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# Ortho-(methylsulfanyl)phenylphosphonates and derivatives: Synthesis and applications as mono- or bidentate ligands for the preparation of platinum complexes

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Abstract: The preparation of six phenylphosphonates (and phosphonic acid derivatives) bearing a sulfur group in ortho position was accomplished via either a [1,3]- or a [1,4]-sigmatropic rearrangement. Their complexation with different platinum sources has been studied and the new platinum complexes obtained were characterized by NMR spectroscopy ( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$  and  $^{195}\text{Pt}$ ). Three runs of experiments were performed. The first was the reaction of ligands 1 and 2 bearing one sulphide and a phosphonate diester functions with potassium tetrachloroplatinate. In the obtained complexes, two molecules of ligand chelate the metal only by the sulphur atom. We were able to observe by  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectroscopy the trans to cis rearrangement of a dichloro-methyl-(o-phosphorylbenzyl)sulfide platinum(II) complex upon time, leading to two new species, which are diastereomers of the cis-complex. The second set of experiments involved ligands 1, 2 and 3 bearing one sulfide or sulfoxide and a phosphonate diester moieties, cisplatin and one equivalent of silver nitrate. In the resulting complexes the platinum is coordinated by the sulphur atom of one molecule of ligand. In the third run, the reaction between ligands 4, 5, and 6 bearing one sulfide or sulfoxide and one phosphonic acid or one phosphonic monoester group and the cisplatin diaqua form led to O,S-Pt chelates.

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a Manuscript entitled “*Ortho*-(methylsulfanyl)phenylphosphonates and derivatives: synthesis and applications as mono- or bidentate ligands for the preparation of platinum complexes derived from cisplatin” which we would like to publish in Journal of Organometallic Chemistry.

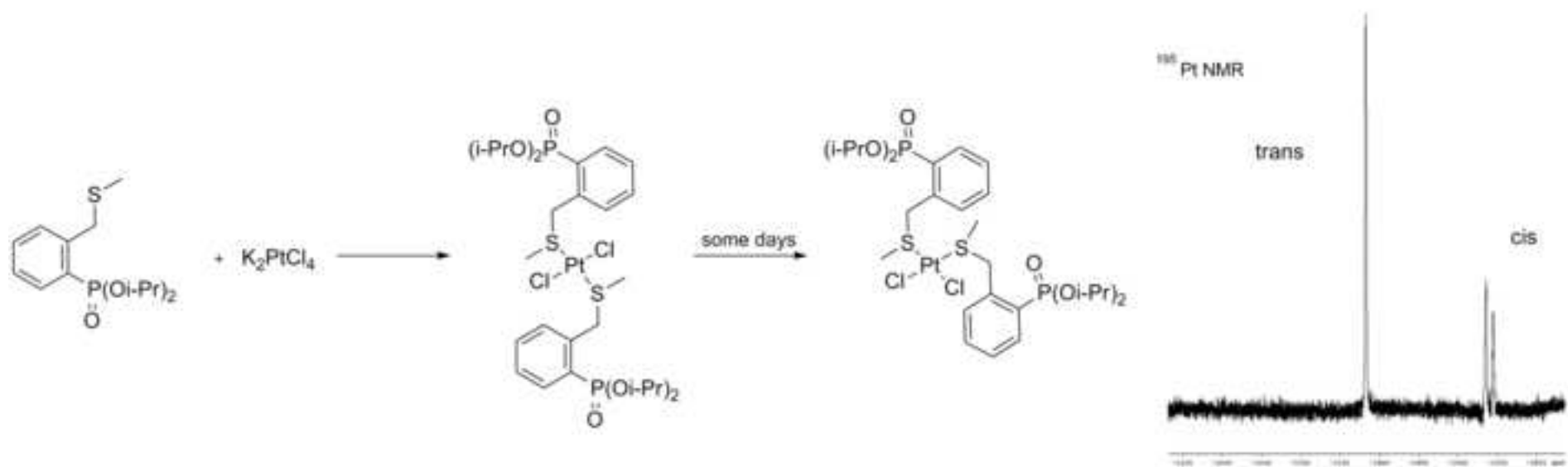
In this full paper, we try to demonstrate the usefulness of ligands bearing phosphorus and sulfur functions towards their complexation to platinum. In a first part the synthesis of the organic molecules is described, and then three runs of complexation experiments were performed under various conditions. Two of them led to the preparation of *S*-coordinated platinum complexes, while the latter run allowed us to isolate platinum bidentate chelates formed from both sulfur and the oxygen of the phosphonic acid sites. All the ligands and the complexes were fully characterized by standard analyses, including  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR.

Interestingly, a *trans*→*cis* isomerization was observed by NMR on a complex, which led to the formation of two new species. Again, the NMR allowed us to decide whether these molecules were diastereomers of atropoisomers.

As a result, we think that a publication of these results in your Journal is mandatory to the scientific community, and we do hope that you will agree.

Sincerely yours.

Dr. Matthieu Hamel



The preparation of six phenylphosphonates (and phosphonic acid derivatives) bearing a sulfur group in *ortho* position was accomplished *via* either a [1,3]- or a [1,4]-sigmatropic rearrangement. Their complexation with different platinum sources has been studied and the new platinum complexes obtained were characterized by NMR spectroscopy ( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$  and  $^{195}\text{Pt}$ ). We were able to observe by  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectroscopy the *trans* to *cis* rearrangement of a dichloro-methyl-(*o*-phosphorylbenzyl)sulfide platinum(II) complex upon time, leading to two new species, which are diastereomers of the *cis*-complex.

## \*Highlights (for review)

Eight new platinum complexes have been prepared.

All of them include arylphosphonates bearing a sulfur function at the ortho position

Some complex displayed good solubility and stability in water

A trans→cis rearrangement of one complex was observed by NMR spectroscopy

# *Ortho*-(methylsulfanyl)phenylphosphonates and derivatives: synthesis and applications as mono- or bidentate ligands for the preparation of platinum complexes

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## Abstract

The preparation of six phenylphosphonates (and phosphonic acid derivatives) bearing a sulfur group in *ortho* position was accomplished *via* either a [1,3]- or a [1,4]-sigmatropic rearrangement. Their complexation with different platinum sources has been studied and the new platinum complexes obtained were characterized by NMR spectroscopy (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P and <sup>195</sup>Pt). Three runs of experiments were performed. The first was the reaction of ligands **1** and **2** bearing one sulphide and a phosphonate diester functions with potassium tetrachloroplatinate. In the obtained complexes, two molecules of ligand chelate the metal only by the sulphur atom. We were able to observe by <sup>195</sup>Pt and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy the *trans* to *cis* rearrangement of a dichloro-methyl-(*o*-phosphorylbenzyl)sulfide platinum(II) complex upon time, leading to two new species, which are atropoisomers of the *cis*-complex. The second set of experiments involved ligands **1**, **2** and **3** bearing one sulfide or sulfoxide and a phosphonate diester moieties, cisplatin and one equivalent of silver nitrate. In the resulting complexes the platinum is coordinated by the sulphur atom of one molecule of ligand. In the third run, the reaction between ligands **4**, **5**, and **6** bearing one sulfide or sulfoxide and one phosphonic acid or one phosphonic monoester group and the cisplatin diaqua form led to O,S-Pt chelates.

**Keywords:** Platinum complexes; Sigmatropic rearrangement; *O,S*-bidentate ligands; *Cis/trans* isomerization

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## 1. Introduction

After the serendipitous discovery of the antitumor properties of cisplatin by Rosenberg in the 60's [1], several research groups have focused their attention on the design of new platinum complexes able to overcome the drawbacks of the parent molecule [2]. Among the hundreds of new compounds prepared every year to this aim, a very few number of them will reach the final tests, allowing a potential commercialisation. The fact that the Pt(II)-S bond is thermodynamically stable but kinetically labile [3] has prompted several groups to use sulfanyl or sulfinyl ligands as leaving groups instead of chloride. For example, Farrell *et al.* have reported the synthesis and the biological activity of *cis*-diammineplatinum (II) complexes bearing a monodentate sulfoxide and one chloride as leaving groups [4]. A similar sulphide series was later synthesized and tested by Khokhar and coworkers [5]. In the same time, the group of Pasini has successfully used the methylsulfinyl acetate and benzoate ligands as *O,S*-leaving groups [6]. The behaviour of these complexes towards DNA seems to be similar to that of carboplatin, *i.e.* the direct nucleophilic attack of a guanine base [7], instead of the preliminary aquation such as in the case of cisplatin [8].

Bisphosphonates are an important class of osteotropic compounds, thanks to their binding ability to bone or calcified tissues [9]. This capacity has been extensively used by the group of Keppler to prepare platinum phosphonate complexes well-designed for bone malignancies [10]. Hollis *et al.* have used a phosphoroforniate which, after decomplexation to platinum, liberates Foscarnet<sup>®</sup>, an antihyperpetic drug [11]. It is therefore of interest to combine the advantages of sulphur-platinum complexes which could afford a better water solubility and a lower inherent toxicity as compared to cisplatin with the possibility to target calcified tissues by using phosphonates. Thus, the group of Natile has described the preparation of a bidentate ligand {the diethyl (methylsulfinyl)-methylphosphonate} and its complexation with K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>4</sub> [12]. The formed *O,S*-chelate was shown to inhibit matrix Metalloproteinase 2, 3, 9 and 12 [13].

Our group has also reported some platinum complexes derived from difunctionalized phosphorus and sulphur compounds [14,15].

In this paper, we investigate the ability of two structural families of difunctionalized phosphorus and sulphur compounds [16] to form platinum complexes. The two structural families are the 2-(sulfanylmethyl)phenylphosphonates and the 2-sulfanyl benzenephosphonates, obtained via a  $\sigma$ -[1,3] [17] and a  $\sigma$ -[1,4] rearrangement [18], respectively. Their phosphonic monoesters and phosphonic acids derivatives are also examined.

## 2. Results and discussion

### 2.1. Preparation of the ligands

We have considered the synthesis of both neutral and anionic ligands so as to determine the differences of complexation function to the charge of the molecule. Neutral compounds can be resumed to arylphosphonates and anionic compounds to their acid derivatives. All the ligands are drawn in the **Error! Reference source not found.**



**INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE**

The 2-methylsulfanyl phenylphosphonate **1** was prepared from the [1,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of *S*-phenyl-diisopropylphosphorothioate and subsequent methylation of the thiolate intermediate [17]. This sulfide was then converted either to its phosphonic acid derivative **6** by the procedure of McKenna [19], or mono-hydrolyzed following the conditions of Holý [20]. The resulting phosphonic acid monoester **4** was finally oxidized with sodium periodate to afford the isopropyl 2-(methylsulfanyl)-phenylphosphonic acid **5**.

**INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE**

Starting from 2-iodobenzylsulfanyl diisopropylphosphorothioate **8**, we generate by using *t*-BuLi, via a [1,4]-sigmatropic rearrangement the corresponding benzylic thiolate [18], which was quenched by methyl iodide to afford sulfide **2**. Finally, the corresponding sulfoxide **3** was quantitatively obtained after oxidation of **2** with one equivalent of mCPBA.

**INSERT FIGURE 3 HERE**

## 2.2. Reactions of bifunctional ligands bearing a sterically hindered phosphodiester group

At first we investigated the equimolar reaction between **1** and potassium tetrachloroplatinate in the same conditions of reaction of Natile [12a], examining whether our ligand bearing the bulky diisopropylphosphonate functional group could also act as an *O,S*-bidentate ligand towards platinum. After one day of reaction in water at room temperature, a single product was detected by <sup>31</sup>P NMR, which was isolated as a clear yellow powder, albeit in low yield (34%). In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, a <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PtH</sub> was clearly visible between platinum and the hydrogens of the methyl group, indicating the creation of a Pt-S bond. Meanwhile, no NMR information was collected about a plausible existence of a P=O-Pt bond. Finally, the HRMS and the elemental analysis proved that the obtained complex corresponded in fact to the formula PtCl<sub>2</sub>L<sub>2</sub>, where L was the compound **1**. By adding 2 equivalents of sulfide **1**, the yield could be improved to 61%, and the complex **9** was obtained as the sole reaction product. Ultimately, the <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR gave a singlet at -3373 ppm, in agreement with a Cl<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> tetrahedral environment surrounding platinum [21], and which can be compared to the <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR chemical shift of *trans*-[PtCl<sub>2</sub>(PhSMe)<sub>2</sub>]: -3385 ppm [21]. Therefore we can assume that our complex **9** has *trans* geometry. In the same way, the reaction between K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>4</sub> and two equivalents of ligand **2** gave the *trans*-dichloro(bis-sulfide)complex **10** (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Reaction of **3** and K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>4</sub> under the same reaction conditions lead to a mixture of products from which we were not able to obtain a pure compound.

