

# Preparation and Reactivity of Hydridorhenium Complexes with Polypyridine and Phosphonite Ligands

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The hydrido complexes [ReH(Cl)(N–N)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> [P = PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>; N–N = 2,2'-bipyridine (bpy), 5,5'-dimethylbipyridine (5,5'-Me<sub>2</sub>bpy), 1,10-phenanthroline (phen)] have been prepared by allowing ReCl<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub> to react with the polypyridine in refluxing ethanol. The dihydrido [ReH<sub>2</sub>(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> complex has also been prepared by treating [ReHCl(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> cation with NaBH<sub>4</sub> in ethanol. Similarly, the hydrido tricarbonyl derivative [ReH<sub>2</sub>(bpy)(CO)<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> has been synthesized by allowing [ReH(bpy)(CO)<sub>3</sub>] to react with HBF<sub>4</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O. All complexes have been characterized spectroscopically (IR and NMR spectroscopic data) and the [ReHCl(bpy)]{PPh-

(OEt)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>3</sub>}BPh<sub>4</sub> derivative by X-ray crystallography. Protonation of both [ReHCl(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> and [ReH<sub>2</sub>(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> with HBF<sub>4</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O leads to the classical cations [ReH<sub>2</sub>Cl(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> and [ReH<sub>3</sub>(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>, respectively. The vinyl complexes [Re{CH=C(H)R}<sub>2</sub>(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (R = Ph, *p*-tolyl, *tert*-butyl) have also been prepared by allowing the dihydrido derivative [ReH<sub>2</sub>(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> to react with an excess of terminal alkyne in 1,2-dichloroethane.

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## Introduction

The chemistry of rhenium polyhydrido complexes has received considerable attention in recent years due to their various reactivity modes and unusual structural properties, including the presence of η<sup>2</sup>-H<sub>2</sub> ligands.<sup>[1–4]</sup> The ancillary ligands used in this chemistry mainly involve π-acceptors such as carbonyls and mono- or polydentate tertiary phosphane groups.<sup>[1–4]</sup> In contrast, much less attention has been devoted to the use of nitrogen-donor ligands, and only one paper<sup>[5]</sup> has reported the use of polypyridines as supporting ligands<sup>[6,7]</sup> in rhenium polyhydrido complexes. This is somewhat surprising because rhenium complexes with polypyridine ligands are used in photo- and electrocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>[6,7c,8]</sup> Changes in the nature of the ancillary ligands may also greatly change both the properties of complexes and the reactivity of the M–H bond, and recent results from our laboratory have confirmed the important influence of polypyridine ligands in the chemistry of classical and non-classical hydrido complexes of the iron triad.<sup>[9]</sup>

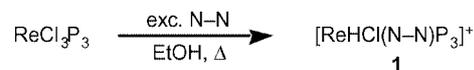
We have developed the chemistry of hydrido complexes of transition metals over several years using monodentate phosphites as supporting ligands.<sup>[9,10]</sup> Recently, in the case of rhenium, we reported the synthesis and reactivity of mono- and polyhydrido complexes of the type [ReH(CO)<sub>n</sub>P<sub>5–n</sub>], [Re(η<sup>2</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>)(CO)<sub>n</sub>P<sub>5–n</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, ReH<sub>5</sub>P<sub>3</sub>, ReH<sub>3</sub>P<sub>4</sub>,

Re<sub>2</sub>H<sub>8</sub>P<sub>4</sub>, and [ReH<sub>4</sub>(η<sup>2</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>)P<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (P = phosphite; *n* = 1–4).<sup>[11]</sup> We have now extended these studies, with the aim of introducing nitrogen-donor ligands such as 2,2'-bipyridine and 1,10-phenanthroline into rhenium polyhydrido chemistry. Our results on the synthesis and reactivity of mixed-ligand cationic hydridorhenium complexes with phosphonite and polypyridine are reported here.

## Results and Discussion

### Synthesis of Hydrido Complexes

The trichlorido complex [ReCl<sub>3</sub>{PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}]<sub>3</sub> was treated with an excess of polypyridine (N–N) in refluxing ethanol to give the cation [ReHCl(N–N){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}]<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, which was isolated as its BPh<sub>4</sub> salt and characterized (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. P = PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>; N–N = 2,2'-bipyridine (bpy) **a**, 5,5'-dimethyl-2,2'-bipyridine (5,5'-Me<sub>2</sub>bpy) **b**, 1,10-phenanthroline (phen) **c**.

