



From PTA to novel CAP: application of water soluble phosphines in catalysis and medicinal chemistry

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Water: green solvent for homogeneous and biphasic catalytic processes

A > environmentally benign (not volatile and not toxic)

- replacement of organic solvents and their disposal
- $\Gamma^{N} \succ$ reduction of risks (not flammable)

Separation of organic products from catalysts (recovery and recycling)

🖞 ≽ low cost, abundant



PTA: the long story of a versatile water soluble phosphine



4. "Hard metal " coordination: grafting, heterogenisation, polymerization

PTA: 1,3,5-triaza-7-phosphadamantane

- Neutral phosphine synthesized in 80-90% yield
- Thermally stable (dec. Temp. >260°C)
- Solid stable to air and moisture
- Soluble in water (S = ca. 235 g/L)
- Small cone angle (103°)



Phillips, A. D. et al., *Coord Chem Rev* (**2004**) *248*, 955 Bravo, J. et al., *Coord Chem Rev* (**2010**) *254*, 555 Guerriero, A. et al., *Coord Chem Rev* (**2018**) *355*, 328 DSCTM Young Investigator Award 2018

PTA upper rim functionalisation



GENERAL SYNTHETIC ROUTE



Synthesis of Ir(I) and Ru(II) Complexes





 Solubility in water @ 20 °C (g/L)

 PZA= 1050
 PZA-NMe₂= 1.8

 PTA-CH(1MeIm)OH= 320
 PTA-C(1MeIm)₂OH= 78

Guerriero A., Erlandsson, M., et al. *Organometallics* (**2011**) *30*, 1874 Krogstad, D.A.; Guerriero, A., et al. *Organometallics* (**2011**) *30*, 6292



Ir(I) and Ru(II) Complexes for Transfer Hydrogenation Reactions





Lower rim functionalisation





- Easily synthesised
- Design of steric and electronic properties
- Tunable water solubility



(N-tert-butyl-Bz-PTA)Br

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Long-chain alkene biphasic HF with cyclodextrins (CDs) as mass transfer promoters



Legrand, F.-X., Guerriero, A., et al. Appl. Cat. A: Gen. (2009) 362, 62

Rh-catalysed hydroformylation of long chain olefins in biphasic media

• basicity > [N-Bz-PTA]Cl (¹J_{P-Se}= 815 Hz)

• S(H₂O)_{20°C}= 10 g/L

• interaction between *tert*-butyl group and RAME- β -CD





Hydrophobic part included in CD cavity

Low surface activity and adsorption ability at the interface

*Low conversion T= 80 °C (K*_{ass}= 5447 M⁻¹)



Ligand not included and substrate included in CD cavity

High surface activity and increase of catalytic activity at the interface

High conversion T > 80 °C (K_{ass} decreases)



after reaction

Ligand included in CD cavity

No emulsions and rapid separation through decantation

Good phase separation T< 80 °C (K_{ass} = 5447 M⁻¹)

CD-based thermocontrolled catalytic process

Olefin	CD	T (°C)	Conv.(%) ^b	Sel. (%) ^c	l/b ^d
1-decene	-	80	26	99	2.1
1-decene	RAME- β -CD	80	10	97	1.8
1-decene	-	100	56	99	1.7
1-decene	RAME-β-CD	100	72	99	2.0
1-decene	RAME-β-CD	120	98	99	1.8
1-dodecene	RAME- β -CD	80	11	99	1.7
1-dodecene	RAME-β-CD	100	75	99	1.7
1-tetradecene	RAME- β -CD	80	14	95	1.6
1-tetradecene	RAME-β-CD	100	88	97	1.9

^a Experimental conditions: Rh(acac)(CO)₂ (4.07 × 10⁻² mmol), water-soluble ligand (0.21 mmol), CD (0.48 mmol), H₂O (11.5 mL), 1-alkene (20.35 mmol), 1500 rpm, CO/H₂ (1/1): 50 bar, 6 h. ^b Calculated with respect to the starting olefin. ^c (mol. of aldehydes)/(mol of converted olefins) × 100. The side products were mainly isomeric olefins. ^d Ratio of linear to branched aldehyde product.

