FULL PAPER



Structural and Synthetic Insights into Sodium-Mediated-Ferration of Fluoroarenes

Lewis C. H. Maddock,*a Alan R. Kennedy,b and Eva Hevia*a

^a Department für Chemie, Biochemie und Pharmazie, Universität Bern, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland, e-mail: lewis.maddock@unibe.ch; eva.hevia@unibe.ch ^b Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, University of Strathclyde, UK-Glasgow G1 1XL, United Kingdom

Dedicated to Prof. Peter Kündig on the occasion of his 75th birthday

© 2021 The Authors. Helvetica Chimica Acta published by Wiley-VHCA AG. This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes.

Exploiting chemical cooperation between Na and Fe(II) within the bimetallic base [dioxane·NaFe(HMDS)3] (I), (dioxane = 1,4-dioxane, HMDS = N(SiMe₃)₂) the selective ferration of fluorobenzene, 1-fluoronaphthalene, 1,4difluorobenzene, 1,2,4-trifluorobenzene, 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene, 1-bromo-3,5-difluorobenzene, 3-fluoroanisole and 3,5-difluoroanisole has been realized, affording sodium ferrates [dioxane · Na(HMDS)(2-F-C₆H₄)Fe(HMDS)]_∞ $[\text{dioxane} \cdot \text{Na}(\text{HMDS})(2-\text{F-C}_{10}\text{H}_6)\text{Fe}(\text{HMDS})]_{\infty}$ (2), $[\text{dioxane} \cdot \{\text{Na}(\text{HMDS})(2,5-F_2-C_6H_3)\text{Fe}(\text{HMDS})\}_2]_{\infty}$ $[\text{dioxane} \cdot \{\text{Na(HMDS)}(2,3,6-F_3-C_6H_2)\text{Fe(HMDS)}\}_2]_{\infty}$ (4), $[(\text{dioxane})_{1.5} \cdot \text{Na(HMDS)}(2,4,6-F_3-C_6H_2)\text{Fe(HMDS)}]_2$ $[(dioxane)_{1.5} \cdot \{Na(HMDS)(4-Br-2,6-F_2-C_6H_2)Fe(HMDS)_2\}]$ (6), $[\{(dioxane)_2 \cdot Na_2Fe(HMDS)_2(2-methoxy-6-F-C_6H_3)\}^+ \{Fe-C_6H_3\}]$ (HMDS)₃,⁻]_∞ (7) and [dioxane ·{Na(HMDS)(4-methoxy-2,6-F₂-C₆H₂)Fe(HMDS)}₂]_∞ (8), respectively. Reactions take place under mild reaction conditions, with excellent control of the selectivity and no competing C-F bond activation is observed. Showcasing complex polymeric arrangements in some cases, the structures of compounds 1-8 have been determined by X-ray crystallographic studies. In all cases, the Fe(II) centers occupy the position in the relevant fluoroarene that was previously filled by a proton, confirming that these metallations are actually ferration processes whereas the Na atoms prefer to form Na-F dative interactions. Compounds 1-8 are thermally stable and do not undergo benzyne formation (through NaF elimination) and their formation contrasts with the inertness of Fe(HMDS)₂ which fails to act as a base to metallate fluoroarenes.

Keywords: cooperative effects, ferrates, fluoroarenes, metallation, sodium.

Introduction

Fluoroarenes are highly valuable building groups present in many biologically active and pharmaceutical compounds. Despite their synthetic relevance, their deprotonation using organolithium bases is particularly challenging due to the fragility of the relevant metallated intermediates which can undergo numerous unwanted side reactions (benzyne formation, auto-metallation) even when cryogenic conditions are employed. To address some of these

Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under https://doi.org/10.1002/hlca.202100206

limitations several main-group metal-mediated alternatives have been developed using single metal bases and heterobimetallic reagents. Thus, regioselective magnesiation of fluoroarenes has been accomplished at room temperature by using a magnesium amide base supported by a bulky β -diketiminate ligand which can provide steric stabilization to the sensitive fluoroaryl fragments. Exploiting bimetallic cooperation, a variety of mixed-metal bases combining an alkali-metal with another main-group metal have been reported in the literature. Thus, the groups of *Uchiyama* and *Knochel* have shown that lithium zincates containing the basic amide TMP (2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidide) are exceptionally mild and efficient bases for the zincation fluoroarenes and other



sensitive aromatic substrates while operating at room temperature. [7-9] Our group in collaboration with Mulvey has also demonstrated that LiTMP combined with a group 13 complex such as Al(TMP)iBu₂ or Ga(CH₂SiMe₃)₃ promotes regioselective stepwise metallation of fluoroarenes, where first the substrate is deprotonated by the lithium amide followed by fast transmetallation to the Group 13 metal trap which permits for the stabilization of the fluoroaryl fragment. [10] Related to these findings, Crimmin has recently found that Pd can catalyze the zincation of a wide range of fluoroarenes, operating through a heterobimetallic Pd–Zn reaction pathway. [11,12]