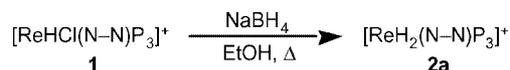
The reaction proceeds with substitution of the chlorido ligand by the polypyridine and formation of a heptacoordinate hydrido cation. The hydrido ligand presumably arises from abstraction of hydrogen from the ethanol solvent. Although this could not be proved conclusively, numerous precedents<sup>[1a]</sup> support this hypothesis.

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The nature of the phosphane ligand is crucial for the synthesis of heptacoordinate hydrido complex **1**, which was obtained in pure form only with the phosphonite PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>. The reaction of the related precursors [ReCl<sub>3</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>OEt)<sub>3</sub>] with polypyridines gave a mixture of products containing only small amounts of the [ReHCl(N–N)(PPh<sub>2</sub>OEt)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> derivatives.

The hydrido complexes [ReHCl(N–N)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (**1**) were treated with NaBH<sub>4</sub> in ethanol to give the dihydrido cations [ReH<sub>2</sub>(N–N)P<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> which, in the case of the bpy ligand, was isolated in good yield and characterized (Scheme 2). The reaction of **1** with NaBH<sub>4</sub> also proceeded with 5,5'-dimethylpyridine and 1,10-phenanthroline as a ligand but, in these cases, complexes **2** were rather unstable and decomposed during crystallization.



Scheme 2. P = PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>; N–N = 2,2'-bipyridine (bpy) a.

Hydridorhenium complexes containing polypyridine as a supporting ligand are rare<sup>[5,6]</sup> and the only known examples were obtained from polyhydrido [ReH<sub>7</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] or [ReCl(bpy)(CO)<sub>3</sub>] precursors. The reaction of [ReCl<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>] with polypyridine in ethanol is therefore a new method for preparing mixed-ligand hydridorhenium complexes.

Hydrido complexes **1** and **2a** are dark-green (**1**) or red-brown (**2a**) solids that are stable in air and in solution in polar organic solvents, where they behave as 1:1 electrolytes.<sup>[12]</sup> The analytical and spectroscopic (IR, NMR; Table 1) data confirm the proposed formulation for the complexes. Further support comes from the X-ray crystal structure of [ReHCl(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (**1a**), the cation of which is shown in Figure 1. The geometrical parameters of the anion were as expected and do not require further comment.

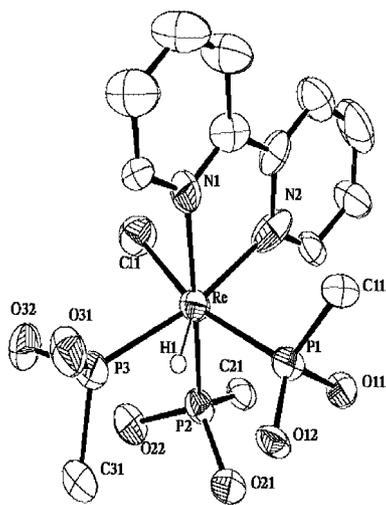


Figure 1. Perspective view of the crystal structure of the cation [ReHCl(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> **1a**, with thermal ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level. The ethyl and phenyl groups of the phosphonites are omitted for clarity.

The rhenium atom in the cation is coordinated by three phosphorus atoms from three phosphonite ligands, two nitrogen atoms from the bipyridine ligand, and a chlorine atom. There is also significant residual electronic density close to the rhenium atom (at 1.23 Å; see Experimental Section), probably due to the presence of the hydrogen atom in this region, but unfortunately its position could not be refined due to the well-known inability of X-ray diffractometry to detect hydrido ligands coordinated to third-row transition metals. The presence of this ligand was also confirmed by the values of the angles around the metal, which are far from the theoretical values for an octahedron as a consequence of the heptacoordinate environment of the metal. Without knowing the position of the hydrido ligand it is difficult to propose a geometry around the metal. The N(1)–Re–P(2) axis [171.7(2)°], for example, could indicate a monocapped octahedron or a pentagonal bipyramid. The chelate angle N(1)–Re–N(2) has a value of only 75.7(4)° – virtually the same as that found in other 2,2'-bipyridine complexes of Re<sup>III</sup><sup>[13]</sup> – and is an important source of distortion since one of the nitrogen atoms is in the axis and the other in the equatorial plane. The angles in the plane for a pentagonal bipyramidal geometry should be close to 72°, although the different steric requirements of the hydrido and the rest of the ligands may enlarge these angles. The angles in the cation complex range from 79.2(2)° to 90.6(1)°. This, and the distortion of the axis, allows us to propose a monocapped octahedral geometry around the metal, with the hydrido ligand situated in the trigonal face occupied by the three phosphorus atoms.