Six, N.; Guerriero, A., et al. Catal. Sci. Technol. (2011) 1, 1347



Immobilization of Ir-PTA complex on DOWEX resins



Guerriero, A,; Liguori, F. et al. Green Chem. (2012), 14, 3211

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C=N and C=O hydrogenation with Ir-DowexH⁺ resin

Substrate	Product	Phase	Yield (%) [time h]	TOF (h⁻¹)	Leaching (ppm) ⁱ
2-methylquinoxaline	2-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline	Hetero ^b Homo ^b	92.2 [22] 91.1 [16]	6 9	0.2 —
5-methylquinoxaline	5-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline	Hetero ^c Homo ^c	89.2 [22] 32.0 [17]	6 3	0.32
2,6-dimethylquinoline	2,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline	Hetero ^d Homo ^d	26.0 [29] 3.5 [29]	1 1	0.08 —
3,4-dihydroisoquinoline	NH 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline	Hetero ^e Homo ^e Hetero ^g	99.9 [1] 11.0 [1] 89.7 [2]	300 34 374	7.6 - 4.0
MeO Harmaline	MeO Leptaflorine	Hetero ^f Homo ^f	99.1 [24] 9.3 [22]	4 5	8.5 —
4,4'-dimethylfuran-2,3- dione	OH O Pantolactone	Hetero ^h Homo ^h	89.0 [4] 99.9 [4]	22 25	0.37

RESULTS

100% selectivity to desired products n all cases

 heterogenized catalyst more active than the homogeneous ones

• no catalytic activity shown by the solution recovered after catalysis (minor metal leaching)

easy and quantitative recovery of the resin by decantation

 Pharmaceutically relevant molecules: antidepressants, antitumoral, antibiotics etc.

^a Experimental batch conditions: **P = 20 bar H₂, T = 80 °C**; ^b H₂O, S/C = 150; ^c H₂O, S/C = 150; ^d **50 bar H₂**, H₂O: MeOH = 4:1, S/C = 50; ^e H₂O, S/C = 305; ^f H₂O: MeOH = 1.5:1, S/C = 100; ^g H₂O, S/C = 100; ⁱ determined by ICP-OES.

New ligand CAP: the higher homologue of PTA

Nine-membered macrocycle

- Stable to air and moisture as solid and in solution
- Soluble in water (S = ca. 2 g/100 mL)
- Thermal stability comparable with that of PTA
- Small cone angle (109°)
- Soluble in MeOH, EtOH, ⁱPrOH, CH₃CN
- Highly soluble in CHCl₃, CH₂Cl₂ (S = ca. 10 g/100 mL)

CAP: 1,4,7-triaza-9-phosphatricyclo[5.3.2.1]tridecane



THP = tris-(hydroxymethyl)phosphine TACN = 1,4,7-triazacyclononane

MeOH best solvent choice
 No reaction in THF or acetone
 Formation of amorphous byproducts



Figure 1. Dodecahedral crystals of free ligand CAP (adapted from original ref.)

CAP cage architecture: a stereochemically intermediate between PTA and Verkade's ligand



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Different reactivity between CAP and PTA



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Improvement of CAP synthesis



Two steps reaction in aqueous solution

THPC= *tetrakis*-(hydroxymethyl)phosphonium chloride THP = tris-(hydroxymethyl)phosphine TACN = 1,4,7-triazacyclononane



Synthesis of Ru(II) CAP complexes



Guerriero, A., et al. Inorg. Chem. (2017) 56, 5514

CAP

ΡΤΑ

2

3

4

Solid-state characterisation of Ru(II) compounds



CRYSTALS GROWN FROM EtOH/CH₂Cl₂

- CAP with same [333] conformation of free ligand
 Same PN and NN distances as in free ligand
- Ru-P bond length longer than RAPTA-C
- Ru-C bond lengths longer than RAPTA-C

RACAP-C. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (deg): Ru-Cl1=2.4184(5), Ru-Cl2=2.4205(5); Ru-P=2.3180(5); Ru-centroid(C1-C6)=1.709; Cl1-Ru-Cl2=87.601(19); Cl1-Ru-P=86.937 (19); Cl2-Ru-P=83.775(18)



Same CAP conformation of 2
 Ru-P and Ru-C bond lengths longer than in 2 (less strong Ru-p-cymene interaction)
 Ru-Cl bond lengths shorter than in 2

Compound 3 2MeOH/H₂O. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (deg): Ru-Cl=2.4026(7); Ru-P1=2.3254(7); Ru-P2=2.3353(7); Ru-centroid(C1-C6)=1.768; Cl-Ru-P1=83.59(2); Cl-Ru-P2=87.90(3); P1-Ru-P2=93.37(3)

Stability tests of new Ru(II) complexes



Ru(II)-CAP complexes: in vitro antitumor tests

Cutotoxicity tosts (IC



- Only minor cytotoxicity effects of CAP
- Similar IC₅₀ values of **2**-**4** due to the same species in solution
- Equal cytotoxicity of **4** toward A2780 and A2780cisR
- High cell selectivity of 2-4 against A2780 compared to HEK293
- Higher cytotoxicity of 2-4 compared to RAPTA-C