**INSERT FIGURE 4 HERE**

We next extended our study to another platinum source, and we tried to prepare complexes according to the procedure described by Farrell for the synthesis of monodentate sulfoxides [4] and by Khokhar for monodentate sulfides [5]. Thus, the equimolar reaction between cisplatin and **1**, **2** or **3** in the presence of silver nitrate led to

the formation of the corresponding cationic complexes **11-13**, where the organic moiety was coordinated to platinum towards the sulfur atom.

**INSERT FIGURE 5 HERE**

### *2.3. Reactions of bifunctional ligands bearing a deprotonated monoester group*

After the failure to observe coordination by the bulky diisopropyl phosphonate group (see reactions with  $K_2PtCl_4$ , Section 2.2), we investigated the reactions of ligands in which the phosphonate has been partially hydrolyzed to the corresponding phosphonic acid monoester. Thus, the reaction of the ligands **4** and **5** with the diaqua form of cisplatin in the presence of KOH at room temperature gave the chelate complexes **14** and **15**. The complexes **14** and **15** were isolated with modest yields (ranging from 29 to 58%) after crystallization, probably because of their relative instability, however, we could characterize them by NMR spectroscopy.

### *2.4. Reaction of a bifunctional ligand bearing a deprotonated phosphonic acid group*

Earlier work from our laboratory had shown that a reaction of **6** with cisplatin did not yield a bidentate complex but a dinuclear product, due to the elimination of an  $NH_3$  group [14]. So as to avoid such a *trans* elimination, we have replaced in this case cisplatin by *cis*-diaqua(ethylenediammine)-platinum (II). This reaction yielded the desired chelate complex **16**.

In contrast to **14** and **15**, complex **16** is extremely stable, even in aqueous solution:  $^1H$  and  $^{31}P$  NMR spectra of its aqueous solution recorded after several months were identical to those of a freshly prepared solution. All these bidentate complexes are highly water-soluble.

**INSERT FIGURE 6 HERE**

### *2.4. Characterization of the complexes*

The complexes **9-16** were all characterized by NMR spectroscopy. A comparison of their principal signals, together with those of the free ligands is shown in the Table 1.

Table 1. Comparison between characteristic signals of the ligands **1-6** and the complexes **9-16**

Entry	Ligand / Complex n°	Chemical Shift in ppm and ( $^3J_{\text{PtH}}$ )			
		CH <sub>3</sub> -S ( <sup>1</sup> H)	CH <sub>2</sub> -S ( <sup>1</sup> H)	<sup>31</sup> P	<sup>195</sup> Pt
1 <sup>a</sup>	<b>1</b>	2.49	-	15.8	-
2 <sup>b</sup>	<b>9</b>	2.71 (26)	-	12.5	-3373
3 <sup>c</sup>	<b>11</b>	2.95 (17)	-	12.1	-2925
4 <sup>a</sup>	<b>2</b>	2.08	4.10	17.7	-
5 <sup>b</sup>	<b>10</b>	2.44 (25)	4.70	15.8	-3383
6 <sup>c</sup>	<b>12</b>	2.45 (25)	4.38 (d) and 4.94 (d)	14.9	-2966
7 <sup>b</sup>	<b>3</b>	2.63	4.12 (d) and 4.70 (d)	16.0	-
8 <sup>c</sup>	<b>13</b>	3.34	5.43 (d) and 5.62 (d)	15.2	-3143
9 <sup>a</sup>	<b>4</b>	2.47	-	19.4	-
10 <sup>d</sup>	<b>14</b>	2.54	-	12.0	-1902
11 <sup>b</sup>	<b>5</b>	2.72	-	11.2	-
12 <sup>d</sup>	<b>15</b>	3.10	-	9.3	-2390
13 <sup>d</sup>	<b>6</b>	2.52	-	14.0	-
14 <sup>e</sup>	<b>16</b>	2.39	-	10.0	-2793

<sup>a</sup> Recorded at 250 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

<sup>b</sup> Recorded at 400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

<sup>c</sup> Recorded at 400 MHz in MeOD.

<sup>d</sup> Recorded at 250 MHz in D<sub>2</sub>O.

<sup>e</sup> Recorded at 400 MHz in D<sub>2</sub>O.

As revealed in the Table 1, the complexation to platinum shifts the signals corresponding to the methyl and to the methylene to the lower fields, with an average value of ca. 0.4 ppm, indicating a diminution of the electronic density around them. This effect is also accompanied by the appearance of a coupling constant between these protons and platinum (the  $J$  value for the complex **13** is not given due to interferences with the solvent residual peak). More interestingly, in the case of the complex **12**, resulting from the benzyl methyl sulfide **2**, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum reveals a differentiation between the two protons of the CH<sub>2</sub>, showing therefore their enantiotopic character (entry 6). This effect is identical for the complex **13** (entry 8), but is not marked in compound **10** (entry 5) because of the planar symmetry of this *trans* complex. All the signals in <sup>31</sup>P NMR are shifted to the upper fields, to a value ranging from 1 up to 7 ppm. Obviously, this effect is more contrasted for the complexes whose coordination is realized with both sulfur atom and the oxygen atom bonded to the phosphorous moiety (entries 10, 12 and, 14). Finally, the <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR reveals the important electronic difference between sulfide and sulfoxides as ligands towards platinum. Indeed, in each case the chemical shift is lower for the sulfoxide-

platinum complexes, with  $\Delta\delta$  ranging from 200 to nearly 500 ppm (entries 6 compared to 8, and 10 to 12). There is a huge difference of physical properties between the dichlorido complexes **9** and **10** and the diammino complexes **11-16**, since the formers are totally insoluble in water and the latter are highly soluble in water and methanol.

Interestingly, we observed an isomerization of the complex **10** to its *cis* derivative. Thus, when we recorded the  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR spectrum of a one-month old solution of *trans*-**10** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , we observed, in addition to the expected singlet at -3383 ppm, two more signals in the area of -3540 ppm (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The chemical shift indicates that the coordination remained  $\text{PtCl}_2\text{S}_2$ , and a plausible explanation is a *trans*-to-*cis* isomerization. This isomerization may be catalyzed by traces of free chloride anions contained in non-distilled  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . It is noteworthy that this isomerization has not been observed for the complex **9**, where the bulky substituents are farther away from each other.

**INSERT FIGURE 7 HERE**

The difference of chemical shift between the two isomers ( $\Delta\delta \approx 160$  ppm) is perfectly in agreement with those reported in the literature for similar  $\text{PtCl}_2\text{S}_2$  systems (*cis*- $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{PhSMe})_2]$  and *trans*- $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{PhSMe})_2]$  displaying chemical shifts at -3385 and -3488 ppm, respectively [22]). Isomerization of *trans*-platinum complexes to their *cis* derivatives is a well-known phenomenon [23], the latter being the thermodynamically-favoured product, even if the ligands are sterically hindered.

In **Error! Reference source not found.**, the *cis*-complex shows up as two peaks with a ratio of integrals of ~60:40. Two reasons could explain the presence of two signals. First, the creation of two stereogenic centres at both sulphur atoms after complexation with platinum would create two diastereomers and second, the steric hindrance of the benzylic sulfide phosphorylated in the *ortho* position, which can produce atropoisomers. Performing  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR experiments at different temperatures we observed the coalescence of the two signals at 318 K (**Error! Reference source not found.**), indicative of two atropoisomers being in exchange.

Eq. 1 [24] relates the lifetime  $\tau_c$  at the coalescence temperature with the difference in resonance frequencies  $\Delta\nu$ , where  $p_A$  and  $p_B$  are the mole fractions of the two interconverting conformations. From the  $^{31}\text{P}$  chemical shift difference of 0.14 ppm (**Error! Reference source not found.**), we calculate, with the frequency of 161.976 MHz used for  $^{31}\text{P}$  by our 400 MHz spectrometer,  $\Delta\nu = 22.677 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Since the approximate mole fractions  $p_A$  et  $p_B$  are 0.4 and 0.6, respectively, we obtain, from Eq. 1,  $X \approx 1.888$  and  $\tau_c \approx 0.13 \text{ s}$ . The lifetime at 318 K of the atropoisomers is thus of the order of 0.01 s.

**INSERT FIGURE 8 HERE**

### 3. Conclusion

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the ability of *ortho*-phosphorylphenyl and benzyl sulfides and sulfoxides to act as ligands for platinum(II). These type of aromatic phosphorus and sulphur difunctionalized ligands are readily obtained via the anionic [1,3] or [1,4] rearrangement, and can be produced on a multi-gram scale. In the presence of the platinum source, the compounds bearing a bulky diisopropyl phosphonate group behave as

monodentate ligands and chelate the metal only via the sulphur atom, while the phosphonic monoester or phosphonic acid derivatives act as bidentate O,S-ligands. The fair water solubility of the cationic monodentate complexes **11-13** bearing a dialkyl phosphonate group, and the excellent water solubility of the chelate complexes **14-16** makes them good candidates for tests as potential anti-tumor drugs.

## 4. Experimental

### 4.1. General data

The quality of the solvents used was either RPE or RS. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and toluene were purified with a PURESOLV™ apparatus developed by Innovative Technology Inc. Ultra deionized water was obtained with a Milli-Q plus apparatus. DMF was distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub> and conserved under nitrogen atmosphere. K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>4</sub> was purchased from Strem Chemicals. Cisplatin and *cis*-dichloro(ethylenediammine)-platinum were obtained from W. C. Heraeus GmbH. NMR spectra were recorded on Brüker DPX 250 or DRX 400 instruments. Chemical shifts are referenced to the following: TMS for <sup>1</sup>H, the solvent residual peak for <sup>13</sup>C, H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 85% for <sup>31</sup>P and K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>4</sub> 0.1 M in D<sub>2</sub>O (relative to Na<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>6</sub>) for <sup>195</sup>Pt. Coupling constants (*J*) are expressed in Hertz. Mass spectra were obtained on a GC/MS Saturn 2000 (EI or CI, 70 eV) or on a Waters QTOF micro apparatus. Elemental analyses were obtained from a THERMOQUEST NA 2500 instrument. IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin Elmer 16 PC FT-IR instrument, or a Perkin Elmer ATR universal FT-IR instrument. Compounds **1** and **6** were prepared according to [17], **7** and **8** from [18].

### 4.2. Diisopropyl 2-(methylsulfonylmethyl)phenylphosphonate **2**

In a round-bottom flask filled with nitrogen, *O,O*-diisopropyl-(2-iodobenzyl)-*S*-phosphorothioate **8** (508 mg, 1 equiv, 1.2 mmol) was added to a solution of *t*-BuLi (1.4 mL, 2 equiv, 1.7 M in hexanes, 2.4 mmol) in 20 mL of THF at -78°C. After 2 hours of stirring at -78°C, MeI (3 equiv) was added, and the solution was stirred for another 2 hours. The reaction was then quenched at -10°C with 10 mL of an acidic saturated solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts were unified, washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated to give a yellow oil, which was further purified on silica gel chromatography (pentane / ethyl acetate 70:30, R<sub>f</sub>: 0.32).

Yield 65%; colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.27 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 1.38 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 2.08 (s, 3H); 4.10 (s, 2H); 4.75 (dsept, 2H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 12.4, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 7.31 (dt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.3); 7.31 (dt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.4); 7.56 – 7.62 (m, 1H); 7.92 (ddd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.3, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.9, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 0.7 Hz). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (101.2 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 17.7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 15.9; 24.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.4); 24.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.4); 36.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.8 Hz); 71.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.7); 126.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.5); 128.8 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 185.2); 130.6 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.8); 132.6 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.5); 13.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 9.4); 142.4 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 10.0). GC/MS m/z (%): 334 (M+1; 100); 256 (17); 201 (5); 172 (29); 41 (4). IR (NaCl) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2977; 1244; 979. Analysis for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PS: calculated (C: 55.61; H: 7.67; S: 10.60); found: (C: 55.34; H: 7.68; S: 10.86).

#### 4.3. Diisopropyl 2-(methylsulfinylmethyl)phenylphosphonate **3**

To a solution of **2** (411 mg, 1 equiv, 1.36 mmol) in dichloromethane (6 mL) at -78°C was added dropwise a solution of *m*CPBA (305 mg, 1 equiv, 77% purity, 1.36 mmol) in dichloromethane. The solution was stirred during one hour and an aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate was added. After 30 min at room temperature, the aqueous layer was extracted. The organic phase was washed with water, dried on magnesium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to give light yellow oil. The purification on silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate / ethanol 75:25, *R<sub>f</sub>*: 0.3) afforded a colorless oil.

