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(54) Title: CATALYSTS BASED ON AMINO-SULFIDE LIGANDS FOR HYDROGENATION AND DEHYDROGENATION PROCESSES

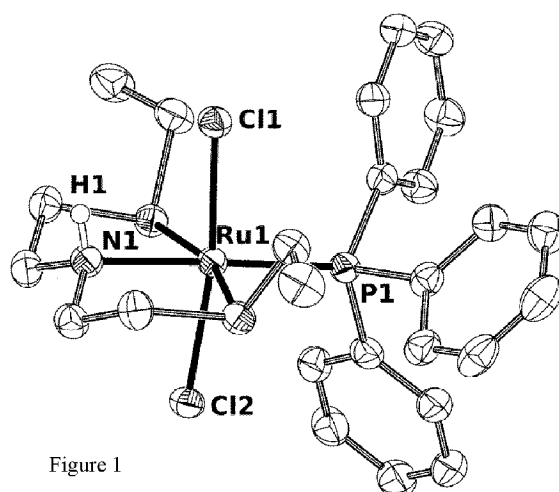


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: The present application discloses novel amino-sulfide metal catalysts for organic chemical syntheses including hydrogenation (reduction) of unsaturated compounds or dehydrogenation of substrates. The range of hydrogenation substrate compounds includes esters, lactones, oils and fats, resulting in alcohols, diols, and triols as reaction products. The catalysts of current application can be used to catalyze a hydrogenation reaction under solvent free conditions. The present catalysts also allow the hydrogenation to proceed without added base, and it can be used in place of the conventional reduction methods employing hydrides of the main-group elements. Furthermore, the catalysts of the present application can catalyze a dehydrogenation reaction under homogenous and/or acceptorless conditions. As such, the catalysts provided herein can be useful in substantially reducing cost and improving the environmental profile of manufacturing processes for a variety of chemicals.



CATALYSTS BASED ON AMINO-SULFIDE LIGANDS FOR HYDROGENATION AND DEHYDROGENATION PROCESSES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention pertains to catalysts. More specifically, the present invention pertains to catalysts useful in hydrogenation and dehydrogenation reactions.

INTRODUCTION

[0002] Reduction of polar C=X (X = O, N) bonds is one of the most fundamental organic reactions and is useful for the synthesis of a variety of organic alcohols and amines. Reduction of esters and imines is typically accomplished using main-group hydride reagents, such as LiAlH₄, or using molecular hydrogen. The use of the hydride reducing reagents is inconvenient and expensive, particularly on a large scale; furthermore, this approach generates large amounts of chemical waste. The hydride reduction method can be dangerously exothermic at the stage of quenching and it can be difficult to control. The catalytic reduction of esters under hydrogen gas is, in all respects, a very attractive 'green' alternative to the classical hydride reduction.

[0003] A key component of the ester reduction with molecular hydrogen is the catalytic system utilized in the process. The catalyst system should ideally be able to rapidly bind and split molecular hydrogen to give a transition-metal hydride. The development of highly efficient and useful catalysts and catalytic systems for hydrogenation of lactones, esters, oils, and fats is an important need in chemistry. Particularly, developing hydrogenation processes operating in the temperature range of 20 to 100°C and using less than 500 ppm (0.05 mol%) catalyst under relatively low H₂ pressure (1 – 50 bar) is highly desirable. Among the few catalysts and catalytic systems capable of converting esters and lactones into alcohols and diols under hydrogen gas, the ones that are presently most useful and efficient are complexes of ruthenium with bidentate phosphine-amine and tetradentate phosphine-imine ligands (described in Publication No. US 2010/0280273 A1, WO 2012/052996 A2, and in *Angew.Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 46, 7473). The ruthenium catalyst loadings of 500 - 1000 ppm (0.05 – 0.1 mol%) could be used in this previous system, however, the system has a few major drawbacks, including relatively poor efficiency (low turnover numbers even at 100 – 110 °C) and often the need for a large (5 – 10 mol%) amount of base, such as NaOMe, thereby reducing the product selectivity

and generating large amounts of chemical waste from product neutralization and extensive purification.

[0004] The development of green chemical processes and the use of biomass for hydrogen production have attracted much attention in recent years. Furthermore, acceptorless dehydrogenative coupling of primary alcohols is an interesting transformation which leads to esters, imines, amines, or amides. Oxidant-free, catalytic dehydrogenation of alcohols is of great importance for the chemical industry. A significant advance in dehydrogenation of bio-alcohols (chiefly ethanol) has been achieved with heterogeneous catalysts, however, at the cost of using harsh reaction conditions: high temperature ($>200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) and pressure. Therefore, designing well-defined homogeneous catalysts for alcohol dehydrogenation under mild conditions represents an important scientific and practical goal. There has been little progress in the area of acceptorless dehydrogenation of primary alcohols since Cole-Hamilton and co-workers demonstrated dehydrogenation of ethanol catalyzed by $[\text{RuH}_2(\text{N}_2)(\text{PPh}_3)_3]$, where an excess of NaOH, high temperature (150°C), and an intense light source were needed to achieve $\text{TOF} = 210\text{ h}^{-1}$, after 2 h (D. Morton, D. J. Cole-Hamilton, I. D. Utuk, M. Paneque-Sosa, M. Lopez-Poveda, *J. Chem. Soc. Dalton Trans.* 1989, 489; D. Morton, D. Cole-Hamilton, *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.* 1988, 1154; and D. Morton, D. J. Cole-Hamilton, *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.* 1987, 248). In the recent years, several new homogeneous catalysts for acceptorless dehydrogenative coupling of primary alcohols have been developed and studied, such as the systems published by Milstein and co-workers (for a review see: D. Milstein, *Top. Catal.* 2010, 53, 915) and Beller (*Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2012, 51, 5711). However, most of these catalysts, with the exception of Ru-MACHO, are inactive at temperatures below 100°C , for example, for converting ethanol and propanol to hydrogen and ethyl acetate and propyl propionate, respectively.

