49}Ti , $I = 7/2$, natural abundance 7.28% and 5.51%, respectively, $a_{\text{Ti}} = 9.3$ G).

Reaction of **2** with ethylene and DCl also confirmed the presence of a Ti-H functionality.

In a Toepler pump controlled experiment, 1 mole of ethylene per mole of Ti was consumed. Compound **3** was isolated as a dark brown, analytically pure crystalline material; it reacts with D_2 to form EtD and [D]-**2** in a 1:1 molar ratio.^[11]

The formation of a Ti-H bond through hydrogen transfer from 2-methylpyridine is completely different from what is regularly observed in reactions with compounds of early transition metals of the type $[\text{Cp}_2\text{TiR}]^{[12]}$ or $[\text{Cp}^*_2\text{MR}]$ ($\text{M} = \text{Sc},^{[13]} \text{Y},^{[14]} \text{Lu}^{[15]}$). In the case of a “tucked-in” bonding mode, metalation of the pyridine with hydrogen transfer to the fulvene ligand and formation of $[\text{Cp}^*_2\text{Ti}(\eta^2\text{-C}_5\text{H}_3\text{MeN})]$ is expected.

A further outstanding feature is the conversion of a fulvene ligand into a functionalized pentamethylcyclopentadienyl group. This reaction may be of considerable synthetic importance as an attractive route to bidentate Cp^* ligands.

Experimental Procedure

2: **1** (0.574 g, 1.81 mmol) was dissolved in Et_2O (20 mL) and cooled to -196°C . 2-Methylpyridine (0.168 g, 1.81 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was warmed to -80°C . Upon gradually warming the mixture to room temperature, the color of the solution changed from red-purple to dark green and finally dark blue. After stirring for 4 h, the solution was filtered, concentrated to 15 mL, and slowly cooled to -30°C to give beautiful dark blue crystals. Yield: 0.335 g (0.82 mmol, 45%) of **2**. Correct elemental analysis.

Received: September 15, 1986;
revised: December 22, 1986 [Z 1931 IE]
German version: *Angew. Chem.* 99 (1987) 342

CAS Registry numbers:

1, 53436-87-6; **2**, 107116-24-5; [D]-**2**, 107116-25-6; **3**, 107116-26-7; **4**, 107116-27-8; 2-methylpyridine, 109-06-8.

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- [5] $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200.068 MHz, $[\text{D}_{10}]\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ at 0°C ; δ values relative to residual protons in the solvent at $\delta = 1.29$; multiplicity, intensity, width at half maximum height (Hz) in parentheses: $\delta = 25.0$ (s, 29 H, 280; $\text{C}_5\text{Me}_4(\text{C}_5\text{Me}_4\text{CH}_2)$), 9.4 (m, 1 H, 280; $\text{C}_5\text{H}_3\text{MeN}$), 7.5 (m, 2 H, 170; $\text{C}_5\text{H}_3\text{MeN}$), 2.7 (s, 3 H, 50; $\text{C}_5\text{H}_3\text{MeN}$); IR (KBr/Nujol): $\bar{\nu} = 2720, 1596, 1565, 1475, 1450, 1415, 1370, 1310, 1265, 1225, 1210, 1195, 1160, 1102, 1055, 1015, 990, 925, 895, 835, 785, 728, 680, 610, 575, 437, 395 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

- [6] Cell data: $a = 10.045(4)$, $b = 19.333(5)$, $c = 11.504(4) \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 96.45(3)^\circ$, $V = 2220.2 \text{ \AA}^3$, $\rho_{\text{calcd}} = 1.228 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $\mu = 3.9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $Z = 4$, $P2_1/n$, 4818 unique reflections, 2827 reflections with $I \geq 3 \sigma(I)$, 398 parameters refined, $R = 0.052$, $R_w = 0.057$. Further details of the crystal structure investigation are available on request from the Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH, D-7514 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen 2 (FRG), by quoting the depository number CSD-52363, the names of the authors, and the journal citation.
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