

trans*-Carbonylchlorobis[tris(2-methylphenyl)phosphito]rhodium(I)*Reinout Meijboom, Alfred Muller and Andreas Roodt***Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,
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Key indicatorsSingle-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 292$ K
Mean $\sigma(C-C) = 0.005$ Å
Disorder in main residue
 R factor = 0.040
 wR factor = 0.093
Data-to-parameter ratio = 19.0For details of how these key indicators were
automatically derived from the article, see
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

The title compound, $[\text{Rh}\{\text{P}(\text{OC}_7\text{H}_7)_3\}_2\text{Cl}(\text{CO})]$, where $\text{P}(\text{OC}_7\text{H}_7)_3$ is tris(2-methylphenyl)phosphite, crystallizes disordered over an inversion centre. Important geometrical parameters are $\text{Rh}-\text{P} = 2.2905$ (9) Å, $\text{Rh}-\text{Cl} = 2.402$ (4) Å, $\text{Rh}-\text{C} = 1.764$ (10) Å, and $\text{C}-\text{Rh}-\text{Cl} = 177.7$ (5)°, $\text{P}-\text{Rh}-\text{Cl} = 85.84$ (12)° and $\text{Rh}-\text{C}\equiv\text{O} = 174.7$ (15)°. The effective cone angle for the phosphite ligand was calculated to be 167°.

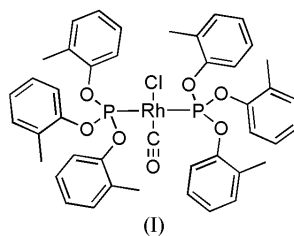
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Comment

Symmetrical square-planar complexes of Rh, Ir, Pd and Pt often crystallize with the metal atom on a crystallographic centre of symmetry, thus imposing a disordered packing arrangement (Otto, 2001; Otto *et al.*, 2000; Chen *et al.*, 1991; Kuwabara & Bau, 1994). The present study is part of an ongoing investigation into determining which factors govern a disordered packing mode in Vaska-type complexes, *i.e.* $[\text{M}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}(\text{AX}_3)_2]$ ($M = \text{Rh}, \text{Ir}$; $A =$ group 15 donor atom P, As, Sb; $X =$ alkyl, aryl, aroyl, *etc.*; Roodt *et al.*, 2003). The current study reports the structure of *trans*-carbonylchlorobis[tris(2-methylphenyl)phosphito]rhodium(I), (I), one of the few phosphite-containing Vaska-type structures known to date [Cambridge Structural Database (CSD), Version 5.25, January 2004 update; Allen, 2002].



The title compound crystallizes as an independent molecule lying on an inversion centre, resulting in statistical disorder of the $\text{Cl}-\text{Rh}-\text{CO}$ moiety. The coordination around the Rh atom shows a slightly distorted square-planar arrangement (Fig. 1 and Table 1).

The most widely used method for determining ligand steric behaviour at a metal centre is by calculating the cone angle, as described previously (Tolman, 1977; Otto *et al.*, 2000). For this study, actual $M-\text{P}$ bond distances were used, yielding effective cone angles (Θ_E). The substituents of the phosphite may have different orientations, resulting in variations in cone angle sizes, as observed by Ferguson *et al.* (1978), and may not necessarily be a true indication of the steric properties of the phosphite in solution compared with the solid state. The value of 167° obtained for tris(2-methylphenyl)phosphite is smaller than those for the few other similar structures known to date (Table 2). This is due to the smaller/fewer substituents on the

