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Supporting Information

The Butterfly Complex [{Cp*Cr(CO)₃}₂(µ, $\eta^{1:1}$ -P₄)] as a Versatile Ligand and Its Unexpected P_1/P_3 Fragmentation

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Table of Contents

Experimental Procedures

All experiments were carried out under an atmosphere of dry argon or nitrogen using glovebox and schlenk techniques. Residues of oxygen and water were removed from the inert gas by passing it over a BASF R 3-11 (CuO/MgSiO₃) catalyst, concentrated H₂SO₄ and finally granulated silica gel. Dry solvents were collected from a Braun SPS Apparatus and degassed prior to use. The deuterated solvents C₆D₆ and CD₂Cl₂ were degassed and dried by stirring with Na/K alloy and CaH₂, respectively, followed by distillation. After the distillation, CD₂Cl₂ was additionally stored over molecular sieve (3 Å) which had previously been dried for four hours under high vacuum at 100 °C. [{Cp*Cr(CO)₃}₂(µ,η^{1:1}-P₄)] (1)¹ and [M(CO)₄(nbd)] (M = Cr, Mo, W)² were prepared according to literature procedures.

NMR spectra were recorded at the NMR department of the University Regensburg using a Bruker Advance 300 or 400 spectrometer. Samples are referenced against TMS (¹H, ¹³C) or 85% H₃PO₄ (³¹P) as external standards. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm and coupling constants (*J*) in Hz. The spectra were processed using the TopSpin 3.0 software (Bruker) and the WIN-DAISY module of this software was used to perform simulations.³

FD and LIFDI-MS spectra were measured by the MS department of the University Regensburg on an AccuToF GCX (Jeol) spectrometer. The observed fragments were assigned according to the mass/charge (m/z) ratio and the isotope pattern.

IR spectra were recorded on an ALPHA platinum ATR spectrometer (Bruker Optik GmbH) which was placed inside a glove box. Therefore, the air-sensitive solid samples could be placed directly on the spectrometer without any additional preparative measures.

Elemental analyses were performed by the department of central analyses of the University Regensburg on a Vario micro cube instrument (Elementar Analysensysteme GmbH).

Crystallographic measurements were performed on a GV50 diffractometer with a Titan S2 detector (**2**, **3-1a** and **4**), an Oxford Diffraction Supernova diffractometer with an Atlas CCD detector (**3-2a)** or an Oxford Diffraction Gemini Ultra (**3-2b**) with an Atlas S2 detector operating at *T* = 123.01(13) K. ⁴ An analytical absorption correction was carried out for all measurement using the CrysAlisPro software.⁵ The structure solution and refinement was performed using the ShelXT and ShelXL module of the Olex2 (version 1.2.7) software.⁶ Hydrogen atoms were modeled in idealized positions and refined isotropically.

DFT calculations were performed by Dr. Gábor Balázs (University Regensburg) with the TURBOMOLE7 program package at the (RI-)⁸BP86⁹/def2-TZVP^{6b,10} level of theory. The Multipole Accelerated Resolution of Identity (MARI-J)¹¹ approach was used to speed up the geometry optimizations which were performed without any symmetry restrains. The total energies were calculated by single point calculations without using the RI formalism. The SCF energies were used without corrections and the entropic effects are not considered.

Synthesis of [{Cp*Cr(CO)3}2(µ3,η1:1:1:1-P4){W(CO)4}] (2)

A dark orange solution of **1** (100 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in thf (5 mL) is added to a slightly yellow solution of [W(CO)4(nbd)] (59 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in thf (5 mL). The resulting mixture is stirred at room temperature for 3 days. Hereby, the color of the solution changes from dark orange to red. The solvent is subsequently removed under reduced pressure. The resulting red solid is washed with *n*-hexane and dried in vacuo. To obtain pure **2**, *n*-pentane (15 mL) is slowly added to a concentrated solution of the crude product in dichloromethane (2 mL). Hereby, **2** precipitates as a dark red powder. Crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis were obtained from a saturated solution in *n*-hexane (5 mL) and dichloromethane (1 mL) after storage at -28 °C.

