

N-Ligand Stabilized Lanthanide Complexes

DISSERTATION

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1. Summary

A series of lanthanide complexes stabilized by N-ligands has been synthesized. Most of these complexes have been structurally characterized. The overall results emphasize the importance of the steric bulk of the applied ligands to stabilize various lanthanide complexes with a distinct reactivity.

To highlight and compare the steric bulk of an aminopyridinato with those of amidinate ligands mononuclear seven coordinated complexes of lanthanum were synthesized by salt elimination route. X-ray crystal structure analyses were carried out to compare the steric demand of the two amido ligands. A similar overall primary coordination site bulkiness for both ligands and distinct differences regarding this bulkiness for different directions were observed. A better shielding of the second coordination sphere was observed for the aminopyridinate.

Based on their steric demand mono(aminopyridinato) organoyttrium complexes were selectively synthesized in very good yields by alkane elimination from trialkylttrium complexes. The corresponding yttrium cations were accessible by abstracting one of the two alkyls using ammonium borates. Based on the appropriate steric bulk of the used aminopyridinato ligand these yttrium cations show very high ethylene polymerization activity at 80 °C in the presence of small amounts of aluminium alkyls. During these polymerizations a reversible polyethylene chain transfer between the organoyttrium cation and aluminium compounds was observed. The chain transfer catalyst system described here is able to produce relatively long chain (up to 4000 g mol⁻¹) Al-terminated polyethylene with a molecular weight distribution < 1.1.

Instead of salt elimination or alkane elimination, aminopyridinato lanthanide complexes are accessible even under solventless conditions at elevated temperatures. The direct reaction between ytterbium metal and bulky aminopyridines was an effective way to synthesize true homoleptic monomeric aminopyridinato complexes of ytterbium. A systematic steric variation leads to bis- or tris(aminopyridinato)ytterbium complexes. The divalent ytterbium complexes show interesting intermolecular agostic interactions. Such agostic interactions do not persist if salt metathesis reactions are carried out in THF, since coordination of THF blocks the vacant site responsible for such interactions. A further increase in the steric bulk of the applied ligands leads to mixed amido/ iodo complexes in the salt metathesis reaction.

The attempted reduction of these mixed amido/ iodo rare earth metal complexes using KC₈ led to the formation of bis(aminopyridinato) complexes which have been characterized by X-

ray diffraction studies, NMR spectroscopic investigations and elemental analyses. Most likely reduction took place followed by disproportionation and the formation of bis(aminopyridinates).

Due to enhanced reactivity and, in particular, the rarity of cyclopentadienyl free rare earth metal hydrido complexes we became interested to synthesize bis(aminopyridinato)lanthanide hydrido complexes. Slight variation in the steric bulk enabled us to selectively synthesize the corresponding bis(aminopyridinato)lanthanide halide precursors. Due to the specific steric “pressure” the same coordination number was observed for La and Sc despite the large difference in their ionic radii. Since the most common synthetic route to the hydrido complexes is σ -bond metathesis reaction of parent alkyl complex with phenyl silane, we synthesized bis(aminopyridinato)lanthanide alkyl complexes. Corresponding hydrides generated by reaction of alkyl complexes with PhSiH_3 undergo a very fast intramolecular metallation reaction at room temperature. The intramolecular C-H activation is highly dependent on the size of the used lanthanides. For larger lanthanides the rate of decomposition of the parent alkyl is fast enough that it precludes the isolation of stable alkyl complexes. However gradual decrease of the metal atom size enables the isolation of stable alkyl complexes which then may undergo intramolecular C-H activation via a transient hydride species at reasonable rates at room temperature.

Zusammenfassung

Eine Serie N-ligand-stabilsierter Lanthanoidkomplexe wurde synthetisiert. Die meisten dieser Komplexe wurden strukturell charakterisiert. Im Großen und Ganzen heben die Ergebnisse dieser Arbeit die Bedeutung des sterischen Anspruchs der eingesetzten Liganden zur Stabilisierung verschiedener Lanthanoidkomplexe mit einer speziellen Reaktivität betont.

Um den sterischen Anspruch von Aminopyridinatligen im Vergleich zu Aminidinatliganden herauszustellen und zu vergleichen, wurden mononukleare, siebenfach koordinierte Komplexe des Lanthans über eine Salzeliminierungsrouten hergestellt. Einkristall-Röntgenstrukturanalysen dieser Komplexe wurden durchgeführt, um den sterischen Anspruch der zwei Amidoliganden zu vergleichen. Ein ähnlicher allgemeiner primärer Koordinationsanspruch konnte für beide Liganden ermittelt werden und gleichzeitig wurden starke Unterschiede bezüglich des sterischen Anspruchs in verschiedene Richtungen festgestellt. Eine bessere Abschirmung der sekundären Koordinationssphäre wurde für Aminopyridinate beobachtet.

