

Varied Coordination Geometries of an
Alane/Tris(phosphine) Ligand from its Reactions with
Pt(0) and Au(I)

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Abstract

Reactions of the tris(2-diisopropylphosphino-1-pyrrolyl)alane ligand **1** (AIP₃) furnished an (AIP₃)Pt complex **2**, which was determined to possess a Pt→Al interaction. Compound **2** reacted with CO to form the corresponding isolable adduct **3**. Exposure of **2** to H₂ or HD in solution resulted in the observation of equilibrium binding which favors **2** at room temperature, and more strongly favored the adducts **2-H₂** and **2-HD** at -80 °C. The presence of the Pt-H₂/HD moieties is supported by low temperature NMR determination of ¹J_{Pt} = 323 Hz (**2-H₂**) and ¹J_{HD} = 34 Hz (**2-HD**), ostensibly the first examples of Pt dihydrogen complexes with a trigonal bipyramidal geometry. The reaction of **1** with (tht)AuCl (tht = tetrahydrothiophene) generated compound **4** with loss of tht. An XRD study of **4** revealed the transfer of chloride to Al and a long separation between Al and Au coordinated by the three phosphine arms. Abstraction of chloride from **4** did not lead to a tripodal structure isoelectronic to **2**, but (according to solution NMR evidence) instead to the transfer of one of the phosphine arms to Al from Au in compound **5**.

1. Introduction

Ligands combining a central Lewis acid and three neutral donors (ZL_3 ligands) [1–3] are commonly explored to investigate the nature of the $M \rightarrow Z$ interactions, their influence on reactivity [4–6], and applications in catalysis [7–14]. The desired tripodal coordination of ZL_3 ligands to transition metal centers can be defined as **Type I** (Figure 1), with **A**, **B**, and **C** representing frequently studied frameworks [15–24]. The combination of a group 13 central Lewis acid [25] and three flanking phosphines is especially common. In the case of **E** (a congener of **B**-AuCl), coordination of the AlP_3 ligand is accompanied by chloride transfer to the Al center, affording what we term a **Type II** complex [26]. The preference for the coordination of the chloride to Al rather than Au and the absence of a strong $Au \rightarrow Al$ interaction is likely a consequence of the high Lewis acidity of the Al center not being satisfied by the weak monovalent Au base. The Ga and In congeners of **E** adopt **Type II** structures, as well [27,28]. Our group recently reported the AlP_3 ligand **1** (Scheme 1), which furnished the **Type I** complex **D** with Ni, and exhibited a strong $M \rightarrow Al$ interaction [29]. However, ligand **1** afforded a **Type II** complex **F** in its reaction with AgOTf, and a **Type III** complex **G** in its reaction with $Ag[HCB_{11}Cl_{11}]$, where coordination of two phosphines and formation of an Al-P bond was observed [30]. The structures of **D** and **F** support the notion that ligand **1** (and related Al-centered ligands) can indeed adopt a **Type I** structure with a sufficiently basic transition metal partner such as d^{10} Ni(0), but not with a poor base such as d^{10} Ag(I).

Interrogation of the **B** series revealed $M \rightarrow B$ σ -donicity within group 10 decreased in the order of $Au > Cu > Ag$ and $Pt > Ni > Pd$ [18,19]. With that insight in hand, we set out to explore the analogs of **D** and **F** the 5d metals Pt and Au and report our findings herein.