Expanding beyond main-group metal chemistry, Knochel has reported trimetallic (TMP)₂Fe·2MgCl₂·4LiCl as a regioselective base which enables the functionalization of fluoroarenes through deprotonative metallation followed by a Ni-catalyzed cross-coupling with alkyl halides.[13] This study demonstrated for the first time the ability of Fe(II) amides to acts as bases for arene metallation when combined with an alkali-metal, although its constitution and the mechanisms involved in these transformation still remain unknown. Inspired by this work we have recently demonstrated that sodium ferrates made up by a combination of a Fe(II) bis(amides) with a sodium amide, are powerful bases for deprotonation. [14-17] For example, [NaFe(HMDS)₃] deprotonates pentafluorobenzene at room temperature almost instantaneously (Scheme 1). By the isolation and characterization of the organometallic intermediates involved in this process we can confirm that it is actually a ferration. [14,16] Combining reactivity and DFT

Me₃Si SiMe₃ SiMe₃ SiMe₃ SiMe₃ Me SiMe₃ Me SiMe₃ SiMe₃ Me SiMe₃ SiMe₃ Me SiMe₃ Si

Scheme 1. Sodium-mediated ferration of pentafluorobenzene by $[NaFe(HMDS)_3]$. The substrate is formally deprotonated by Na before rapid transmetallation to Fe.

studies a new type of bimetallic cooperation was revealed. Thus, although the isolated product is formally the result of a Fe–H exchange, pentafluor-obenzene undergoes first sodiation (Na–H exchange). This step is favored by the coordination of the substrate to Na through one of its F-atoms. Fast intramolecular transmetallation to Fe follows the sodiation, where the fragile C_6F_5 fragment is trapped and stabilized by the formation of a more covalent Fe–C bond (*Scheme 1*). This type of reaction where both Na and Fe are required for the success of the metallation can be described as sodium-mediated-ferrations. [14]

Building on this work, here we extend this ferration approach to a range of fluoroarenes exhibiting different degrees of activation (in terms of the pK_a of their H-atoms) and substitution patterns. Using sodium ferrate $[dioxane \cdot NaFe(HMDS)_3]$ ($I)^{[14]}$ as a bimetallic base, we report our findings on the isolation and structural authentication of the intermediates involved in these transformations.

Results and Discussion

We started our studies assessing the reactivity of [dioxane·NaFe(HMDS)₃] (I) with the less activated mono-fluorinated substrates fluorobenzene and 1-fluoronaphthalene (*Scheme 2*). While no reaction was observed at room temperature, these fluoroarenes undergo ferration when used as neat solvents and stirred at 50 °C overnight. In both cases deprotonation at the *ortho* position of the F-atom and concomitant release of HMDS(H) is observed affording [dioxane·Na-

Scheme 2. Ferration of mono-fluoroarenes to access complexes 1 and 2.



 $(HMDS)(2-F-C_6H_4)Fe(HMDS)]_{\infty}$ (1) and $[dioxane \cdot Na-(HMDS)(2-F-C_{10}H_6)Fe(HMDS)]_{\infty}$ (2) in yields of 92% and 38% after crystallization, respectively (*Scheme 2*, see *Supporting Information* for experimental details).

Neither of the monometallic components of I were able to demonstrate controlled metallation of fluorobenzene. Fe(HMDS)₂ showed no reactivity in C₆H₅F, even at reflux, whilst NaHMDS appeared to sluggishly metallate C₆H₅F with concomitant NaF salt elimination and benzyne formation resulting in a complex mixture of products. Contrary to this, products 1 and 2 are selectively formed and isolated as stable solids, exhibiting remarkable thermal stability in solution when heated to reflux, showing no evidence of salt elimination/benzyne formation. These results are particularly striking considering fluorobenzene is a common solvent used in organometallic chemistry for highly polar species^[18-20] and typically considered as relatively inert (e.g. the pK_a of ortho-H in fluorobenzene is 36.8).[21] Furthermore, HMDS is a relatively mild basic amide when compared to other commodity amides typically used in deprotonative metallation such as diisopropylamide (DA) or tetramethylpiperidide (TMP).[22] It should also be noted that attempts to generate complex 1 employing a single equivalent of C₆H₅F in benzene were unsuccessful; with only traces of product be detected by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy. These findings contrast with our previous work assessing the deprotonation of pentafluorobenzene by I which occurs almost instantaneously at room temperature using stoichiometric amounts of the substrate.[16]