Basierend auf ihrem sterischen Anspruch, konnten Mono(aminopyridinato)-Organoyttrium-Komplexe selektiv und in guten Ausbeuten über eine Alkaneliminierungsreaktion mit Trialkylttriumverbindungen hergestellt werden. Die entsprechenden Yttriumkationen waren zugänglich durch Abstraktion von einer oder zwei Alkyleinheiten mittels Ammoniumboraten. Basierend auf dem entsprechenden sterischen Anspruch der eingesetzten Liganden weisen diese Yttriumkationen bei 80 °C und in Gegenwart von geringen Mengen an Aluminiumalkylen eine sehr hohe Aktivität in der Ethylenpolymerisation auf. Während dieser Polymerisation wurde ein reversibler Polyethylen-Kettentransfer zwischen dem Organoyttriumkation und den Aluminiumverbindungen beobachtet. Das hier beschriebene Kettentransfer-Katalysatorsystem ist in der Lage, relativ langkettiges (bis zu 4000g/mol) Al-terminiertes Polyethylen mit einer Molekulargewichtsverteilung <1.1 zu produzieren.

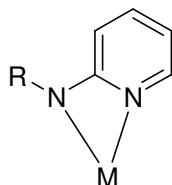
Neben der Salz- oder Alkaneliminierungsrouten können Aminopyridinato-Lanthanoidkomplexe auch unter lösungsmittelfreien Bedingungen bei erhöhten Temperaturen hergestellt werden. Die direkte Reaktion von metallischem Ytterbium und sterisch anspruchsvollen Aminopyridinatligen ist eine effiziente Methode, um monomere homoleptische Aminopyridinatokomplexe des Ytterbium herzustellen. Eine systematische Variation des sterischen Anspruchs des Liganden führt zu Bis- oder Tris(aminopyridinato)-Ytterbiumkomplexen. Die divalenten Ytterbiumkomplexe weisen interessante intermolekulare agostische Wechselwirkungen auf. Solche agostischen Wechselwirkungen können allerdings

nicht beobachtet werden, wenn die Synthese der Komplexe durch Salzmethathese in THF durchgeführt wird, da die Koordination eines THF-Moleküls die für diese Wechselwirkung verantwortliche freie Koordinationsstelle besetzt. Eine Erhöhung des sterischen Anspruchs der eingesetzten Liganden führt zu gemischten Amido/Iodo-Komplexen über eine Salzmethathesereaktion. Der Versuch diese gemischten Amido/Iodo-Seltenerdkomplexe mit KC_8 zu reduzieren führte zur Bildung von Bis(aminopyridinato)komplexen, die über Einkristall-Röntgenstrukturanalyse, NMR-Untersuchungen sowie Elementaranalyse charakterisiert wurden. Höchstwahrscheinlich erfolgte hier die Reduktion des Komplexes, gefolgt von einer Disproportionierung und der Bildung der Bis(aminopyridinate).

Wegen der erhöhten Reaktivität und insbesondere wegen der Seltenheit von Cyclopentadienyl-freien Seltenerdmetall-Hydridokomplexen waren wir daran interessiert, Bis(aminopyridinato)-Lanthanoidhydridkomplexe herzustellen. Kleine Variationen im sterischen Anspruch des Liganden ermöglichten die selektive Synthese der entsprechenden Bis(aminopyridinato) Lanthanoidhalogenid-Precursoren. Wegen des spezifischen sterischen „Drucks“ des N-Liganden konnte die gleiche Koordinationszahl sowohl für La als auch für Sc beobachtet werden, trotz ihrer stark unterschiedlichen Ionenradien. Da die meistverwendete Methode für die Herstellung von Hydridokomplexen eine σ -Bindungsmethathese von Alkylkomplexen mit Phenylsilanen ist, wurden zuerst Bis(aminopyridinato)-Lanthanoidalkylkomplexe hergestellt und mit $PhSiH_3$ umgesetzt. Die entsprechend gebildeten Hydride reagieren jedoch sehr schnell weiter in einer intramolekularen Metallierungsreaktion. Diese intramolekulare C-H-Bindungsaktivierung ist sehr stark von der Größe des eingesetzten Lanthanoids abhängig. Für große Lanthanoide ist die Zerfallsrate des Alkylkomplexes so schnell, dass eine Isolierung des entsprechenden Alkylkomplexes unmöglich ist. Jedoch führt eine sukzessive Verringerung der Größe des Metalls zu einer erhöhten Stabilität und ermöglicht somit die Isolierung stabiler Alkylkomplexe, die anschließend zu Hydridokomplexen umgesetzt werden können und in einer intramolekularen C-H-Bindungsaktivierung weiterreagieren.