[0005] Therefore, there remains a need for efficient and practical metal catalysts for the hydrogenation of esters, lactones, and fats and oils derived from natural sources, which can operate under base-free conditions and require relatively low reaction temperature and hydrogen pressure. There also remains a need for practical catalysts capable of efficient alcohol dehydrogenation under mild, and preferably neutral, reaction conditions, for environmentally benign production of esters and lactones from alcohols and diols, accompanied by formation of hydrogen gas.

[0006] The above information is provided for the purpose of making known information believed by the applicant to be of possible relevance to the present invention. No admission is necessarily intended, nor should be construed, that any of the preceding information constitutes prior art against the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] An object of the present application is to provide complex catalysts based on amino-sulfide ligands for hydrogenation and dehydrogenation processes. In accordance with one aspect of the present application there is provided a metal complex of Formula II and III



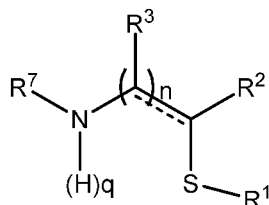
wherein:

each Z is simultaneously or independently a hydrogen or halogen atom, a C₁-C₆ alkyl, a carbene group, a hydroxyl group, or a C₁-C₇ alkoxy radical, a nitrosyl (NO) group, CO, CNR (R=Alkyl, Aryl), nitrile, phosphite, phosphinite, or phosphine such as PMe₃ or PPh₃;

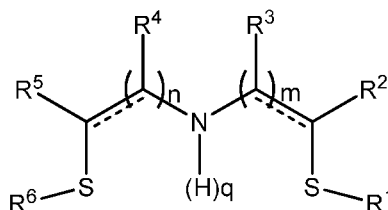
M is a transition metal; preferably from group 6, in which Ru and Os are particularly more preferable;

p is equal to 1 or 2, whereas a is equal to 1, 2, or 3;

SN and SNS are coordinated ligands of any one of Formulae IA,B:



Formula IA



Formula IB

where

SR¹ is a thioether group, which is coordinated to the metal center of the catalyst or pre-catalyst;

the dotted lines simultaneously or independently indicate single or double bonds;

R¹, R², R⁵, and R⁶ are each independently H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl (such as a C₁-C₈ alkyl), a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic C₃-C₈ alkyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, a substituted or unsubstituted C₅-C₂₀ aryl (such as a C₅-C₁₄ or C₅-C₈ aryl), OR or NR₂; or when taken together, R¹ and R² groups or R⁵ and R⁶ groups can form a saturated or partially saturated cycle;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₈ alkyl or alkenyl, a substituted or unsubstituted C₅-C₈ aromatic group, ester group; or, when

taken together, R^3 and R^4 can form an optionally substituted saturated or partially saturated hetero-aromatic ring;

R^5 when taken together with R^4 can form an optionally substituted saturated or partially saturated aromatic ring;

R^7 is H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl (such as a C_1 - C_8 alkyl), a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic C_3 - C_8 alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted C_5 - C_{20} aryl (such as a C_5 - C_{14} or C_5 - C_8 aryl); and

n, m, and q are simultaneously or independently 0, 1, or 2.

[0008] In accordance with another aspect there is provided a process for dehydrogenation of a substrate comprising: treating the substrate with a catalytic amount of a metal complex of Formula II and III



as defined above.

[0009] In accordance with another aspect there is provided a process for hydrogenation of a substrate comprising: treating the substrate under a pressure of hydrogen with a catalytic amount of a metal complex of Formula II and III



as defined above.

[0010] In accordance with certain embodiments, the metal complex comprises M that is a group 7 metal, a group 8 metal or a group 9 metal, for example, Ru or Os.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0011] For a better understanding of the present invention, as well as other aspects and further features thereof, reference is made to the following description which is to be used in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, where:

[0012] Figure 1 is an ORTEP diagram for complex **1** (Example 5), thermal ellipsoids are at 50% probability (the hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity);

[0013] Figure 2 is an ORTEP diagram for complex **2** (Example 6), thermal ellipsoids are at 50% probability (the hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity);

[0014] Figure 3 is an ORTEP diagram for complex **5** (Example 9), thermal ellipsoids are at 50% probability (the hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity);

[0015] Figure 4 is an ORTEP diagram for complex **6-EtOH** (Example 10), thermal ellipsoids are at 50% probability (the hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity); and

[0016] Figure 5 is an ORTEP diagram for complex **7** (Example 11), thermal ellipsoids are at 50% probability (the hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity).

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0017] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs.

[0018] As used in the specification and claims, the singular forms “a”, “an” and “the” include plural references unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[0019] The term “comprising” as used herein will be understood to mean that the list following is non-exhaustive and may or may not include any other additional suitable items, for example one or more further feature(s), component(s) and/or ingredient(s) as appropriate.

[0020] As used herein, “heteroatom” refers to non-hydrogen and non-carbon atoms, such as, for example, O, S, and N.

[0021] As used herein, “alkyl” means a hydrocarbon moiety that consists solely of single-bonded carbon and hydrogen atoms, for example a methyl or ethyl group.

[0022] As used herein, “alkenyl” means a hydrocarbon moiety that is linear, branched or cyclic and comprises at least one carbon to carbon double bond. “Alkynyl” means a hydrocarbon moiety that is linear, branched or cyclic and comprises at least one carbon to carbon triple bond. “Aryl” means a moiety including a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring, including heteroaryl moieties and moieties with more than one conjugated aromatic ring; optionally it may also include one or more

non-aromatic ring. “C₅ to C₈ Aryl” means a moiety including a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring having from 5 to 8 carbon atoms in one or more conjugated aromatic rings. Examples of aryl moieties include phenyl.

[0023] “Heteroaryl” means a moiety including a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom in one or more conjugated aromatic rings. As used herein, “heteroatom” refers to non-carbon and non-hydrogen atoms, such as, for example, O, S, and N. Examples of heteroaryl moieties include pyridyl, furanyl and thienyl.