The Re–N [2.172(10) and 2.180(9) Å] and Re–Cl [2.450(3) Å] bond lengths are slightly longer than those found for other octahedrally coordinated complexes,<sup>[13]</sup> as expected due to the increase in coordination number. The Re–P bond lengths range from 2.286(3) to 2.365(3) Å and are slightly shorter than those found in the cationic complex [ReCl(PhN<sub>2</sub>){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>4</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub>,<sup>[14]</sup> the only example of a complex containing both Re<sup>III</sup> and a phosphonite PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub> ligand found in the CCDC (version 5.27, update August 2006).<sup>[15]</sup> This shortening is due to the pseudo *trans* effect exerted by the nitrogen or chlorine atoms in the heptacoordinate complex when compared with the cited octahedral cation, which has the phosphonite ligands mutually *trans*.

The IR spectra of monohydrido complexes [ReHCl(N–N)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (**1**) show the bands characteristic of polypyridine and phosphonite ligands ( $\nu_{\text{PO}} = 1098\text{--}1020\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), but none attributable to the  $\nu_{\text{ReH}}$  of the hydrido ligand. However, its presence was confirmed by the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra, which show signals for the PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub> and polypyridine ligands and a multiplet between  $\delta = -7.98$  and  $-8.30$  ppm that is characteristic of a hydrido ligand. As the <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum is an A<sub>2</sub>M multiplet for all complexes **1** in the temperature range between +20 and –80 °C, the hydrido pattern can be simulated by an A<sub>2</sub>MX model (X = <sup>1</sup>H), with the parameters listed in Table 1. In addition, the values of the two J<sub>P,H</sub> coupling constants are similar, which suggests that the hydrido is in a mutually *cis* position with re-

Table 1. IR,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectroscopic data for rhenium complexes.

Compound	$^1\text{H}$ NMR <sup>[a]</sup> $\delta$	Assignment	$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR <sup>[a,b]</sup> Spin system	$\delta$
[ReHCl(bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>1a</b> )	9.28–6.51 (m) 3.64 (m) 1.19 (t) 1.16 (t) 1.08 (t) A <sub>2</sub> MX $\delta_X = -8.28$ $J_{A,X} = 44$ $J_{M,X} = 58$	Ph + bpy CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>  ReH	A <sub>2</sub> M	$\delta_A = 126.8$ $\delta_M = 119.9$ $J_{A,M} = 37.7$
[ReHCl(5,5'-Me <sub>2</sub> bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>1b</b> )	9.57–6.15 (m) 3.68 (m) 2.34 (s) 2.22 (s) 1.21 (t) 1.19 (t) 1.08 (t) A <sub>2</sub> MX $\delta_X = -8.30$ $J_{AX} = 44$ $J_{MX} = 58$	Ph + bpy CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> bpy  CH <sub>3</sub> phos  ReH	A <sub>2</sub> M	$\delta_A = 126.9$ $\delta_M = 121.2$ $J_{A,M} = 36.2$
[ReHCl(phen){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>1c</b> )	9.64–6.13 (m) 3.70 (m) 1.28 (t) 1.03 (t) A <sub>2</sub> MX $\delta_X = -7.98$ $J_{A,X} = 42$ $J_{M,X} = 58$	Ph + phen CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>  ReH	A <sub>2</sub> M	$\delta_A = 127.0$ $\delta_M = 119.8$ $J_{A,M} = 37.4$
[ReH <sub>2</sub> (bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>2a</b> )	9.27–6.86 (m) 3.60 (m) 3.31 (m) 0.96 (br. m) -5.20 (br. m) 9.20–6.80 (m) <sup>[c]</sup> 3.57 (m) 3.23 (m) 1.25 (t) 0.98 (t) AM <sub>2</sub> X <sub>2</sub> $\delta_X = -5.31$ $J_{A,X} = 12$ $J_{M,X} = 66$	Ph + bpy CH <sub>2</sub>  CH <sub>3</sub> ReH Ph + bpy CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>  ReH	AM <sub>2</sub> <sup>[c]</sup>	141 m, b  $\delta_A = 145.7$ $\delta_M = 134.3$ $J_{A,M} = 27.0$
[ReH <sub>2</sub> (bpy)(CO) <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>3a</b> ) <sup>[d]</sup>	9.03–7.68 (m) -13.07 d -17.47 d $J_{H,H} = 3.4$	Ph + bpy ReH <sub>2</sub>		
[ReH <sub>2</sub> Cl(bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> ( <b>4a</b> )	9.55–6.50 (m) <sup>[e]</sup> 3.75 (m) 1.26 (m) -5.50 (br. dt) -7.84 (br. m)	Ph + bpy CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ReH <sub>2</sub>	AM <sub>2</sub> <sup>[e]</sup> AM <sub>2</sub> <sup>[e]</sup>	$\delta_A = 163.4$ $\delta_M = 124.1$ $J_{A,M} = 52.3$ $\delta_A = 155.0$ $\delta_M = 125.5$ $J_{A,M} = 49.4$
[ReH <sub>3</sub> (bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> ( <b>5a</b> )	9.25–6.85 (m) <sup>[f]</sup> 4.20–3.35 (m) 1.20 (m) -2.2 (br. m) -3.1 (br. m)	Ph + bpy CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ReH <sub>3</sub>	A <sub>2</sub> B <sup>[f]</sup>	$\delta_A = 127.8$ $\delta_B = 126.5$ $J_{A,B} = 31.0$
[Re{CH=C(H)Ph} <sub>2</sub> (bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>6a</b> )	7.30–6.82 (m) 7.08 (m) 6.47 (m) 4.35–3.60 (m) 1.52 (t) 1.15 (t) 1.07 (t)	Ph + bpy =CH <sub><math>\alpha</math></sub> =CH <sub><math>\beta</math></sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	AB <sub>2</sub>	$\delta_A = 139.3$ $\delta_B = 138.2$ $J_{A,B} = 32.6$