Analytical data for 2

Synthesis of [{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ3,η3:1:1-P4){Cr(CO)5}] (3a)

A dark orange solution of **1** (100 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in thf (5 mL) is added to a yellow solution of [Cr(CO)4(nbd)] (39 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in thf (5 mL). The resulting mixture displays a color change from orange to red while it is stirred at room temperature for 3 d. Subsequently, the solvent is removed under reduced pressure. The resulting solid is dried in vacuo and dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). Upon storage at -78°C for two weeks and subsequent storage at -28°C for three months, a few single crystals of **3a** can be obtained.

Analytical data for (3a)

³¹P{¹H} NMR (CD2Cl2) δ[ppm] = 22.3 (dd, ¹*J*MX = 306 Hz, ¹*J*NX = 290 Hz, 1P, PX), 166.3 (dd, ¹*J*AN = 257 Hz, ¹*J*NX = 290 Hz, 1P, PN), 226.3 (dd, ¹*J*AM = 251 Hz, ¹*J*MX = 306 Hz, 1P, PM), 515.4 ppm (m, 1P, PA)

Synthesis of [{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ4,η3:1:1:1-P4){Cr(CO)5}2] (4a)

A dark orange solution of **1** (200 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in thf (5 mL) is added to a yellow solution of [Cr(CO)4(nbd)] (154 mg, 0.6 mmol, 2.0 eq.) in thf (5 mL). The resulting mixture is stirred at room temperature for 20 h. Hereby, the color of the solution darkens. The solvent is removed under reduced pressure vielding a brownpurple solid that is washed with *n*-pentane. The solid is taken up in dichloromethane (2 mL) and upon storage at -28°C pure **4a** is obtained in the form of purple crystals that are suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis.

Analytical data for 4a

Synthesis of [{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ4,η3:1:1:1-P4){Mo(CO)5}2] (4b)

A dark orange solution of **1** (100 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in thf (5 mL) is added to a yellow solution of [Mo(CO)4(nbd)] (90 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 eq.) in thf (5 mL). The resulting mixture is stirred at room temperature for 20 h while the color of the solution turns from orange to dark brown. The solvent is removed under reduced pressure yielding a brown solid that is washed with *n*-pentane. The solid is subsequently taken up in a mixture of dichloromethane (2 mL) and *n*-pentane (5 mL). Upon storage at -28°C pure **4b** is obtained in the form of black crystals that are suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis.

Analytical data for 4b

Fragmentation of [{Cp*Cr(CO)₂}₂(µ₄,ŋ^{3:1:1:1}-P4){Cr(CO)₅}₂] (4a) and in situ reactivity of [{Cp*Cr(CO)₂}(µ₃-P){Cr(CO)₅}₂] (6) affording [{Cp*Cr('Bu-**NC)(CO)2}(μ3-P){Cr(CO)5}2] (7)**

A brown solution of 4a (20 mg, 0.02 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in thf (50 mL) is stirred at 50 °C for 3 d. Using ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectroscopy, the consumption of the starting material can be monitored an two new signals are obtained. 'Bu-NC (1 mL, 8.8 mmol, 440 eq.) is added to the reaction solution and no color change can be observed. Again, with the help of ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectroscopy the immediate quantitative reaction of **6** to **7** is observed, while the signal for **5** stays unchanged.

Analytical data

Results and Discussion

1. NMR experiments

[{Cp*Cr(CO)3}2(µ3,η 1:1:1:1-P4){W(CO)4}] (2)

Figure S1. Experimental (top) and simulated (bottom) ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of 2 in C₆D₆.

Table S1. Experimental and simulated values for the chemical shifts and coupling constants in the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of **2**.

