

ON THE α -CARBENIUM CENTRE STABILIZATION IN OLEFIN IRON CARBONYL COMPLEXES. REALIZATION OF OLEFIN AND ALLYL STRUCTURES

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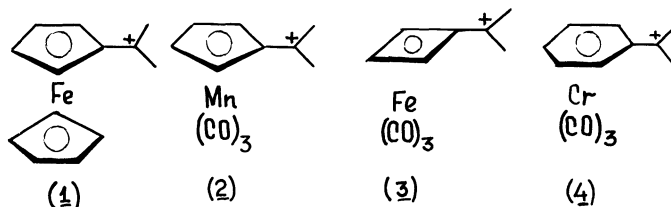
Abstract - For ironcarbonyl complexes with cationic allyl ligands ($\text{>C}=\overset{+}{\underset{|}{\text{C}}}-\text{R}$), it has been shown that the relative contributions of olefin and allyl structures depend on the nature of the substituent R. A new case of tautomerism and a $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$ (N) rearrangement were detected during this investigation. The problem of realization of olefin and allyl structures was also studied by means of the reaction between $\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_9$ and vinyl derivatives of heteroelement compounds ($\text{RCH}=\text{CHELnLm}$).

INTRODUCTION

The problem concerning the mechanism by which the carbenium centre located in the α -position relative to the π -bonding of organometallic fragment is stabilized, arose as a consequence of the "anomalously" high solvolysis rate measured for methylferrocenylcarbiny acetate (Ref. 1).

This gave rise to a lengthy discussion among researchers working in this area, and two general concepts were formulated. One group of investigators considers that the stabilization of the carbenium centre achieved by its direct interaction with a metal forming a $\text{M}-\text{C}_{\alpha}$ bond is most important. The other group adheres to the opinion that the principal role in this stabilization is played by the organometallic fragments as a whole and by electrons being supplied to the carbenium centre from the metal via a ligand (i.e., insignificant direct interaction).

These problems also proved to be pertinent to α -carbenium ions bonded with other π -complex systems (Refs.3-10), illustrated below together with the ferrocenyl systems (1)-(4):



The mechanism of carbenium centre stabilization in these systems has been studied with the help of various spectral methods, which, since they are indirect methods, could not produce an unambiguous answer. At the same time, the direct method of X-ray analysis has been successfully applied only in the case of a few examples. Consequently, there is no unanimous point of view at present on the mechanism of carbenium centre stabilization in such systems.

The structure of these compounds was confirmed by X-ray analysis of complex (I2, R=R'=Ph, R''=C₆H₁₁) (Ref.24).

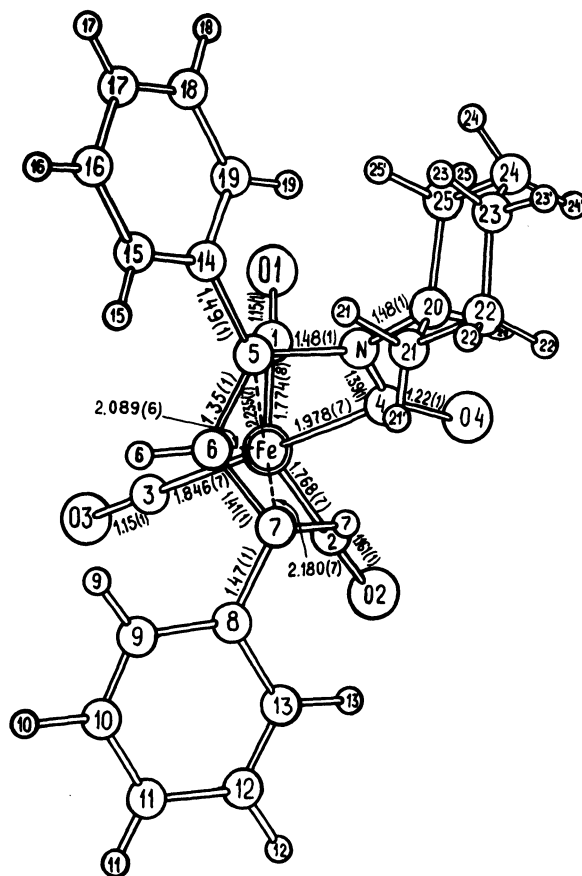
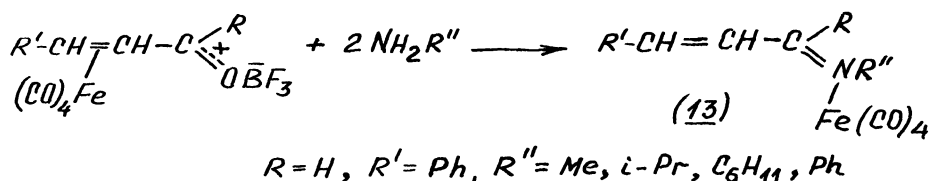