For brevity, only the higher quality structure of 2 (with no disorder present) is discussed since both 1 and 2 are structurally analogous. Confirming that the metallation of 1-fluoronaphthalene is actually a ferration, in **2**, Fe forms a σ bond at the 2-position of the aromatic ring [Fe-C14, 2.0029(16) Å] occupying the position previously filled by a H center, whereas Na interacts with the F [Na—F1, 2.2277(14) Å; Figure 1] closing a six-membered {NaNFeCCF} ring. Both metals are also connected by an HMDS bridge. Fe completes its distorted trigonal planar coordination sphere (sum of internal angles around Fe = 359.88°) by bonding to a terminal HMDS group, while Na is solvated by two dioxane molecules. Possessing two O-atoms at positions 1 and 4, each dioxane connects the {NaFe(2-F- $C_{10}H_6$)(HMDS)₂} unit with a neighboring unit through Na-O(CH₂)₂O-Na bridges, giving rise to a one-dimensional 'ziq-zaq' polymeric chain structure (see Supporting Information, Figure \$13).

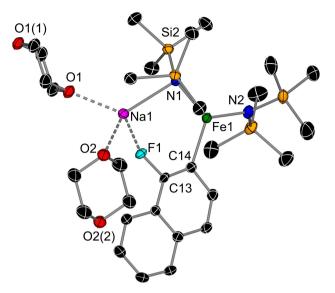


Figure 1. Molecular structure of complex **2** showing an extra equivalent of 1,4-dioxane present in its asymmetric unit. H-Atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids displayed at 50% probability level. Symmetry operator O1(1): 1-x, -y, 1-z; O2(2): -x, -y, 1-z.

Compounds 1 and 2 both exhibit good solubility in C₆D₆, suggesting that their polymeric structures observed in the solid state are not retained in solution. The solution-phase effective magnetic moments of 1 and 2 were determined using the Evans method affording values of 4.95 $\mu_{\rm B}$ for both, which is in the range of the spin-only magnetic moment value $(4.90 \,\mu_{\rm B})$ for a high-spin (S=2) Fe(II) center. The paramagnetic character of these heterobimetallic compounds is also manifested in the broad paramagnetically shifted resonances observed in their ¹H-NMR spectra.^[23] Protons for the HMDS groups appear as one very broad resonance centered at -2.88 and -3.14 ppm for **1** and **2**, respectively. This suggests that in solution both bridging and terminal HMDS groups can interconvert at room temperature through a fluctional process. A singlet for the dioxane molecules is observed at 3.35 and 4.19 ppm for 1 and 2, respectively. Remarkably, the relevant signals for all the aromatic protons of the metallated fluoroarenes can be visualized. For 1, three highly downfield shifted signals are observed at 188.84, 134.22 and 70.60 ppm, with the fourth upfield shifted at -56.11. Similarly, for 2, seven aromatic signals were observed spread between 176.90 and -20.43 ppm (see Supporting *Information* for details). Neither **1** or **2** shows ¹⁹F{¹H} resonances between 500 and -500 ppm, nor did any of the subsequently reported complexes. This has



been previously found by Holland for Fe(II) complexes and attributed to the very rapid relaxation of the ¹⁹F nuclei. ^[24]

Formation of **1** and **2** can be rationalized as shown in *Scheme 1*, through initial sodiation of the substrate followed by fast intramolecular trapping of the fragile fluoroaryl by the Fe(II) center, rendering the formal products of ferration of fluorobenzene and 2-fluoronaphthalene respectively. In this regard dioxane also plays an important role as its monodentate nature favors the formation of contacted-ion pair species, where both metals Na and Fe can communicate with each other. This contrast with recent studies reported by our group using chelating crown ether 15-crown-5 which furnishes solvent-separated sodium ferrate [{Na-(15-crown-5)₂}⁺{Fe(HMDS)₃}⁻] which is completely inert towards metallation of even the activated substrate C_6F_5H . [16]

To test the scope of our bimetallic approach we next investigated the reactivity of **I** towards more activated polyfluorinated arenes 1,4-difluorobenzene, 1,2,4-trifluorobenzene, 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene and 1-bromo-3,5-difluorobenzene (*Scheme 3*). Reactions were carried out in benzene using stoichiometric amounts of the fluoroarene with the exception of 1,4-difluorobenzene which was used as the solvent of the reaction. It should be noted that 1,4-difluorobenzene has a higher calculated pK_a than fluorobenzene (40.1). These reactions afforded the new products