Yield 99%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.24 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 1.26 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 1.36 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 1.37 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 2.63 (s, 3H); 4.12 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 12.6); 4.68 – 4.79 (m, 3H); 7.40 – 7.48 (m, 1H); 7.50 – 7.58 (m, 2H); 7.89 (ddd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HP</sub> = 14.0, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 1.1). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (160 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 16.0. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 24.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 4.9); 24.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 4.6); 24.5 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 4.7); 38.8; 59.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 3.5); 71.7 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9); 128.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 14.2); 129.5 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 184.2); 132.6 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 14.1); 132.9 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 2.8); 134.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 8.2); 135.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 10.0). MSMS *m/z* (%): 341 (M+Na; 28); 299 (35); 278 (91); 263 (100); 257 (29); 236 (27); 147 (17). IR (NaCl) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2979; 2932; 1236; 981; 475. HRMS for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NaPS (M+Na): calculated 341.0952; found 341.0927.

#### 4.4. Isopropyl 2-(methylsulfonyl)phenylphosphonic acid **4**

Diisopropyl 2-(methylsulfonyl)phenylphosphonate **1** (1.318 g, 1 equiv, 4.57 mmol) and sodium azide (1.758 g; 8 equiv, 36.5 mmol) were dissolved in DMF and heated to reflux for three days. The obtained solid was filtered, washed several times with acetone, and dissolved in a few quantity of methanol. The product was acidified using Amberlyst 15 resin, and was further crystallized from acetone to give a white solid.

Yield 61%; MP: 112°C (acetone). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.35 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 2.47 (s, 3H); 4.74 (dsept, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HP</sub> = 1.5); 7.15 (dt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.4, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>HP</sub> = 3.4); 7.26 – 7.33 (m, 1H); 7.44 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.4); 7.92 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HP</sub> = 14.8, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6); 11.31 (s, 1H). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 19.4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 17.2; 24.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 5.0); 71.7 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 6.3); 124.7 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 14.5); 127.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 13.8); 128.5 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 196.9); 132.8 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 2.5); 134.4 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 9.4); 143.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CP</sub> = 8.8). MSMS *m/z* (%): 269 (M+Na; 100); 227 (70); 209 (40). IR (KBr) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1199; 1007; 910; 736. HRMS for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PS (M+H): calculated 247.0558; found 247.0555.

#### 4.5. Isopropyl (2-methylsulfinyl)phenylphosphonic acid **5**

To a solution of the sulfide **5** (250 mg, 1 equiv, 1.015 mmol) in acetone (12 mL) was added dropwise an aqueous solution of sodium metaperiodate (239 mg, 1.1 equiv, 1.117 mmol, in 5 mL H<sub>2</sub>O) at 0°C. After complete addition the flask was conserved in the fridge overnight. The precipitate was then filtered, and the residue was crystallized from acetone / diethyl ether 1:1.

Yield: 61%; white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.14 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 1.19 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4); 2.72 (s, 3H); 4.53 (sept, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 7.45 (ddt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.2, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 2.8, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>HP</sub> = 0.8); 7.66 (m, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6); 7.80 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HP</sub> = 13.6, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.2); 8.11 (m, 1H); 8.48 (s, 1H). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (160 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR

(100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  23.7 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 4.1$ ); 23.9 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 4.3$ ); 44.1; 71.0 (d,  $^2J_{CP} = 5.9$ ); 123.4 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 11.8$ ); 128.4 (d,  $^1J_{CP} = 188.6$ ); 132.6 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 13.0$ ); 132.8 (d,  $^2J_{CP} = 8.4$ ); 132.9; 149.0 (d,  $^2J_{CP} = 9.8$ ).

#### 4.6. *Trans-dichloro-bis-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)phenyl methyl sulfide}platinum (II) 9*

To 1.5 mL of an aqueous solution of potassium tetrachloroplatinate (128 mg, 1 equiv, 0.308 mmol) was added dropwise a solution of the sulfide (168 mg, 1.9 equiv, 0.586 mmol) diluted in 3 mL of water. The reaction was stirred for one day. The resulting precipitate was filtered, washed with 3 mL of water and dried. It was crystallized from a mixture THF / pentane 1:2 to afford a clear yellow solid. The complex can also be purified on silica gel chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub> / EtOH 98:2, R<sub>f</sub>: 0.3).

Yield 61%. MP = 188°C (dec.). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.34 (d, 6H,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.2$ ); 1.44 (d, 6H,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$ ); 2.71 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{PH} = 26.0$ ); 4.70 – 4.85 (m, 2H); 7.53 (dt, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.4$ ,  $^4J_{HH} = 2.9$ ); 7.67 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.5$ ); 7.99 (ddd, 1H,  $^3J_{HP} = 14.1$ ,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.5$ ,  $^4J_{HH} = 0.7$ ); 8.77 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.2$ ). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  12.5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  24.4 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 4.1$ ); 24.5 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 4.3$ ); 25.9; 72.7; 130.6 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 13.7$ ); 133.2 (d,  $^4J_{CP} = 2.5$ ); 133.2 (d,  $^1J_{CP} = 190.8$ ); 134.5 (d,  $^2J_{CP} = 8.6$ ); 135.9 (d,  $^2J_{CP} = 6.6$ ); 138.1 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 11.5$ ). <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR (85.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -3373. IR (KBr) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2978; 1453; 1239; 987. MSMS m/z (%): 341 (M + Na - 1 ligand; 28); 299 (35); 278 (91); 263 (100); 257 (29); 236 (27); 147 (17). Analysis for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>42</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>PtS<sub>2</sub>: calculated (C: 37.06; H: 5.02; S: 7.61); found (C: 37.32; H: 5.22; S: 7.64)

#### 4.7. *Trans-dichloro-bis-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)benzyl methyl sulfide}platinum (II) 10*

This complex was prepared according to the procedure described for the complex **9** from sulphide **2**.

Yield 53%; yellow solid; MP: 140 – 142°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.26 (d, 6H,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$ ); 1.42 (d, 6H,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$ ); 2.45 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{PH} = 25.3$  Hz); 4.70 (br s, 2H); 4.77 (dsept, 2H,  $^3J_{HP} = 12.4$ ,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$ ); 7.42 (ddt, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.6$ ,  $^4J_{HH} = 3.6$ ,  $^4J_{HP} = 0.8$ ); 7.55 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.6$ ); 7.88 – 7.96 (m, 2H). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  15.8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  20.4; 24.3 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 4.7$ ); 24.5 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 4.0$ ); 39.7 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 3.1$ ); 71.9 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 5.9$ ); 128.3 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 14.2$ ); 130.2 (d,  $^1J_{CP} = 184.6$ ); 132.4 (d,  $^3J_{CP} = 13.8$ ); 132.8 (d,  $^4J_{CP} = 2.9$ ); 134.3 (d,  $^2J_{CP} = 8.9$ ); 137.3 (d,  $^2J_{CP} = 9.6$ ). <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR (85.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -3383. IR (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2978; 1427; 1234; 971. MSMS m/z (%): 870 (MH<sup>+</sup>; 35); 835 (M-Cl; 100); 799 (-Cl; 17); 756 (5). HRMS for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>47</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>PtS<sub>2</sub> (M+H): calculated 870.1314; found 870.1301.

#### 4.8. *Cis-diammine-chloro-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)phenyl methyl sulfide}platinum (II) nitrate 11*

To a slurry methanolic solution of cisplatin (40 mg, 1 equiv, 0.133 mmol) and the sulfide **1** (38 mg, 1 equiv, 0.133 mmol) was added AgNO<sub>3</sub> (22 mg, 1 equiv, 0.133 mmol) dissolved in boiling MeOH. The mixture was stirred for one day in the dark and the precipitated AgCl was filtered off. The crude complex was washed several times with diethyl ether to afford a clear yellow powder. This procedure has been extended to the synthesis of the complexes **12** and **13**.

Yield: 60%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  1.41 (d, 12H,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.4$ ); 2.95 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{PH} = 17.0$  Hz); 4.80 – 4.95 (m, 2H); 7.72 (ddt, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.6$ ,  $^4J_{HH} = 3.2$ ,  $^4J_{HP} = 1.2$ ); 7.85 – 7.97 (m, 2H); 8.21 – 8.26 (m, 1H). <sup>31</sup>P

NMR (161 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  12.1. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  22.1; 23.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.0); 23.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.4); 73.5; 130.9 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 192.5); 130.9 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.2); 132.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 12.0); 133.1 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 8.4); 134.1 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 7.4); 134.5 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.6). <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR (85.7 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  -2925.

#### 4.9. *Cis-diammino-chloro-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)benzyl methyl sulfide}platinum (II) nitrate 12*

Yield 89%; white solid. MP: 222 – 224°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  1.30 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 1.30 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4); 2.42 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 25.1); 4.41 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 12.8); 4.67 – 4.79 (m, 2H); 4.95 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 12.4); 7.57 – 7.62 (m, 2H); 7.67 – 7.71 (m, 1H); 7.87 (ddd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.0, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.4, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.0). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  14.8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  17.5; 23.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.7); 23.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 8.0); 42.7 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.4); 72.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9); 73.4 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.8); 128.9 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 185.5); 129.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.6); 132.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.5); 133.3 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.8); 134.5 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 7.2); 137.0 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 11.5). <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR (85.7 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  -2966. IR (Neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3159 (ν N-H); 2977; 1350 (NO<sub>2</sub>); 1218; 979. MSMS m/z (%): 567 (MH<sup>+</sup>; 40); 550 (M-NH<sub>3</sub>; 100); 508 (33); 466 (10). Analysis for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub>PPtS: calculated (C: 26.07; H: 4.53; N: 6.52; S: 4.97); found (C: 25.87; H: 4.44; N: 6.85; S: 5.51). HRMS for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PPtS (M<sup>+</sup>): calculated 566.0973; found 566.0965.

#### 4.10. *Cis-diammino-chloro-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)benzyl methyl sulfoxide}platinum (II) nitrate 13*

Yield 73%; white solid. MP: 172 – 174°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  1.29 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 1.30 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4); 1.34 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 1.41 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 3.34 (s, 3H); 4.77 (dsept, 2H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 8.0, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4); 5.43 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.6); 5.62 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 14.0); 7.68 – 7.75 (m, 3H); 7.87 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.0, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.2). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  15.2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  23.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.3); 23.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.8); 23.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.6); 23.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.1); 41.2; 62.0; 72.5 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 6.0); 72.6 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 6.0); 129.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.4); 130.4 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 185.4); 130.8 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.1); 134.5 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.7); 133.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.1); 134.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 6.9). <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR (85.7 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  -3143. IR (Neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3165 (ν N-H); 2979; 1360 (NO<sub>2</sub>); 1222; 1139 (ν S-O); 983. Analysis for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>PPtS: calculated (C: 26.73; H: 4.65; N: 6.68; S: 5.10); found (C: 26.47; H: 4.92; N: 7.05; S: 5.16). HRMS for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>PPtS (M+H): calculated 582.0922; found 582.0914.

#### 4.11. *Cis-diammino-{isopropyl 2-(methylsulfanyl)phenylphosphonato}platinum (II) nitrate 14*

*Cis*-diamminedichloroplatinum (300 mg, 1 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and silver nitrate (334 mg, 1.99 mmol, 1.99 equiv) were dissolved in distilled water. The solution was stirred during 24 hours at room temperature. The solution was then filtered in order to obtain a colorless solution of *cis*-[Pt(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. In a round-bottom flask, the sulfide **4** (1 mmol) was dissolved in water. Potassium hydroxide (1 mmol, 1 equiv) was added to the solution. The mixture was stirred for 10 min and the solution of *cis*-[Pt(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was added. The reaction was stirred for 5 hours at 65°C. After filtration, the solution was left in the fridge for crystallization. The obtained solid was filtered off, washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O and dried under vacuum. This procedure was repeated for the synthesis of the complex **15** and **16**.



Yield 47%; white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  1.22 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 1.30 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.8$ ); 2.54 (s, 3H); 4.20 – 4.39 (m, 1H); 7.14 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ ); 7.33 – 7.53 (m, 2H); 7.81 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.0$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  12.0.  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR (53.7 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  -1902.