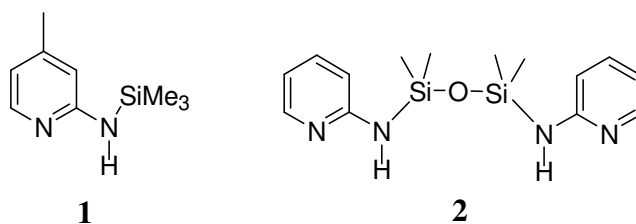
2. Introduction

During the renaissance of amido^[1,2] metal chemistry, aminopyridinato ligands (Ap)^[3] have been used extensively to stabilize lanthanide (Ln) complexes. These compounds (Scheme 1) have been shown to exhibit unusual stoichiometric and catalytic reactivity.^[4]



Scheme 1. An aminopyridinato ligand in its strained η^2 binding mode, typical for early transition metals and lanthanides ([Ln] = lanthanide moiety; R = aryl, silyl or alkyl substituent).

The steric bulk of aminopyridinato ligands is rather small in comparison to the related cyclopentadienyl ligands^[5] and the closely related silyl-substituted amidinates,^[6,7] especially in the plane perpendicular to the pyridine moiety. This, in turn, gives rise to highly nitrogen coordinated lanthanide complexes. Therefore, the chemistry of aminopyridinato ligands differs dramatically from these two types in cases such as group-3 or lanthanide chemistry where steric bulk is important for the stabilization of reactive transition metal complexes.^[8] For instance, the reactions of silyl substituted aminopyridinates derived from **1** (Scheme 2) with lanthanide trihalides gave ate complexes.^[9] However, monochloro compounds were formed if 2 equiv. of cyclopentadienyl ligands^[10] or silyl-substituted amidinates^[6,7] were used instead of **1**. Some of the limitations of simple aminopyridinato ligands can be overcome by using bis(aminopyridinato) ligands such as deprotonated **2**. Reaction of dilithiated **2** (generated in situ) with LnCl_3 gave different products depending on the size of the lanthanide ion. For instance, when $\text{Ln} = \text{Y}$ and Sm , the monochloro complexes could be synthesized however, similar reactions for the larger Nd and La ions again resulted in the formation of ate complexes.



Scheme 2. Silyl substituted aminopyridines.

The motivation for the present studies was not only to overcome the problems resulted due to the formation of ate complexes but also to study and evaluate the steric bulk effectively to synthesize selectively mono- or bis(aminopyridinato)lanthanide complexes. It also presents the versatility of methods to access such complexes. The mono(aminopyridinato)ligand stabilized yttrium cations show very high ethylene polymerization activity in the presence of small amounts of aluminum alkyl compounds at elevated temperature. Reversible polyethylene chain transfer between the organoyttrium cations and the aluminum compounds can be observed. Since the β -H elimination is nearly suppressed even at 100 °C, relatively high molecular weight Al-terminated polymer chains with very narrow polydispersity can be produced. It also presents the accessibility of lanthanide complexes without any coordinating solvents. For instance, a solvent free bis(aminopyridinato)ytterbium^{II} complex was synthesized under solventless conditions at elevated temperature which shows interesting intermolecular agostic interactions in the solid state. An ambitious undertaking was the synthesis of compounds comprising direct Ln-Ln bonds that did not succeed but yielded interesting results. It was useful enough to reflect that how difficult it would be to synthesize such complexes.

Another focus of this work was the synthesis of non-metallocene hydride complexes. Even after a lapse of twenty five years of the pioneering works on the synthesis of the first molecular lanthanide hydrido complexes^[11] these compounds still attract considerable attention^[12] and remain one of the most promising classes of compounds for various catalytic applications.^[13] However in contrast to hydride complexes supported by cyclopentadienyl ligands,^[10,14] only relatively few examples of their non-cyclopentadienyl analogues have been reported in the literature.^[15] Sterically demanding aminopyridinato ligands were successfully used for the stabilization of monomeric lanthanide species and the observed intramolecular C-H activation has been discussed in detail.

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