 $\begin{array}{ll} [\text{dioxane} \cdot \{\text{Na}(\text{HMDS})(2,5\text{-}F_2\text{-}C_6\text{H}_3)\text{Fe}(\text{HMDS})\}_2]_{\infty} & \textbf{(3)}, \\ [\text{dioxane} \cdot \{\text{Na}(\text{HMDS})(2,3,6\text{-}F_3\text{-}C_6\text{H}_2)\text{Fe}(\text{HMDS})\}_2]_{\infty} & \textbf{(4)}, \\ [(\text{dioxane})_{1.5} \cdot \text{Na}(\text{HMDS})(2,4,6\text{-}F_3\text{-}C_6\text{H}_2)\text{Fe}(\text{HMDS})_2]_2 & \textbf{(5)} \\ \text{and} & [(\text{dioxane})_{1.5} \cdot \{\text{Na}(\text{HMDS})(4\text{-Br-}2,6\text{-}F_2\text{-}C_6\text{H}_2)\text{Fe}(\text{HMDS})\}_2 & \textbf{(6)} \text{ as crystalline solids in yields of } 45\%, \\ 56\%, & 51\% & \text{and } 90\%, & \text{respectively} & (\textit{Scheme 3}). & \text{The bimetallic structures of } \textbf{3} - \textbf{6} & \text{were established by X-ray crystallographic studies} & \text{(see Supporting Information for details)}. \\ \end{array}$

Complexes 3 and 4 (Figure 2) are almost structurally identical, both hemi-solvate dimers (connected through 1,4-dioxane) where the fluoroaryl unit bridges between Na and Fe in the same manner as for 1 and 2. They possess similar metrics for the key bonding interactions; Fe1-C16 2.094(3) and 2.114(2) Å, Na1--F1 2.256(2) and 2.2173(18) Å for **3** and **4**, respectively. Beyond the intramolecular Na-F contacts, these compounds also display longer intermolecular Na-F interactions. The outcome of such ancillary bonding results in higher-order structures manifested in 2D networks of fused rings (i.e. a honeycomb-type lattice, see Supporting Information Figures S15 and S18), where each ring is comprised of six Na atoms, four fluoroaryl units and two 1,4-dioxane molecules. In 3, Na1 establishes contact to F2 (para position with respect to F1) of an adjacent monomeric unit (2.3559(2) Å). Whilst in 4 (which contains three monomeric units in the asymmetric unit) both Na1 and Na3 intermolecularly bond with para positioned fluorines of adjacent units

Scheme 3. Reactions of I with polyfluorinated benzenes to form complexes 3-6.





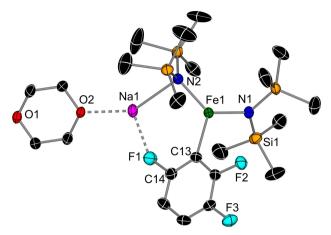
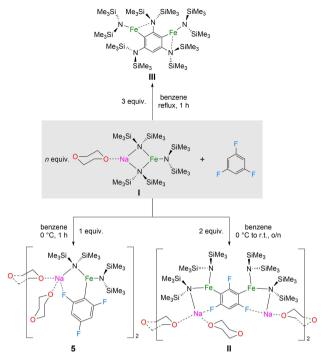


Figure 2. Monomeric unit of complex **4** with an extra half equivalent of 1,4-dioxane shown. H-Atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids displayed at 50% probability level.

(at distances of 2.4615(18) and 2.4407(18) Å, resp.), as well as an F-atom each from different equivalents of co-crystallized fluorobenzene (Na1···F11(1) 2.749(2) Å, Na3···F10 2.903(4) Å). Na2 differs marginally as it holds no interaction with any co-crystallized solvent and thus resides closer to an adjacent unit allowing for contact with *meta* F2 as well as *para* F3 (2.8764(17) and 2.3556(17) Å, resp.).

The ¹H-NMR spectra of **3** and **4** were recorded in C_6D_6 and (D_8) toluene, respectively and both feature very highly shifted resonances for the remaining aryl protons ranging from 218.75 to -60.52 ppm. Broad singlet resonances for 1,4,-dioxane appear at 3.49 and 5.27 ppm, respectively and very broad resonances for HMDS protons are centered at -2.67 and -1.50 ppm, respectively. Solution magnetic moments $(D_8$ toluene) were measured using the *Evans* method $^{[25-27]}$ to give $\mu_{\rm eff}$ values of 5.19 and 5.53 $\mu_{\rm B}$, for **3** and **4**, respectively; both higher than the spin-only value $(4.90~\mu_{\rm B}~{\rm for}~{\rm an}~{\rm S}=2$, high spin Fe(II) center) but within an appreciable range. $^{[28]}$

Previously, we have described the reactivity of multiple equivalents **I** and 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene (*Scheme 4*) which affords di-ferrated product [{dioxane·NaFe(HMDS)₂}₂(2,4,6-C₆HF₃)]₂ (**II**), which can react onwards through novel C–F to C–N bond conversion to furnish [1,3-bis(FeHMDS)-2,4,6-tris(HMDS)-C₆H] (**III**). However by controlling the temperature of the reaction, on a strictly 1:1 stoichiometric basis at 0°C, the mono-metallated product **5** can be selectively prepared and successfully isolated. Similarly, 1-bromo-3,5-difluorobenzene can also be mono-ferrated in the same manner to afford **6** (*Figure 3*); this substrate will



