

(11), hydroacylation (12), hydrosilylation (13), and decarbonylation (14) of aldehydes. It is particularly interesting to note that the chelate effect promotes the oxidative addition of the aldehydic C-H bond yet inhibits the decarbonylation sufficiently to allow the isolation of the acyl hydride as illustrated in the Scheme (15). This is remarkable when one realises that iridium(I) is an effective decarbonylation catalyst.

A second reason for studying the phosphinoaldehydes is their synthetic flexibility; for instance these ligands can easily be converted to a wide range of derivatives by simple manipulations of the formyl group (16). We are actively pursuing several lines of research utilising these and related compounds

with a goal of preparing asymmetric and bimetallic complexes.

Diphenylphosphinobenzoic Acid (X = CO₂H)

This potentially chelating ligand has been described primarily in patents covering work done at the Shell Development Laboratory where it was found that in combination with Ni(1,5-cyclooctadiene) it forms a very active ethylene polymerisation catalyst (17). Curiously, little other work with this ligand has been reported, although its ease of synthesis from the inexpensive *o*-chlorobenzoic acid coupled with its impressive, albeit brief, catalytic track record suggests that a study of its co-ordination chemistry may prove fruitful.

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The Chemistry of the Platinum Group Metals

An international conference organised by the Dalton Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry is to be held at Bristol, England, during 19-24th July, 1981. The chemistry of all six platinum group metals is to be discussed at sessions devoted to: the biological aspects of the platinum group metals, homogeneous catalysis, co-ordination and organometallic chemistry, metal cluster complexes, the

platinum group metals in organic synthesis, structure and bonding, and the role of the platinum group metals in technological chemistry.

Many important contributions have already been offered; others wishing to contribute, or to receive further information, should contact the Organising Secretary: Dr. P. L. Goggin, School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, England.