

## BROMODICYCLOPENTADIENYLNIOBIUM COMPLEXES

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### Summary

The reaction of  $\text{NbX}_5$  ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$ ) with an excess of  $\text{NaCp}$  ( $\text{Cp} = \text{C}_5\text{H}_5$ ) followed by the addition of  $\text{HBr}$  gives  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  (I) in low yield. The reduction of I with  $\text{Na/Hg}$  or  $\text{NaNaph}$  in a molar ratio 1/1 gives  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}$  (II), whereas the same reaction in the presence of  $\pi$ -acid ligands gives  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBrL}$  (III,  $\text{L} = \text{CO}$ ; IV,  $\text{L} = \text{PMe}_2\text{Ph}$ ; V,  $\text{L} = \text{P(OMe)}_3$ ; VI,  $\text{L} = \text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ ; VIII,  $\text{L} = \text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH}$ ). Finally, the reduction of I with  $\text{Na/Hg}$  in a molar ratio 2/1 gives the dimer  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_4\text{Nb}_2\text{Br}_3$  (VIII), which contains both niobium(III) and niobium(IV). The chemical and structural characteristics of all these compounds are described.

### Introduction

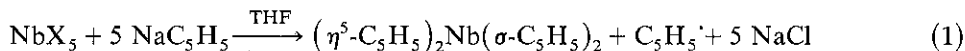
The chemistry of cyclopentadienyl-niobium and -tantalum derivatives has been an expanding field in the last years. Only a few complexes of the type  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{MXL}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Nb}, \text{Ta}$ ;  $\text{X} = \text{halogen}$ ;  $\text{L} = \pi$ -acid ligand) have been reported [1–4], in spite of their possible utility as starting products for the preparation of bis-cyclopentadienyl-niobium and -tantalum(III) complexes.

We describe below a method for the preparation of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  (I) and the results obtained in reductions of I with  $\text{Na/Hg}$  or  $\text{NaNaph}$  in various molar ratios. The reductions have given a new organoniobium(III)–niobium(IV) complex and several new  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbXL}$  compounds, where  $\text{X} = \text{Br}$  and  $\text{L} = \text{CO}, \text{PMe}_2\text{Ph}, \text{P(OMe)}_3, \text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  or  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH}$ . All the compounds described have been characterised by IR,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy and magnetic susceptibility measurements.

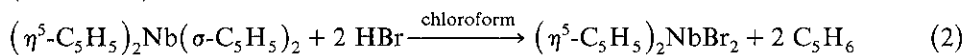
### Results and discussion

The complex  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  (I) was prepared by treatment of  $\text{NbX}_5$ , ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$ ) with a large excess of  $\text{NaC}_5\text{H}_5$ . (This compound has previously been mentioned by other authors [5].) This method is analogous to that reported by De Liefde Meijer

[6] for the preparation of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbCl}_2$ . The formation of I is the result of the reduction of  $\text{Nb}^{\text{V}}$  to  $\text{Nb}^{\text{IV}}$ , and subsequent treatment with  $\text{HBr}$  yields the final product, according to eq. 1 and 2:

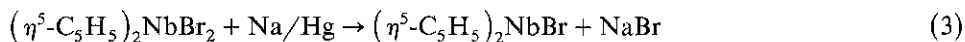


(X = Cl, Br)



Complex I is an air sensitive green or brown crystalline solid which can be stored unchanged under nitrogen. I is oxidised in air, to give the binuclear niobium(V) complex  $[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2]_2\text{O}$  (IX) after two weeks of exposure. I is insoluble in the common organic solvents and only slightly soluble in dichloromethane, chloroform and acetone. The solutions are stable under nitrogen but decompose in the presence of air to give a yellow solution of IX. Complex I has a  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  of 1.82 BM at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ , revealing the presence of one unpaired electron. Complex IX is diamagnetic and its  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum shows a single resonance for  $\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5$  at  $\delta$  6.70 ppm, in agreement with the previously chemical shift observed for cyclopentadienyl-niobium(V) complexes [7]. The IR spectrum of IX shows a strong absorption due to the  $\nu(\text{Nb-O-Nb})$  at  $680 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (See Table 2).