The simulation of the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of **2** was carried out on the basis of an AA`BB` spin system with a C¹ symmetry. According to the natural abundancy of the NMR active ¹³⁸W isotope, the simulation was performed using two fragments. The main fragment (F1, 85.69%) was simulated with an NMR inactive tungsten atom, whereas the second fragment (F2, 14.28%) considered the ¹³⁸W atom.

[{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ3,η 3:1:1-P4){Cr(CO)5}] (3a)

Figure S2. Experimental ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of the reaction of **1** with 1.0 eq. [Cr(CO)4(nbd)] in CD2Cl² (top) and simulated ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of **3a** (bottom).

[{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ4,η 3:1:1:1-P4){Cr(CO)5}2] (4a)

Figure S3. Experimental (top) and simulated (bottom) ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of 4a in CD₂Cl₂.

[{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ4,η 3:1:1:1-P4){Cr(CO)5}2] (4b)

Figure S4. Experimental (top) and simulated (bottom) ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of **4b** in CD2Cl2 (Signals marked with * can be attributed to **3b** as a result of decomposition).

	experimental values					simulated values[1]			
	δ_A	515.4 ppm	$1J_{AM}$	251 Hz	δA	515.4 ppm	$1J_{AM}$	249.3 Hz	
3a	δм	226.3 ppm	$1J_{AN}$	257 Hz	δм	226.3 ppm	$1J_{AN}$	258.5 Hz	
	δN	166.3 ppm	$2J_{AX}$	\blacksquare	δ_N	166.2 ppm	$2J_{AX}$	6.8 Hz	
	δx	22.3 ppm	$2J_{MN}$	٠	δx	22.3 ppm	$2J_{MN}$	1.1 Hz	
			$1J_{MX}$	306 Hz			$1J_{MX}$	306.2 Hz	
			$1J_{\text{NX}}$	290 Hz			$1J_{\text{NX}}$	291.0 Hz	
4a	δA	489.1 ppm	$1J_{AM}$	254 Hz	δA	489.1 ppm	$1J_{AM}$	256.0 Hz	
	δм	219.5 ppm	$1J_{AN}$	252 Hz	$\delta_{\rm M}$	219.6 ppm	$1J_{AN}$	251.3 Hz	
	δΝ	150.5 ppm	$2J_{AX}$	28 Hz	δN	150.4 ppm	$2J_{AX}$	26.9 Hz	
	δx	107.9 ppm	$2J_{MN}$	20 Hz	δx	108.0 ppm	$2J_{MN}$	19.2 Hz	
			$1J_{MX}$	300 Hz			$1J_{MX}$	230.0 Hz	
			$1J_{\text{NX}}$	330 Hz			$1J_{\text{NX}}$	330.3 Hz	
4b	δA	487.8 ppm	$1J_{AM}$		δA	487.8 ppm	$1J_{AM}$	247.3 Hz	
	δм	192.2 ppm	$1J_{AN}$	248 Hz	δм	192.1 ppm	$1J_{AN}$	249.6 Hz	
	δN	152.9 ppm	$2J_{AX}$	24 Hz	δN	152.9 ppm	$2J_{AX}$	22.6 Hz	
	δ x	75.2 ppm	$2J_{MN}$	\blacksquare	δx	75.2 ppm	$2J_{MN}$	20.8 Hz	
			$1J_{MX}$	\blacksquare			$1J_{MX}$	286.9 Hz	
			$1J_{\text{NX}}$	\blacksquare			$1J_{\text{NX}}$	324.0 Hz	

Table S2. Experimental and simulated values for the chemical shifts and coupling constants in the ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of **3a**, **4a** and **4b**.

 $[1]$ based on an AMNX spin system with a C₁ symmetry.

Stepwise substitution from 3a to 4a

Figure S5: ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra of the reaction of **1** with 1.0 eq. [Cr(CO)4(nbd)]: (a) reactions solution (b) dissolved crystals obtained from the reaction solution (c) supernatant of the obtained crystals.