Fig.3. Molecular structure of complex (I2, R=R'=Ph, R''=C₆H₁₁)

From X-ray data (Fig.3) it can be seen that a greater contribution of the allyl structure is present in complex (I2, R=R'=Ph, R''=C₆H₁₁), because the distance Fe-C_α is equal to 2.235Å, and those of Fe-C₍₁₎ and Fe-C₍₂₎ to 2.180 and 2.089Å, respectively. The allyl structure of (I2) is also in agreement with

¹³C NMR spectra data (Table 2). It was interesting to study the models with substituents having intermediate electron donating properties, such as the hydrogen and alkyl groups. With this aim in view we used the BF₃-adduct of the cinnamaldehyde-iron tetracarbonyl complex. But the results were

unexpected, and instead of the chelate complex (10) or (12) we obtained the N-donor ligand complexes (13), (Ref. 26):



Their structure was confirmed by X-ray analysis of complex (13, R=H, R'=Ph, R''=Me) (Ref.26). The result of the X-ray analysis will be discussed below.

The behaviour of the cinnamaldehyde complex in this reaction became much clearer after we studied the properties of the chelate complexes (12) which were obtained from BF_3 -adducts of benzilidenacetone and benzilidenmethylethyl ketone iron tetracarbonyl complexes using methylenechloride as the solvent (Ref.27). It turned out that this chelate allyl compounds (12, R=Me or Et, R'=Ph and R''=Me or Et) in solution underwent a rearrangement into N-donor ligand complexes (13). The rearrangement proceeded with great ease in hydrocarbon solvents (Ref. 27).

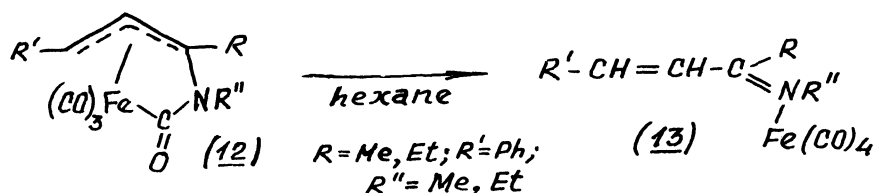


TABLE 2. ^{13}C NMR spectra data of allyl complexes.

Complex	R	R'	R''	δ^o (CH_2Cl_2), p.p.m.		
				C(I)	C(2)	C α
	Me	Ph	Me	62.66	88.07	103.62
	Me	Ph	C_6H_{11}	64.09	89.82	98.46
	Me	Ph	i-Pr	63.77	84.69	95.15 *)
	Ph	Ph	Me	64.48	85.27	**-)
	Ph	Ph	C_6H_{11}	65.52	87.03	99.24
	H	H	H	56.80	99.24	56.80
	H	H	Me	56.51	94.30	82.41
	Me	H	Me	47.64	93.72	115.68

*) At $-70^\circ C$

***) The C α signal is not seen because of the low concentration

*** In CF_3COOH (Ref,15).

The investigation of this phenomenon in hydrocarbon solvents (hexane, cyclohexane) using IR spectra in the 2000 cm^{-1} region has shown the $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$ rearrangement to proceed via intermediate olefin complexes (9), which exist in equilibrium with the chelate allyl compounds (12). It should be noted that the equilibrium was established very quickly whereas the $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$ (N) rearrangement (9) \rightarrow (13) occurred slowly. As a result we have discovered a hitherto unknown ring-chain tautomerism* between the chelate π -allyl complexes (12) and the noncyclic π -olefin complexes (9) and a new $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$ rearrangement (9) \rightarrow (13) with the migration of a $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$ fragment from the C=C bond to the nitrogen atom.