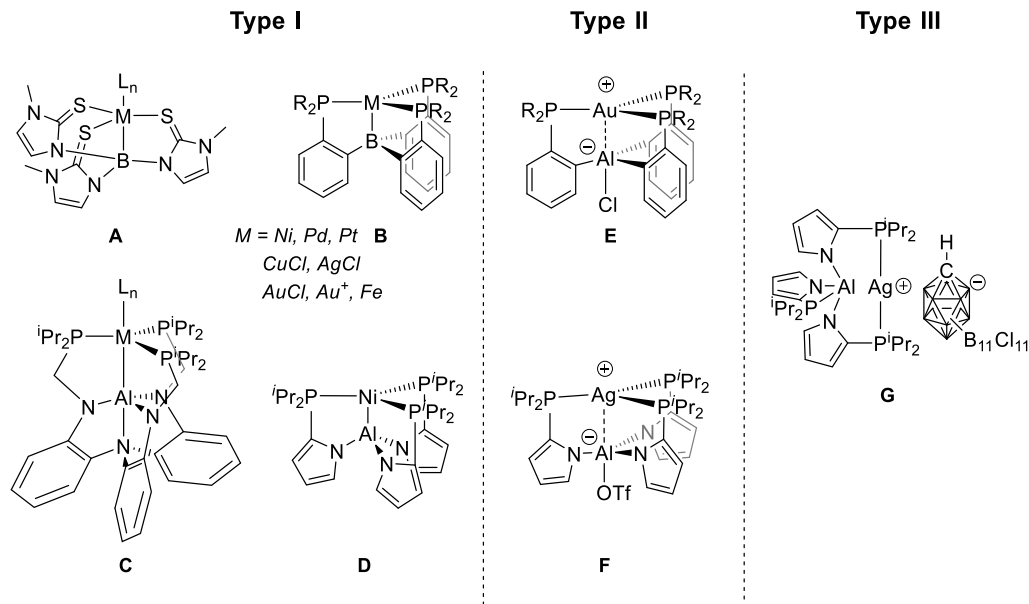
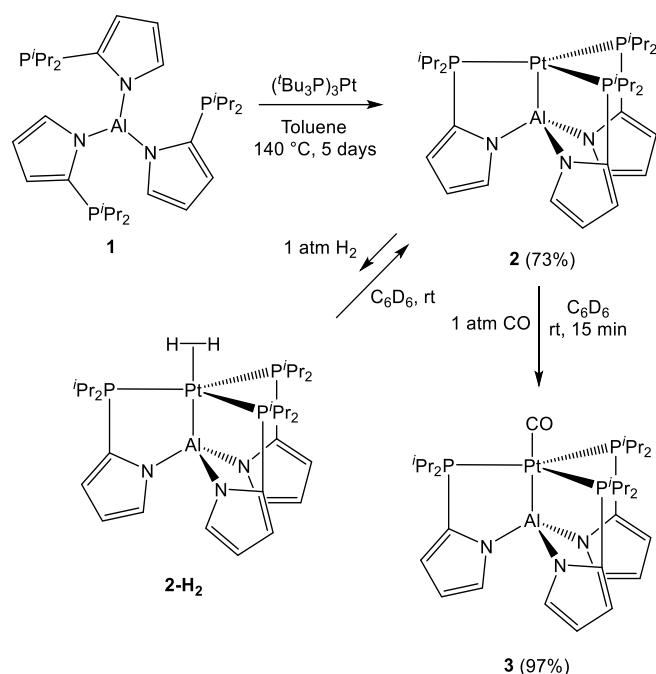


Figure 1. Representative types of complexes resulting from the interaction of ZL₃ ligands with late transition metals.

2. Results and Discussion.

2.1. Synthesis and characterization of **Type I** AIP₃ complexes of Pt

We first targeted the coordination of the AIP₃ ligand **1** with Pt (**Scheme 1**). Taking a cue from the synthesis of **B-Pt**, we utilized (tBu₃P)₂Pt as a convenient Pt(0) precursor. The reaction of **1** with (tBu₃P)₂Pt proceeded slowly, requiring thermolysis of a toluene solution for 5 days at 140 °C for completion, affording the desired product **2** in 73% yield upon workup. Introduction of an atmosphere of CO to a C₆D₆ solution of **2** afforded the adduct **3** quantitatively upon mixing. Removal of solvent under vacuum and redissolution in C₆D₆ under Ar atmosphere did not result in the loss of the Pt-bound CO.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of Pt complexes of AlP₃ (**1**).

Compounds **2** and **3** exhibited apparent C_{3v} symmetry in their NMR spectra at ambient temperature. In the absence of crystallographic information, the **Type I** attachment of the AlP₃ ligand to Pt can be inferred from the value (**2**: 3056 Hz; **3**: 2901 Hz) of the ¹J_{P-Pt} coupling constant. It is significantly lower than the typical ¹J_{P-Pt} for the (R₃P)₃Pt(0) complexes (ca. 4100-4500 Hz, e.g., **H**, Figure 2) [31–34], but is similar to that in **J** (3032 Hz) [33,34], suggesting a strong Pt→Al interaction. The ¹J_{P-Pt} value in **2** and **3** is considerably lower than in **B-Pt** (3578 Hz) [19], but is higher than in the unambiguously Pt(II) compound **I** (2573, 2503 Hz) with a similar three-fold symmetric geometry [35]. The observed ν_{CO} = 1991 cm⁻¹ for compound **3** can be compared to that in the various (PR₃)_nPt(CO) complexes (ca. 1910 – 1930 cm⁻¹) [36], including (Ph₃P)₃PtCO (**K**), and to the complexes where CO is bound to a classical, square-planar Pt(II) center (ca. 2090-2120 cm⁻¹, **L** and **M**, Figure 2) [37,38].