#### 4.12. *Cis-diammino-[isopropyl 2-(methylsulfinyl)phenylphosphonato]platinum (II) nitrate 15*

Yield 29%; Aspect: white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  1.30 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 1.40 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 3.10 (s, 3H); 4.60 (dsept, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 8.4$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 7.75 – 7.85 (m, 1H); 7.92 – 8.11 (m, 2H); 8.12 – 8.17 (m, 1H).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  9.3.  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR (53.7 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  -2390.

#### 4.13. *Cis-ethylenediammino-[2-(methylsulfonyl)phenylphosphonato]platinum (II) nitrate 16*

Yield 58%; white solid. MP: 204 – 206°C (decomp.).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  2.39 (s, 3H); 7.11 – 7.19 (m, 1H); 7.30 – 7.45 (m, 2H); 7.66 (ddd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.2$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.3$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  10.0.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  26.8; 46.1; 49.6; 130.2 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 5.5$ ); 131.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 12.1$ ); 131.9 (d,  $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 2.1$ ); 133.1 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 9.3$ ); 133.9 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 7.0$ ); 138.2 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 170.9$ ).  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR (53.7 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  -2793. IR (neat)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3157; 2263; 1368; 1123; 1042. MSMS  $m/z$  (%): 459 ( $\text{MH}^+ - \text{NO}_3$ ; 100); 411 (42); 379 (80). HRMS for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{PPtS}$  (M+H): calculated 459.0345; found 459.0338.

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Dear Dr. Manners,

Thank you for your mail and for the reviewer's comments. We acknowledge the constructive character of the criticisms, and appreciate particularly that the referee brought to our knowledge the two papers by Haake and Thurley that are indeed valuable references to be included in the discussion. We have modified the manuscript, taking all the referee's comments into account. The specific answers to the points raised by the referee are listed below.

- *Introduction, first paragraph, line 4: one "the" should be deleted*  
*Introduction, second paragraph: to reference 10 could be added also the following comprehensive article: M. Iafisco, N. Margiotta: J. Inorg. Biochem. 117 (2012)237-247*  
*Introduction, second paragraph: ref 13 could include also the following updated article: B. D. Belviso, R. Caliandro, D. Siliqi, V. Calderone, F. Arnesano, G. Natile, Chem. Commun. 49 (2013) 5492-5494.*

*Section 2.2, line 10: the Cl<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> coordination shell of platinum is not "tetrahedral" but square-planar*  
*Section 2.2, line 13: the chloride coordinated to Pt should be indicated as "chlorido" and not as "chloro". This applies to several other cases in the text. The authors should check carefully.*

*Section 2.2, end of the last paragraph: "by" should be better than "towards"*

All these suggested modifications were carried out and the suggested references were included..

- *Section 2.4, end of the paragraph before the last: This is a more serious point to be considered. The authors conclude that: "we observed the coalescence of the two (31P NMR) signals at 318 K indicative of two atropoisomers being in exchange. Personally I think this is not the case of atropoisomerism but of diastereomers created by the formation of stereogenic centres at both sulphur atoms after complexation to platinum. This problem has been addressed several time ago. For instance the authors could refer to the paper: G. Natile, L. Maresca, G. Bor, Inorg. Chim. Acta, 23 (1977) 37-42 and there cited references, particularly Ref. 15 dealing with platinum complexes like those reported in the present paper. Fig 8 also shows a considerable broadening of the signal assigned to the trans isomer and a reduction of the difference in chemical shift between the signal of the trans isomer and those of the cis isomer, therefore the authors should also consider the possibility of cis-trans isomerization becoming faster at higher temperature.*

This section was re-written according to the referee's suggestions. For clarity, the text was divided into two sections, N° 2.5 and 2.6 in the revised manuscript. The two papers by Haake and Turley the referee is pointing out were quoted and their content was discussed and related to our results.

- *Section 2.4, last paragraph: "et" should be "and"*

*Conclusion, line 4: "platinium" should be "platinum".*

*Conclusion, line 5: "chelate" should be "bind"; there is no chelation in the case examined.*

All these corrections were carried out.

We hope that in this revised form the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry.

Best regards

Matthieu Hamel

# *Ortho*-(methylsulfanyl)phenylphosphonates and derivatives: synthesis and applications as mono- or bidentate ligands for the preparation of platinum complexes

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## Abstract

The preparation of six phenylphosphonates (and phosphonic acid derivatives) bearing a sulfur group in *ortho* position was accomplished *via* either a [1,3]- or a [1,4]-sigmatropic rearrangement. Their complexation with different platinum sources has been studied and the new platinum complexes obtained were characterized by NMR spectroscopy (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P and <sup>195</sup>Pt). Three runs of experiments were performed. The first was the reaction of ligands **1** and **2** bearing one sulfide and a phosphonate diester functions with potassium tetrachloroplatinate. In the obtained complexes, two molecules of ligand chelate the metal only by the sulfur atom. We were able to observe by <sup>195</sup>Pt and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy the *trans* to *cis* rearrangement of a dichloro-methyl-(*o*-phosphorylbenzyl)sulfide platinum(II) complex upon time, leading to two new species, which are diastereomers of the *cis*-complex. The second set of experiments involved ligands **1**, **2** and **3** bearing one sulfide or sulfoxide and a phosphonate diester moieties, cisplatin and one equivalent of silver nitrate. In the resulting complexes the platinum is coordinated by the sulfur atom of one molecule of ligand. In the third run, the reaction between ligands **4**, **5**, and **6** bearing one sulfide or sulfoxide and one phosphonic acid or one phosphonic monoester group and the cisplatin diaqua form led to *O,S*-Pt chelates.

**Keywords:** Platinum complexes; Sigmatropic rearrangement; *O,S*-bidentate ligands; *Cis/trans* isomerization

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## 1. Introduction

After the serendipitous discovery of the antitumor properties of cisplatin by Rosenberg in the 60's [1], several research groups have focused their attention on the design of new platinum complexes able to overcome the drawbacks of the parent molecule [2]. Among the hundreds of new compounds prepared every year to this aim, a very few number of them will reach the final tests, allowing a potential commercialisation. The fact that the Pt(II)-S bond is thermodynamically stable but kinetically labile [3] has prompted several groups to use sulfanyl or sulfinyl ligands as leaving groups instead of chloride. For example, Farrell *et al.* have reported the synthesis and the biological activity of *cis*-diammineplatinum(II) complexes bearing a monodentate sulfoxide and one chloride as leaving groups [4]. A similar sulfide series was later synthesized and tested by Khokhar and coworkers [5], In the same time, the group of Pasini has successfully used the methylsulfinyl acetate and benzoate ligands as *O,S*-leaving groups [6]. The behavior of these complexes towards DNA seems to be similar to that of carboplatin, *i.e.* the direct nucleophilic attack of a guanine base [7], instead of the preliminary aquation such as in the case of cisplatin [8].

Bisphosphonates are an important class of osteotropic compounds, thanks to their binding ability to bone or calcified tissues [9]. This capacity has been extensively used by the group of Keppler to prepare platinum phosphonate complexes well-designed for bone malignancies [10]. Hollis *et al.* have used a phosphoroformiate which, after decomplexation to platinum, liberates Foscarnet<sup>®</sup>, an antiherpetic drug [11]. It is therefore of interest to combine the advantages of sulfur-platinum complexes which could afford a better water solubility and a lower inherent toxicity as compared to cisplatin with the possibility to target calcified tissues by using phosphonates. Thus, the group of Natile has described the preparation of a bidentate ligand {the diethyl (methylsulfinyl)-methylphosphonate} and its complexation with K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>4</sub> [12]. The formed *O,S*-chelate was shown to inhibit matrix Metalloproteinase 2, 3, 9 and 12 [13].

Our group has also reported some platinum complexes derived from difunctionalized phosphorus and sulfur compounds [14,15].

In this paper, we investigate the ability of two structural families of difunctionalized phosphorus and sulfur compounds [16] to form platinum complexes. The two structural families are the 2-(sulfanylmethyl)phenylphosphonates and the 2-sulfanyl benzenephosphonates, obtained via a  $\sigma$ -[1,3] and a  $\sigma$ -[1,4] rearrangement, respectively [17, 18]. Their phosphonic monoesters and phosphonic acids derivatives are also examined.

## 2. Results and discussion

### 2.1. Preparation of the ligands

We have considered the synthesis of both neutral and anionic ligands so as to determine the differences of complexation function to the charge of the molecule. Neutral compounds can be resumed to arylphosphonates and anionic compounds to their acid derivatives. All the ligands are drawn in Fig. 1.

**INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE**

The 2-methylsulfanyl phenylphosphonate **1** was prepared from the [1,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of *S*-phenyl-diisopropylphosphorothioate and subsequent methylation of the thiolate intermediate [17]. This sulfide was then converted either to its phosphonic acid derivative **6** by the procedure of McKenna [19], or mono-hydrolyzed following the conditions of Holý [20]. The resulting phosphonic acid monoester **4** was finally oxidized with sodium periodate to afford the isopropyl 2-(methylsulfinyl)-phenylphosphonic acid **5**.

**INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE**

Starting from 2-iodobenzylsulfanyl diisopropylphosphorothioate **8**, we generate by using *t*-BuLi, *via* a [1,4]-sigmatropic rearrangement the corresponding benzylic thiolate [17], which was quenched by methyl iodide to afford sulfide **2**. Finally, the corresponding sulfoxide **3** was quantitatively obtained after oxidation of **2** with one equivalent of mCPBA.

**INSERT FIGURE 3 HERE**

## 2.2. Reactions of bifunctional ligands bearing a sterically hindered phosphodiester group

At first we investigated the equimolar reaction between **1** and potassium tetrachloroplatinate in the same conditions of reaction of Natile [12a], examining whether our ligand bearing the bulky diisopropylphosphonate functional group could also act as an *O,S*-bidentate ligand towards platinum. After one day of reaction in water at room temperature, a single product was detected by  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR, which was isolated as a clear yellow powder, albeit in low yield (34%). In the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, a  $^3J_{\text{PtH}}$  was clearly visible between platinum and the hydrogens of the methyl group, indicating the creation of a Pt-S bond. Meanwhile, no NMR information was collected about a plausible existence of a P=O-Pt bond. Finally, the HRMS and the elemental analysis proved that the obtained complex corresponded in fact to the formula  $\text{PtCl}_2\text{L}_2$ , where L was the compound **1**. By adding 2 equivalents of sulfide **1**, the yield could be improved to 61%, and the complex **9** was obtained as the sole reaction product. Ultimately, the  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR gave a singlet at -3373 ppm, in agreement with a  $\text{Cl}_2\text{S}_2$  square-planar environment surrounding platinum [21], and which can be compared to the  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR chemical shift of *trans*- $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{PhSMe})_2]$ : -3385 ppm [21]. Therefore we can assume that our complex **9** has *trans* geometry. In the same way, the reaction between  $\text{K}_2\text{PtCl}_4$  and two equivalents of ligand **2** gave the *trans*-dichlorido(bis-sulfide)complex **10** (Fig. 4). Reaction of **3** and  $\text{K}_2\text{PtCl}_4$  under the same reaction conditions lead to a mixture of products from which we were not able to obtain a pure compound.

**INSERT FIGURE 4 HERE**

We next extended our study to another platinum source, and we tried to prepare complexes according to the procedure described by Farrell for the synthesis of monodentate sulfoxides [4] and by Khokhar for monodentate

sulfides [5]. Thus, the equimolar reaction between cisplatin and **1**, **2** or **3** in the presence of silver nitrate led to the formation of the corresponding cationic complexes **11-13**, where the organic moiety was coordinated to platinum by the sulfur atom.

**INSERT FIGURE 5 HERE**

### 2.3. Reactions of bifunctional ligands bearing a deprotonated monoester group

After the failure to observe coordination by the bulky diisopropyl phosphonate group (see reactions with  $K_2PtCl_4$ , Section 2.2), we investigated the reactions of ligands in which the phosphonate has been partially hydrolyzed to the corresponding phosphonic acid monoester. Thus, the reaction of the ligands **4** and **5** with the diaqua form of cisplatin in the presence of KOH at room temperature gave the chelate complexes **14** and **15**. The complexes **14** and **15** were isolated with modest yields (ranging from 29 to 58%) after crystallization, probably because of their relative instability, however, we could characterize them by NMR spectroscopy.

### 2.4. Reaction of a bifunctional ligand bearing a deprotonated phosphonic acid group

Earlier work from our laboratory had shown that a reaction of **6** with cisplatin did not yield a bidentate complex but a dinuclear product, due to the elimination of an  $NH_3$  group [14]. So as to avoid such a *trans* elimination, we have replaced in this case cisplatin by *cis*-diaqua(ethylenediammine)-platinum(II). This reaction yielded the desired chelate complex **16**.