Scheme 4. Summary of reactions of 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene with different stoichiometric quantities of **I** to afford complexes **5**, **II** and **III**.^[14]

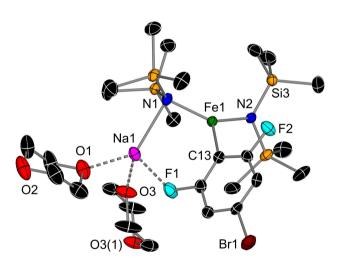


Figure 3. Monomeric unit of complex **6** with an extra half equivalent of 1,4-dioxane shown. H-Atoms and positional disorder in one TMS and one 1,4-dioxane group omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids displayed at 50% probability level. Symmetry operator O3(1): 1-x, -y, 1-z.

also afford **III** with the application of high temperature and a three molar excess of sodium ferrate **I** are employed.

Complexes **5** and **6** are structurally very similar, crystallizing as discrete dimers whereby the Na centers bridge through a 1,4-dioxane unit (Na1–O3 2.3354(16),

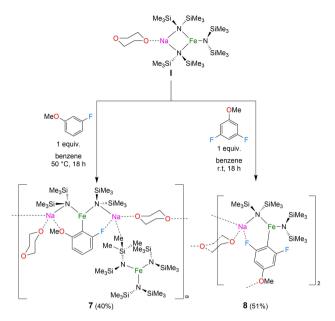


2.3407(18) Å, for **5** and **6**) and each Na bonds to a second terminally bound equivalent of 1,4-dioxane (Na1–O1 2.3192(17), 2.3010(19) Å, for **5** and **6**), likely preventing any *inter*molecular Na···F/Br interactions. Once more the *anchoring* bonds of the ligands to the Fe center are very similar for both complexes and to the previously discussed complexes (*e.g.* for **6** Fe1–C13 2.093(2) Å, Fe1–N1 1.9902(17) Å, Fe1–N2 1.9429(17) Å).

¹H-NMR Spectra of **5** and **6** (recorded in C_6D_6) are highly similar, displaying a single downfield resonance for the remaining equivalent aryl ring protons (101. 64 and 104.74 ppm, resp.) and broad *singlet* resonances for dioxane (4.85 and 5.20 ppm, resp.) and HMDS protons (-2.26 and -2.13 ppm, resp.). Their solution state magnetic moments were calculated to be 4.40 and 5.05 $μ_B$ for **5** and **6**, respectively.

Within Directed ortho-Metallation (DoM) chemistry, a strong ortho-directing group is OMe, [29] with anisole being a typically employed as a benchmark substrate in these reactions.^[30] Our recent studies have shown that when I is treated with anisole, coordination $[(PhOMe)_3Na(diox)_{0.5}]^+ \{Fe(HMDS)_3\}^-]_2$ formed, where anisole acts as a neutral Lewis donor coordinating to the Na center but no ferration is observed even under forcing reaction conditions.^[16] Thus we next pondered if I could induce the deprotonation of fluoroarenes containing OMe substituents. Pleasingly, selective ferration of 3-fluoroanisole and 3,5-difluoroanisole was observed when I was reacted in benzene furnishing [{(dioxane)₂·Na₂Fe- $(HMDS)_2(2-methoxy-6-F-C_6H_3)\}^+\{Fe(HMDS)\}^-]_{\infty}$ (7) and [dioxane \cdot {Na(HMDS)(4-methoxy-2,6-F₂-C₆H₂) Fe(HMDS)₂]_{∞} (**8**), respectively (*Scheme 5*).

In the case of 3-fluoroanisole, it is necessary to employ harsher reaction conditions (18 h, 50 °C) with ferration occurring at the doubly-activated C2-position between the F and OMe substituents. Interestingly, compound 7 is formally the result of reaction of this substrate with two equivalents of I (Figure 4, top). Thus, X-ray crystallographic analysis revealed that 7 exhibits an unusual pseudo-solvent-separated ion-pair structure. Its cation comprises an Fe^{II} center bound to two HMDS ligands and the C2-ferrated fluoroaryl fragment through its C-atom, occupying the position vacated by a H atom. Each HMDS acts as a bridge between the Fe and Na centers, with Na2 coordinating also to the OMe group (Na2-O1, 2.365(2) Å) as well as one molecule of dioxane. In contrast, Na1 engages with the F substituent (Na1-F1, 2.309(2) Å) and forms an electrostatic anagostic interaction with one Me group of a different HMDS ligand belonging to the



Scheme 5. Syntheses of complexes **7** and **8**.

