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# Synthesis of gold(III) organometallics complexes and determination of their dissociation energy by mass spectrometry

Clément Soep, Lyna Bourehil, Benoit Bertrand, Denis Lesage, Héroïse Dossmann

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Clément Soep, Lyna Bourehil, Benoit Bertrand, Denis Lesage, Héroïse Dossmann. Synthesis of gold(III) organometallics complexes and determination of their dissociation energy by mass spectrometry. Journées Plénières 2022 GDR EMIE, Jun 2022, Dunkerque, France. . hal-04169957

**HAL Id: hal-04169957**

**<https://hal.science/hal-04169957>**

Submitted on 24 Jul 2023

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Clément Soep<sup>1</sup>, Lyna Bourehil<sup>1,2</sup>, Benoît Bertrand<sup>1</sup>, Denis Lesage<sup>1</sup>, Héloïse Dossmann<sup>1</sup>

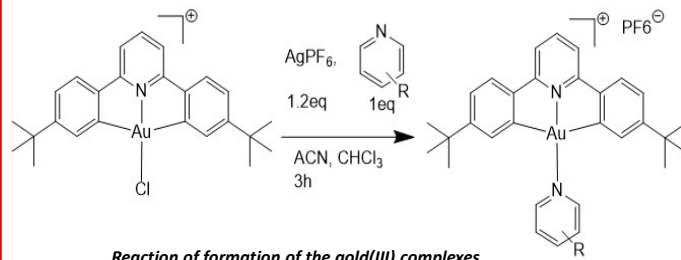
<sup>1</sup> Sorbonne Université, CNRS, Institut Parisien de Chimie Moléculaire, IPCM, F-75005 Paris, France

<sup>2</sup> Synchrotron SOLEIL, L'Orme des Merisiers, St Aubin, BP 48, 91192 Gif-sur-Yvette Cedex, France

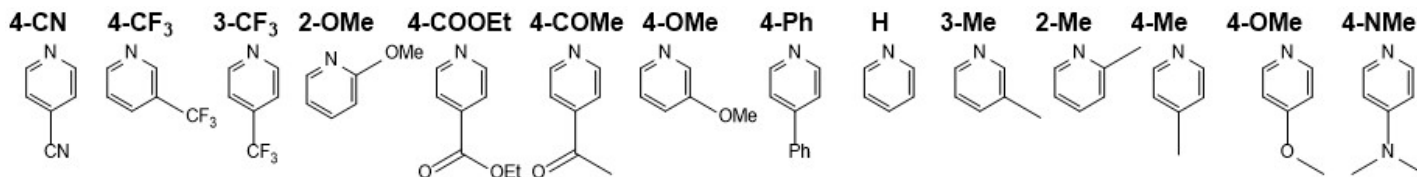


## Introduction

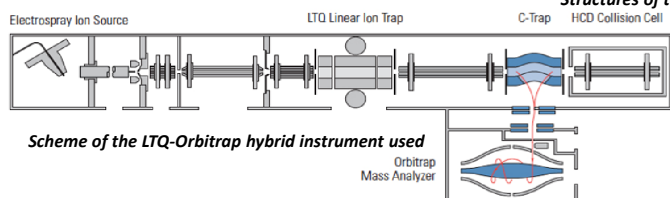
- Organometallics complexes are widely used in homogenous catalysis [1].
- By their steric and electronic effects, ligands have the ability to impact the reactivity of the metal center they are bound with.
- It is important to know these effects to choose the most adapted ligand for the design of a reaction.
- Only indirect experimental methods are available (IR, NMR) [2-3] using probe ligands. In our group, a method was developed using mass spectrometry to evaluate the Bond Dissociation Energy (BDE) of the Au-CO bond of  $[(PR_3)Au-CO]^+$  complexes and classify the donor ability of the Phosphine ligands [4].
- But what about direct M-L BDE measurement?



Reaction of formation of the gold(III) complexes



Structures of the various substituents studied



Scheme of the LTQ-Orbitrap hybrid instrument used

## Experimental setup

- Ions are formed by an electrospray source and analyzed in a LTQ-Orbitrap hybrid instrument ThermoFisher Corporation, San Jose, USA).
- Precursor ions are isolated in the Linear Ion Trap and accelerated into a collision cell containing  $N_2$  leading to the formation of fragments.

## Kinetic modelling and theoretical calculations

Determination of the Survival Yield (SY) of the precursor ion:  $SY = \frac{I_{(P^+)}}{I_{(P^+)} + \sum I_{(F^+)}}$ ,  $I_{(P^+)}$  the abundance of the precursor ion,  $\sum I_{(F^+)}$  the sum of abundances of fragment ions.