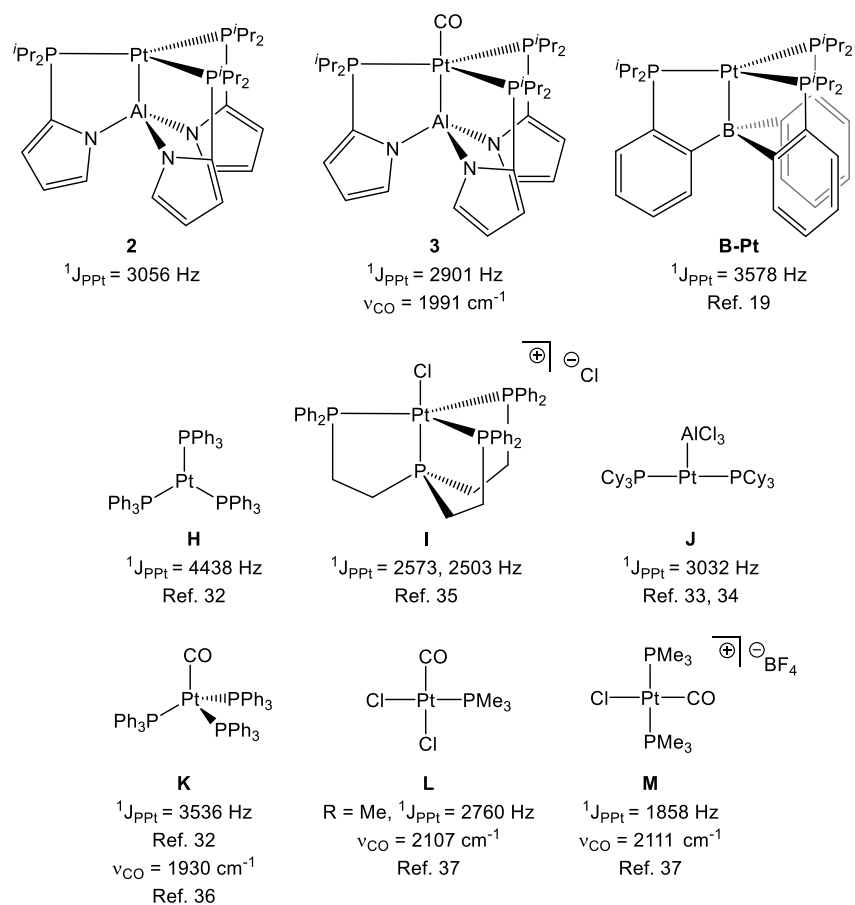


Figure 2. Comparison of the $^1J_{\text{Pt}}$ and $\nu(\text{CO})$ values in literature examples vs **2** and **3**.

Complexes **2**, **3**, **B-Pt**, and $(\text{Cy}_3\text{P})_2\text{Pt}-\text{AlCl}_3$ can be analyzed as arising from the coordination of a borane or alane Z-type ligand to the zerovalent L_nPt . For the sake of proper comparison, the chloroplatinum complexes **I**, **L**, and **M** can be analogously viewed as resulting from the formal addition of Cl^+ to L_nPt . Addition of a Z ligand or of Cl^+ engages a pair of electrons in the original d^{10} L_nPt fragment and renders it divalent and d^8 [2,3]. As should be expected, the $^1J_{\text{P-Pt}}$ and the ν_{CO} data show that the “addition” of Cl^+ results in greater depletion of electron density at Pt than the addition of a neutral alane or borane. The more electron-withdrawing AlCl_3 in **J** and tris(N-pyrrolyl)alane in **2** and **3** deplete the electron density at Pt (relative to L_nPt) to a greater degree than the triarylborane in **B-Pt**, and bring it closer along the electronic continuum to **I**, **L**,

and **M** than to L_nPt . We sought additional insight from electrochemical studies. With **D**, we observed well-behaved reduction and oxidation by cyclic voltammetry (CV). However, examination of compound **2** did not result in reversible reduction or oxidation events and the interpretation is not clear (see Supporting Information).

Given that **D** (as well as the Ga/In analogs of **C-Ni**), was shown to reversibly bind H_2 , we explored the affinity of **2** for H_2 first by exposing it to an atmosphere of H_2 in C_6D_6 solution at ambient temperature. This caused broadening of the AlP_3 1H NMR signals, and the appearance of a broad signal at δ 3.39, which we surmised was indicative of a rapid equilibrium between free H_2 (with unbound **2**) and a Pt- H_2 complex **2-H₂**. We then treated a solution of **2** in toluene- d_8 with 1 atm H_2 and examined the 1H NMR spectra of this solution from 25 °C to -80 °C. At 25 °C, the time-averaged $H_2/Pt-H_2$ signal appeared at δ 3.62. The H_2 signal shifted upfield with decreasing temperature (ca. 2.91 ppm at 10 °C, -0.63 ppm at -30 °C), terminating with δ -1.55 at -80 °C. At temperatures in the -60 °C to -80 °C range, the broad $H_2/Pt-H_2$ signal displayed ^{195}Pt satellites, with $^1J_{HPt} \approx 323$ Hz at -80 °C, consistent with the few previously reported observations of Pt- H_2 complexes [39–42].

Seeking to confirm this observation as a Pt- H_2 complex, we studied the addition of a mixture of HD and H_2 (generated by reaction of CaH_2 and D_2O) to a solution of **2** in toluene- d_8 . The broadened signals for **2** were reproduced, alongside a broad signal at δ 4.26, representing the time-averages for $H_2/Pt-H_2$ and HD/Pt-HD. We examined the 1H NMR spectra of the solution from 25 °C to -80 °C under HD/ H_2 atmosphere. Upon cooling, the signal at δ 4.26 (25 °C) resolved into individual signals corresponding to $H_2/Pt-H_2$ and HD/Pt-HD, both of which shifted upfield with the decrease in temperature. At -10 °C and below, H_2 (δ 3.19) and HD (δ 3.01, $^1J_{HD} = 39$ Hz) were