The $\pi \rightarrow \sigma$ (N) rearrangement was prevented by using bulky alkyl substituents R'' at the nitrogen atom (Ref. 27). This allowed us to establish the two tautomeric forms (12) and (9) in equilibrium (see Table 2) and to study the equilibrium dependence on the nature of the solvent and the electronic and steric effects of substituents R , R' and R'' .

As follows from Table 3, structure 12 has three absorption bands and structure 9 has four bands (in hexane), one of which ($\nu = 2008 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) is the same for both structures. In the polar solvents (CH_2Cl_2 , CHCl_3) not all the bands are split. The quantitative relations of the tautomeric forms were determined for complex 12, $\text{R}=\text{Me}$, $\text{R}'=\text{Ph}$, $\text{R}''=\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}$, containing bulky cyclohexyl substituents R'' at the nitrogen atom, by optical density measurements of the solutions at 2068 cm^{-1} for form 12 and at 2085 cm^{-1} for form 9 at 25°C. The calculation was carried out according to (Ref. 31). It turned out that when dissolved in hexane this complex (possessing a chelate allyl structure in the solid state) produced tautomeric forms, consisting of 30% 12 and 70% 9. The addition of CH_2Cl_2 to the solution shifts the equilibrium towards 12, which predominates over 9 in pure CH_2Cl_2 or CHCl_3 (90% 12 and 10% 9). It is of interest to note that all attempts to isolate 9 yielded only crystals of 12. The IR control for the equilibrium state does not detect absorption bands of $\nu \sim 2050, 1970, 1960, 1940 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ characteristic of σ (N) complex, Ref. 26. Complexes 12 with $\text{R}=\text{Me}$, $\text{R}'=\text{H}$, $\text{R}''=\text{i-Pr}$ and $\text{R}'=\text{Cl}$, $\text{R}''=\text{i-Pr}$, prepared from methylvinylketone and methyl- β -chlorovinylketone complexes, proved to be less stable because of their poor stability we could not make a quantitative study of the equilibrium. However, it was shown qualitatively that the non-cyclic olefin forms 9 were predominant in these cases.

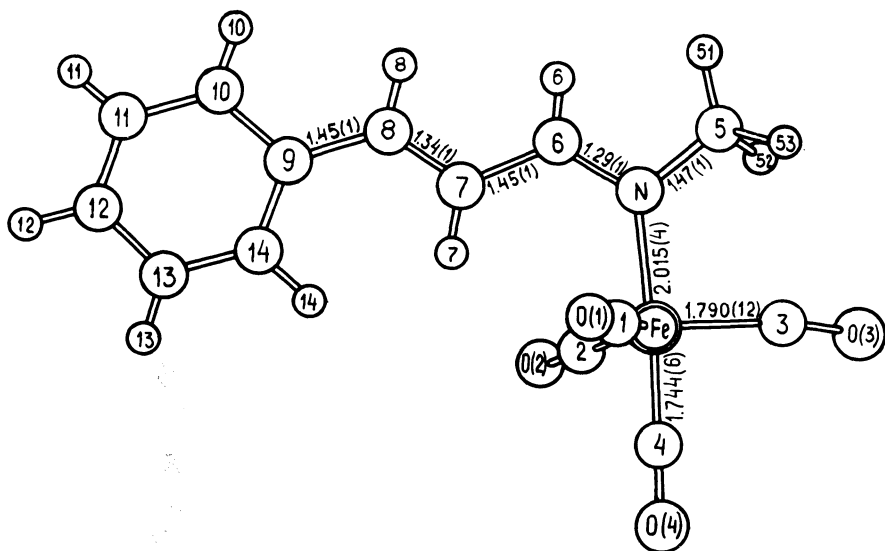


Fig. 4. Molecular structure of complex (I3, $\text{R}=\text{H}$, $\text{R}'=\text{Ph}$, $\text{R}''=\text{Me}$)

* Here tautomerism denotes dynamic isomerization (Refs. 28-30).