Table 1. (continued)

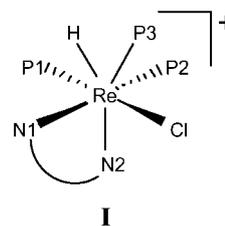
Compound	$^1\text{H}$ NMR <sup>[a]</sup>	Assignment	$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR <sup>[a,b]</sup>	$\delta$
	$\delta$		Spin system	
[Re{CH=C(H)- <i>p</i> -tolyl} <sub>2</sub> (bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>7a</b> )	9.32–6.86 (m)	Ph + bpy =CH	AB <sub>2</sub>	$\delta_{\text{A}} = 136.4$ $\delta_{\text{B}} = 135.2$ $J_{\text{A,B}} = 31.8$
	(X = H <sub><math>\alpha</math></sub> , Y = H <sub><math>\beta</math></sub> )			
	$\delta_{\text{X}} = 7.04$			
	$\delta_{\text{Y}} = 6.45$			
	$J_{\text{A,X}} = 4.0$			
	$J_{\text{A,Y}} = 4.35$			
	$J_{\text{B,X}} = 7.10$			
	$J_{\text{B,Y}} = 5.20$			
	$J_{\text{X,Y}} = 7.7$			
	4.30–3.30 (m)	CH <sub>2</sub>		
2.44 (s)	CH <sub>3</sub> <i>p</i> -tolyl			
1.51 (t)	CH <sub>3</sub> phos			
1.15 (t)				
0.99 (t)				
[Re{CH=C(H)- <i>tert</i> -butyl} <sub>2</sub> (bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>8a</b> )	9.28–6.87 (m)	Ph + bpy =CH	AB <sub>2</sub>	$\delta_{\text{A}} = 137.0$ $\delta_{\text{B}} = 135.5$ $J_{\text{A,B}} = 31.6$
	(X = H <sub><math>\alpha</math></sub> , Y = H <sub><math>\beta</math></sub> )			
	$\delta_{\text{X}} = 7.09$			
	$\delta_{\text{Y}} = 6.51$			
	$J_{\text{A,X}} = 6.85$			
	$J_{\text{A,Y}} = 3.60$			
	$J_{\text{B,X}} = 8.10$			
	$J_{\text{B,Y}} = 4.30$			
	$J_{\text{X,Y}} = 8.40$			
	4.32–3.32 (m)	CH <sub>2</sub>		
1.50 (t)	CH <sub>3</sub> phos			
1.14 (t)				
1.10 (t)				
1.07 (s)	CH <sub>3</sub> <i>t</i> Bu			

[a] In CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 25 °C, unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts are given in ppm and coupling constants in Hz. [b] Positive shifts downfield from 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. [c] At –30 °C. [d] IR data for the complex in a KBr pellet:  $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 2049$  (s), 1989 (s), 1924 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s). [e] At –50 °C. [f] At –70 °C.

spect to all the phosphonite ligands. Lastly, the two methyl substituents of the 5,5'-dimethyl-2,2'-bipyridine ligand are magnetically inequivalent in **1b** (two methyl singlets at  $\delta = 2.34$  and 2.22 ppm in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the complex).