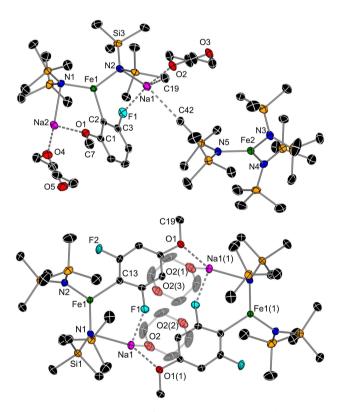


Figure 4. Monomeric unit of complex **7** (top) and dimeric unit of complex **8** (bottom) with an extra equivalent of 1,4-dioxane shown. H-atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids displayed at 50% probability level. Symmetry operator O2(1): 1-x, -y, 1-z; O2(2): -x, -y, 1-z; O2(3): 1+x, y, z.





{Fe(HMDS)₃}[−] moiety of **7** (Na1····C42, 2.9272(1) Å). Na1 is also solvated by another molecule of dioxane (*Figure 4*). The latter acts a bridge between Na1 and the Na2 of an adjacent unit, affording a linear 1D polymeric chain higher-order structure for **7** (see *Supporting Information, Figure S25*). Compound **7** can alternatively be envisaged as a co-complex of [dioxane·Na(HMDS)₃] (**I**) and metallation intermediate [dioxane·Na(HMDS)(2-methoxy-6-F-C₆H₃)Fe(HMDS)]. A related co-complex has recently been reported by us for the metallation of anisole by heteroleptic sodium ferrate [NaFe(TMP)(HMDS)₂]. [16]

Using 3,5-difluoroanisole as a substrate allowed us to assess optional site selectivity of the sodium ferrate base, where metallation could take place at the position either between the F-atoms of between an F and the methoxy substituent. With the isolation of complex 8, clear preference is established for ferration at the 4-position between the two F-atoms with the formation of a new Fe-C bond (2.1078(17) Å; Figure 4, bottom). Revealing a new structural motif to those described above, 8 displays a dimeric structure where each Na coordinates to one bridging HMDS group, a, molecule of dioxane, one of the F-atoms of the metallated aryl and the O from the OMe group of a monomeric neighboring fragment (Na1-O1(1),2.3745(14) Å), which closes a 12-membered {NaFCC-CO₃ ring (Figure 4, bottom). Adding further complexity, the expanded structure of 8 is a linear 1D network of dimers where propagation is facilitated by the 1,4dioxane donors which act as bridges between sodium atoms of different dimeric units (Figure S27).

The regioselectivity observed for the ferration of 3,5-difluoroanisole is consistent with previous findings when 4-fluoroanisole is reacted with **I** followed by iodine quenching. In this case, iodination occurred exclusively *ortho* to the F substituent rather than the OMe group; suggesting that for this mixed Na/Fe base the regioselectivity of the metallation is controlled by the strong acidifying effect of the F substituents rather than the coordinating ability of the OMe group.

 1 H-NMR Spectra of complexes **7** and **8** were recorded in (D₈)toluene. The OMe groups resonate at -14.84 and 9.51 ppm, respectively, with the degree of paramagnetic shifting roughly proportional to their through-bond and through-space distances from the paramagnetic Fe(II) center. [31-35] Much more highly shifted are the aryl protons for **7** (106.38, 100.73 and -70.53 ppm) and **8** (101.46 ppm). Interestingly in the case of **7** two distinct overlapping signals are observed for the HMDS groups; at -2.77 and -4.86 ppm which

can be assigned to the bridging HMDS and {Fe-(HMDS)₃} fragment, respectively.

Conclusions

Exploiting chemical cooperation between Na and Fe, the regioselective ferration of a range of fluorinated arenes by sodium ferrate I has been demonstrated. In all cases, metallation is observed at the *ortho* position of a F-atom. Isolation and structural elucidation of the metallated intermediates have revealed the structural variations of these heterobimetallic species which in most cases exhibit intricate polymeric arrangements. Despite their structural diversity they all share the same trigonal planar {Fe(HMDS)₂Ar}⁻ anchor, whereas the Na atoms affix to these fragments through Na–O, Na–F and Na-Me ancillary bonds.

Experimental Section

Synthetic protocols and full characterization of the new compounds are reported in the electronic supporting information. CCDC deposition numbers 1: 2107737, 2: 2107738, 3: 2107739, 4: 2107740, 5: 2107741, 6: 2107742, 7: 2107743 and 8: 2107744 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data are provided free of charge by the joint Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre and Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe Access Structures service.

Acknowledgements

We thank the University of Bern and the SNF (188573) for the generous sponsorship of this research. Open access funding provided by Universitat Bern.

