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Study of electronic effects in organometallic complexes using SORBONNE **UNIVERSITÉ** mass spectrometry and their application in medicinal chemistry

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Introduction

- Phosphino-Gold based complexes are of interest as potential anticancer agents [1,2].
- The understanding of the molecular mechanism of mode of action of the complexes is limited [3].
- To improve the efficacy of these complexes and understand their mechanism of action, we need to understand the effects of ligands.
- A large family of phosphine ligands with various electronic effects have been investigated.
- The electronic effects of the ligands were assessed by measuring the bond dissociation energy of the Metal ligand bond using mass spectrometry [4].

 $P(C_6H_4CF_3)_3$

 $P(C_6F_5)_2Ph P(C_6F_5)Ph_2$

Scheme of the LTQ-Orbitrap XL hybrid instrument

Electrospray Ion Source

used

P(OMe)₃

 $P(C_6H_4F)_3$

HCD Collision Cell







 $P(C_6H_4CI)_3$

Structures of the various subsituents studied

Experimental setup

- lons are formed by an electrospray source and analyzed in a LTQ-Orbitrap XL 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

Orbitrap

Mass Analyzer

LTQ Linear Ion Trap

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 Bond Dissociation Energys (BDEs) obtained using the Density Functional Theory M06/def2-TZVP with the GAUSSIAN 16 software) [7].



Experimental measurements E₀ (eV) versus calculated

 \blacksquare P(p-OMe-C₆H₄)₃

Incubation protocol to test the reactivity of the

Intensity of the complex formed with N-

BDEs (eV)

complex toward N-acetylcysteine

acetylcysteine versus Experimental measurements E₀

(eV)

Conclusion and Perspectives

- \Rightarrow A series of 12 [(C^C)Au(NHC)(PR₃)] + complexes were synthetised, 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 phosphines are able to donate more to the metal and thus render the Au-L bond stronger.
- There is a correlation between complex stability and median inhibitory concentration.
- The Reactivity of a complex is not necessarily linked to its toxicity.
- Develop a quantitative method for measuring reactivity by mass spectrometry.
- Measure lipophilicity and cellular uptake of complexes.

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versus Experimental measurements E_o (eV)