[0024] “Alkylene” means a divalent alkyl radical, e.g., –C_fH_{2f}– wherein f is an integer. “Alkenylene” means a divalent alkenyl radical, e.g., –CHCH–. “Substituted” means having one or more substituent moieties whose presence does not interfere with the desired reaction. Examples of substituents include alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aryl-halide, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl (non-aromatic ring), Si(alkyl)₃, Si(alkoxy)₃, halo, alkoxyl, amino, alkylamino, alkenylamino, amide, amidine, hydroxyl, thioether, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, alkoxycarbonyloxy, aryloxy, aryloxyloxy, carbonate, alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, phosphate, phosphate ester, phosphonato, phosphinato, cyano, acylamino, imino, sulfhydryl, alkylthio, arylthio, thiocarboxylate, dithiocarboxylate, sulfate, sulfato, sulfonate, sulfamoyl, sulfonamide, nitro, nitrile, azido, heterocyclyl, ether, ester, silicon-containing moieties, thioester, or a combination thereof. The substituents may themselves be substituted. For instance, an amino substituent may itself be mono or independently disubstituted by further substituents defined above, such as alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aryl-halide and heteroaryl/cycloalkyl (non-aromatic ring).

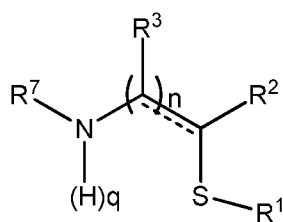
[0025] The present application provides catalysts that are useful in catalytic hydrogenation (reduction) processes. The hydrogenation process is useful in hydrogenation of, for example, C₂-C_n (n=3-200) substrates possessing one or more ester or lactone groups to afford the corresponding alcohol, diol, or triol products. Thus, the present application further provides a practical reduction method that can be used in place of the main-group hydride reduction to obtain alcohols, diols, or triols in a simple, efficient, and “green” fashion. The catalyst of the present application is also useful in catalytic dehydrogenation process, which can be, for example, a homogeneous dehydrogenation process.

[0026] Catalyst

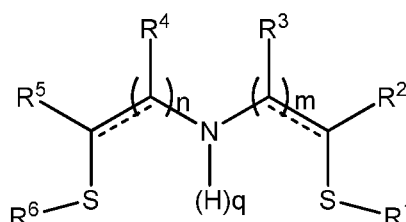
[0027] The processes described herein are carried out in the presence of a catalyst or a pre-catalyst in the form of a transition metal complex of tridentate SNS or bidentate SN amino-sulfide ligands. The

transition metal is preferably a metal from groups 7 (manganese group), 8 (iron group), and 9 (cobalt group), in which Ru and Os are particularly preferable.

[0028] The coordinating groups of the tridentate SNS ligand consist of two thioether groups and one nitrogen (amino) group. The coordinating groups of a bidentate SN ligand consist of one thioether and one nitrogen (amino) group. The general structure of the SN ligand is represented by Formula IA and the structure of the SNS ligand is represented by Formula IB.



Formula IA



Formula IB

where

SR¹ is a thioether group, which is coordinated to the metal center of the catalyst or pre-catalyst;

the dotted lines simultaneously or independently indicate single or double bonds;

R¹, R², R⁵, and R⁶ are each independently H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl (such as a C₁-C₈ alkyl), a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic C₃-C₈ alkyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, a substituted or unsubstituted C₅-C₂₀ aryl (such as a C₅-C₁₄ or C₅-C₈ aryl), OR or NR₂; or when taken together, R¹ and R² groups or R⁵ and R⁶ groups can form a saturated or partially saturated cycle;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₈ alkyl or alkenyl, a substituted or unsubstituted C₅-C₈ aromatic group, ester group; or, when taken together, R³ and R⁴ can form an optionally substituted saturated or partially saturated hetero-aromatic ring;

R⁵ when taken together with R⁴ can form an optionally substituted saturated or partially saturated aromatic ring;

R⁷ is H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched C₁-C₈ alkyl (such as a C₁-C₈ alkyl), a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic C₃-C₈ alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted C₅-C₂₀ aryl (such as a C₅-C₁₄ or C₅-C₈ aryl); and

n, m, and q are simultaneously or independently 0, 1, or 2.

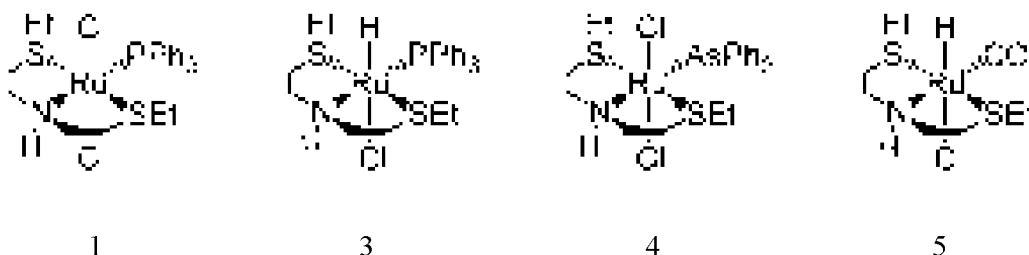
[0029] The SN and SNS ligands can be synthesized using standard procedures which are well known in the art and by the person skilled in the art. For example, SN (IA) and SNS (IB) ligands can be obtained by alkylation of a mercaptane by 2-chloro-ethylamine hydrochloride or bis-(2-chloroethyl) amine hydrochloride, respectively, under basic conditions.

[0030] According to one embodiment of the invention, the catalyst or pre-catalyst is a metal complex of the general Formulae II - III:



wherein SN is the bidentate ligand of Formula IA; a is 1, 2 or 3; p is 1 or 2; SNS is the tridentate ligand of Formula IB; and each Z represents simultaneously or independently a hydrogen or halogen atom, a C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a carbene group, a hydroxyl group, or a C₁-C₇ alkoxy radical, a nitrosyl (NO) group, CO, CNR (R=Alkyl, Aryl), nitrile, phosphite, phosphinite, or phosphine such as PMe₃ or PPh₃. The catalysts and pre-catalysts can exist in both neutral and cationic forms. The transition metal M is preferably a metal from groups 7 (manganese group), 8 (iron group), and 9 (cobalt group), in which Ru and Os are particularly preferable.

[0031] In one embodiment, the catalyst has the following structure:



or the corresponding complex in which the Ru is replaced with Os.