In contrast to **14** and **15**, complex **16** is extremely stable, even in aqueous solution:  $^1H$  and  $^{31}P$  NMR spectra of its aqueous solution recorded after several months were identical to those of a freshly prepared solution. All these bidentate complexes are highly water-soluble.

**INSERT FIGURE 6 HERE**

### 2.5. Characterization of the complexes

The complexes **9-16** were all characterized by NMR spectroscopy. A comparison of their principal signals, together with those of the free ligands is shown in the Table 1.



Table 1. Comparison between characteristic signals of the ligands **1-6** and the complexes **9-16**

Ligand / Complex n <sup>o</sup>	Chemical Shift in ppm and ( <sup>3</sup> J <sub>PtH</sub> )			
	CH <sub>3</sub> -S ( <sup>1</sup> H)	CH <sub>2</sub> -S ( <sup>1</sup> H)	<sup>31</sup> P	<sup>195</sup> Pt
<b>1</b> <sup>a</sup>	2.49	-	15.8	-
<b>9</b> <sup>b</sup>	2.71 (26)	-	12.5	-3373
<b>11</b> <sup>c</sup>	2.95 (17)	-	12.1	-2925
<b>2</b> <sup>a</sup>	2.08	4.10	17.7	-
<b>10</b> <sup>b</sup>	2.44 (25)	4.70 (br)	15.8	-3383
<b>12</b> <sup>c</sup>	2.45 (25)	4.38 (d) and 4.94 (d)	14.9	-2966
<b>3</b> <sup>b</sup>	2.63	4.12 (d) and 4.70 (d)	16.0	-
<b>13</b> <sup>c</sup>	3.34	5.43 (d) and 5.62 (d)	15.2	-3143
<b>4</b> <sup>a</sup>	2.47	-	19.4	-
<b>14</b> <sup>d</sup>	2.54	-	12.0	-1902
<b>5</b> <sup>b</sup>	2.72	-	11.2	-
<b>15</b> <sup>d</sup>	3.10	-	9.3	-2390
<b>6</b> <sup>d</sup>	2.52	-	14.0	-
<b>16</b> <sup>e</sup>	2.39	-	10.0	-2793

<sup>a</sup> Recorded at 250 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.<sup>b</sup> Recorded at 400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.<sup>c</sup> Recorded at 400 MHz in MeOD.<sup>d</sup> Recorded at 250 MHz in D<sub>2</sub>O.<sup>e</sup> Recorded at 400 MHz in D<sub>2</sub>O.

As revealed in Table 1, complexation to platinum moves the <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals corresponding to the methyl and to the methylene groups to the lower fields, with an average relative shift of  $\approx 0.4$  ppm, indicating a decrease of the electronic density around the H nuclei. This effect is also accompanied by the appearance of a coupling constant between these protons and platinum (the *J* value for the complex **13** could not be determined due to interferences with the solvent residual peak). It is noteworthy that in the case of the complex **12**, where platinum is coordinated by benzyl methyl sulfide **2**, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum reveals a differentiation between the two CH<sub>2</sub> protons, showing their diastereotopic character due to the formation of a stereogenic center at the sulfur atom by its coordination to the platinum. This effect is less marked in compound **10**, since only a broadening of the signal is observed. For the sulfoxide ligands **3** and **5** and their corresponding platinum complexes **13** and **15**, the diastereotopic character of the two CH<sub>2</sub> protons is clearly revealed by NMR spectroscopy. In the cases of *trans*-complexes **9** and **10** no diastereomeric forms are observed, probably because of their rapid exchange [22]. All the signals in <sup>31</sup>P NMR are shifted to the upper fields upon Pt coordination, by an amount ranging from 1 up to 7 ppm. Finally, the <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR reveals the important electronic difference between sulfide and sulfoxides as

ligands towards platinum. Indeed, in each case the chemical shift is lower for the sulfoxide-platinum complexes, with  $\Delta\delta$  ranging from 200 to nearly 500 ppm (complex **12** compared to **13**, **14** and **15**). There is a considerable difference in physical properties between the dichlorido complexes **9** and **10** and the diammine complexes **11-16**, since the former are completely insoluble in water and the latter are highly soluble in water and methanol.

#### 2.6. Pyramidal configuration at S centers gives rise to diastereomers. Trans-cis isomerization of complex **10**

Interestingly, we observed an isomerization of the complex **10** to its *cis* derivative. Thus, when we recorded the  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR spectrum of a one-month old solution of *trans*-**10** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , we observed, in addition to the expected singlet at -3383 ppm, two more signals in the area of -3540 ppm (Fig. 7). The chemical shift indicates that the coordination remained  $\text{PtCl}_2\text{S}_2$ , and a plausible explanation is a *trans*-to-*cis* isomerization. This isomerization may be catalyzed by traces of free chloride anions contained in non-distilled  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . It is noteworthy that this isomerization has not been observed for the complex **9**.

#### INSERT FIGURE 7 HERE

The difference of chemical shift between the two isomers ( $\Delta\delta \approx 160$  ppm) is perfectly in agreement with those reported in the literature for similar  $\text{PtCl}_2\text{S}_2$  systems (*cis*- $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{PhSMe})_2]$  and *trans*- $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{PhSMe})_2]$  displaying chemical shifts at -3385 and -3488 ppm, respectively [23]). Isomerization of *trans*-platinum complexes to their *cis* derivatives is a well-known phenomenon [24], the latter being the thermodynamically-favored product, even if the ligands are sterically hindered.

In Fig. 7, the *cis*-complex **10** shows up as two peaks with a ratio of integrals of  $\approx 60:40$ . Two reasons could explain the presence of two signals. First, the presence of two diastereomers due to the two stereogenic centers at both sulfur atoms, and second, the steric hindrance of the benzylic sulfide phosphorylated in the ortho position, which can produce rotamers.

#### INSERT FIGURE 8 HERE

Haake and Turley [22, 25] thoroughly investigated a series of bis(dialkyl sulfide) *cis*-complexes of Pt(II), and observed by analysis of NMR  $^1\text{H}$  spectra two peaks indicating two isomers, as well as their coalescence at higher temperature. The authors concluded that this is due to the inversion of configuration at the stereogenic pyramidal sulfur coordinating atoms occurring without decomplexation from the metal. No evidence for hindered rotation about the Pt-S bonds was found. It is very likely that the same phenomenon is observed in our case. Indeed, the splitting of the signal observed in the  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR spectra of the *cis*-isomer of **10** also appeared in the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra (Fig. 8). Performing  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR experiments at different temperatures, we observed coalescence of the two signals at 318 K, which allowed us to estimate the rates of interconversion,  $k_1$  and  $k_{-1}$ . Eq. 1 [26] relates the lifetime  $\tau_c$  at the coalescence temperature with the difference in resonance frequencies  $\Delta\nu$ , where  $p_A$  and  $p_B$  are the mole fractions of the two interconverting conformations. From the  $^{31}\text{P}$  chemical shift difference of 0.14 ppm (Fig. 8), we calculate, with the frequency of 161.976 MHz used for  $^{31}\text{P}$  by our 400 MHz spectrometer,  $\Delta\nu = 22.677 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Since the approximate mole fractions  $p_A$  et  $p_B$  are 0.4 and 0.6, respectively, we obtain, from Eq. 1, X

$\approx 1.888$  and  $\tau_c \approx 0.13$  s. The rates of interconversion between the diastereomers are thus  $k_1 \approx 3.1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $k_{-1} \approx 4.6 \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 318 K. These rate constants are comparable to that observed for the interconversion between the two diastereomers of *cis*-[PtCl<sub>2</sub>{C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S]<sub>2</sub>], 10.3 s<sup>-1</sup> at 307.5 K [22], which supports our surmise that the same isomerization mechanism is operating. The fact that only one peak is observed for the *trans*-isomer of **10** in Figs. 7 and 9 is in agreement with considerably faster interconversion at *S*-centers systematically observed for *trans*-[PtCl<sub>2</sub>(dialkyl sulfide)<sub>2</sub>] complexes as compared with *cis*-complexes [22].

### 3. Conclusion

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the ability of *ortho*-phosphorylphenyl and benzyl sulfides and sulfoxides to act as ligands for platinum(II). These types of aromatic phosphorus and sulfur difunctionalized ligands are readily obtained either via the anionic [1,3] or [1,4] rearrangement, and can be produced on a multi-gram scale. In the presence of a platinum source, the compounds bearing a bulky diisopropyl phosphonate group behave as monodentate ligands and bind the metal only via the sulfur atom, while the phosphonic monoester or phosphonic acid derivatives act as bidentate *O,S*-ligands. The fair water solubility of the cationic monodentate complexes **11-13** bearing a dialkyl phosphonate group, and the excellent water solubility of the chelate complexes **14-16** makes them good candidates for tests as potential anti-tumor drugs. An interesting aspect of sulfide and sulfoxide complexes is the inversion of configuration at asymmetric sulfur atoms. For the bis-dialkylsulfide complex *cis*-**10**, we observed duplicated <sup>31</sup>P and <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR peaks due to the two diastereomers below 318 K, and were able to confirm the interconversion rate earlier reported for similar platinum complexes by Haake and Turley [22].

### 4. Experimental

#### 4.1. General data

The quality of the solvents used was either RPE or RS. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and toluene were purified with a PURESOLV™ apparatus developed by Innovative Technology Inc. Ultra deionized water was obtained with a Milli-Q plus apparatus. DMF was distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub> and conserved under nitrogen atmosphere. K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>4</sub> was purchased from Strem Chemicals. Cisplatin and *cis*-dichloro(ethylenediammine)-platinum were obtained from W. C. Heraeus GmbH. NMR spectra were recorded on Brüker DPX 250 or DRX 400 instruments. Chemical shifts are referenced to the following: TMS for <sup>1</sup>H, the solvent residual peak for <sup>13</sup>C, 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> for <sup>31</sup>P and 0.1 M K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>4</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O (relative to Na<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>6</sub>) for <sup>195</sup>Pt. Coupling constants (*J*) are expressed in Hertz. Mass spectra were obtained on a GC/MS Saturn 2000 (EI or CI, 70 eV) or on a Waters QTOF micro apparatus. Elemental analyses were obtained from a THERMOQUEST NA 2500 instrument. IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin Elmer 16 PC FT-IR instrument, or a Perkin Elmer ATR universal FT-IR instrument. Compounds **1** and **6** were prepared according to [17], **7** and **8** from [17].

#### 4.2. Diisopropyl 2-(methylsulfanylmethyl)phenylphosphonate **2**

In a round-bottom flask filled with nitrogen, *O,O*-diisopropyl-(2-iodobenzyl)-*S*-phosphorothioate **8** (508 mg, 1 equiv, 1.2 mmol) was added to a solution of *t*-BuLi (1.4 mL, 2 equiv, 1.7 M in hexanes, 2.4 mmol) in 20 mL of THF at -78°C. After 2 hours of stirring at -78°C, MeI (3 equiv) was added, and the solution was stirred for another 2 hours. The reaction was then quenched at -10°C with 10 mL of an acidic saturated solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether. The extracts were unified, washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated to give a yellow oil, which was further purified on silica gel chromatography (pentane / ethyl acetate 70:30, R<sub>f</sub>: 0.32).

Yield 65%; colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.27 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 1.38 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 2.08 (s, 3H); 4.10 (s, 2H); 4.75 (dsept, 2H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 12.4, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 7.31 (dt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.3); 7.31 (dt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.4); 7.56 – 7.62 (m, 1H); 7.92 (ddd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.3, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.9, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 0.7 Hz). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (101.2 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 17.7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 15.9; 24.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.4); 24.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.4); 36.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.8 Hz); 71.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.7); 126.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.5); 128.8 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 185.2); 130.6 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.8); 132.6 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.5); 13.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 9.4); 142.4 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 10.0). GC/MS m/z (%): 334 (M+1; 100); 256 (17); 201 (5); 172 (29); 41 (4). IR (NaCl) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2977; 1244; 979. Analysis for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PS: calculated (C: 55.61; H: 7.67; S: 10.60); found: (C: 55.34; H: 7.68; S: 10.86).

#### 4.3. Diisopropyl 2-(methylsulfinylmethyl)phenylphosphonate **3**

To a solution of **2** (411 mg, 1 equiv, 1.36 mmol) in dichloromethane (6 mL) at -78°C was added dropwise a solution of *m*CPBA (305 mg, 1 equiv, 77% purity, 1.36 mmol) in dichloromethane. The solution was stirred during one hour and an aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate was added. After 30 min at room temperature, the aqueous layer was extracted. The organic phase was washed with water, dried on magnesium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to give light yellow oil. The purification on silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate / ethanol 75:25, R<sub>f</sub>: 0.3) afforded a colorless oil.