Stepwise substitution from 3b to 4b

Figure S6. ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum (in CD₂Cl₂) of the reaction solution (top) and the isolated crystals (bottom) from the reaction of **1** with 1.0 eq. [Mo(CO)4(nbd)]. Signals marked with * can be attributed to **3b b**and signals marked with ° belong to **4b,** respectively.

As discussed for **3a** the mono-substituted **3b** is the main species in the reaction solution when reacting **1** with 1.0 eq. [Mo(CO)4(nbd)]. When storing the solution at -28 °C during the crystallization process, a second substitution occurs giving 4b as the exclusive crystallization product. However, if the crystals are dissolved in CD2Cl² a small amount of **4b** decomposes to give **3b** as a side product.

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2. DFT calculations of 4a

In order to elucidate the electronic structure of **4a**, DFT calculations at the BP86/def2-TZVP level were performed and the geometric parameters of the optimized geometry of **4a** are in good agreement with those determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction. According to the calculations, the short Cr1–P1 distance (labeling according to Figure 3) represents a double bond, as it is attributed a Wiberg Bond Index (WBI) of 1.43. Consequently, the additional coordination of electron density from the P1 lone pair towards Cr1 balancing the electron deficit caused by decarbonylation is confirmed. The WBIs of the Cr2-P bonds vary from 0.60 to 0.78, while the WBIs for the Cr3–P3 and Cr4–P4 bonds are both 0.71. The NPA charges (Natural Population Analysis) show a negative charge accumulation on the Cr atoms $(Cr1: -0.91, Cr2: -1.15, Cr3: -1.61, Cr4: -1.61)$, while the P₄ unit is rather positively charged $(P1: 0.34, P2: 0.10, P3: 0.31, P2: 0.41)$, which reflects the donating ability of the P⁴ unit. Additionally, the calculated HOMO and HOMO-1 of **4a** represent the d-orbitals of the Cr1 atom, while the HOMO-2 and the HOMO-4 contain contributions from the Cr1–P1 multiple bond and the double bond nature of the Cr1–P1 bond is also shown by the localized molecular orbitals.

Figure S7. Left: Frontier molecular orbitals of **4a**, calculated at the BP86/def2-TZVP level of theory; right: Localized molecular orbitals representing the Cr1–P1 multiple bond in **4a**

3. Crystallographic section

The crystals were selected and mounted on a GV50 diffractometer equipped with a TitanS2 detector. All crystals were kept at T = 123(1) K during data collection. Data collection and reduction were performed with CrysAlisPro version 1.171.40.14a.[12] For all compounds a numerical absorption correction based on gaussian integration over a multifaceted crystal model and an empirical absorption correction using spherical harmonics, implemented in SCALE3 ABSPACK scaling algorithm was applied. Using Olex2,^[13] all structures were solved by ShelXT^[14] and a least-square refinement on F2 was carried out with ShelXL.^[15] All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms at the carbon atoms were located in idealized positions and refined isotropically according to the riding model.

CCDC-2009816 (**2**), CCDC[-2009704](tel:2009704) (**3a**), CCDC[-2009705](tel:2009704) (**4a**), CCDC[-2009706](tel:2009704) (**4b**) and CCDC-2009707 (**5**), contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge at www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/contents/retrieving.html (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax: +44-1223-336-033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.com.ac.uk).

[{Cp*Cr(CO)3}2(µ3,η 1:1:1:1-P4){W(CO)4}] (2)

Compound 2 crystalizes in the form of dark brown blocks from a saturated solution in hexane/CH₂Cl₂ upon storage at -28°C. A suitable crystal with dimensions $0.10 \times 0.10 \times 0.07$ mm³ was selected and mounted on a GV50, TitanS2 diffractometer. The crystal was kept at a steady $T = 123.01(13)$ K during data collection. The structure was solved with the ShelXT (Sheldrick, 2015) solution program using dual methods. The model was refined with ShelXL 2018/3 (Sheldrick, 2015) using full matrix least squares minimization on *F***²** . The asymmetric unit contains one molecule of **2**.