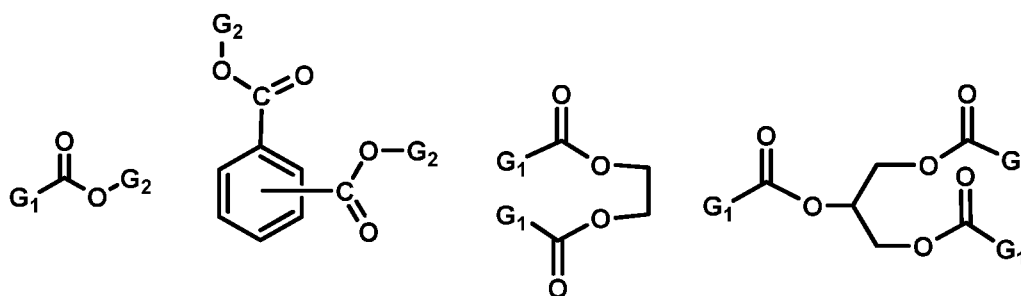
[0032] In one embodiment, the complexes of Formulae II-III can be prepared by reaction of the ligands of Formulae IA, or IB with a metal precursor, such as those well known in the state of the art. Preferably, the metal precursor is a ruthenium or osmium compound, including, for example, a compound of the following formulae: RuCl₂(AsPh₃)₃, RuHCl(AsPh₃)₃, RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃, RuHCl(PPh₃)₃, RuCl₂(CO)(PPh₃)₃, RuCl₂(CO)(AsPh₃)₃, RuHCl(CO)(AsPh₃)₃, OsHCl(AsPh₃)₃, OsCl₂(AsPh₃)₃, OsHCl(PPh₃)₃, OsCl₂(PPh₃)₃, [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂, [OsCl₂(p-cymene)]₂, RuCl₂(CO)(p-cymene),

$\text{OsCl}_2(\text{CO})(p\text{-cymene})$, $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{CO})(\text{DMF})(\text{PPh}_3)_2$, $[\text{IrCl}(\text{COD})]_2$, $[\text{IrCl}(\text{COE})_2]_2$, $\text{IrHCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$, $\text{IrH}_2\text{Cl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$, $\text{IrHCl}_2(\text{AsPh}_3)_3$, or $\text{IrH}_2\text{Cl}(\text{AsPh}_3)_3$. The reactions can be conducted in various organic solvents, such as, but not limited to, toluene, xylene, benzene, diglyme, DMF or DME.

[0033] Hydrogenation Process

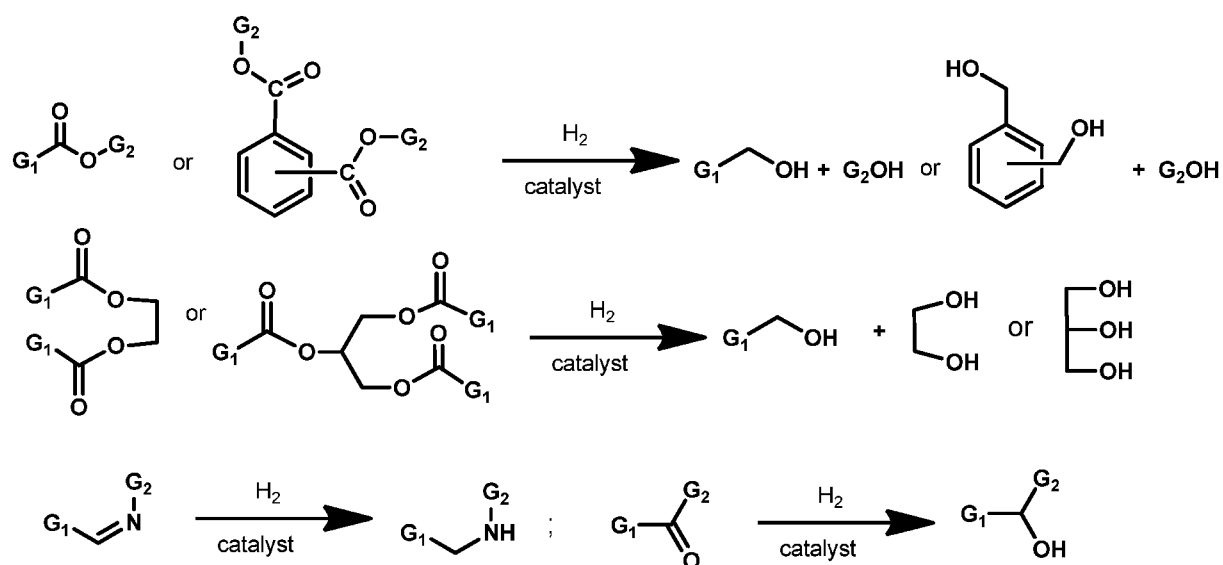
[0034] The present application additionally provides a catalytic hydrogenation process. The catalyst complexes of Formulae II-III described above, have been shown to have high reactivity in reduction of the polar $\text{C}=\text{X}$ ($\text{X}=\text{N}, \text{O}$) bonds. For examples, esters, ketones, fats, esters with multiple ester groups and imines can be mentioned.

[0035] In one embodiment, there is provided a process for hydrogenation of esters using metal catalysts based on the SNS ligand of Formula IB. The ester substrates are compounds of the following formulae:



[0036] The term “substrate”, as used herein, and as commonly understood by those of skill in the art, refers to the reactant that will be converted to a product during a catalytic reaction. Groups G_1 and G_2 , simultaneously or independently, represent a linear, branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{40}$ or cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{40}$ alkyl, alkenyl or aromatic group, optionally substituted. Also contemplated herein is a situation when G_1 and G_2 together form a $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{40}$ saturated or unsaturated radical. The substrate of the hydrogenation reaction can be any organic compound containing one, or more than one, carboalkoxy group or $\text{C}=\text{X}$ ($\text{X}=\text{O}, \text{N}$) bond. In this respect, natural fats such as olive, canola, corn, peanut, palm and other plant oils are useful substrates that can be reduced to form a mixture of alcohols. Imines can be reduced to amines and ketones to secondary alcohols.