The geometry of the heptacoordinate hydrido complexes **1** may be discussed in terms of three limiting structures, namely pentagonal bipyramidal, monocapped octahedral, or monocapped trigonal prismatic. The spectroscopic data do not allow us to distinguish between these possible structures, although it is plausible that the same geometry observed in the solid state for **1a** is also maintained in solution. A monocapped octahedral geometry of type **I**, which contains two magnetically equivalent phosphites that are different from the third and the hydrido ligand in a *cis* position with respect to each of the three phosphite groups, is in full accordance with the observed NMR spectroscopic data.

The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of the [ReH<sub>2</sub>(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> cation **2a** indicate that the complex is fluxional. The broad signals present at room temperature in the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum resolve into an AM<sub>2</sub> multiplet at –30 °C, thereby suggesting the presence of two phosphonites that are magnetically equivalent and different from the third. At the same temperature, the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum shows sharp signals



attributable to phosphonite and bpy ligands and a multiplet at  $\delta = -5.31$  ppm for the hydrido ligands. Variable-temperature  $T_1$  measurements (200 MHz) on this signal gave a  $T_{1\text{min}}$  value of 104 ms (Table 2), in agreement<sup>[16]</sup> with the classical nature of the dihydrido derivative **2a**. The hydrido multiplet at  $\delta = -5.31$  ppm can also be simulated with an AM<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> (X =  $^1\text{H}$ ) model, with the parameters listed in

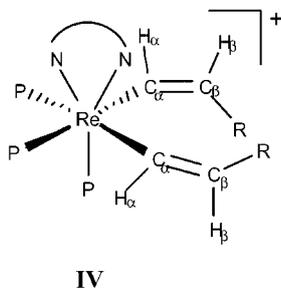
Table 2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopic data (200 MHz;  $\delta$  values, ppm) in the hydrido region for some rhenium complexes.

Compound	$T$ [K]	$\delta$ (M–H)	$T_{1\text{min}}$ [ms]
[ReH <sub>2</sub> (bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>2a</b> )	205	–5.45	104
[ReH <sub>2</sub> (bpy)(CO) <sub>3</sub> ]BPh <sub>4</sub> ( <b>3a</b> )	198	–13.1	112
[ReH <sub>2</sub> Cl(bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> ( <b>4a</b> )	200	–7.84	76
[ReH <sub>3</sub> (bpy){PPh(OEt) <sub>2</sub> } <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> ( <b>5a</b> )	208	–2.15	65
	203	–3.10	83





alent vinyl groups and two magnetically equivalent phosphonites that are different from the third, fits the spectroscopic data. However, the absence of any X-ray crystal structure due to the poor quality of the obtained crystals means that geometry **IV** is only a tentative proposal.



**IV**

## Conclusions

We have described the synthesis of the mixed-ligand hydridorhenium(III) complexes  $[\text{ReHCl}(\text{N}-\text{N})\text{P}_3]\text{BPh}_4$  (**1**) and  $[\text{ReH}_2(\text{N}-\text{N})\text{P}_3]\text{BPh}_4$  (**2a**), both of which contain phosphonite and polypyridine ligands. The hydrido carbonyl cations  $[\text{ReH}_2(\text{bpy})(\text{CO})_3]^+$  have also been obtained by the oxidative addition of  $\text{H}^+$  to  $\text{Re}^{\text{I}}$  derivatives. The structural parameters for the heptacoordinate  $[\text{ReHCl}(\text{bpy})\text{P}_3]^+$  cation have been obtained by X-ray crystallography. Among the properties shown by the new  $\text{Re}^{\text{III}}$  hydrido complexes we can highlight the easy protonation of cationic complexes **1** and **2a** to give classical  $\text{Re}^{\text{V}}$  hydrido derivatives, and the reaction of **2a** with terminal alkynes to afford new examples of vinyl complexes of rhenium.