The $\pi \rightarrow \sigma(N)$ rearrangement in the case of the reaction of the cinnamaldehyde complex was also prevented by using *t*-butylamine. The isolated crystalline product (12, R=H, R'=Ph, R''=t-Bu) revealed a chelate allyl structure (in the IR spectra in KBr the first band $\nu_{C=O}$ is observed at 2070 cm^{-1} as well as for all other chelate allyl compounds in crystals (see Table 3). But it is interesting to note that the noncyclic form (9) prevails in solution not only in hexane, but also in polar solvents (CH_2Cl_2 or CHCl_3). This may be due to the steric hindrances of the *t*-Bu-substituent at the imine group.

We did not attempt to investigate the mechanism of the $\pi \rightarrow \sigma(N)$ rearrangement, but one cannot exclude the possibility that this process is intramolecular. This is consistent with the *cis* position of $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$ and the $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$ -groups, relative to the $\text{C}=\text{N}$ bond as follows from the X-ray analysis of the $\pi \rightarrow \sigma(N)$ rearrangement product (13, R=H, R'=Ph, R''=Me).

All the processes studied by us can be presented by the following general scheme I.

Scheme I.

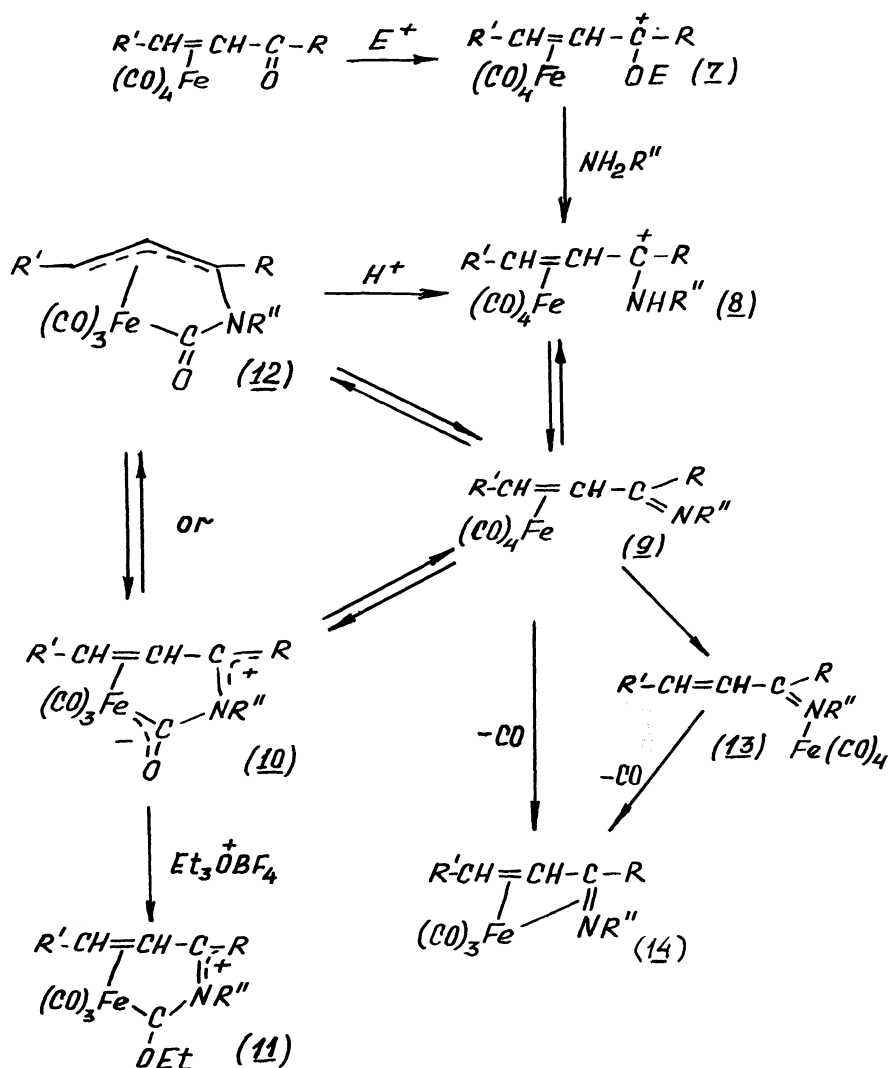
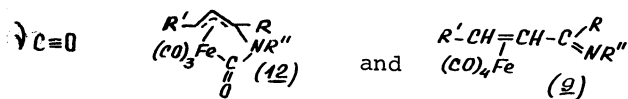