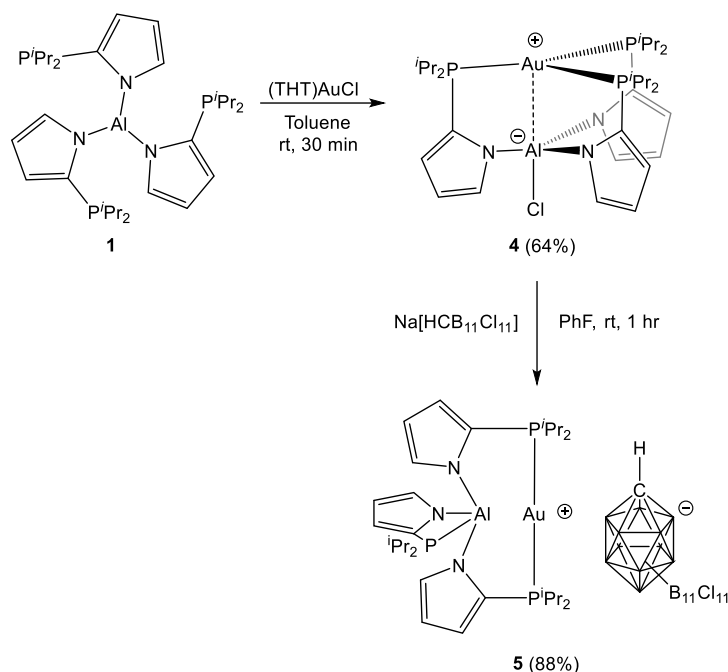
fully resolved. At -80 °C, two overlapping but distinct signals at ca. δ -1.5 ($J_{\text{HD}} = 34$ Hz) were observed.

Since we did not observe a signal for the uncoordinated H₂ or HD at -80 °C, the resonances at δ -1.5 may still represent a weighted average of free H₂/HD and **2-H₂/2-HD**. However, it seems likely that it is predominantly the latter and the J_{HD} coupling constant indicates a dihydrogen complex with only modest perturbation of H-D bonding [43,44]. **D** displayed similar affinity for H₂, with only partial binding at ambient temperature, and a similar $J_{\text{HD}} = 35$ Hz coupling constant was determined at low temperature. Dihydrogen complexes of Pt are relatively rare, and limited to square planar Pt(II) species with strongly *trans*-influencing ligands opposite the H₂ ligand [39–42,45]. To our knowledge, the low temperature observation of **2-H₂** is the first for a dihydrogen complex of Pt in a trigonal-bipyramidal geometry. For an example of an isolobal trigonal-bipyramidal Co–H₂ complex, see the related [K(THF)_n][B–Co–H₂], which features a more activated dihydrogen moiety ($J_{\text{HD}} = 29$ Hz in the HD analog) [46].

2.2. Synthesis and characterization of **Types II and III** AlP₃ complexes of Au(I)

Next, we examined the formation of Au complexes supported by **1**. Addition of (tbt)AuCl to a toluene solution of **1** afforded **4** upon mixing at ambient temperature. **4** was isolated in 64% yield after workup. Compound **4** displayed a single resonance by ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectroscopy at δ 42.4 and a decreased C₃ symmetry in its ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra. Among the four chemically inequivalent ¹H NMR resonances corresponding to the Me groups, one was distinguished by an unusual δ -0.06 ppm chemical shift, likely arising from the ring current effect of the neighboring aromatic ring(s). X-ray structural analysis of **4** established that coordination of the phosphines of **1** to Au is coupled with a chloride transfer to Al (*vide infra*), generating the **Type II** zwitterion analogous to **E** and **F**.

Reaction of **4** with Na[CHB₁₁Cl₁₁] in PhF solution proceeded cleanly via chloride abstraction within 1 h at ambient temperature, generating **5** in 88% yield upon workup. However, instead of the **Type I** structure isoelectronic to **2**, the ³¹P{¹H} NMR analysis suggested the **Type III** motif for **5**, with two ³¹P NMR resonances in a 2:1 ratio (δ 53.2, -1.3). The ¹H NMR spectrum also showed a 2:1 ratio of unique pyrrolyl signals. The unique ³¹P NMR resonance in **G**, corresponding to the Al-bound P, displayed a very similar chemical shift of δ -1.8 ppm. Based on these observations, we believe that the structure of **5** is analogous to that of **G**.



Scheme 2. Synthesis of Au complexes of AlP₃ (**1**).