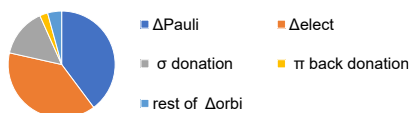
Kinetic treatment based on the RRKM theory [5] with the MassKinetics software [6] to obtain the difference between the dissociation barrier and that of the precursor ion ( $E_0$ ).

Theoretical values of BDEs obtained using the Density Functional Theory (B3PW91/ SDD (+f) (Au), 6-31G\*\* (other atoms) with the GAUSSIAN 16 software) [7].

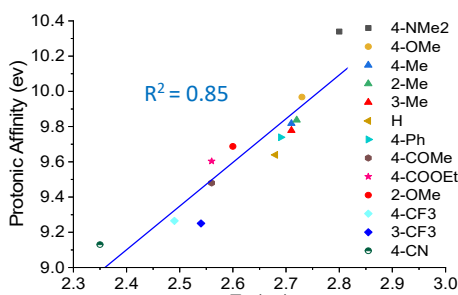
The Au-L bond was analyzed using the Energy Decomposition Analysis (EDA) [8] to compute the interaction energy  $\Delta E_{int}$ :

$$\Delta E_{int} = \Delta E_{elect} + \Delta E_{Pauli} + \Delta E_{orb}$$

$\Delta E_{elect}$  is the electrostatic interaction,  $\Delta E_{Pauli}$ , the Pauli repulsion and  $\Delta E_{orb}$ , the orbital interaction. This term can be further decomposed into the different contributions as  $\sigma$  donation,  $\pi$  back donation, ...

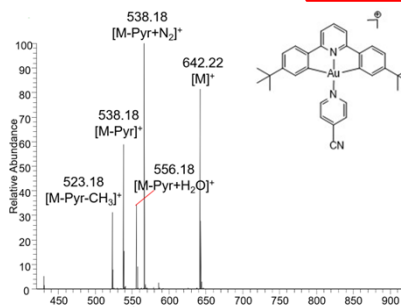


EDA results for the  $[(C^*N^C)Au-(PyrH)]^+$  bond

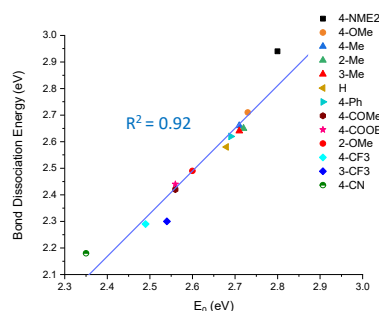


Correlation of the protonic affinity (eV) of the substituted pyridines versus  $E_0$  (eV)

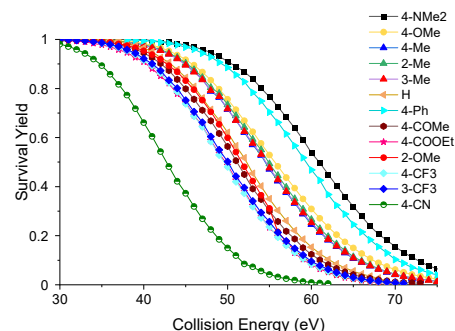
## Results



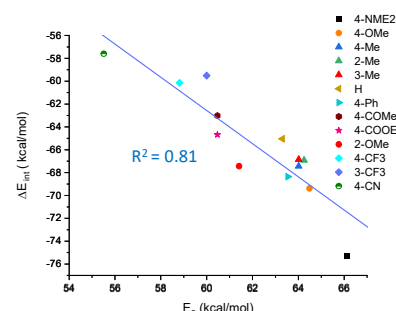
HCD fragmentation spectrum of:  $[(C^*N^C)Au(Pyr-CN)]^+$  at 46 eV



Experimental measurements  $E_0$  (eV) versus calculated BDEs in eV



Survival yield of the complexes as a function of the collision energy



$E_0$  (kcal/mol) versus  $\Delta E_{int}$  (kcal/mol)

## Conclusion and Perspectives

- A series of 14  $[(C^*N^C)Au(Pyr-R)]^+$  complexes were synthesised, isolated and characterized.
- Experimental and theoretical values of bond dissociation energies of the M-L bond were obtained and correlated well. They confirm the expected trends of the ligand donating effects: the richest pyridines are able to donate more to the metal and thus renders the Au-L bond stronger.
- EDA-NOCV analysis of the Au-L bond indicates that the  $\sigma$ -donor component of the bond dominates the bonding and that the  $\pi$ -acceptor backbonding is negligible.
- This finding is confirmed by the good correlation observed between the proton affinity of the ligands and  $E_0$ .
- Catalytic tests are in progress to determine the relation between the electronic donor capability of the ligand and the yield of the reaction.