TABLE 3.



in solution and KBr.

R	R'	R''	Solvent (KBr)	ν C=O cm ⁻¹ (12)	ν C=O cm ⁻¹ (9)
Me	Ph	Me	hexane (KBr)	2068, 2008, 1991 2060, 1990, (broad)	2085, 2017, 2008, 1980
Me	Ph	C ₆ H ₁₁	hexane (KBr)	2068, 2008, 1992 2065, 1990, (broad)	2085, 2017, 2008, 1980
Me	Ph	PhCH ₂	hexane (KBr)	2068, 2008, 1992 2060, 2010, 1985	2085, 2017, 2008, 1980
Me	Ph	i-Pr	hexane (KBr)	2068, 2008, 1993 2070, 1990 (broad)	2085, 2017, 2008, 1980
Me	Cl	i-Pr	hexane CH ₂ Cl ₂	2078* 2078, 1995 (broad)	2098, 2028, 2008, 1995 2098*
Me	H	i-Pr	hexane CH ₂ Cl ₂	2071* 2071, 2010 (broad)	2088, 2018, 2009, 1985 2088*
H	Ph	t-Bu	hexane CH ₂ Cl ₂ (KBr)	2071* 2071** 2070, 2000 (broad)	2087, 2018, 2008, 1987 2087**

*) The other bands are overlapped by considerably more intensive bands of the other form.

***) In the 2020-1980 cm⁻¹ region there are unsplit bands with max. at 2008 cm⁻¹.

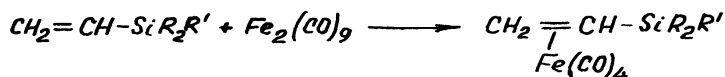
The possibility of a back transformation of $\sigma^-(N)$ complexes (13) in the π -olefin iron tetracarbonyl complexes (9) (Refs.11,26) by consecutive treatment with a protonic acid (formation of cations 8) and bases was also included in scheme I. In addition, we included in this scheme the transformation of (13) and (9) into iron tricarbonyl complexes (14), which proceeded slower than the π $\sigma^-(N)$ rearrangement (Ref.26). However, this process significantly complicated our investigation. It is important to note also that the chelate rings open quite easily after acid treatment. Therefore this method was used for the preparation of analytically pure cation salts (8). Summarizing the results of the investigation on α -carbenium centre stabilization, one can say that the structures of this type form something of a kind of continuum, the border positions of which are occupied by the allyl and olefin complexes; between them there are structures with different degrees of metal and C α interactions (Ref.11). In the case of chelate complexes the olefin complexes (10, R=Nalk₂) and the allyl complexes (12, R=Ph) are related to the border compounds. The intermediate compounds with R=H and Alk possessing comparatively weak C-N and Fe-C α bonds show tautomeric properties in solu-

tions. It is important to note, that in the case of chelate compounds the tautomerism phenomenon observed by spectral methods is connected with the formation and cleavage of the C-N bond. These processes go on considerably

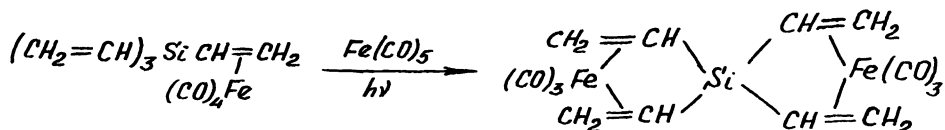
slower than the formation and cleavage of the Fe-C α bond, otherwise the tautomerism would be also fixed for noncyclic systems, but this was not the case (Ref.15). Therefore the former process should be related to the ring-chain tautomerism, the latter - to valence tautomerism.