Yield 99%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.24 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 1.26 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 1.36 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 1.37 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.2); 2.63 (s, 3H); 4.12 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 12.6); 4.68 – 4.79 (m, 3H); 7.40 – 7.48 (m, 1H); 7.50 – 7.58 (m, 2H); 7.89 (ddd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.0, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.1). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (160 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 16.0. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 24.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.9); 24.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.6); 24.5 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.7); 38.8; 59.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.5); 71.7 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9); 128.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.2); 129.5 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 184.2); 132.6 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.1); 132.9 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.8); 134.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 8.2); 135.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 10.0). MSMS m/z (%): 341 (M+Na; 28); 299 (35); 278 (91); 263 (100); 257 (29); 236 (27); 147 (17). IR (NaCl) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2979; 2932; 1236; 981; 475. HRMS for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NaPS (M+Na): calculated 341.0952; found 341.0927.

#### 4.4. Isopropyl 2-(methylsulfonyl)phenylphosphonic acid **4**

Diisopropyl 2-(methylsulfonyl)phenylphosphonate **1** (1.318 g, 1 equiv, 4.57 mmol) and sodium azide (1.758 g; 8 equiv, 36.5 mmol) were dissolved in DMF and heated to reflux for three days. The obtained solid was filtered, washed several times with acetone, and dissolved in a few quantity of methanol. The product was acidified using Amberlyst 15 resin, and was further crystallized from acetone to give a white solid.

Yield 61%; MP: 112°C (acetone).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.35 (d, 6H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 2.47 (s, 3H); 4.74 (dsept, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 1.5$ ); 7.15 (dt, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.4$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HP}} = 3.4$ ); 7.26 – 7.33 (m, 1H); 7.44 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.4$ ); 7.92 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.8$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$ ); 11.31 (s, 1H).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  19.4.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (62.9 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  17.2; 24.3 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 5.0$ ); 71.7 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 6.3$ ); 124.7 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 14.5$ ); 127.2 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 13.8$ ); 128.5 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 196.9$ ); 132.8 (d,  $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 2.5$ ); 134.4 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 9.4$ ); 143.2 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 8.8$ ). MSMS m/z (%): 269 (M+Na; 100); 227 (70); 209 (40). IR (KBr)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1199; 1007; 910; 736. HRMS for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{PS}$  (M+H): calculated 247.0558; found 247.0555.

#### 4.5. Isopropyl (2-methylsulfinyl)phenylphosphonic acid **5**

To a solution of the sulfide **5** (250 mg, 1 equiv, 1.015 mmol) in acetone (12 mL) was added dropwise an aqueous solution of sodium metaperiodate (239 mg, 1.1 equiv, 1.117 mmol, in 5 mL  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) at 0°C. After complete addition the flask was conserved in the fridge overnight. The precipitate was then filtered, and the residue was crystallized from acetone / diethyl ether 1:1.

Yield: 61%; white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.14 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ ); 1.19 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.4$ ); 2.72 (s, 3H); 4.53 (sept, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ ); 7.45 (ddt, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 2.8$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HP}} = 0.8$ ); 7.66 (m, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$ ); 7.80 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 13.6$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ ); 8.11 (m, 1H); 8.48 (s, 1H).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (160 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  11.2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  23.7 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 4.1$ ); 23.9 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 4.3$ ); 44.1; 71.0 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 5.9$ ); 123.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 11.8$ ); 128.4 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 188.6$ ); 132.6 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 13.0$ ); 132.8 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 8.4$ ); 132.9; 149.0 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 9.8$ ).

#### 4.6. Trans-dichlorido-bis-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)phenyl methyl sulfide}platinum (II) **9**

To 1.5 mL of an aqueous solution of potassium tetrachloroplatinate (128 mg, 1 equiv, 0.308 mmol) was added dropwise a solution of the sulfide (168 mg, 1.9 equiv, 0.586 mmol) diluted in 3 mL of water. The reaction was stirred for one day. The resulting precipitate was filtered, washed with 3 mL of water and dried. It was crystallized from a mixture THF / pentane 1:2 to afford a clear yellow solid. The complex can also be purified on silica gel chromatography ( $\text{CHCl}_3$  / EtOH 98:2,  $R_f$ : 0.3).

Yield 61%. MP = 188°C (dec.).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.34 (d, 6H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 1.44 (d, 6H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ ); 2.71 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 26.0$ ); 4.70 – 4.85 (m, 2H); 7.53 (dt, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.4$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 2.9$ ); 7.67 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$ ); 7.99 (ddd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.1$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.5$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 0.7$ ); 8.77 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  12.5.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  24.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 4.1$ ); 24.5 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 4.3$ ); 25.9; 72.7; 130.6 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 13.7$ ); 133.2 (d,  $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 2.5$ ); 133.2 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 190.8$ ); 134.5 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 8.6$ ); 135.9 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 6.6$ ); 138.1 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 11.5$ ).  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR (85.7 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -3373. IR (KBr)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2978; 1453; 1239; 987. MSMS m/z (%): 341 (M + Na - 1 ligand; 28); 299 (35); 278 (91); 263 (100); 257 (29); 236 (27); 147 (17). Analysis for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{42}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_6\text{P}_2\text{PtS}_2$ : calculated (C: 37.06; H: 5.02; S: 7.61); found (C: 37.32; H: 5.22; S: 7.64)

#### 4.7. Trans-dichlorido-bis-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)benzyl methyl sulfide}platinum (II) **10**

This complex was prepared according to the procedure described for the complex **9** from sulfide **2**.

Yield 53%; yellow solid; MP: 140 – 142°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.26 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 1.42 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 2.45 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 25.3 Hz); 4.70 (br s, 2H); 4.77 (dsept, 2H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 12.4, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 7.42 (ddt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.6, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 0.8); 7.55 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6); 7.88 – 7.96 (m, 2H). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 15.8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 20.4; 24.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.7); 24.5 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.0); 39.7 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.1); 71.9 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9); 128.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.2); 130.2 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 184.6); 132.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.8); 132.8 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.9); 134.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 8.9); 137.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 9.6). <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR (85.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -3383. IR (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2978; 1427; 1234; 971. MSMS m/z (%): 870 (MH<sup>+</sup>; 35); 835 (M-Cl; 100); 799 (-Cl; 17); 756 (5). HRMS for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>47</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>PtS<sub>2</sub> (M+H): calculated 870.1314; found 870.1301.

#### 4.8. *Cis-diammine-chlorido-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)phenyl methyl sulfide}platinum (II) nitrate 11*

To a slurry methanolic solution of cisplatin (40 mg, 1 equiv, 0.133 mmol) and the sulfide **1** (38 mg, 1 equiv, 0.133 mmol) was added AgNO<sub>3</sub> (22 mg, 1 equiv, 0.133 mmol) dissolved in boiling MeOH. The mixture was stirred for one day in the dark and the precipitated AgCl was filtered off. The crude complex was washed several times with diethyl ether to afford a clear yellow powder. This procedure has been extended to the synthesis of the complexes **12** and **13**.

Yield: 60%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 1.41 (d, 12H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4); 2.95 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 17.0 Hz); 4.80 – 4.95 (m, 2H); 7.72 (ddt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.2, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 1.2); 7.85 – 7.97 (m, 2H); 8.21 – 8.26 (m, 1H). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 12.1. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 22.1; 23.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.0); 23.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.4); 73.5; 130.9 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 192.5); 130.9 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.2); 132.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 12.0); 133.1 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 8.4); 134.1 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 7.4); 134.5 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.6). <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR (85.7 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ -2925.

#### 4.9. *Cis-diammino-chlorido-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)benzyl methyl sulfide}platinum (II) nitrate 12*

Yield 89%; white solid. MP: 222 – 224°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 1.30 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 1.30 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4); 2.42 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 25.1); 4.41 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 12.8); 4.67 – 4.79 (m, 2H); 4.95 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 12.4); 7.57 – 7.62 (m, 2H); 7.67 – 7.71 (m, 1H); 7.87 (ddd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.0, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.4, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.0). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 14.8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 17.5; 23.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 4.7); 23.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 8.0); 42.7 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.4); 72.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9); 73.4 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.8); 128.9 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 185.5); 129.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.6); 132.1 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.5); 133.3 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.8); 134.5 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 7.2); 137.0 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 11.5). <sup>195</sup>Pt NMR (85.7 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ -2966. IR (Neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3159 (ν N-H); 2977; 1350 (NO<sub>2</sub>); 1218; 979. MSMS m/z (%): 567 (MH<sup>+</sup>; 40); 550 (M-NH<sub>3</sub>; 100); 508 (33); 466 (10). Analysis for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub>PPtS: calculated (C: 26.07; H: 4.53; N: 6.52; S: 4.97); found (C: 25.87; H: 4.44; N: 6.85; S: 5.51). HRMS for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PPtS (M<sup>+</sup>): calculated 566.0973; found 566.0965.

#### 4.10. *Cis-diammine-chlorido-{2-(diisopropylphosphoryl)benzyl methyl sulfoxide}platinum (II) nitrate 13*

Yield 73%; white solid. MP: 172 – 174°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 1.29 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 1.30 (d, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4); 1.34 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 1.41 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0); 3.34 (s, 3H); 4.77 (dsept, 2H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 8.0, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4); 5.43 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.6); 5.62 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 14.0); 7.68 – 7.75 (m, 3H); 7.87 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.0, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> =

7.2).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  15.2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  23.1 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 5.3$ ); 23.2 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 5.8$ ); 23.3 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 5.6$ ); 23.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 4.1$ ); 41.2; 62.0; 72.5 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 6.0$ ); 72.6 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 6.0$ ); 129.8 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 13.4$ ); 130.4 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 185.4$ ); 130.8 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 13.1$ ); 134.5 (d,  $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 2.7$ ); 133.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 14.1$ ); 134.3 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 6.9$ ).  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR (85.7 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  -3143. IR (Neat)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3165 (v N-H); 2979; 1360 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ); 1222; 1139 (v S-O); 983. Analysis for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{29}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_7\text{PtS}$ : calculated (C: 26.73; H: 4.65; N: 6.68; S: 5.10); found (C: 26.47; H: 4.92; N: 7.05; S: 5.16). HRMS for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{29}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_4\text{PtS}$  (M+H): calculated 582.0922; found 582.0914.

#### 4.11. *Cis-diammine- $\{isopropyl\} 2\text{-}(methylsulfanyl)phenylphosphonato\}$ platinum (II) nitrate **14***

*Cis*-diamminedichloroplatinum (300 mg, 1 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and silver nitrate (334 mg, 1.99 mmol, 1.99 equiv) were dissolved in distilled water. The solution was stirred during 24 hours at room temperature. The solution was then filtered in order to obtain a colorless solution of *cis*- $[\text{Pt}(\text{NH}_3)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2$ . In a round-bottom flask, the sulfide **4** (1 mmol) was dissolved in water. Potassium hydroxide (1 mmol, 1 equiv) was added to the solution. The mixture was stirred for 10 min and the solution of *cis*- $[\text{Pt}(\text{NH}_3)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2$  was added. The reaction was stirred for 5 hours at 65°C. After filtration, the solution was left in the fridge for crystallization. The obtained solid was filtered off, washed with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  and dried under vacuum. This procedure was repeated for the synthesis of the complex **15** and **16**.

Yield 47%; white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  1.22 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 1.30 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.8$ ); 2.54 (s, 3H); 4.20 – 4.39 (m, 1H); 7.14 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ ); 7.33 – 7.53 (m, 2H); 7.81 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.0$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  12.0.  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR (53.7 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  -1902.

#### 4.12. *Cis-diammine- $\{isopropyl\} 2\text{-}(methylsulfinyl)phenylphosphonato\}$ platinum (II) nitrate **15***

Yield 29%; Aspect: white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  1.30 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 1.40 (d, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 3.10 (s, 3H); 4.60 (dsept, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 8.4$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ); 7.75 – 7.85 (m, 1H); 7.92 – 8.11 (m, 2H); 8.12 – 8.17 (m, 1H).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  9.3.  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR (53.7 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  -2390.