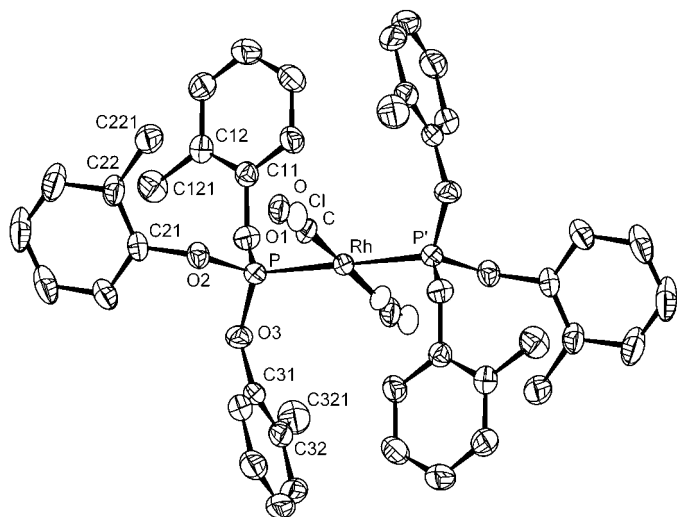


Figure 1
The structure of (I), showing the 50% statistical disorder of the Cl–Rh–CO moiety. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. H atoms have been omitted for clarity. For the C atoms, the first digit indicates ring number and the second digit indicates the position of the atom in the ring. Atom P' is generated by the symmetry operation $(1 - x, -y, 1 - z)$.

benzene rings for the title compound, introducing more flexibility in the aryl substituents.

Table 2 also compares bond distances of the other similar complexes, and shorter $M-P$ bond distances are observed in the phosphites than, for example, for the tribenzylphosphine analogue (Muller *et al.*, 2002), also manifested in the $^1J_{Rh-P}$ coupling of 212 Hz for (I) compared with 124 Hz for the phosphine complex. The $^1J_{Rh-P}$ coupling is in good agreement with the $^1J_{Rh-P}$ of 214 Hz for the tris(2,6-dimethylphenyl)phosphite complex reported earlier (Meijboom *et al.*, 2004). This may be indicative that additional *ortho*-methyl groups on the benzene rings have little or no effect, other than steric contribution; moreover, the difference in coupling constants between phosphite and phosphine complexes is probably due to the electron-withdrawing nature of phosphites, which enhances π back-bonding between the metal and the P atom and, as a result, weakens the $M-Cl$ bond.

Interesting to note is the difference in values of $\nu(CO)$ for the solid and solution states of the title compound. This difference may be the result of packing in the unit cell, which slightly distorts the $Rh-C\equiv O$ angle (Table 1).

Experimental

$[RhCl(CO)_2]_2$ was prepared according to the method described by McCleverty & Wilkinson (1990), while $P(OC_7H_7)_3$ was prepared by reaction of 2-methylphenol with PCl_3 in the presence of NEt_3 , analogous to the synthesis of tris(2-butylphenyl)phosphite (Van Leeuwen & Robeck, 1983). All other chemicals and solvents were obtained from Sigma–Aldrich and used as received. A solution of $P(OC_7H_7)_3$ (110 mg, 0.312 mmol) in pentane (1.0 ml) was added slowly to a yellow solution of $[RhCl(CO)_2]_2$ (30 mg, 0.077 mmol) in pentane (1.0 ml). Gas evolution was observed immediately and the solution turned lighter in colour while a precipitate formed. The supernatant liquid was decanted and the solids were washed with

pentane (3×2 ml) to leave the pure title compound. Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were grown from CH_2Cl_2 (yield: 88 mg, 66%; m.p. 398 K). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, p.p.m.): 7.35 (6H, *m*, $J = 4.5$ Hz, ArH), 7.11 (6H, *m*, $J = 4.7$ Hz, ArH), 7.03 (12H, *m*, ArH), 2.10 (18H, *s*, CH_3); $^{13}C\{H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75.45 MHz, p.p.m.): 149.59, 131.30, 130.13, 126.54, 124.75, 120.37, 16.53; $^{31}P\{H\}$ NMR ($CDCl_3$, 121.42 MHz, p.p.m.): 114.42 (*d*, $^1J_{Rh-P} = 212$ Hz); IR (CH_2Cl_2) $\nu(CO)$: 2011 cm^{-1} ; (KBr) $\nu(CO)$: 1999 cm^{-1} ; UV–Vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} : 267.3 (100), 358.0 (40%) nm.