REALIZATION OF OLEFIN AND HETEROALLYL STRUCTURES BY REACTION
OF CERTAIN VINYL-DERIVATIVES WITH $Fe_2(CO)_9$

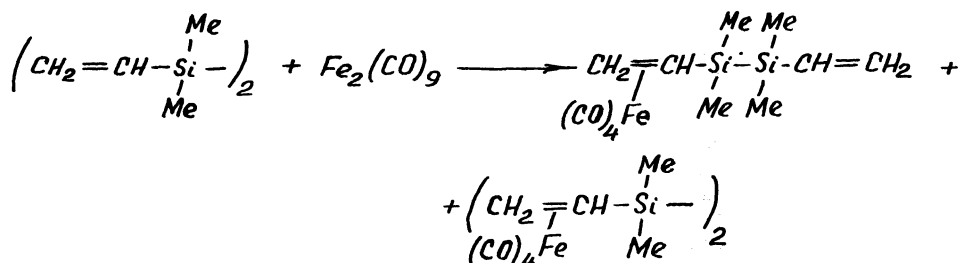
The investigation of olefin and allyl structure realization was continued by us using heteroanalogous of allyl compounds as the ligands, such as $RCH=CHSiR_2R'$. It was especially interesting to study the behaviour of a silicon-containing analog of allyl chloride towards $Fe_2(CO)_9$. It appeared that vinyl dimethylchlorosilane as distinct from allyl chloride does not form a π -allyl, but a usual π -olefin iron tetracarbonyl complex. Trimethyl- and trimethoxyvinylsilanes reveal the same behaviour in the analogous reactions, Ref. 32.



Tetravinylsilane along with its monoiron tetracarbonyl derivative forms a number of products containing $Fe(CO)_4$ and $Fe(CO)_3$ groups, the most interesting complex is $(CH_2=CH)_4Si(Fe(CO)_3)_2$, Ref. 32 which contains an unconjugated 1,4-diene ligand. This compound is formed as a single product upon UV-irradiation of the monotetracarbonyl π -olefin complex in the presence of $Fe(CO)_5$. Its structure was confirmed by X-ray analysis (Ref.33).

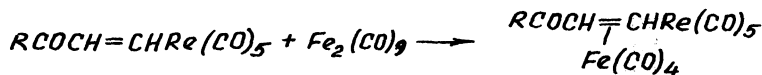


In connection with the fact that vinyl dimethylchlorosilane did not yield a π -silaallyl complex even in the presence of anion chloride coordinating agents, we repeated the work of Japanese investigators who studied the interaction of vinyl disilanes with $Fe_2(CO)_9$ (Refs.34,35). We arrived at the conclusion, simultaneously with US scientists (Ref.36) that in this case ordinary π -olefin iron tetracarbonyl rather than π -silaallyl complexes are formed, Ref. 37:

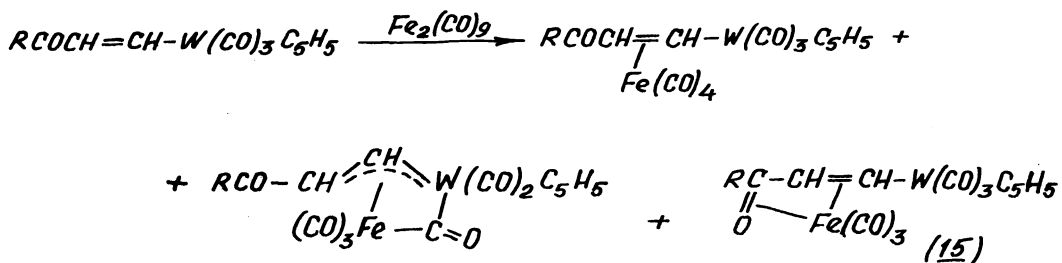


Thus, unlike its carbon neighbour the silicon did not form a π -silaallyl ligand in any of the cases studied by us.