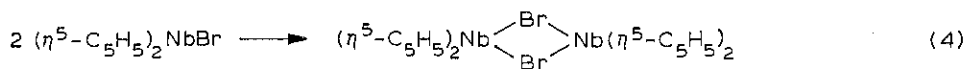
Complex II was obtained as grey crystals by reducing a THF solution of I with



sodium amalgam (molar ratio 1/1), according to eq. 3. Similar results were obtained using  $\text{NaNaph}$  as reducing agent.

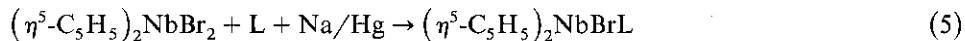
Complex II is very air sensitive, and rigorous precautions must be taken during its handling to avoid decomposition. It is soluble in organic solvents such as benzene and toluene.

The behaviour of II towards  $\pi$ -acid ligands is different from that observed for  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbCl}$ . Thus,  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbCl}$  behaves as a Lewis acid and reacts readily with  $\pi$ -acid ligands [1-3], whereas complex II does not react with ligands such as  $\text{CO}$  or  $\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph}$ . This unusual behaviour for a 16 electrons species suggests the formation of a binuclear compound with a double bromine bridge between the two niobium atoms



Complex II is diamagnetic and shows a  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum with a single resonance due to both  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)$  rings similar to spectra previously reported for  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbCl}$  [1] (See Table 3).

If I is reduced by  $\text{Na/Hg}$  in THF (1/1 molar ratio) in the presence of  $\pi$ -acid ligands the 18 electrons compounds  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBrL}$  are obtained, according to eq. 5. Reduction in the presence of phosphorus donor ligands yields very air-sensi-



(III, L =  $\text{CO}$ ;

VI, L =  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ ;

IV, L =  $\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph}$ ;

VII, L =  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH}$ )

V, L =  $\text{P(OMe)}_3$ ;

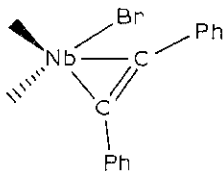
tive green crystals of IV and V. They are soluble in the common organic solvents and the solutions decompose in a few hours even under nitrogen. Complex IV has been described previously [8].

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of IV and V show the resonances due to the phosphorus ligands coordinated to the niobocene bromide moiety, as revealed by the splitting of the  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)$  signals (See Table 3). The IR spectra show the absorptions due to the  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)$  rings and the phosphorus donor ligands.

When the reduction is carried out in the presence of CO a maroon-grey solution is obtained, which gives a grey crystalline precipitate upon partial removal of solvent. III is a moderately air-sensitive solid and can be stored under nitrogen several days. This behaviour is analogous to that of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbCl}(\text{CO})$  [1]. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of III shows a single resonance due to the  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)$  rings (see Table 3) and the IR spectrum shows the  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$  at  $1930\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

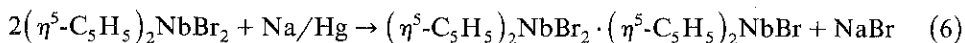
Similarly the reduction in the presence of  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$  or  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH}$  gives red solutions from which yellow solids of VI and VII are isolated. These solids are the most stable bromine complexes of niobium(III) isolated. Solid samples remain unchanged for several days in air. The remarkable stability of these acetylene complexes contrasts sharply with that of the phosphine and phosphite complexes mentioned above.