Figure S8. Molecular structure of **2** in the solid state; for clarity H atoms are omitted and the Cp* as well as CO ligands are drawn in the wire frame model; thermal ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability level.

[{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ3,η 3:1:1-P4){Cr(CO)5}] (3a)

Compound **3a** crystalizes in the form of dark orange plates from a reaction solution of **1** with 1.0 eq. [Cr(CO)4(nbd)]. The reaction solution is stored at -78°C for one week and subsequently held at -28°C for three months. A suitable crystal with dimensions $0.15 \times 0.12 \times 0.04$ mm³ was selected and mounted on a GV50, TitanS2 diffractometer. The crystal was kept at a steady $T = 123.01(10)$ K during data collection. The structure was solved with the ShelXT (Sheldrick, 2015) solution program using dual methods. The model was refined with ShelXL 2018/3 (Sheldrick, 2015) using full matrix least squares minimization on *F***²** .The asymmetric unit contains one molecule of Compound 3a (displaying a highly disordered Cp^{*} ligand) and one CH₂Cl₂ molecule.

[{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ4,η 3:1:1:1-P4){Cr(CO)5}2] (4a)

Compound 4a crystalizes in the form of dark orange plates from a saturated solution in CH₂Cl₂ upon storage at -28°C. A suitable crystal with dimensions 0.11 x 0.09 x 0.02 mm³ was selected and mounted on a SuperNova, Single source at offset/far, Atlas diffractometer. The crystal was kept at a steady *T* = 123.00(10) K during data collection. The structure was solved with the ShelXT (Sheldrick, 2015) solution program using dual methods. The model was refined with ShelXL 2018/3 (Sheldrick, 2015) using full matrix least squares minimisation on P . The asymmetric unit contains one molecule of 4a as well as one disordered solvent molecule.

[{Cp*Cr(CO)2}2(μ4,η 3:1:1:1-P4){Mo(CO)5}2] (4b)

Compound **4b** crystalizes in the form of dark green plates from a saturated solution in CH2Cl2/*n*-pentane upon storage at -28°C. A suitable crystal with dimensions 0.36 x 0.20 x 0.04 mm³ was selected and mounted on a Xcalibur, AtlasS2, Gemini ultra diffractometer. The crystal was kept at a steady T = 123.0 K during data collection. The structure was solved with the ShelXT (Sheldrick, 2015) solution program using dual. The model was refined with ShelXL 2018/3 (Sheldrick, 2015) using full matrix least squares minimisation on F -The asymmetric unit contains one molecule of 4b as well as one disordered solvent molecule.

Figure S9. Molecular structure of Compound **3a, 4a** and **4b** in the solid state; for clarity H atoms and solvent molecules are omitted, Cp* and CO ligands are drawn in the wire frame model and only position of disordered Cp* ligand is displayed; thermal ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability level

Table S5: Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] of **3a**, **4a** and **4b**.

[Cp*Cr(CO)2(η 3 -P3)] (5)

Compound **5** crystalizes as light orange blocks from a saturated solution in *n*-hexane upon storage at -28°C. A suitable crystal with dimensions 0.08 × 0.06 × 0.05 mm³ was selected and mounted on a GV50, TitanS2 diffractometer. The crystal was kept at a steady $T = 123.01(10)$ K during data collection. The structure was solved with the ShelXT 2014/5 (Sheldrick, 2014) solution program. The model was refined with ShelXL 2018/3 (Sheldrick, 2015) using full matrix least squares minimisation on *F***²** .The asymmetric unit contains half a molecule of **5.**

Figure S10. Molecular structure of **5** in the solid state; for reasons of clarity H atoms are omitted and the Cp* as well as CO ligands are drawn in the wire frame model; thermal ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability level.

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