Cytotoxicity tests (E_{50} , μ wi, 72 h) of ear and its complexes.					
	A2780	A2780cisR	HEK293		
САР	>200	>200	>200		
2	55.3 ± 18.6	108 ± 10	102 ± 26		
3	48.1 ± 2.2	99.2 ± 15.9	80.7 ± 12.4		
4	65.2 ± 18.0	70.6 ± 3.1	163 ± 46		
RAPTA-C	230	270	>1000		

(M 72 h) of CAP and its complexes

Cytotoxicity determined by the MTT (3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide) cell viability assay. For each testing, compounds were freshly prepared as a DMSO solution of 0.5% v/v. A 100 μ L portion of drug solution was added to each well and the plates were incubated at 37°C for 72 h.

A2780 = human ovarian carcinoma cellsA2780cisR = cells resistant to cisplatinHEK293 = noncancerous human embryonic kidney cells



Guerriero, A., et al. Inorg. Chem. (2017) 56, 5514

Ru(II)-CAP complexes: catalytic transfer hydrogenation of BZA







Catalytic transfer hydrogenation of BZA with compounds 2 – 4

Entry	Catalyst	T (°C)	% conv.	time (h)	yield A (%) ^b	yield B (%) ^b	yield C (%) ^b
1	2	60	60.0	24	45.3	13.0	1.7
2 ^c	2	60	18.7	24	14.2	4.4	0.1
3	2	80	99.4	4	82.0	5.2	12.2
4 ^c	2	80	76.3	4	61.7	12.8	1.8
5	4	80	82.6	4	68.9	11.5	2.2
6 ^c	4	80	51.9	4	40.4	10.8	0.7
7	3	80	71.8	24	52.3	15.8	3.7
			96.0	48	68.7	13.5	13.8
8 ^c	3	80	66.5	24	46.6	17.8	2.1
			92.5	48	73.5	13.0	6.0
9	RAPTA-C	80	99.5	24	93.2	3.2	3.1
10 ^c	RAPTA-C	80	30.0	24	23.8	6.0	0.2

^aGeneral conditions: catalyst, 9.8 x 10^{-3} mmol; BZA, 0.98 mmol; HCOONa, 9.8 mmol; **MeOH:H₂O (1:/1)**, 6 mL; catalyst/substrate/HCOONa= 1:100:1000. ^b GC values based on pure samples: A = 4-phenyl-2-butanone; B = 4-phenyl-3-buten-2-ol; C = 4-phenyl-2-butanol. ^c Hg(0) added (one drop).

Ru(II)-CAP complex: transfer hydrogenation of cyclic imines

Catalytic transfer hydrogenation of cyclic imines with complex **3**. solvent **Substrate Product^b yield**^c time (h) Entry l°C 80 39.9 H_2O 24 3,4-dihydroisoquinoline 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline $MeOH/H_2O$ 60 10.9 24 1:1 24 74.1 $MeOH/H_2O$ 80 92.5 48 1:1 MeOH/H₂O 80 0.4 24 1:1 2-methylquinoxaline 2-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline $MeOH/H_2O$ 80 48 1:1 5-methylquinoxaline 5-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline MeOH/H₂O 1.5 24 80 1:1 3.0 48 quinoline 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline

^aGeneral conditions: catalyst, 1.0 x 10⁻² mmol; substrate, 1.0 mmol; HCOONa, 10.0 mmol; **MeOH:H₂O (1:/1)**, 6 mL.; catalyst/substrate/HCOONa= 1:100:1000. ^b Products confirmed by GC and GC-MS analyses. ^c GC values based on pure samples.



Guerriero, A., et al. Catalysts (2018) 8, 88



Investigation of catalytically active species



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 CD_2Cl_2) showing the change from triplet to singlet for the Ru-H signal in **4**.

Summary of results

- Synthesis of a library of PTA upper-rim and lower-rim modified ligands
- Homogeneous Ru and Ir catalyzed C=O and C=C bond hydrogenations
- Biphasic Rh-catalyzed olefin hydroformylation with CDs
- Heterogeneous Ir-catalyzed C=N and C=O bond hydrogenations



- Improved synthesis of CAP
- Anticancer activity in vitro of Ru-CAP complexes
- Ru-CAP complexes active in catalytic TH reactions using HCOONa

Future perspectives of CAP project

- To explore the coordination properties of CAP to other TMs
- To study the capability of CAP to bind by both P and N donors to different metals and assess the structural properties of the materials obtained
- To test the obtained complexes in other catalytic reactions
- Use of CAP to bind Ag(I) and test the compounds as antimicrobial agents

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