[0037] The reduction reaction proceeds, generally, according to the reaction scheme below:



[0038] When the substrate is a monoester or a lactone, the products are alcohols or a diol, respectively. The naturally occurring triglycerides, oils and fats, can be reduced to glycerol and the corresponding fatty alcohols. Substrates with multiple ester groups, like phthalates, are reduced to diols and polyols. When the substrates are imines or ketones, the products are secondary amines and alcohols, respectively.

[0039] According to one embodiment, the process of catalytic reduction of imines and esters implies the usage of at least one of the metal complexes **II** or **III**, hydrogen pressure, and optionally a base and a solvent. The base may be necessary in those cases when the metal catalyst **III** contains one or more halogen atoms bonded to the metal. The treatment with base can be done prior to the reduction or *in situ* by adding base to the reaction mixture during hydrogenation. The catalysts and pre-catalysts of this invention can be used in a wide range of concentrations, preferably between about 10 and about 1000 ppm, and the loadings of 500 ppm or less are particularly preferred. The preferred amount of the catalyst will depend, as it is known to the person skilled in the art, on the type of the substrate, and increasing the catalyst loading may result in faster hydrogenation. The temperature at which the hydrogenation can be carried out is between about 0°C and about 150°C, more preferably in the range between about 20°C and about 100 °C and, as it is known to the person skilled in the art, the reaction rate will increase with an increase of the reaction temperature. The hydrogenation reaction requires a pressure of H₂ gas and should be performed in a suitable pressure vessel. The surface area of the reactor as well as the hydrogen pressure, as it is known to the person skilled in the

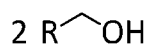
art, can greatly influence the reaction rate. The greater the hydrogen pressure and/or the surface area of the reactor, the faster the hydrogenation reaction rate. In one embodiment the hydrogen pressure is in range of about 5 to about 200 Bar. Again, the person skilled in the art is well able to adjust the pressure as a function of the catalyst load and of the dilution of the substrate in the solvent. Examples of typical pressures used in the present hydrogenation reactions are from about 5 to about 50 bar (5 to 50×10^5 Pa).

[0040] It should be well understood, however, that the catalyst complexes described herein are also useful in catalyzing hydrogenation of substrates including functional groups other than esters and imines. The table below provides a non-limiting list of substrates and products that can be formed from a catalytic hydrogenation reaction using a catalyst of Formula II or III.

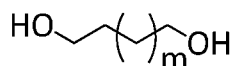
Hydrogenation Substrate	Product
aldehyde	alcohol
ketone	alcohol
ester	alcohol
carboxylic acid	alcohol
ketene	alcohol
enol	alcohol
epoxide	alcohol
aldimine	amine
ketimine	amine
ketene-imine	amine
nitrile	amine
aziridine	amine
nitro	amine
diazo	amine
isocyanide	amine
enamine	amine
lactone	diol
amide	amine + alcohol
aminoboranes	amine-borane
borazine	amine-borane
olefin	alkane
acetylene	alkane
allene	alkane

[0041] Dehydrogenation Reaction

[0042] The present application further provides a process of catalytic dehydrogenation using the catalyst complexes of Formulae II and III. For example, these catalysts or pre-catalysts are suitable for dehydrogenation of C_n ($n = 2-200$) alcohols possessing one or more $-CH_2OH$ groups thereby affording hydrogen gas and the corresponding esters or lactones. The substrates are compounds of the following formulae:



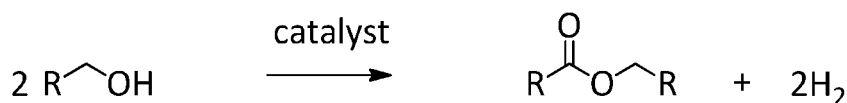
$R = C_1 - C_n$ alkyl or aryl substituents (optionally substituted)



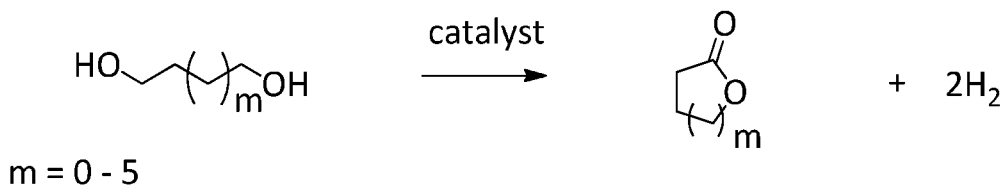
$m = 0 - 5$

[0043] In this embodiment, R groups, simultaneously or independently, represent a linear, branched C_1 - C_{40} or cyclic C_3 - C_{40} alkyl, alkenyl or aromatic group, optionally substituted. Also contemplated herein is the situation when R is a C_4 - C_{40} saturated or unsaturated cyclic radical. This implies that the substrate can be any organic compound containing one, or more than one, hydroxyl (OH) group.

[0044] The reduction process of this embodiment is illustrated below. When the substrate is an alcohol or a diol, the product is an ester or a lactone, respectively.



$R = C_1 - C_n$ alkyl or aryl substituent (optionally functionalized)



[0045] According to one embodiment, the process of catalytic acceptorless dehydrogenation implies the usage of at least one of the metal complexes of Formulae II or III and (optionally) the use of a base and a solvent. The base may be necessary in those cases when the metal catalyst of Formula II or III contains one or more halogen or alkoxy (-OR) groups bonded to the metal. The catalyst can be treated with base prior to mixing with the substrate or *in situ* by adding base to the reaction mixture during dehydrogenation. The catalysts and pre-catalysts described herein can be used in a wide range of concentrations, preferably between about 10 and about 1000 ppm, and the loadings of 1000 ppm or less are particularly preferred. The preferred amount of the catalyst will depend, as it is known to the person skilled in the art, on the type of the substrate; and increasing the catalyst loading should result in faster dehydrogenation. The temperature at which the dehydrogenation can be carried out is between about 0°C and about 200 °C, more preferably in the range between about 50°C and about 150°C and, as it is known to the person skilled in the art, the reaction rate will increase with increase of the reaction temperature. The dehydrogenation process can generate a pressure of H₂ gas and, in such cases, can be performed in a suitable pressure vessel that is, if necessary, equipped with a pressure-release valve.