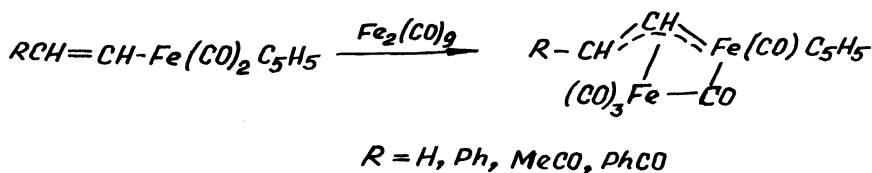
At the same time when studying the problem of σ -vinyl complexes of transition metals, we were able to show that the complexes of both π -olefin and π -heteroallyl structures can be realized, depending on the nature of the metal (Ref.38). Thus, in the case of $G'-RCOCH=CHRe(CO)_5$ compounds only π -olefin complexes are formed (Ref.39):



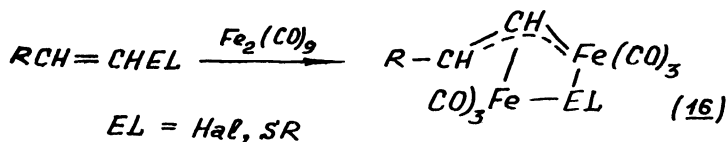
whereas in the case of $\text{RCOCH}=\text{CHW}(\text{CO})_3\text{C}_5\text{H}_5$ compounds, π -complexes of both types as well as irontricarbonyl compounds (I5) are formed (Refs.40,41):



Similar σ - $\text{RCH}=\text{CH}-\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2\text{C}_5\text{H}_5$ compounds yielded only ferraallyl complexes (Refs.42,43). The structure of these compounds was confirmed by X-ray analysis (Ref.44).

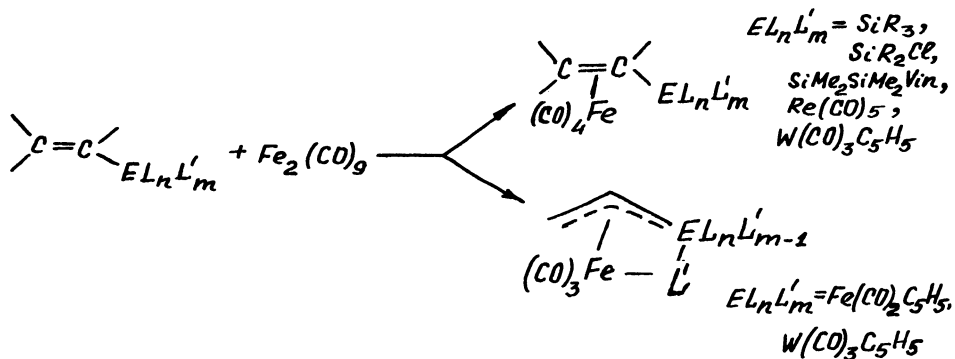


Similar complexes of type (I6) with RS- and Hal- bridges were obtained on the basis vinylsulphides (Ref.45) and vinylhalogens (Ref.46). On the basis of X-ray analysis the authors of (Ref.46) suggested that these compounds be considered as complexes having a ferraallyl ligand.