2.3. Structural Study of **4**

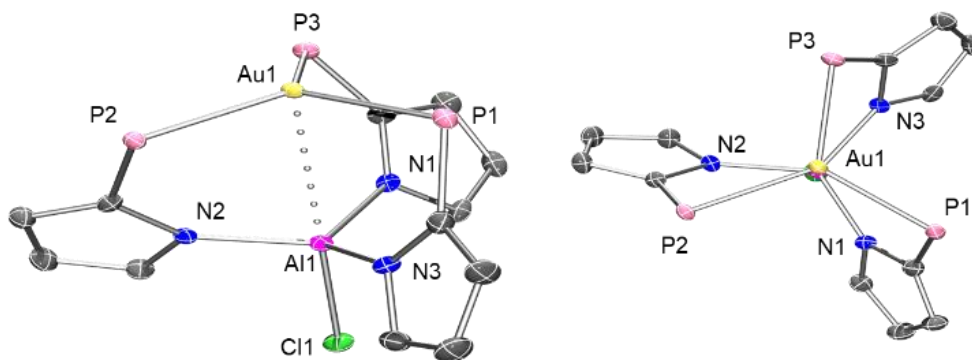


Figure 3. *POV-ray renditions of the ORTEP drawing (50% thermal ellipsoids) of 3 showing selected atom labelling. Hydrogen atoms, isopropyl groups, and solvent atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): Au1–Al1, 3.1177(18); Al1–Cl1, 2.181(2); Au1–P1, 2.3667(16); Au1–P2, 2.3713(17); Au1–P3, 2.3732(15); Al1–N1, 1.900(6); Al1–N2, 1.897(6); Al1–N3, 1.900(5); P1 – Au1 – P2, 118.73(5) ; P1 – Au1 – P3, 119.53(6) ; P2 – Au1 – P3, 119.15(6) ; N1 – Al1 – N2, 118.8(3) ; N1 – Al1 – N3, 114.7(3) ; N2 – Al1 – N3, 117.0(2); N1 – Al1 – Cl1, 79.01(18) ; N2 – Al1 – Cl1, 80.22(18); N3 – Al1 – Cl1, 79.79(18); Au1 – Al1 – N1, 99.90(17); Au1 – Al1 – N2, 100.23(16); Au1 – Al1 – N3, 100.85(17); Au1 – Al1 – Cl1, 178.90(9).*

Single crystals of **4** were grown from a saturated Et₂O solution at -35 °C and subjected to an XRD study (**Figure 4**), which established a **Type II** structure reminiscent of **E** and **F** [26,30]. The geometry about Au is approximately trigonal planar with the sum of P–Au–P bond angles equal to ca. 357.4°, with Au sitting slightly out of the plane defined by P,P,P with a distance of ca. 0.22 Å (cf. 0.14 Å in **E**, 0.32 Å in **F**) [26,30], and away from Al. The chloroaluminate fragment adopts a pyramidal structure pointed away from the Au⁺ center, with the sum of N–Al–N bond angles being ca. 350.5°, and Al sits out of the plane defined by N,N,N with a distance of ca. 0.34 Å (cf. 0.29 Å to C,C,C plane in **E**, 0.30 Å to N,N,N plane in **F**) [26,30]. The Cl, Al, and Au atoms are nearly on a straight line (Au–Al–Cl angle 178.9°). The Au–Al distance of 3.12 Å is smaller than the sum of van der Waals radii (4.2 Å), but is considerably larger than the sum of covalent radii (2.57 Å) [47,48]. This value is similar to the Ag–Al distance in **F** (ca. 3.18 Å; Ag and Au are

of essentially the same size) and longer than the Au-Al distance (3.03 Å) in **E** [26]. On the whole, the Au-Al interaction, if any, should be very weak.

3. Conclusions

In summary, we were able to explore the coordination of the ALP₃ ligand **1** to zerovalent Pt and monovalent Au, the metals of the 5d series. Similarly to the interactions of **1** with Ni we explored previously [29], we found that the relatively electron-rich group 10 metal Pt readily forms a tripodal structure in which **1** acts as a ZL₃ ligand towards Pt and enables Pt to coordinate H₂ and CO. Spectroscopic data suggest a strong Pt→Al interaction consistent with the tris(*N*-pyrrolyl)aluminum moiety acting as a strong Lewis acid towards the Pt base. With AuCl or Au⁺, ligand **1** formed complexes devoid of the strong Au→Al interaction, similarly paralleling the observations with AgOTf and Ag⁺ [30]. In these complexes, Al prefers to bind either a chloride, or one of the phosphine arms, demonstrating that even a 5d congener in group 11 is not a strong enough base to attract an aluminum Lewis acid in ALP₃ ligand **1**.

4. Experimental

4.1 General Considerations. Unless specified otherwise, all manipulations were performed under an Ar atmosphere using standard Schlenk line or glovebox techniques. Toluene, diethyl ether, isooctane, and pentane were dried and deoxygenated (by sparging with argon) using an Innovative Technologies MD-5 solvent purification system and stored over molecular sieves in an Ar-filled glovebox. Toluene-d₈, C₆D₆, CDCl₃, CD₂Cl₂, and fluorobenzene (PhF) were dried over CaH₂. The solvents were distilled or vacuum transferred and stored over molecular sieves in an Ar-filled glovebox. Ligand **1** [29] and [Na][CHB₁₁Cl₁₁] [49] were synthesized according to literature precedent. All other chemicals were used as received from commercial vendors. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance Neo 400 (¹H NMR, 400.200 MHz; ¹³C NMR, 100.630 MHz; ³¹P NMR, 161.95 MHz), Inova 500 (¹H NMR, 499.431 MHz; ¹³C NMR, 125.595 MHz; ³¹P NMR, 202.187

MHz), and Avance Neo 500 (^1H NMR, 500.13 MHz; ^{13}C NMR, 125.77 MHz; ^{31}P NMR, 202.45 MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in δ (ppm). For ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra, the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference (^1H NMR: δ 7.16 for C_6D_6 , 2.08 for toluene- d_8 , 7.26 for CDCl_3 , 5.32 for CD_2Cl_2 ; ^{13}C NMR: δ 128.06 for C_6D_6 , 77.16 for CDCl_3 , 53.84 for CD_2Cl_2). ^{31}P NMR spectra were externally referenced to an 85% phosphoric acid solution δ 0.00. Elemental analyses were performed by Eutech Scientific Services (Mount Olive, NJ) and Robertson Microlit Laboratories (Ledgewood, NJ).