[0046] It should be well understood, however, that the catalyst complexes described herein are also useful in catalyzing dehydrogenation of substrates including functional groups other than alcohols. The table below provides a non-limiting list of substrates and products that can be formed from a catalytic dehydrogenation reaction using a catalyst of Formula II or III.

Substrate	Product ^a
alcohols	ester
alcohol	aldehyde
alcohol	ketone
diol	lactone
amine + alcohol	amide
amine + alcohol	substituted amine
amine + alcohol	imine
ammonia-borane	aminoboranes
ammonia-borane	borazine
amine	imine
amines	guanidine
alcohol + thiol	thioester
thiol	sulphoxide
alcohol + phosphine	acyl phosphine

^a H₂ is also a byproduct of these reactions. It is either liberated from the reaction as H₂ or transferred to an acceptor.

[0047] As noted above, a byproduct of the dehydrogenation reactions is H₂. Accordingly, the present application further provides a process for producing H₂. The process can conveniently make use of readily available substrates in a straightforward catalytic dehydrogenation process under relatively mild conditions to generate H₂.

[0048] To gain a better understanding of the invention described herein, the following examples are set forth. It should be understood that these examples are for illustrative purposes only. Therefore, they should not limit the scope of this invention in any way.

EXAMPLES

Unless mentioned otherwise, all manipulations have been performed under an atmosphere of argon in a glove box, or using standard Schlenk techniques. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity Inova 300 MHz spectrometer. All ³¹P chemical shifts are relative to 85% H₃PO₄. ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts were measured relative to the solvent peaks but they are reported relative to TMS. RuCl₃·3H₂O was purchased from Pressure Chemicals. Ru-MACHO (VI), RuCl₂(Ph₂PC₂H₄NH₂)₂ (V), and Milstein's catalyst III were purchased from Strem Chemicals. All other compounds and anhydrous grade solvents were obtained from Aldrich and Alfa Aesar. Commercial anhydrous grade ethanol was further distilled over sodium metal and stored in the argon glovebox. RuHCl(CO)(AsPh₃)₃ [D. Spasyuk, S. Smith, D. G. Gusev, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *51*, 2772–2775] and RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃ [S. Rajagopal, S. Vancheesan, J. Rajaram, J. C. Kuriacose, *J. Mol. Cat.* **1983**, *22*, 131–135] were prepared according to previously reported methods..

[0049] EXAMPLE 1. SYNTHESIS OF EtS(CH₂)₂NH₂

[0050] All manipulations were carried in air. In a 250 mL flask, 24 g (0.191 mol) of NaOH was dissolved in 100 mL of CH₃OH and EtSH (15 g, 0.242 mol) was added. After 10 minutes of reaction, 28.07 g (0.242 mol) of 2-chloroethylamine hydrochloride was slowly added to the mixture and the reaction was left to stir overnight. In the following morning, methanol was removed *in vacuo* and the remaining semisolid was extracted with 3 × 30 mL of Et₂O. The obtained extract was filtered through a short plug (2 cm × 1 cm) of Al₂O₃ and ether was removed under reduced pressure (15 mm Hg) to yield a pale yellow oil (23.4 g, 92 %)

[0051] ^1H NMR ([D6]Benzene) δ = 2.54 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 2.25 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 2.18 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, SCH_2), 1.02 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH_3), 0.76 (br, 2H, NH_2). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D6]Benzene) δ = 41.72 (s, 1C, NCH_2), 36.22 (s, 1C, CH_2S), 25.72 (s, 1C, SCH_2), 15.11 (s, 1C, CH_3).

[0052] EXAMPLE 2. SYNTHESIS OF $(\text{EtS}(\text{CH}_2)_2)_2\text{NH}$

[0053] All manipulations were carried in air. To a solution of bis(2-chloroethyl)amine hydrochloride (23.9 g, 0.134 mol) in 80 mL of methanol were added NaOH (6.27 g, 0.157 mol) and sodium ethanethiolate (25 g, 0.298 mol). The resulting mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. After that time, methanol was removed *in vacuo*. The remaining yellow slurry was extracted with 3×15 mL of Et_2O and the obtained extract was filtered through a short plug (2 cm $\times$ 1 cm) of Al_2O_3 . The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to yield a pale yellow oil (23.0 g, 89 %).

[0054] Alternatively, $(\text{EtS}(\text{CH}_2)_2)_2\text{NH}$ was prepared by the following, slightly different method. Again all manipulations were performed in air. To a solution of NaOH (6.27 g, 0.157 mol) and sodium ethanethiolate (25 g, 0.298 mol) in 80 mL of methanol was slowly added bis(2-chloroethyl)amine hydrochloride (23.9 g, 0.134 mol) in 65 mL of methanol. The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature, and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting yellow slurry was extracted with 3×20 mL of hexane and the obtained extract was filtered through a short plug (2 $\times$ 1 cm) of basic alumina. The solvent was evaporated to give a pale yellow oil with the same yield as above (23.0 g, 89 %).

[0055] ^1H NMR ([D6]Benzene) δ = 2.62 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H, $2 \times \text{NCH}_2$), 2.46 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 4H, $2 \times \text{SCH}_2$), 2.27 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H, $2 \times \text{SCH}_2$), 1.42 (br, 1H, NH), 1.06 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D6]Benzene) δ = 49.04 (s, 2C, $2 \times \text{NCH}_2$), 32.50 (s, 2C, $2 \times \text{CH}_2\text{S}$), 26.03 (s, 2C, $2 \times \text{SCH}_2$), 15.15 (s, 2C, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$).

[0056] EXAMPLE 3. SYNTHESIS OF $(\text{EtSC}_2\text{H}_4)_2\text{O}$

[0057] All manipulations were performed in air. To a solution of NaSEt (5.41 g, 64.4 mmol) in 40 mL of methanol was added a solution of bis(2-chloroethyl) ether (4.6 g, 32.2 mmol) in 20 mL of methanol. The mixture was stirred overnight at 40°C, and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting slurry was extracted with 2×20 mL of hexanes and the obtained extract was filtered through a short plug (2 $\times$ 1 cm) of basic alumina. The solvent was evaporated to give a transparent oil (4.07 g, 64 %). ^1H NMR ([D6]Benzene) δ 3.39 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 4H, OCH_2), 2.52

(t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 4H, CH₂S), 2.31 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 4H, SCH₂), 1.05 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 6H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR ([D₆]Benzene) δ 71.38 (s, 2C, CH₂O), 31.50 (s, 2C, CH₂S), 26.66 (s, 2C, SCH₂), 15.13 (s, 2C, CH₃).