Author Contribution Statement

L. C. H. M. carried out the experiments and characterizations of all materials. A. R. K. and L. C. H. M. performed the X-ray diffraction studies. L. C. H. M. and E. H. devised the project and supervised the work. All authors contributed to the production of the manuscript.





References

- [1] J. Wang, M. Sánchez-Roselló, J. L. Aceña, C. del Pozo, A. E. Sorochinsky, S. Fustero, V. A. Soloshonok, H. Liu, 'Fluorine in Pharmaceutical Industry: Fluorine-Containing Drugs Introduced to the Market in the Last Decade (2001–2011)', Chem. Rev. 2014, 114, 2432–2506.
- [2] S. Purser, P. R. Moore, S. Swallow, V. Gouverneur, 'Fluorine in medicinal chemistry', *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2008**, *37*, 320–330.
- [3] M. Schlosser, L. Guio, F. Leroux, 'Multiple Hydrogen/Lithium Interconversions at the Same Benzene Nucleus: Two at the Most', J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2001, 123, 3822–3823.
- [4] P. L. Coe, A. J. Waring, T. D. Yarwood, 'The lithiation of fluorinated benzenes and its dependence on solvent and temperature', J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1 1995, 2729– 2737.
- [5] L. Davin, R. McLellan, A. R. Kennedy, E. Hevia, 'Ligand-induced reactivity of β-diketiminate magnesium complexes for regioselective functionalization of fluoroarenes via C–H or C–F bond activations', Chem. Commun. 2017, 53, 11650–11653.
- [6] S. D. Robertson, M. Uzelac, R. E. Mulvey, 'Alkali-Metal-Mediated Synergistic Effects in Polar Main Group Organometallic Chemistry', Chem. Rev. 2019, 119, 8332–8405.
- [7] S. H. Wunderlich, P. Knochel, '(tmp)₂Zn·₂MgCl₂·2LiCl: A Chemoselective Base for the Directed Zincation of Sensitive Arenes and Heteroarenes', Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2007, 46, 7685–7688.
- [8] M. Mosrin, P. Knochel, 'TMPZnCI·LiCI: A New Active Selective Base for the Directed Zincation of Sensitive Aromatics and Heteroaromatics', Org. Lett. 2009, 11, 1837– 1840.
- [9] Y. Kondo, M. Shilai, M. Uchiyama, T. Sakamoto, 'TMP-Zincate as Highly Chemoselective Base for Directed Ortho Metalation', J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1999, 121, 3539-3540.
- [10] R. McLellan, M. Uzelac, A. R. Kennedy, E. Hevia, R. E. Mulvey, 'LiTMP Trans-Metal-Trapping of Fluorinated Aromatic Molecules: A Comparative Study of Aluminum and Gallium Carbanion Traps', Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 9566– 9570.
- [11] M. Garçon, N. W. Mun, A. J. P. White, M. R. Crimmin, 'Palladium-Catalysed C—H Bond Zincation of Arenes: Scope, Mechanism, and the Role of Heterometallic Intermediates', *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2021**, *60*, 6145–6153.
- [12] R. G. Bergman, 'C-H activation', *Nature* **2007**, *446*, 391–393.
- [13] S. H. Wunderlich, P. Knochel, 'Preparation of Functionalized Aryl Iron(II) Compounds and a Nickel-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling with Alkyl Halides', Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2009, 48, 9717–9720.
- [14] L. C. H. Maddock, T. Nixon, A. R. Kennedy, M. R. Probert, W. Clegg, E. Hevia, 'Utilising Sodium-Mediated Ferration for Regioselective Functionalisation of Fluoroarenes via C–H and C–F Bond Activations', *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2018**, *57*, 187–191.
- [15] L. C. H. Maddock, A. Kennedy, E. Hevia, 'Lithium-mediated Ferration of Fluoroarenes', *Chimia* **2020**, *74*, 866–870.
- [16] L. C. H. Maddock, M. Mu, A. R. Kennedy, M. García-Melchor, E. Hevia, 'Facilitating the Ferration of Aromatic Substrates Through Intramolecular Sodium Mediation', *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2021, 60, 15296–15301.