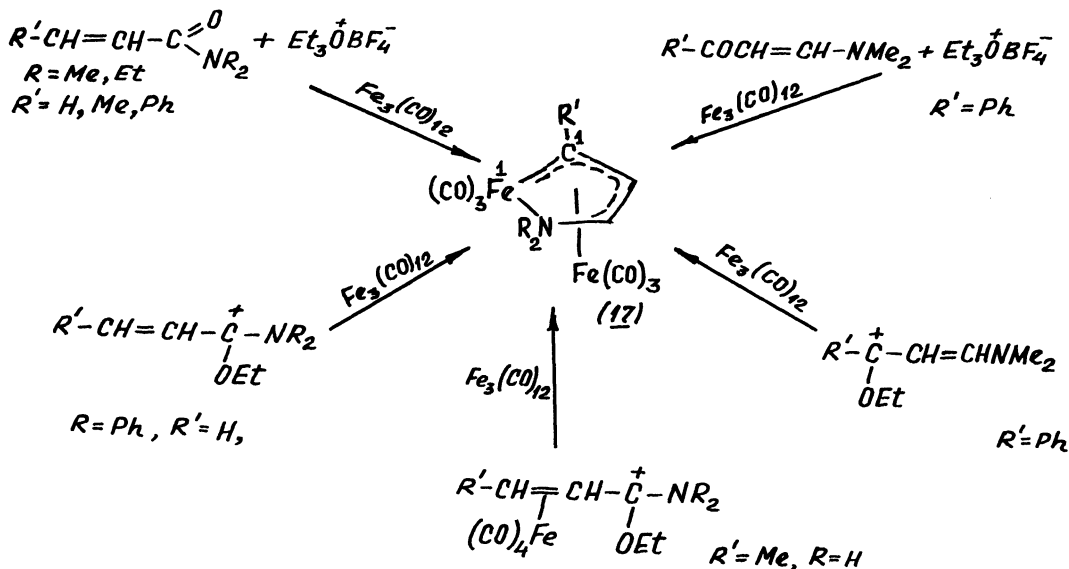
Thus, the examples under study showed the structure type to be dependent on the nature of the heteroatom and on the ligands surrounding it (see scheme 2).

Scheme 2



It should be noted that from among the transition metals used by us, the iron atom enters the ligand most readily. In this connection it should be added that complexes (I7) containing a ferrabutadiene ligand were obtained by different routes (see scheme 3) from derivatives of α,β -unsaturated amides and β -aminovinylketones isomeric to them (Refs.47,48).

Scheme 3.



X-ray analysis of complex (I7, R=Me, R'=H) (Fig.5) not only confirmed its structure, but also showed the Fe(1)-C(1) bond to be slightly shorter (1.95Å) in comparison with the usual Fe-C bond (Ref.46).

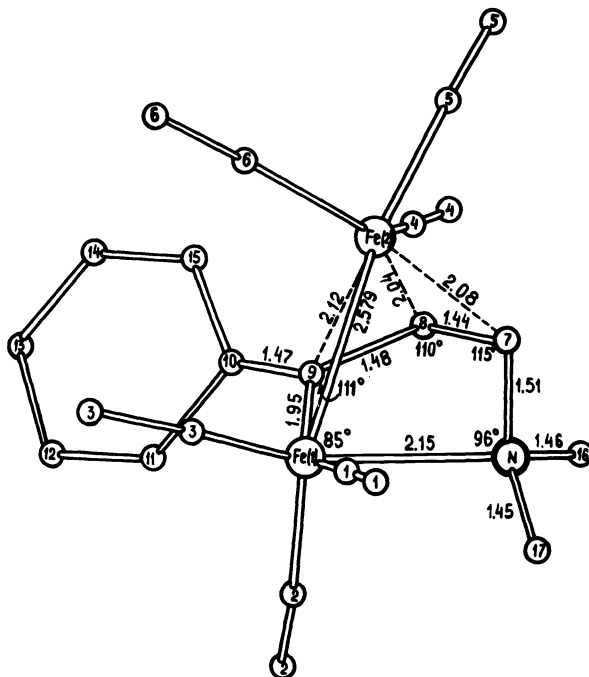


Fig.5. Molecular structure of complex (I7, R=Me, R'=H)

Thus, the irontricarbonyl group involved in a π -bonded ligand is also to substitute Hal, SR, OEt and H.

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