[0058] EXAMPLE 4. SYNTHESIS OF (EtSC₂H₄)₂NMe

[0059] All manipulations were performed in air. A mixture of (EtS(CH₂)₂)₂NH (500 mg, 2.59 mmol), formic acid (477 mg, 10.36 mmol) and 1 mL of formaldehyde (40% in water) was refluxed for 2 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, treated with 10 mL of a 20% aqueous solution of NaOH and extracted with 3×10 mL of Et₂O. The combined ether solution was washed with 2×10 mL of water and evaporated under vacuum. The residue was further dried under vacuum at 50°C. The product was isolated as a transparent oil. Yield: 397 mg (65 %). ¹H NMR ([D]Chloroform) δ 2.65 – 2.59 (m, 8H, CH₂), 2.54 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 4H, SCH₂), 2.28 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 1.25 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 6H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR ([D]Chloroform) δ 57.49 (s, NCH₂), 42.15 (s, NCH₃), 29.30 (s, CH₂S), 26.29 (s, SCH₂), 14.98 (s, CH₃).

[0060] EXAMPLE 5. SYNTHESIS OF RuCl₂(PPh₃)[(EtS(CH₂)₂)₂NH], (1)

[0061] A 100 mL Schlenk flask containing a mixture of RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃ (5.00 g, 5.22 mmol) and (EtS(CH₂)₂)₂NH (1.01 g, 5.23 mmol) in 40 mL of toluene was heated at 100 °C for 2 h to get a yellow suspension. The product was filtered in air, washed with 10-15 mL of Et₂O giving a cream yellow solid which was dried under vacuum for 2 h. Yield: 2.98 g (91 %). The compound was isolated as a mixture of three isomers differing by the relative orientation of the SEt groups with respect to the SNS ligand plane. The synthesis was repeated using a mixture of RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃ (15.00 g, 15.66 mmol) and (EtS(CH₂)₂)₂NH (3.03 g, 15.7 mmol) in 50 mL of toluene. The yield was 8.64 g (88%) and the product was again isolated as a mixture of the three isomers differing by the relative orientation of the SEt groups with respect to the SNS ligand plane. ¹H{³¹P} NMR ([D₂]DCM) δ 7.70 – 7.38 (m), 7.40 – 6.95 (m), 5.21 (br, NH), 4.99 (br, NH), 4.61 (br, NH), 3.25 (m), 3.06 (m), 2.97 – 2.58 (m), 2.46 – 2.24 (m), 1.71 – 1.39 (m), 1.03 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, CH₃), 1.04 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR ([D₂]DCM) $\delta_{\text{major isomer}} = 137.42$ (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 39.3$ Hz, 3C, {PAr}C^{ipso}), 134.87 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 10.0$ Hz, 6C, {PAr}C^{ortho}), 129.46 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 6.7$ Hz, 3C, {PAr}C^{para}), 127.91 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 9.4$ Hz, 6C, {PAr}C^{meta}), 49.24 (s, 2C, 2×NCH₂), 39.81 (s, 2C, 2×CH₂S), 29.96 (s, 2C, 2×SCH₂), 13.23 (s, 2C, 2×CH₃). ³¹P{¹H} NMR ([D₂]DCM) $\delta = 51.08$ (major isomer, s, 1P), 49.51 (minor isomer, br. s, 1P), 48.02 (minor isomer, br. s, 1P).

[0062] EXAMPLE 6. SYNTHESIS OF $\text{OsCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)[(\text{EtS}(\text{CH}_2)_2)_2\text{NH}]$ (2)

[0063] A 50 mL Schlenk flask containing a mixture of $\text{OsCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (3.00 g, 3.07 mmol) and $(\text{EtS}(\text{CH}_2)_2)_2\text{NH}$ (0.594 g, 3.07 mmol) in 25 mL of toluene was heated at 100 °C for 2 h to get a yellow suspension. The product was filtered in air, washed with 10-15 mL of Et_2O giving an orange solid which was dried under vacuum for 2 h. Yield: 1.91 g (87 %). The compound was isolated as a mixture of 3 isomers differing by the relative orientation of the S_{Et} groups with respect to the SNS ligand plane. $^1\text{H}\{^{31}\text{P}\}$ NMR ([D₂]DCM) δ_{sum} 7.70 – 7.38 (m), 7.40 – 6.95 (m), 5.21 (br, NH), 4.99 (br, NH), 4.61 (br, NH), 3.25 (m), 3.06 (m), 2.97 – 2.58 (m), 2.46 – 2.24 (m), 1.71 – 1.39 (m), 1.04 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, CH_3), 0.936 (br, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D₂]DCM) $\delta_{\text{major isomer}} = 139.20$ (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 46.3$ Hz, 3C, {ArP}C^{ipso}), 134.72 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 9.9$ Hz, 6C, {ArP}C^{ortho}), 129.34 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 7.9$ Hz, 3C, {ArP}C^{para}), 127.86 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 9.3$ Hz, 6C, {ArP}C^{meta}), 50.14 (s, 2C, 2×NCH₂), 40.27 (s, 2C, 2×CH₂S), 30.81 (s, 2C, 2×SCH₂), 12.99 (s, 2C, 2×CH₃). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D₂]DCM) $\delta = 2.00$ (major isomer, s, 1P), -0.23 (minor isomer, br. s, 1P), -2.35 (minor isomer, br. s, 1P).