## Experimental Section

**General:** All synthetic work was carried out under an inert atmosphere ( $\text{Ar}$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ ) using standard Schlenk techniques or a dry box (Vacuum Atmospheres, Mecaplex, CH). All solvents were dried with appropriate drying agents, degassed on a vacuum line, and distilled into vacuum-tight storage flasks.  $\text{Re}_2(\text{CO})_{10}$  was a Pressure Chemical Co. (USA) product, while Re powder was purchased from Chempur (Germany); both were used as received. The phosphonite  $\text{PPh}(\text{OEt})_2$  and phosphinite  $\text{PPh}_2\text{OEt}$  were prepared according to Rabinowitz and Pellon.<sup>[24]</sup> Other reagents were purchased from commercial sources with the highest available purity and used as received. IR spectra were recorded with a Nicolet Magna 750 or Perkin–Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR spectrophotometer. NMR spectra ( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) were obtained with an AC200 or Avance 300 Bruker spectrometer at temperatures between  $-80$  and  $+30$  °C, unless otherwise noted.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra are referenced to internal tetramethylsilane;  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  chemical shifts are reported with respect to 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ , with downfield shifts considered positive. The COSY, HMQC, and HMBC NMR experiments were performed using the standard programs. Values of  $T_{1\text{min}}$  ( $\pm 10\%$ ) were determined by the inversion recovery method between  $-90$  and  $+30$  °C in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with a standard  $180^\circ\text{-}\tau\text{-}90^\circ$  pulse sequence. The SwaN-MR software package<sup>[25]</sup> was used to treat NMR spectroscopic data. The conductivity of  $10^{-3}$  M solutions of

the complexes in  $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  at 25 °C was measured with a Radiometer CDM 83. Elemental analyses were determined by the Microanalytical Laboratory of the Dipartimento di Scienze Farmaceutiche of the University of Padua, Italy.

**Synthesis of Complexes:**  $[\text{ReCl}_3\text{P}_3]$ ,  $[\text{ReBr}(\text{CO})_5]$ , and  $[\text{ReH}(\text{CO})_5]$  [ $\text{P} = \text{PPh}(\text{OEt})_2$ ,  $\text{PPh}_2\text{OEt}$ ] were prepared following the previously reported methods.<sup>[11a,26]</sup>

**$[\text{ReHCl}(\text{N}-\text{N})\{\text{PPh}(\text{OEt})_2\}_3]\text{BPh}_4$  (**1**)** [ $\text{N}-\text{N} = 2,2'$ -bipyridine (**bpy**) (**a**),  $5,5'$ -dimethylbipyridine ( $5,5'$ - $\text{Me}_2\text{bpy}$ ) (**b**),  $1,10$ -phenanthroline (**phen**) (**c**):  $[\text{ReCl}_3\{\text{PPh}(\text{OEt})_2\}_3]$  (0.50 g, 0.56 mmol) and the appropriate polypyridine  $\text{N}-\text{N}$  (1.7 mmol) were placed in a 50-mL, three-necked, round-bottomed flask and dissolved in 30 mL of ethanol. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 5 h and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a brown solid from which the hydrido complex was extracted with five 10-mL portions of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined extracts were evaporated to dryness to give an oil, which was treated with ethanol (5 mL) containing an excess of  $\text{NaBPh}_4$  (1.7 mmol, 0.58 g). A dark-green solid separated out. This solid was filtered and crystallized from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and ethanol. Yields: 0.45 g for **1a** (62%), 0.48 g for **1b** (65%), 0.33 g for **1c** (45%).

**1a:**  $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{74}\text{BClN}_2\text{O}_6\text{P}_3\text{Re}$  (1292.7): calcd. C 59.47, H 5.77, Cl 2.74, N 2.17; found C 59.39, H 5.63, Cl 2.58, N 2.24.  $A_M = 54.9 \text{ Scm}^2 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ .

**1b:**  $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{78}\text{BClN}_2\text{O}_6\text{P}_3\text{Re}$  (1320.7): calcd. C 60.02, H 5.95, Cl 2.68, N 2.12; found C 59.87, H 6.02, Cl 2.80, N 2.21.  $A_M = 51.3 \text{ Scm}^2 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ .

**1c:**  $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{74}\text{BClN}_2\text{O}_6\text{P}_3\text{Re}$  (1316.7): calcd. C 65.38, H 5.66, Cl 2.69, N 2.13; found C 65.16, H 5.75, Cl 2.86, N 2.05.  $A_M = 52.8 \text{ Scm}^2 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ .

