NOTE

Synthesis and Structural Characterization of Diiron Ethanedithiolate Complex $(\mu\text{-SCH}_2)_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5(\text{Ph}_2\text{PNHPy})$ Relevant to the Active Site of [Fe-Fe]-Hydrogenases

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A diiron ethanedithiolate complex $(\mu\text{-SCH}_2)_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_5(\text{Ph}_2\text{PNHPy})$ (**1**) has been prepared and characterized by spectroscopy. The title complex was prepared by reaction of $[(\mu\text{-SCH}_2)_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6]$ (**A**) with Ph_2PNHPy in the presence of the decarbonylating agent $\text{Me}_3\text{NO}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in acetonitrile at room temperature in 51 % yield. The new complex was characterized by IR, ¹H NMR, ³¹P NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy.

Keywords: Diiron ethanedithiolate, Phosphine ligand, Synthesis, Characterization.

In recent years, [Fe-Fe]-hydrogenases have received considerable attention because it is helpful for the synthesis of new low-cost and highly efficient catalysts for hydrogen evolution¹. X-ray crystallography revealed that the active site of [Fe-Fe]-hydrogenases contains a butterfly [2Fe-2S] cluster linked to a cubane-like [4Fe-4S] cluster *via* the sulfur atom of a cysteinyl group². Recently, many researchers have reported a good number of diiron dithiolate complexes in order to mimic the active site of [Fe-Fe]-hydrogenases³. These derivatives were prepared by several methods⁴ and characterized by various techniques⁵. In this paper, we report the synthesis and structural characterization of diiron ethanedithiolate complex related to the active site of [Fe-Fe]-hydrogenases.

Reaction and operation was carried out under a dry, oxygen free nitrogen atmosphere with standard Schlenk and vacuum line techniques. Acetonitrile was distilled with CaH_2 under N_2 . $\text{Me}_3\text{NO}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, PPh_3 and other materials were commercially available and used as received. Complex **A**⁶ and Ph_2PNHPy ⁷ were prepared according to the literature procedures. IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 670 FTIR spectrometer. ¹H (³¹P, ¹³C) NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz spectrometer.

Synthesis: A solution of $(\mu\text{-SCH}_2)_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6$ (0.186 g, 0.5 mmol) in CH_3CN (15 mL) was added a solution of $\text{Me}_3\text{NO}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.056 g, 0.5 mmol) in CH_3CN (10 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min and then was added Ph_2PNHPy (0.139 g, 0.5 mmol). The new mixture was stirred for 1 h to give a red solution. The solvent was reduced *in vacuo* and the residue was subjected to TLC separation using ethyl

acetate/petroleum ether (*v/v* = 1:1) as eluent. From the main red band afforded 0.160 g (51 %) of **1** as a red solid. IR (KBr, ν_{max} , cm^{-1}): C≡O 2046 (*vs*), 1982 (*vs*), 1934 (*vs*). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.17 (br, 2H, Py-H), 7.70, 7.46 (2s, 10H, $2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$), 6.44 (s, 2H, Py-H), 5.60 (d, $J_{\text{P-H}}$ = 17.0 Hz, 1H, NH), 1.96 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, SCH_2), 1.41 (m, 2H, SCH_2) ppm. ³¹P NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , 85 % H_3PO_4): 98.37 (s) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 213.74, 213.67 (C≡O), 150.18, 135.07, 134.71, 130.75, 130.56, 130.46, 129.02, 128.94, 113.09 (Ar-C), 34.96, 34.93 (CH_2) ppm.

As shown in **Scheme-I**, reaction of the starting material complex **A** with 1 equivalent of $\text{Me}_3\text{NO}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ followed by addition of 1 equivalent of Ph_2PNHPy gave the title complex **1** in 51 % yield. The title complex **1** was air-stable red solids, which has been characterized by IR, ¹H NMR, ³¹P NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy.

Scheme-1: Synthesis of the title complex **1**

Infrared spectrum: As shown in Fig. 1, the IR spectrum of **1** displayed three absorption bands in the range of 2046-1934 cm^{-1} for the terminal carbonyls and the $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{O})$ values are shifted toward lower frequencies relative to the parent complex **A** (2079, 2039, 2009, 1996 cm^{-1})⁶.

Fig. 1. IR spectrum of the title complex **1**

¹H NMR spectrum: As shown in Fig. 2, the ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** showed two singlets at δ 8.17 and 6.44 ppm for its pyridyl protons and a doublet at δ 5.60 ppm with coupling constant $J = 17.0$ Hz for NH group.

Fig. 2. ¹H NMR spectrum of the title complex **1**

³¹P NMR spectrum: As shown in Fig. 3, the ³¹P NMR spectrum of **1** exhibited a singlet at δ 98.37 ppm for the phosphorus atom of Ph₂PNHpy coordinated to one Fe of the diiron subsite.

Fig. 3. ³¹P NMR spectrum of the title complex **1**

¹³C NMR spectrum. As shown in Fig. 4, the ¹³C NMR spectrum of **1** demonstrated a doublet at δ 213.70 ppm for the terminal carbonyls and a doublet at δ 34.94 ppm for the methylene carbons.

Fig. 4. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the title complex **1**

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