#### 4.13. *Cis-ethylenediammine- $\{2\text{-}(methylsulfanyl)phenylphosphonato\}$ platinum (II) nitrate **16***

Yield 58%; white solid. MP: 204 – 206°C (decomp.).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  2.39 (s, 3H); 7.11 – 7.19 (m, 1H); 7.30 – 7.45 (m, 2H); 7.66 (ddd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.2$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.3$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  10.0.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  26.8; 46.1; 49.6; 130.2 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 5.5$ ); 131.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 12.1$ ); 131.9 (d,  $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 2.1$ ); 133.1 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 9.3$ ); 133.9 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 7.0$ ); 138.2 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 170.9$ ).  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR (53.7 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  -2793. IR (neat)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3157; 2263; 1368; 1123; 1042. MSMS  $m/z$  (%): 459 ( $\text{MH}^+ - \text{NO}_3$ ; 100); 411 (42); 379 (80). HRMS for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{PtS}$  (M+H): calculated 459.0345; found 459.0338.

## Acknowledgements

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Figures captions:

Fig. 1. Ligands for coordination with Pt(II) discussed in this work.

Fig. 2. Preparation of compounds **4-6** from **1**.

Fig. 3. Preparation of compounds **2** and **3** from **8**.

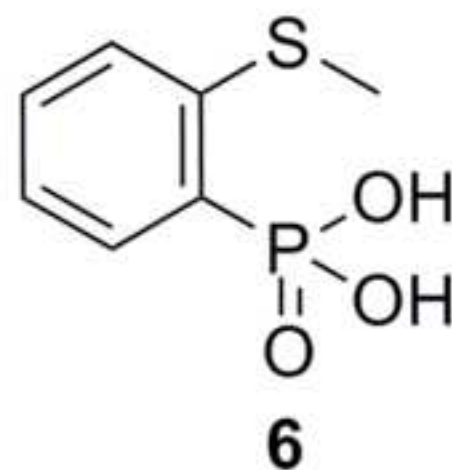
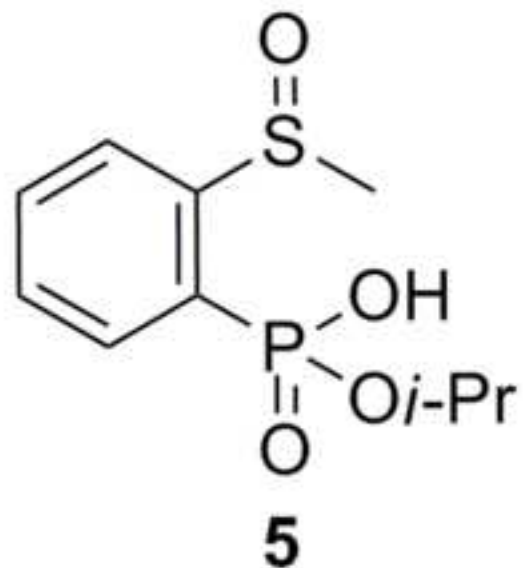
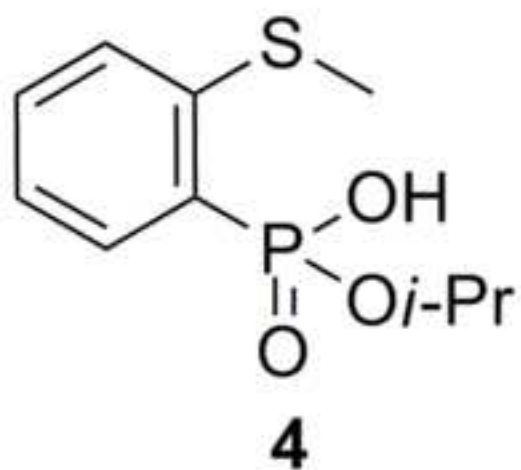
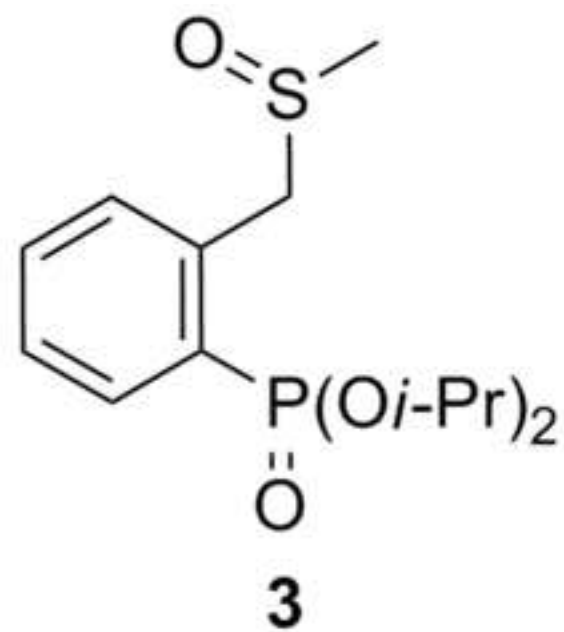
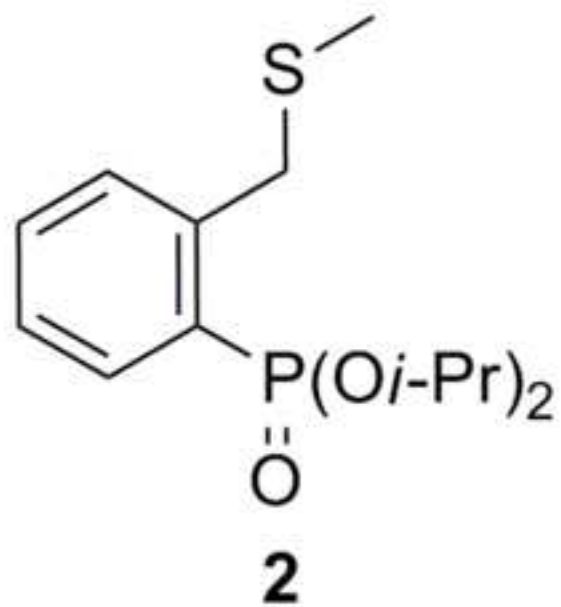
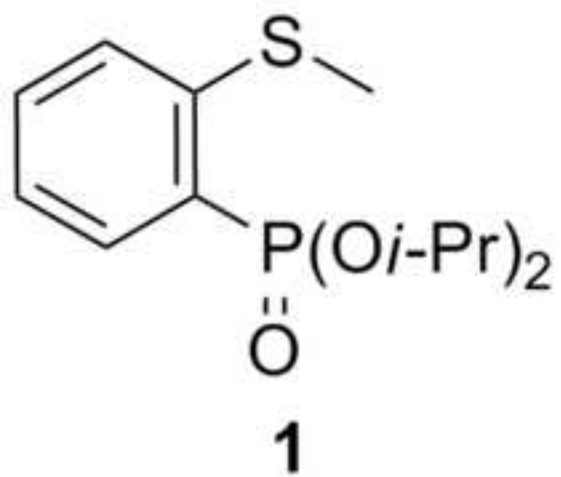
Fig. 4. Reaction of potassium tetrachloroplatinate with **1** or **2**.

Fig. 5. Reaction of Cisplatin with **1**, **2** or **3**, affording **11**, **12** and **13**.

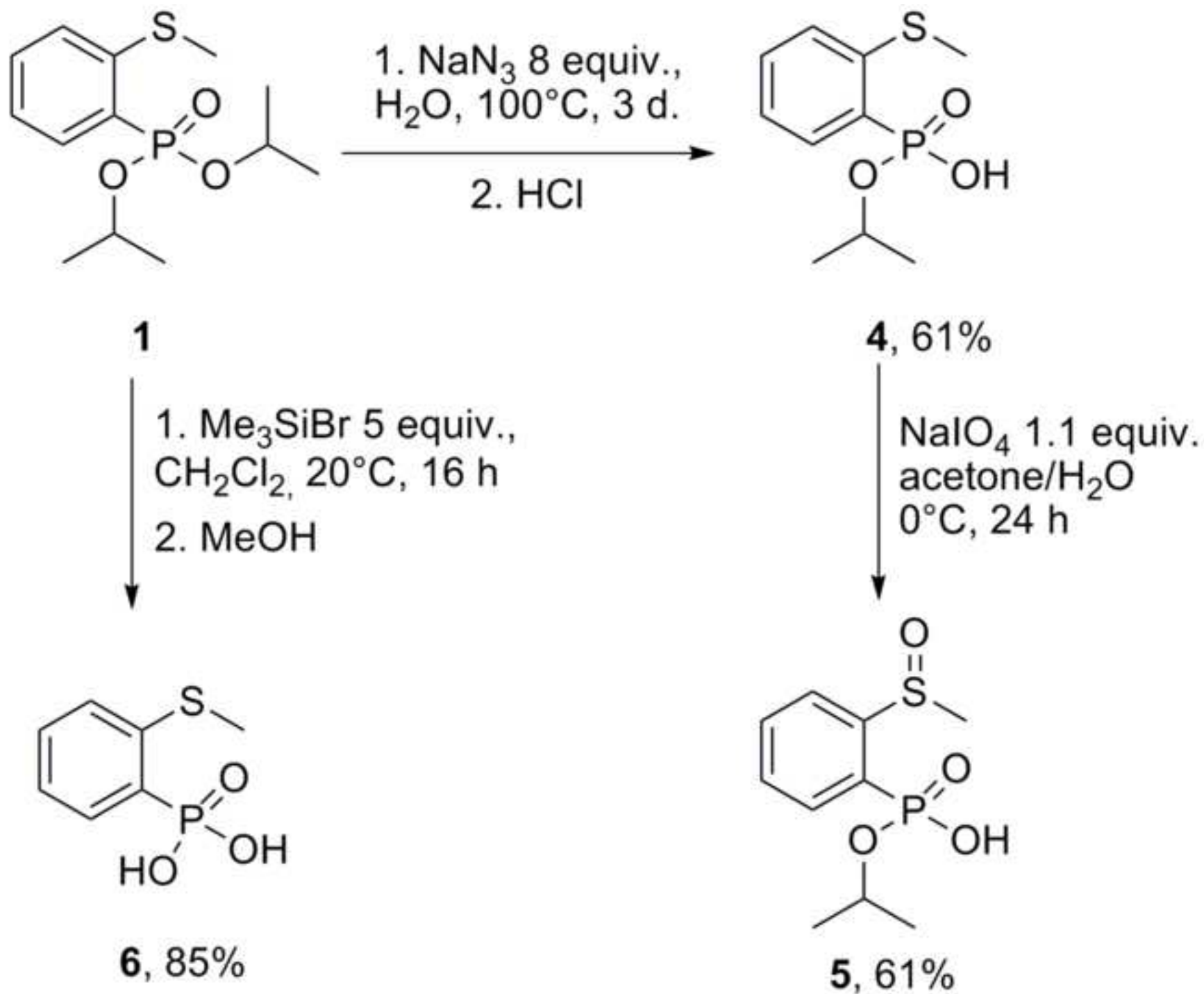
Fig. 6. Preparation of complexes **14-16**.

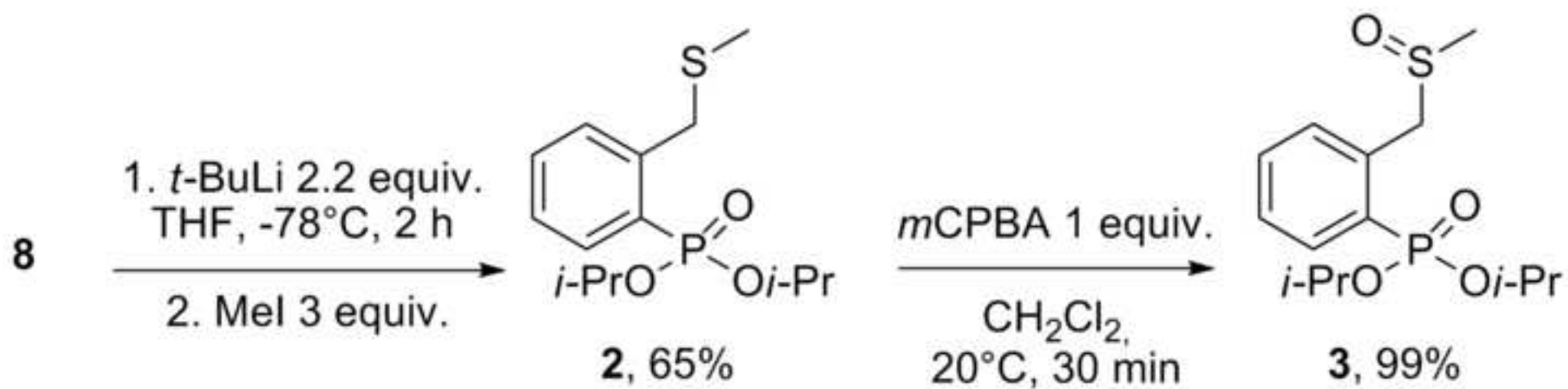
Fig. 7.  $^{195}\text{Pt}$  NMR spectrum of an aged solution of **10** (1 month in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 278 K, recorded at 298 K) showing the signals of the *trans* (left) and *cis* (right) isomers.