**$[\text{ReH}_2(\text{bpy})\{\text{PPh}(\text{OEt})_2\}_3]\text{BPh}_4$  (**2a**):**  $[\text{ReCl}_3\{\text{PPh}(\text{OEt})_2\}_3]$  (0.50 g, 0.56 mmol) and 2,2'-bipyridine (0.266 g, 1.7 mmol) were placed in a 50-mL, three-necked, round-bottomed flask and 20 mL of ethanol was added. The mixture was stirred and refluxed for 5 h and then allowed to reach room temperature. An excess of  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (0.211 g, 5.6 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was then added and the mixture refluxed for 1 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give an oil, from which the hydrido complex was extracted with five 10-mL portions of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The extracts were evaporated to dryness to give an oil, which was triturated with ethanol (5 mL) containing an excess of  $\text{NaBPh}_4$  (1.7 mmol, 0.58 g). A red-brown solid slowly separated out. This solid was filtered and crystallized from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and ethanol. Yield: 0.40 g (57%).  $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{75}\text{BN}_2\text{O}_6\text{P}_3\text{Re}$  (1258.2): calcd. C 61.09, H 6.01, N 2.23; found C 61.25, H 5.84, N 2.12.  $A_M = 54.7 \text{ Scm}^2 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ .

**$[\text{ReH}(\text{bpy})(\text{CO})_3]$ :** This compound was prepared by a new method rather than that reported in the literature.<sup>[6]</sup> Thus,  $[\text{ReH}(\text{CO})_5]$  (0.35 mL, 2.05 mmol) and one equivalent of 2,2'-bipyridine (0.32 g, 2.05 mmol) were placed in a 250-mL, three-necked, round-bottomed flask and 100 mL of toluene was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 h and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give an oil, which was triturated with ethanol (5 mL). An orange solid slowly separated out from the resulting stirring solution. This solid was filtered and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.307 g (35%).  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Re}$  (427.43): calcd. C 36.53, H 2.12, N 6.55; found C 36.71, H 2.05, N 6.42. IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2032$  (m), 1976 (s), 1912  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  [ $\nu_{\text{CO}}$ ].  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta = 9.13\text{--}7.56$  (m, bpy),  $-13.02$  (s, ReH) ppm.

**$[\text{ReBr}(\text{bpy})(\text{CO})_3]$ :** This compound was prepared by a slight modification of the reported method.<sup>[27]</sup> Thus,  $[\text{ReBr}(\text{CO})_5]$  (1 g,

2.46 mmol) and 2,2'-bipyridine (1.15 g, 7.38 mmol) were placed in a 100-mL, three-necked, round-bottomed flask and 30 mL of toluene was added. The mixture was stirred, refluxed for 5 h, and then allowed to reach room temperature. A yellow solid separated out which, after 1 h of stirring, was filtered and dried under vacuum. Yield: 1.01 g (81%).  $C_{13}H_8BrN_2O_3Re$  (506.32): calcd. C 30.84, H 1.59, N 5.53; found C 30.66, H 1.68, N 5.40. IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2012 (m), 1905 (s), 1882  $cm^{-1}$  [ $\nu_{CO}$ ].  $^1H$  NMR ( $CD_2Cl_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 9.06–7.53 (m, bpy) ppm.

**[ReH<sub>2</sub>(bpy)(CO)<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (3a):** An excess of HBF<sub>4</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O (2.3 mmol, 0.33 mL of a 54% solution in diethyl ether) was added to a solution of [ReH(bpy)(CO)<sub>3</sub>] (0.100 g, 0.23 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (7 mL) at –196 °C. The reaction mixture was then brought to room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give an oil, which was triturated with ethanol (2 mL) containing an excess of NaBPh<sub>4</sub> (0.46 mmol, 0.157 g). A yellow solid slowly separated out from the resulting solution. This solid was filtered and crystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and ethanol; yield 0.134 g (78%).  $C_{37}H_{30}BN_2O_3Re$  (747.67): calcd. C 59.44, H 4.04, N 3.75; found C 59.27, H 4.01, N 3.68.  $A_M$  = 53.5 Scm<sup>2</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>.

**[ReH<sub>2</sub>(Cl)(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (4a) and [ReH<sub>3</sub>(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (5a):** These cationic complexes were prepared in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution by protonation of the precursors [ReH(Cl)(bpy)-P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (1a) and [ReH<sub>2</sub>(bpy)P<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (2a) with HBF<sub>4</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O. In a typical experiment, a CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (0.5 mL) of 1a or 2a (30–40 mg, 0.02–0.03 mmol) was placed in a screw-cap 5-mm NMR tube placed in a dry box. The tube was sealed, cooled to –80 °C, and then increasing amounts (from one to four equivalents) of HBF<sub>4</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O were added with a microsyringe. The tube was then transferred into the instrument's probe, which had been pre-cooled to –80 °C, and the spectra collected.