4.2. Synthesis of AlP_3M Complexes

Synthesis of 2. To a screw-cap test tube charged with stir bar and a solution containing 129 mg of **1** (0.225 mmol) in 4 mL of toluene, 135 mg of $(^i\text{Bu}_3\text{P})_2\text{Pt}$ (0.225 mmol) was added. The test tube was sealed and placed in a 140 °C oil bath for 5 days with stirring, resulting in a dark red solution. The volatiles were evaporated, and the residue washed with cold pentane (2 mL \times 3) to afford an orange-red powder (126 mg, 73%). ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz): δ 7.09 (brs, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 6.64 (m, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 6.58 (m, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 2.73 (m, CHMe_2 , 6H), 1.06 (m, CHMe_2 , 18H), 0.89 (m, CHMe_2 , 18H). ^1H NMR (Toluene- d_8 , 400 MHz): δ 7.02 (brs, Pyrrolyl-*H* 3H), 6.56 (d, $J = 3$ Hz, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 6.47 (m, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 2.71 (m, CHMe_2 , 6H), 1.04 (m, CHMe_2 , 18H), 0.87 (m, CHMe_2 , 18H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (C_6D_6 , 101 MHz): δ 132.1 (m, Pyrrolyl-*C*), 126.4 (br m, Pyrrolyl-*C*), 114.6 (t, $J_{\text{C-P}} = 11.4$ Hz), 112.9 (t, $J_{\text{C-P}} = 8.0$ Hz, Pyrrolyl-*C*), 32.1 (m, CHMe_2), 20.0 (CHMe_2), 19.4 (CHMe_2). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (202 MHz) δ 63.2 ($J_{\text{P-Pt}} = 3056$ Hz). Elem. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{51}\text{AlN}_3\text{P}_3\text{Pt}$: C, 46.87; H, 6.69; N, 5.47. Found: C, 46.56; H, 7.09; N, 5.30.

Reaction of 2 with H_2 . To a J. Young tube, 20.2 mg of **2** (0.026 mmol) was loaded with 0.6 mL C_6D_6 . The solution was degassed via freeze-pump-thaw cycles then back filled with 1 atm H_2 . No color change was observed, and after 15 minutes ^1H and $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR were collected. In both the ^1H and $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ spectra, resonances corresponding to **2** appeared slightly broadened, with a signal

corresponding to a time-average of H₂ and Pt-H₂. After 24 hours under 1 atm H₂, the ¹H NMR signals were observed to have sharpened, with a slight shift in the H₂/Pt-H₂ time-averaged signal. *Reactions involving refill with H₂ often introduce impurities which cause partial decomposition (likely adventitious water). After 18 hours under H₂, 10% decomposition is observed by ³¹P{¹H} NMR integration, with accompanying impurity signals in the upfield ¹H NMR region (see **Figures S8 and S7**, respectively in Supplementary Information).* ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 500 MHz, 298 K) δ 7.09 (brs, Pyrrolyl-H, 3H), 6.64 (m, Pyrrolyl-H, 3H), 6.58 (m, Pyrrolyl-H, 3H), 3.39 (brs, time-averaged H₂, 0.13H), 2.72 (m, CHMe₂, 6H), 1.05 (m, CHMe₂, 18H), 0.90 (m, CHMe₂, 18H). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, 202 MHz, 298 K) δ 63.2 (¹J_{Pt} = 3059 Hz).

Variable Temperature NMR Study of the Reaction of 2 with H₂. A J. Young NMR tube containing 15 mg **2** (0.02 mmol) in 0.5 mL toluene-*d*₈ was degassed and refilled with 1 atm H₂ followed by vigorous shaking. Variable temperature NMR spectra were recorded observing ¹H on a Bruker Avance Neo 500 spectrometer from 25 °C to -80 °C. ¹H NMR (Toluene-*d*₈, 500 MHz, 298 K) δ 7.02 (brs, Pyrrolyl-H, 3H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 3 Hz, Pyrrolyl-H, 3H), 6.47 (m, Pyrrolyl-H, 3H), 3.46 (s, time-averaged H₂/Pt-H₂, 0.15H), 2.69 (m, CHMe₂, 6H), 1.03 (m, CHMe₂, 18H), 0.87 (m, CHMe₂, 18H). ¹H NMR (Toluene-*d*₈, 500 MHz, 273 K, H₂/Pt-H₂ time-average) δ 2.92 (0.47H). ¹H NMR (Toluene-*d*₈, 500 MHz, 233 K, H₂/Pt-H₂ time-average) δ -0.64 (0.48H). ¹H NMR (Toluene-*d*₈, 500 MHz, 183 K, H₂/Pt-H₂ time-average) δ -1.55 (¹J_{HPt} = 323 Hz, 1.80H). *Reactions involving refill with H₂ often introduce impurities which cause partial decomposition (likely adventitious water). The NMR signals corresponding to decomposition did not interfere with the VT studies.*