Crystal data

$[Rh(C_{21}H_{21}O_3P)_2Cl(CO)]$
 $M_r = 871.07$
Triclinic, $P\bar{1}$
 $a = 8.1871$ (16) Å
 $b = 10.785$ (2) Å
 $c = 13.101$ (3) Å
 $\alpha = 102.12$ (3)°
 $\beta = 104.65$ (3)°
 $\gamma = 102.46$ (3)°
 $V = 1049.1$ (5) Å³

$Z = 1$
 $D_x = 1.379$ Mg m⁻³
Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Cell parameters from 828 reflections
 $\theta = 2.7$ – 24.3 °
 $\mu = 0.59$ mm⁻¹
 $T = 292$ (2) K
Plate, yellow
0.48 \times 0.22 \times 0.11 mm

Data collection

Bruker SMART 1K CCD diffractometer
 ω scans
Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 1998)
 $T_{min} = 0.764$, $T_{max} = 0.938$
7011 measured reflections

4966 independent reflections
3453 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 $R_{int} = 0.019$
 $\theta_{max} = 28.3$ °
 $h = -10 \rightarrow 10$
 $k = -14 \rightarrow 10$
 $l = -15 \rightarrow 17$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.040$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.093$
 $S = 1.02$
4966 reflections
262 parameters
H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0405P)^2 + 0.1712P]$
where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.001$
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.30$ e Å⁻³
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.45$ e Å⁻³

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Rh–C	1.764 (10)	P–O1	1.599 (2)
Rh–P	2.2905 (9)	P–O3	1.6041 (19)
Rh–Cl	2.402 (4)	O1–C11	1.412 (3)
P–O2	1.588 (2)		
C–Rh–P	92.1 (4)	C ⁱ –Rh–Cl	177.7 (5)
P ⁱ –Rh–P	180	O–C–Rh	174.7 (15)
C–Rh–P–O1	116.7 (5)	C–Rh–P–O3	–131.4 (5)
C–Rh–P–O2	–6.9 (5)		

Symmetry code: (i) $1 - x, -y, 1 - z$.

Table 2

Comparative geometrical data (Å, °) for *trans*- $[M(CO)Cl(PX_3)_2]$ complexes.

X	M–P	M–Cl	P–M–P	Cl–M–C	Θ_E
O(2MP) ^a	2.2905 (9)	2.402 (4)	180	177.7 (5)	167
O(2,6DMP) ^b	2.3097 (7)	2.380 (3)	180	179.2 (6)	182
	2.2995 (7)	2.379 (3)	180	178.3 (5)	182
O(2 <i>t</i> BP) ^c	2.286	2.370	180	175.85	181
Bz ^d	2.3164 (15)	2.3654 (15)	177.67 (6)	178.55 (17)	170
	2.3156 (16)				172

Notes: (a) this work (2MP = 2-methylphenyl); (b) Meijboom *et al.* (2004) (2,6DMP = 2,6-dimethylphenyl); (c) Fernández *et al.* (1998) (2*t*BP = 2-*tert*-butylphenyl); data extracted from Cambridge Structural Database (Allen, 2002), no s.u. values available; (d) Muller *et al.* (2002) (Bz = benzyl).

The aromatic and methyl H atoms were placed in geometrically idealized positions ($C-H = 0.93-0.96 \text{ \AA}$) and constrained to ride on their parent atoms, with $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ and $1.5U_{eq}(C)$, respectively. A rotating group model was used for two methyl groups.

Data collection: *SMART-NT* (Bruker, 1998); cell refinement: *SAINT-Plus* (Bruker, 1999); data reduction: *SAINT-Plus* and *XPREP* (Bruker, 1999); program(s) used to solve structure: *SIR97* (Altomare *et al.*, 1999); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *DIAMOND* (Brandenburg, 2001); software used to prepare material for publication: *WinGX* (Farrugia, 1999).

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