- [17] L. C. H. Maddock, R. Morton, A. R. Kennedy, E. Hevia, 'Lateral Metallation and Redistribution Reactions of Sodium Ferrates Containing Bulky 2,6-Diisopropyl-*N*-(trimethylsilyl) anilide Ligands', *Chem. Eur. J.* **2021**, *27*, 15181–15187.
- [18] B. H. Kim, H. G. U. H. G. Kim, S. S. Kim, T. S. Hwang, 'Dehalogenation of Monohalopyridines Catalyzed by Group 4 Metallocene Reagent', *Bull. Korean Chem. Soc.* 2000, 21, 211–214.
- [19] Y.-R. Lee, J.-H. Choi, 'Rh₂(Opiv)₄-Catalyzed Reactions of Diazo Compound Derived from Meldrum's Acid and Styrenes. Efficient Synthesis of Cyclopropanes', *Bull. Korean Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *27*, 503 – 507.
- [20] S. D. Pike, M. R. Crimmin, A. B. Chaplin, 'Organometallic chemistry using partially fluorinated benzenes', *Chem. Commun.* **2017**, *53*, 3615–3633.
- [21] K. Shen, Y. Fu, J.-N. Li, L. Liu, Q.-X. Guo, 'What are the pK_a values of C–H bonds in aromatic heterocyclic compounds in DMSO?', *Tetrahedron* 2007, 63, 1568–1576.
- [22] R. E. Mulvey, S. D. Robertson, 'Synthetically Important Alkali-Metal Utility Amides: Lithium, Sodium, and Potassium Hexamethyldisilazides, Diisopropylamides, and Tetramethylpiperidides', *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 11470–11487.
- [23] L. C. H. Maddock, T. Cadenbach, A. R. Kennedy, I. Borilovic, G. Aromí, E. Hevia, 'Accessing Sodium Ferrate Complexes Containing Neutral and Anionic N-Heterocyclic Carbene Ligands: Structural, Synthetic, and Magnetic Insights', *Inorg. Chem.* 2015, 54, 9201–9210.
- [24] J. Vela, J. M. Smith, Y. Yu, N. A. Ketterer, C. J. Flaschenriem, R. J. Lachicotte, P. L. Holland, 'Synthesis and Reactivity of Low-Coordinate Iron(II) Fluoride Complexes and Their Use in the Catalytic Hydrodefluorination of Fluorocarbons', J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2005, 127, 7857–7870.
- [25] D. F. Evans, 'The determination of the paramagnetic susceptibility of substances in solution by nuclear magnetic resonance', *J. Chem. Soc.* **1959**, 2003–2005.
- [26] E. M. Schubert, 'Utilizing the Evans method with a super-conducting NMR spectrometer in the undergraduate laboratory', *J. Chem. Educ.* **1992**, *69*, 62.
- [27] C. Piguet, 'Paramagnetic Susceptibility by NMR: The "Solvent Correction" Removed for Large Paramagnetic Molecules', J. Chem. Educ. 1997, 74, 815–816.
- [28] C. G. Werncke, J. Pfeiffer, I. Müller, L. Vendier, S. Sabo-Etienne, S. Bontemps, 'C-Halide bond cleavage by a twocoordinate iron(I) complex', *Dalton Trans.* 2019, 48, 1757– 1765.
- [29] P. Beak, A. I. Meyers, 'Stereo- and Regiocontrol by Complex Induced Proximity Effects: Reactions of Organolithium Compounds', Acc. Chem. Res. 1986, 19, 356–363.
- [30] S. T. Chadwick, R. A. Rennels, J. L. Rutherford, D. B. Collum, 'Are n-BuLi/TMEDA-Mediated Arene Ortholithiations Directed? Substituent-Dependent Rates, Substituent-Independent Mechanisms', J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2000, 122, 8640 – 8647
- [31] H. Andres, E. L. Bominaar, J. M. Smith, N. A. Eckert, P. L. Holland, E. Münck, 'Planar Three-Coordinate High-Spin Fe(II) Complexes with Large Orbital Angular Momentum: Mössbauer, Electron Paramagnetic Resonance, and Electronic Structure Studies', J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2002, 124, 3012–3025.





- [32] P. L. Holland, T. R. Cundari, L. L. Perez, N. A. Eckert, R. J. Lachicotte, 'Electronically Unsaturated Three-Coordinate Chloride and Methyl Complexes of Iron, Cobalt, and Nickel', *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 14416–14424.
- [33] J. M. Smith, R. J. Lachicotte, P. L. Holland, 'Three-Coordinate, 12-Electron Organometallic Complexes of Iron(II) Supported by a Bulky β -Diketiminate Ligand: Synthesis and Insertion of CO To Give Square-Pyramidal Complexes', Organometallics **2002**, *21*, 4808–4814.
- [34] N. A. Eckert, J. M. Smith, R. J. Lachicotte, P. L. Holland, 'Low-Coordinate Iron(II) Amido Complexes of β -Diketiminates:

- Synthesis, Structure, and Reactivity', *Inorg. Chem.* **2004**, *43*, 3306–3321.
- [35] P. L. Holland, 'Electronic Structure and Reactivity of Three-Coordinate Iron Complexes', Acc. Chem. Res. 2008, 41, 905–914.

Received October 2, 2021 Accepted October 25, 2021