Reaction of 2 with HD and Variable Temperature NMR Study. A 1000 mL PTFE stoppered round bottom Schlenk flask was charged with 2.1 g CaH₂ (49.9 mmol) under a stream of argon. The flask was placed in a liquid N₂ bath and cooled for 10 minutes before addition of 1.2 mL D₂O (66 mmol) under a stream of argon. The headspace was removed under vacuum for 10 minutes before the flask was removed from the cooling bath. The flask was thawed while connected to a single manifold gas line fitted with a pressure gauge until 1 atm was generated. A J. Young tube

containing 10 mg **2** (0.01 mmol) in 0.5 mL toluene- d_8 was degassed via 2 cycles of freeze-pump-thaw and refilled with 1 atm of the HD/H₂ mixture. The tube was shaken vigorously, and the color of the solution changed from red to red-orange. Variable temperature NMR spectra were recorded observing ¹H on a Bruker Avance Neo 500 spectrometer from 25 °C to -80 °C. *Reactions involving refill with HD/H₂ often introduce impurities which cause partial decomposition (likely adventitious water). The NMR signals corresponding to decomposition did not interfere with the VT studies.*

Synthesis of 3. To a J. Young tube, 20.2 mg of **2** (0.026 mmol) was added and dissolved in 0.5 mL C₆D₆. The solution was degassed via 3 freeze-pump-thaw cycles and back filled with 1 atm CO before stirring for 15 minutes to reveal **3** as the sole product by ¹H and ³¹P NMR. The solution was transferred to a vial and lyophilized to give 20 mg of **3** (97 %). The sample was redissolved in C₆D₆ to confirm via multinuclear NMR the retention of CO. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 500 MHz): δ 7.25 (brs, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 6.72 (brs, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 6.52 (brs, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 2.12 (m, CH(CH₃)₂, 6H), 0.95 (m, CH(CH₃)₂, 18H), 0.52 (m, CH(CH₃)₂, 18H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, 125 MHz): δ 114.5 (ovlp signals, Pyrrolyl-*C*), 114.2 (Pyrrolyl-*C*), 28.9 (CHMe₂, 18.7 (CHMe₂), 17.4 (CHMe₂). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (202 MHz) δ 7.2 (¹J_{P-Pt} = 2901 Hz). IR, ν_{CO} 1991.3 cm⁻¹. *The ¹³C{¹H} signal corresponding to Pt-CO was not detected, likely a consequence of its broadness and multiplicity.*

Synthesis of 4. To a 20 mL scintillation vial charged with 37.1 mg (tht)AuCl (0.116 mmol) and stir bar, a 2 mL toluene solution containing 66.4 mg of **1** (0.116 mmol) was added and stirred in the dark for 5 minutes at room temperature. Volatiles were then evaporated, and the resulting residue dissolved in 0.5 mL Et₂O and cooled to -35 °C overnight, affording 60.1 mg (64%) of **4** as a colorless crystal. Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were obtained from a concentrated Et₂O solution cooled to -35 °C overnight. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (br s, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 6.42 (m, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 6.21 (m, Pyrrolyl-*H*, 3H), 2.98 (m, CHMe₂, 3H), 1.99 (m, CHMe₂, 3H), 1.25 (m, CHMe₂, 9H), 1.18 (m, CHMe₂, 9H), 1.08 (m, CHMe₂, 9H), -0.06 (m, CHMe₂, 9H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.3 (Pyrrolyl-*C*), 120.2 (Pyrrolyl-*C*), 110.3

(Pyrrolyl-C), 109.9 (Pyrrolyl-C), 26.31 (ovlp. m, CHMe₂), 21.1 (CHMe₂), 19.8 (CHMe₂), 16.8 (CHMe₂), 16.1 (CHMe₂). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 202 MHz) δ 43.0. Elem. Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₅₁AlAuClN₃P₃: C, 44.70; H, 6.38; N, 5.21. Found: C, 44.68; H, 6.42; N, 4.89.