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of VI and VII show a single resonance due to the  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)$  rings; in addition both show a complex resonance due to the phenyl rings, and VII shows a single resonance for acetylenic hydrogen (See Table 3). These results indicate that the two ends of the acetylene molecule are inequivalent, in agreement with a structure containing both the Br and the C=C group in the reflection plane of the rings:



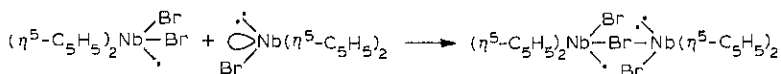
On the other hand the  $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{C})$  stretching frequencies in these acetylene complexes VI and VII are  $448$  and  $523\text{ cm}^{-1}$  lower than the value in the free acetylene ( $2223\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for Raman  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ ). This is an indication of extensive back donation of electronic density from the HOMO  $a'(1a_1)$  of the  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}$  moiety into the acetylene  $\pi_{||}^*$  orbital [9,10]. These values suggest that the acetylene acts as a two electron donor primarily by interaction of its filled  $\pi_{||}$  molecular orbitals with the LUMO  $a'(b_2)$  orbital of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}$  [9,11], behaviour similar to that observed for the analogous chloro derivatives [4].

The reduction of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  in THF with sodium amalgam in a 2/1 molar ratio produces a red solution from which complex VIII is obtained as red-brown crystals, according to eq. 6.



Complex VIII has a  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  of  $1.98\text{ BM}$  at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  which reveals the presence of one unpaired electron for each dimeric unit. This value is similar to that found for the analogous  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_4\text{Nb}_2\text{Cl}_3$  [12]. We suggest that the most reasonable structure for

this compound must contain a single bromine bridge, since this places 18 and 17 electrons, respectively, on the niobium(III) and niobium(IV) atoms, although other structures with two or three bromine bridges cannot be excluded. In this case the formation of complex VIII is the consequence of the acidic character of complex II, which achieves 18 electrons by accepting one pair from the bromine atom of complex I, as depicted in eq. 7.



All the complexes described give satisfactory analytical data (See Table 1).

### Experimental

All operations were carried out under vacuum or in an inert atmosphere using Schlenk-type glassware. IR spectra (Table 2) were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer spectrophotometer (over the range 4000–200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) using Nujol mulls between CsI plates. Magnetic measurements were carried out by the Faraday method with a Bruker magnet system.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (Table 3) were determined on a Varian FT 80A spectrometer. C,H analysis (Table 1) were made with a Perkin–Elmer 240B microanalyzer. Solvents were dried and distilled before use.  $\text{NbBr}_5$  was prepared by a standard method [13]. Bromine was determined by White's method [14].

TABLE 1

ANALYTICAL DATA FOR CYCLOPENTADIENYLNIOBIUM COMPLEXES (Found (Calcd.) (%))

Complex	C	H	Br
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$	31.16	2.77	41.35
(I)	(31.33)	(2.61)	(41.77)
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}$	40.45	3.41	25.80
(II)	(39.60)	(3.30)	(26.38)
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{CO})$	39.43	3.20	23.98
(III)	(39.88)	(3.02)	(24.15)
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})$	48.73	4.91	18.02
(IV)	(48.92)	(4.75)	(18.12)
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3)$	36.89	4.90	18.54
(V)	(36.53)	(4.44)	(18.72)
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})$	60.06	4.65	16.36
(VI)	(59.87)	(4.16)	(16.61)
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$	53.72	4.02	19.45
(VII)	(53.32)	(3.95)	(19.73)
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_4\text{Nb}_2\text{Br}_3$	35.19	2.40	34.45
(VIII)	(34.98)	(2.90)	(34.96)
$[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2]_2\text{O}$	30.59	2.65	39.97
(IX)	(30.71)	(2.55)	(40.92)

TABLE 2

SELECTED IR ABSORPTIONS FOR CYCLOPENTADIENYLNIOBIUM COMPLEXES (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

Complex	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})$	$\nu(\text{Nb}-\text{O}-\text{Nb})$
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{CO})$ (III)	1930		
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})$ (VI)		1775	
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$ (VII)		1700	
$[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2]_2\text{O}$ (IX)			680

TABLE 3

<sup>1</sup>H NMR DATA FOR CYCLOPENTADIENYLNIOBIUM COMPLEXES (multiplicity; rel.int.)