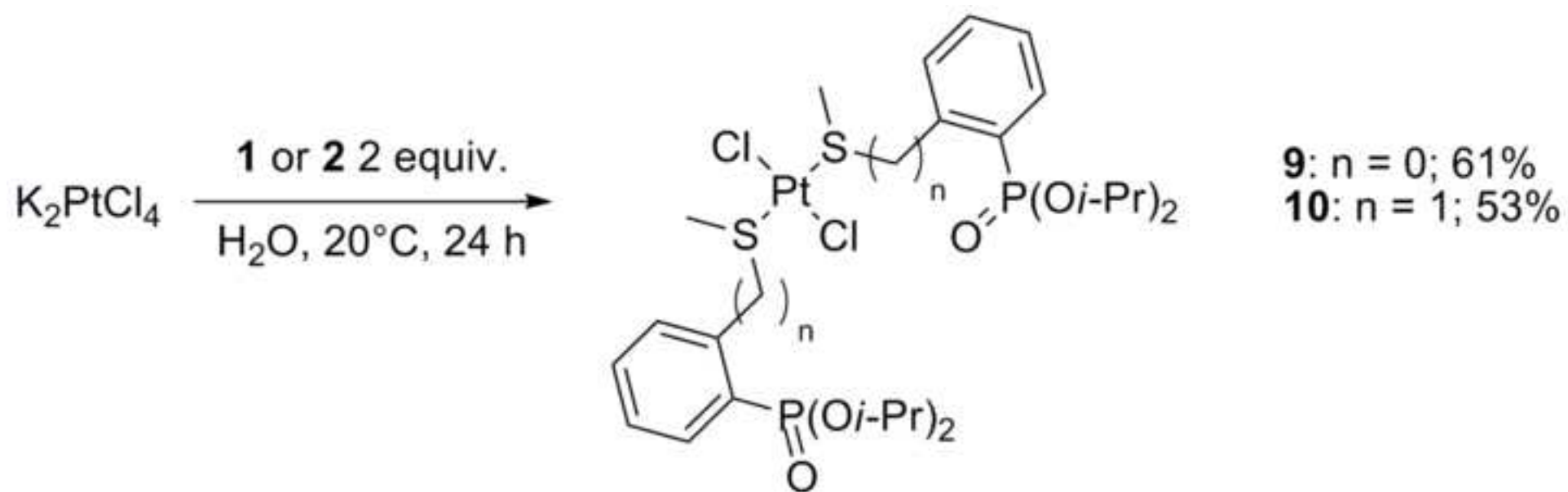
Fig. 8.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra spectrum of an aged solution of **10** (1 month in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 278 K) recorded at 296 and 318 K, respectively.

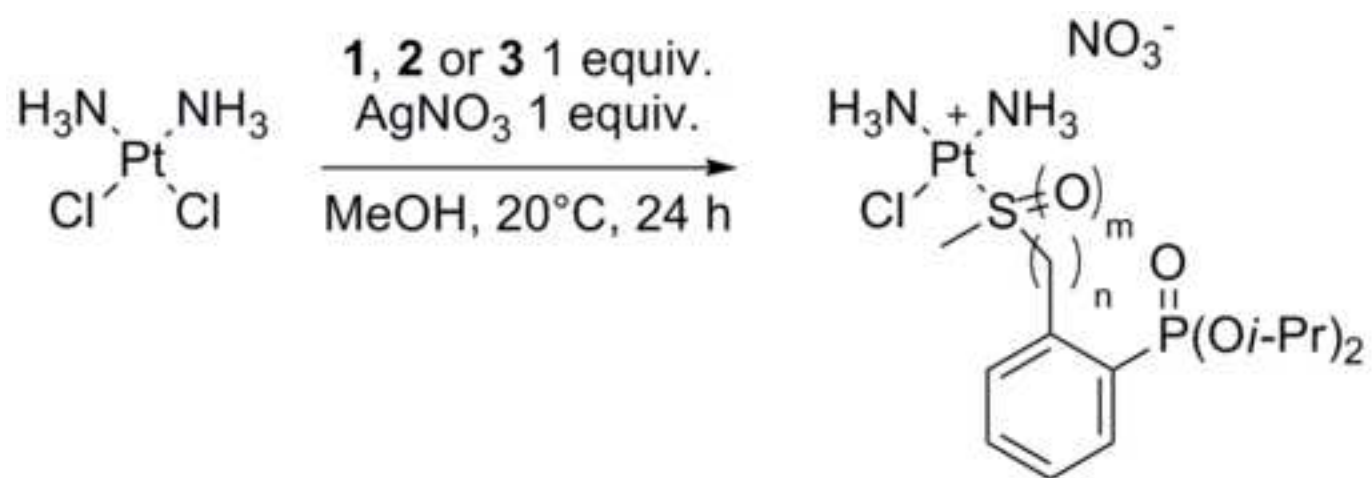


Figure(s)

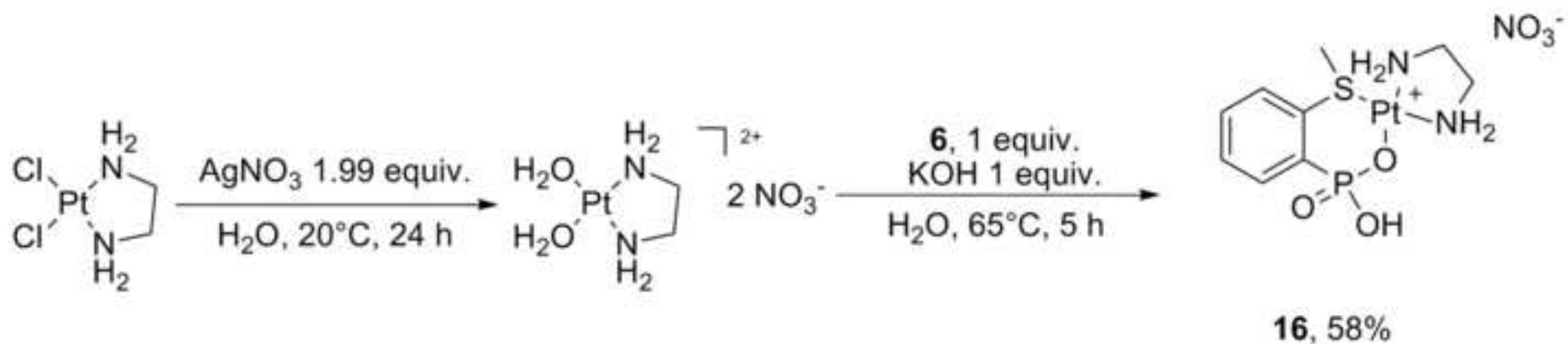
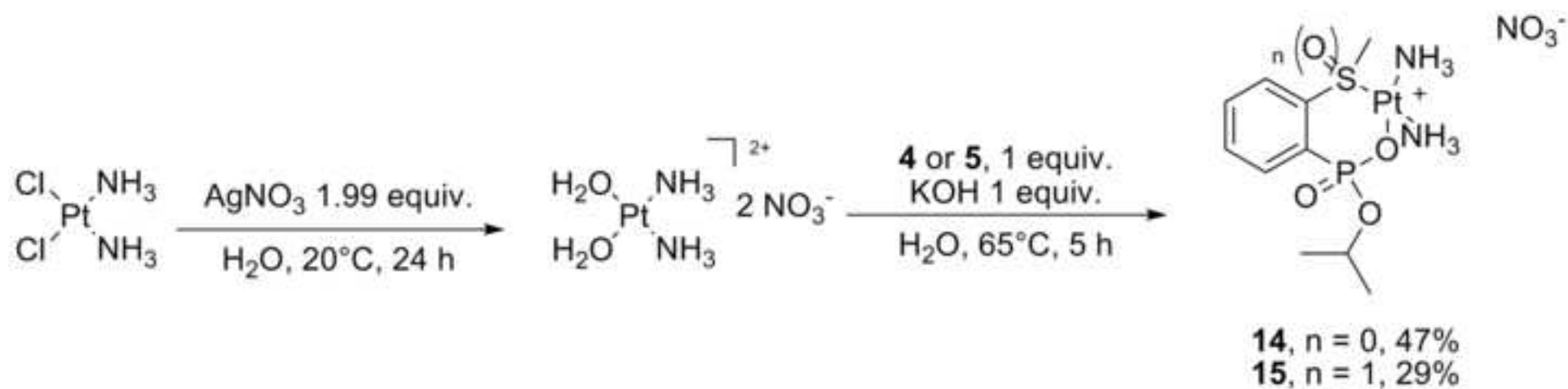
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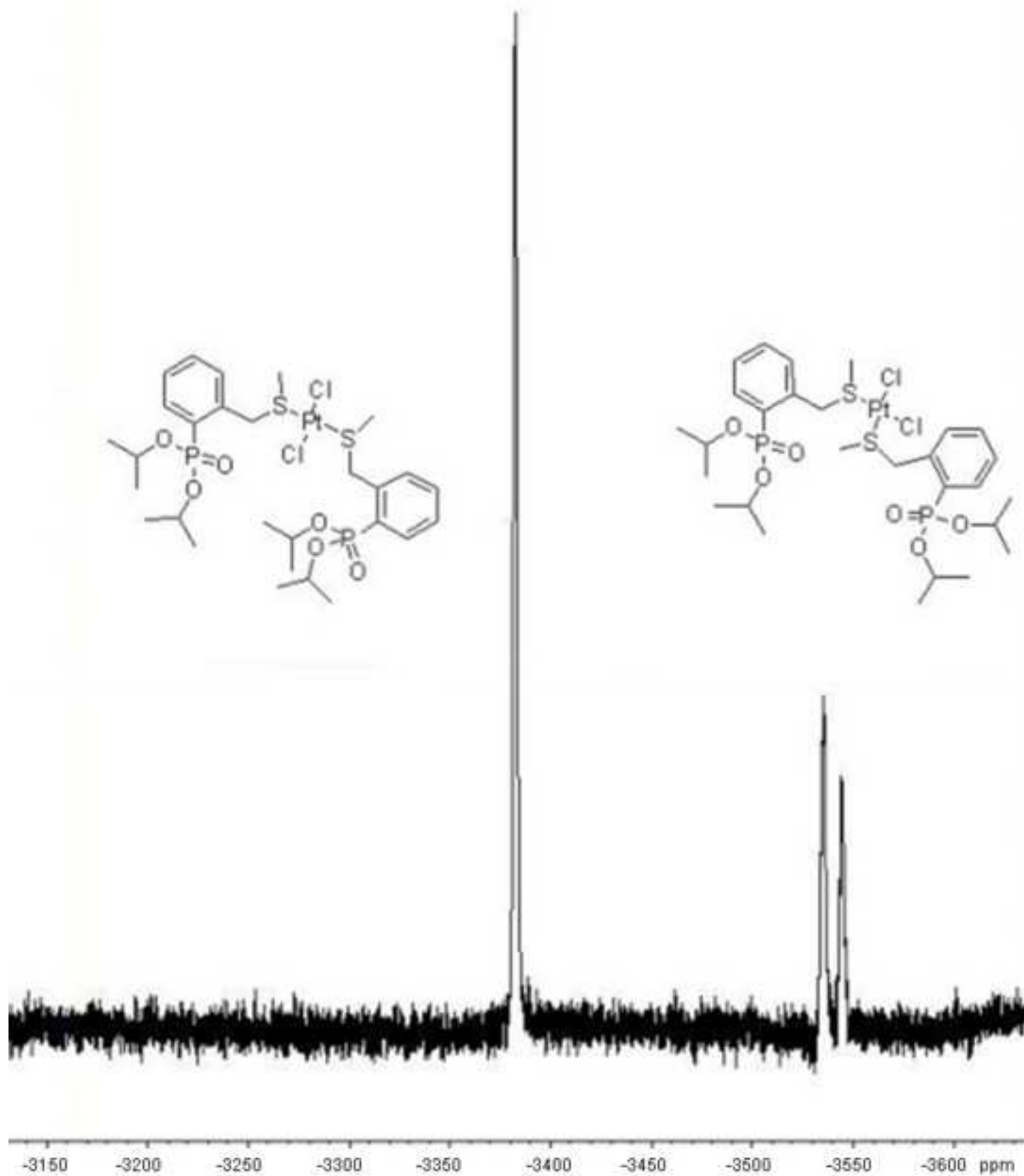


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