**[Re{CH=C(H)R}<sub>2</sub>(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (6–8) [R = Ph (6a), *p*-tolyl (7a), *tert*-butyl (8a)]:** An excess of the appropriate alkyne RC≡CH (0.8 mmol) was added to a solution of [ReH<sub>2</sub>(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (0.100 g, 0.079 mmol) in 12 mL of 1,2-dichloroethane and the reaction mixture refluxed for 1 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give an oil, which was triturated with ethanol (2 mL) containing an excess of NaBPh<sub>4</sub> (0.2 mmol, 68 mg). A green solid slowly separated out from the resulting solution. This solid was filtered and crystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and ethanol. Yield 0.079 g for 6a (68%), 0.081 g for 7a (69%), 0.082 g for 8a (73%).

**6a:**  $C_{80}H_{87}BN_2O_6P_3Re$  (1462.5): calcd. C 65.70, H 6.00, N 1.92; found C 65.49, H 5.93, N 1.88.  $A_M$  = 53.1 Scm<sup>2</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>.

**7a:**  $C_{82}H_{91}BN_2O_6P_3Re$  (1490.6): calcd. C 66.08, H 6.15, N 1.88; found C 65.91, H 6.24, N 1.80.  $A_M$  = 54.6 Scm<sup>2</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>.

**8a:**  $C_{76}H_{93}BN_2O_6P_3Re$  (1422.5): calcd. C 64.17, H 6.73, N 1.97; found C 64.38, H 6.86, N 2.08.  $A_M$  = 52.8 Scm<sup>2</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>.

**Crystallographic Analysis of [ReHCl(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (1a):** Data collection was performed on a SIEMENS Smart CCD area-detector diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation. Absorption correction was carried out using SADABS.<sup>[28]</sup> The structure was solved and refined with the Oscale program<sup>[29]</sup> by Patterson methods and refined by a full-matrix least-squares procedure on  $F^2$ .<sup>[30]</sup> Non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. Hydrogen atoms were included in idealized positions and refined with isotropic displacement parameters except that bonded to the rhenium atom, which was neither located nor included in the model. Atomic scattering factors and anomalous dispersion corrections for all atoms were taken from International Tables for X-ray Crystallography.<sup>[31]</sup> Details of crystal

data and structural refinement are given in Table 4 and selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 5.

Table 4. Crystal data and structure refinement for [ReHCl(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (1a).

Empirical formula	C <sub>64</sub> H <sub>74</sub> BClN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub> P <sub>3</sub> Re
Formula weight	1292.68
Temperature	173(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>
Unit cell dimensions	<i>a</i> = 14.7335(18) Å <i>b</i> = 14.7029(19) Å <i>c</i> = 27.823(4) Å $\beta$ = 90.929(4)°
Volume	6026.4(13) Å <sup>3</sup>
<i>Z</i>	4
Density (calculated)	1.421 Mg m <sup>-3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	2.192 mm <sup>-1</sup>
<i>F</i> (000)	2636
Crystal size	0.25 × 0.16 × 0.10 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	1.38–28.02°
Index ranges	–19 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 19 –13 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 19 –36 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 32
Reflections collected	31483
Independent reflections	13368 [ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.1562]
Reflections observed (>2σ)	3916
Data completeness	0.915
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	1.000 and 0.791
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>
Data/restraints/parameters	13368/0/709
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.692
Final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0659, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0835
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.2677, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1154
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.128 and –1.397 e Å <sup>-3</sup>

Table 5. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for [ReHCl(bpy){PPh(OEt)<sub>2</sub>}<sub>3</sub>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (1a).

Re–N(2)	2.172(10)	Re–N(1)	2.180(9)
Re–P(1)	2.286(3)	Re–P(2)	2.316(3)
Re–P(3)	2.365(3)	Re–Cl(1)	2.450(3)
N(2)–Re–N(1)	75.7(4)	N(2)–Re–P(1)	80.2(2)
N(1)–Re–P(1)	99.9(2)	N(2)–Re–P(2)	101.3(3)
N(1)–Re–P(2)	171.7(2)	P(1)–Re–P(2)	87.06(10)
N(2)–Re–P(3)	168.7(3)	N(1)–Re–P(3)	98.7(3)
P(1)–Re–P(3)	110.68(11)	P(2)–Re–P(3)	82.84(10)
N(2)–Re–Cl(1)	79.2(2)	N(1)–Re–Cl(1)	84.7(2)
P(1)–Re–Cl(1)	157.02(10)	P(2)–Re–Cl(1)	87.09(10)
P(3)–Re–Cl(1)	90.58(10)		

CCDC-626730 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).

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