Complex	Cp	L
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}$ (II)	5.74(s) <sup>a</sup>	
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{CO})$ (III)	4.73(s) <sup>a</sup>	
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})$ (IV)	4.64 <sup>a</sup> (d, $J(\text{P}-\text{H})$ 2.1 Hz; 10)	1.34(d, $J(\text{P}-\text{H})$ 10 Hz; 6) Me 7.30(m) <sup>c</sup> Ph
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{P}(\text{OMe})_3)$ (V)	4.89 (d, $J(\text{P}-\text{H})$ 1.6 Hz; 10) <sup>a</sup>	3.35(d, $J(\text{P}-\text{H})$ 10.4 Hz; 9) Me
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})$ (VI)	5.89(s,10) <sup>b</sup>	7.37(m,10) Ph
$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}(\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$ (VII)	5.71(s,10) <sup>b</sup>	7.45(m,5) Ph; 8.20(s,1) CH
$[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2]_2\text{O}$ (IX)	6.70(s) <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>. <sup>b</sup> Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>. <sup>c</sup> Partially overlapped with solvent signals. Chemical shifts with respect to TMS, positive signs downfield.

 $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  (I)

NbBr<sub>5</sub> (19 g, 0.03 mol) or NbCl<sub>5</sub> (8.11 g, 0.03 mol) was added to a freshly solution of NaC<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub> (13.20 g, 0.15 mol) in 250 ml of THF. A rapid exothermic reaction was observed and the initially colourless solution became purple and a bulky precipitate separated. After 12 h of stirring the solvent was evaporated off under vacuum and the remaining purple solid was extracted with 3 × 100 ml of hot chloroform saturated with HBr. The resulting deep green solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and then cooled to give brown-green crystals of I, which were dried under vacuum. Yield 25%.

 $[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2]_2\text{O}$  (IX)

A solution of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  (0.300 g, 0.78 mmol) in 50 ml of freshly distilled

acetone was treated with oxygen. After 1 h of stirring at room temperature a yellow solution was obtained. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to give orange crystals of IX, which were washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum. Yield 90%.

$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}$  (II)

THF (50 ml) was added to a mixture of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  (0.300 g, 0.783 mmol) and sodium amalgam (0.018 g, 0.783 mmol of sodium). After 1 h of stirring at room temperature a violet solution and a bulky precipitate were obtained. The solution was filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure, and cooled, to give maroon-grey crystals of II, which were washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum. Yield 50%. The yield was better when the initial residue was extracted several times with THF and the washings were combined with the filtrate. Similar results were obtained with NaNaph as reducing agent.

$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBrL}$  (III, L = CO; IV, L =  $\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph}$ ; V, L =  $\text{P(OMe)}_3$ ; VI, L =  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CPh}$ ; VII, L =  $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CH}$ )

The procedure was similar in all cases.

A solution of the appropriate ligand (0.783 mmol, except with CO for which the solvent was saturated with gaseous CO) in 50 ml of THF was added to a mixture of  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  (0.300 g, 0.783 mmol) and Na/Hg (0.018 g, 0.783 mmol of Na). In the case of III a maroon-grey solution and a bulky precipitate were formed; the solution was filtered and then concentrated under reduced pressure to give grey crystals of III. In the case of IV and V a deep green solution and a bulky precipitate were formed, the solution was filtered and then concentrated to give green crystals, which were washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum. For VI and VII a red solution and a bulky precipitate were obtained; the solution was filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield a yellow oil. The oils were treated with pentane to give VI and VII as yellow solids. Yields were 70–80%.

$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2 \cdot (\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}$  (VIII)

$(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2\text{NbBr}_2$  (0.300 g, 0.783 mmol) was added to sodium amalgam (0.391 mmol of sodium) in THF (50 ml). After 6 h of stirring at room temperature a red solution and a grey precipitate were formed. The solution was filtered and then concentrated under reduced pressure to give red-brown crystals of VIII, which were washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum. Yield 70%.

### Acknowledgements

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