Synthesis of 5. A 25 mL Schlenk flask was charged with 101 mg **3** (0.125 mmol) before a solution containing 68 mg Na[HCB₁₁Cl₁₁] in 5 mL PhF was added with stirring for 1 hour in the dark. The resulting suspension was filtered through a short pad of celite and volatiles were removed to give 143 mg **5** as a light yellow powder (88%). This powder was dissolved in minimal PhF and the solution layered with isooctane and stored overnight in a -35 C freezer. The resulting yellow powder was captured on a medium porosity fritted filter, washed 3 times with 2 mL of cold pentane, and dried under vacuum, giving 117 mg of **5**×(PhF)_{0.5} (70%) (Figure S). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.62 (s, *Pyrrolyl-H, 1H), 7.44 (s, Pyrrolyl-H, 2H), 6.72 (m, Pyrrolyl-H, 4H), 6.62 (m, *Pyrrolyl-H, 2H), 3.23 (brs, CHB₁₁Cl₁₁, 1H), 3.12 (m, CHMe₂, 2H), 2.49 (m, CHMe₂, 2H), 2.26 (m, *CHMe₂, 2H), 1.43 (m, CHMe₂, 6H), 1.22-1.07 (ovlp. m, CHMe₂, 18H), 0.96-0.88 (ovlp. m, CHMe₂, 12H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 132.8 (m, Pyrrolyl-C), 130.4 (d, Pyrrolyl-C, J_{C-P} = 7.8 Hz), 129.9 (d, Pyrrolyl-C, J_{C-P} = 19.4 Hz), 122.10 (Pyrrolyl-C), 118.6 (m, Pyrrolyl-C), 117.3 (m, Pyrrolyl-C), 115.5 (d, Pyrrolyl-C, J_{C-P} = 21.0 Hz), 115.0 (Pyrrolyl-C), 47.5 (CHB₁₁Cl₁₁), 28.5 (t, CHMe₂, J_{C-P} = 16.8 Hz), 27.5 (t, CHMe₂, J_{C-P} = 18.8 Hz), 23.0 (d, *CHMe₂, J_{C-P} = 22.9 Hz), 20.9 (CHMe₂), 20.5 (CHMe₂), 18.7 (CHMe₂), 18.2 (CHMe₂), 17.9 (d, *CHMe₂, J_{C-P} = 3.2 Hz), 17.6 (CHMe₂). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 162 MHz) δ 53.2 (s, 2P), -1.3 (brs, 1P*). Elem. Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₅₂AlAuB₁₁Cl₁₁N₃P₃×(C₆H₅F)_{0.5}: C, 30.46; H, 4.10; N, 3.13. Found: C, 30.17; H, 4.11; N, 2.95.

4.3 X-Ray data collection, solution, and refinement for compound 4 (CCDC 2354172).

A Leica M80 microscope was used to identify a suitable single colourless block-shaped crystal of **3** showing well defined faces with dimensions 0.51 × 0.38 × 0.28 mm³ from a

representative sample of crystals of the same habit. The crystal mounted on a nylon loop was then placed in a cold nitrogen stream (Oxford) maintained at $T = 110.00$ K.

Crystal screening, unit cell determination, and data collection were carried out using a Bruker Quest (PHOTON III) diffractometer. The diffraction pattern was indexed and the total number of runs and images was based on the strategy calculation from the program APEX 4 [50]. Data were measured using f and w scans with MoK_α radiation. Data was collected to a maximum resolution of $Q = 30.249^\circ$ (0.71 \AA). The unit cell was refined using SAINT V8.40B [51] on 9608 reflections, 19 % of the observed reflections.

Integrated Intensity information for each reflection was obtained by reduction of data frames using SAINT V8.40B [51]. The final completeness is 99.50 % out to 30.249° in Q . SADABS-2016/2 [51] was used for absorption correction. $wR_2(\text{int})$ was 0.1259 before and 0.0580 after correction. The Ratio of minimum to maximum transmission is 0.3118. The $l/2$ correction factor is Not present. The absorption coefficient m of this material is 3.943 mm^{-1} at this wavelength ($l = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) and the minimum and maximum transmissions are 0.037 and 0.118.

Systematic reflection conditions and statistical tests of the data suggested the space group $P2_1/c$ (# 14) and was confirmed by XT [52] structure solution program using dual methods. The structure was refined by full matrix least squares minimisation on F^2 using version 2018/3 of XL [53]. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atom positions were calculated geometrically and refined using the riding model.

4.4. Electrochemical Analysis

Electrochemical studies were carried out using a CH Instruments Model 700 D Series. Electrochemical Analyzer and Workstation in conjunction with a three-electrode cell. The working electrode was a CHI 104 glassy carbon disk with a 3.0 mm diameter and the auxiliary electrode was composed of platinum wire. The third electrode, the reference electrode, was a Ag/AgNO_3 electrode. This was prepared as a bulk solution composed of 0.01 M AgNO_3 and 0.2 M $[\text{nBu}_4\text{N}][\text{BARF}_{24}]$ in fluorobenzene. This was separated from solution by a fine porosity frit. CVs

were conducted in fluorobenzene with 0.2 M [ⁿBu₄N][BARF₂₄] as supporting electrolyte and were reported with a scan rate of 100 mV/s. The concentration of the analyte solutions were approximately 1.00 × 10⁻³ M. CVs were referenced to Fe(η-Cp)₂⁺/Fe(η-Cp)₂ redox couple.

Appendix A. Supplementary data.

Supplementary data to this article containing graphical spectral data, and the details of X-ray structure determinations can be found online. CCDC 2354172 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for compound **4**. These data can be obtained free of charge via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html>, or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: (+44) 1223-336-033; or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk.

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