[0064] EXAMPLE 7. SYNTHESIS OF $\text{RuHCl}(\text{PPh}_3)[(\text{EtS}(\text{CH}_2)_2)_2\text{NH}]$, (3)

[0065] A 100 mL Schlenk flask containing a mixture of $\text{RuHCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (4.80 g, 5.20 mmol) and $(\text{EtSC}_2\text{H}_4)_2\text{NH}$ (1.01 g, 5.23 mmol) in 30 mL of toluene was heated at 100 °C for 2 h to form a dark-green solution. Diethyl ether (10 mL) was added and the product was left to crystallize in a freezer. The precipitate was filtered, washed with 20 mL of ether to give a dark-green solid which was dried under vacuum for 2 h. Yield: 1.97 g (64 %). The product was isolated as a mixture of 3 isomers differing by the relative orientation of the S_{Et} groups with respect to the SNS ligand plane. ^1H NMR ([D₂]DCM) δ 8.04 – 7.39 (m, {Ph}H^{ortho}), 7.47 – 6.93 (m, {Ph}H^{meta} + {Ph}H^{para}), 4.79, 4.63, 4.21 (br, NH), 3.64 – 3.00 (m, CH₂), 3.07 – 2.48 (m, CH₂), 2.21 – 1.70 (m, CH₂), 0.84 (t, $J(\text{HH}) = 7.2$ Hz, 2×CH₃), -20.16 (d, $J(\text{HP}) = 26.1$ Hz RuH), -21.01 (d, $J(\text{HP}) = 25.4$ Hz, RuH), -21.55 (d, $J(\text{HP}) = 27.4$ Hz, RuH). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D₂]DCM) of the major isomer, δ 140.35 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 38.4$ Hz, {Ph}C^{ipso}), 134.14 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 11.0$ Hz, {Ph}C^{ortho}), 128.55 (s, {Ph}C^{para}), 127.44 (d, $J(\text{CP}) = 8.9$ Hz, {Ph}C^{meta}), 51.33 (s, NHCH₂), 37.35 (s, CH₂S), 36.24 (s, SCH₂), 13.94 (s, CH₃). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D₂]DCM) δ 72.62 (s, 34 %), 70.86 (s, 35%), 68.31 (s, 31%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{35}\text{ClNPRuS}_2$: C, 52.64; H, 5.95; N, 2.36. Found: C, 52.35; H, 5.86 N, 1.81.

[0066] EXAMPLE 8. SYNTHESIS OF $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{AsPh}_3)[(\text{EtS}(\text{CH}_2)_2)_2\text{NH}] \cdot \text{Toluene}$, (4)

[0067] A 100 mL Schlenk flask containing a mixture of $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{AsPh}_3)_3$ (2.24 g, 2.06 mmol) and $(\text{EtSC}_2\text{H}_4)_2\text{NH}$ (400 mg, 2.06 mmol) in 20 mL of toluene was heated at 110 °C for 2 h to form a dark-

grey suspension. The precipitate was filtered, washed with 15 mL of Et₂O to give a grey solid which was purified by recrystallization from THF/Et₂O in a freezer. Yield: 456 mg (33 %). The compound was isolated as a mixture of 3 isomers differing by the relative orientation of the S*Et* groups with respect to the SNS ligand plane. ¹H NMR ([D₂]DCM) δ 7.75 – 7.47 (m, {Ph}H^{ortho}), 7.44 – 7.13 (m, {Ph}H^{meta}, {Ph}H^{para}, {Toluene}H), 4.92, 4.69, 4.48 (br, NH), 3.56 – 3.26 (m, CH₂), 3.32 – 2.57 (m, CH₂), 2.62 – 2.32 (m, CH₂), 2.12 (s, {Toluene}CH₃) 1.93 – 1.43 (m, CH₂), 1.14 – 0.91 (br overlapped t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C {¹H} NMR ([D₂]DCM) δ 137.46 (s, {Toluene}C^{ipso}), 134.23 (s, {AsPh}C^{ipso}), 134.12 (s, {AsPh}C^{ortho}), 129.17 (s, {AsPh}C^{meta}), 129.08 (s, {Toluene}C^{ortho}), 128.14 (s, {Toluene}C^{meta}), 128.02 (s, {AsPh}C^{para}), 125.32 (s, {Toluene}C^{para}), 49.66 (s, CH₂), 39.49 (s, CH₂), 30.39 (s, CH₂), 12.99 (s, CH₃). Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₃₄Cl₂NRuAsS₂: C, 46.50; H, 5.10; N, 2.09. Found: C, 46.52; H, 4.98 N, 2.05.

[0068] EXAMPLE 9. SYNTHESIS OF RuHCl(CO)[(EtSC₂H₄)₂NH] (**5**)

[0069] A 100 mL Schlenk flask containing a mixture of RuHCl(CO)(AsPh₃)₃ (5.61 g, 5.20 mmol) and (EtSC₂H₄)₂NH (1.00 g, 5.20 mmol) in 50 mL of toluene was refluxed for 3 h to form a dark-green suspension. The precipitate was filtered, washed with 15 mL of Et₂O to give a dark-green solid which was dried under vacuum for 2 h. Yield: 1.60 g (85 %). The compound was isolated as a mixture of 3 isomers differing by the relative orientation of the S*Et* groups with respect to the SNS ligand plane. ¹H {³¹P} NMR ([D₂]DCM) δ 4.28 (br, NH), 3.62 – 3.23 (m, 4H, CH₂), 3.11 – 2.25 (m, 8H, CH₂), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, CH₃), -16.84 (s, 28%, RuH), -17.14 (s, 51%, RuH), -17.48 (s, 21%, RuH). ¹³C {¹H} NMR ([D₂]DCM) of the mixture of isomers, δ 205.01 (d, *J*(CH) = 4.5 Hz, due to the residual coupling to the hydride, CO), 52.46 (s, CH₂), 52.39 (s, CH₂), 50.95 (s, CH₂), 50.82 (s, CH₂), 40.96 (s, CH₂), 40.57 (s, CH₂), 39.16 (s, CH₂), 32.64 (s, CH₂), 32.10 (s, CH₂), 13.25 (s, CH₃), 13.17 (s, CH₃), 13.13 (s, CH₃). Anal. Calcd for C₉H₂₀ClNORuS₂: C, 30.12; H, 5.62; N, 3.90. Found: C, 30.71; H, 5.48 N, 3.63.

[0070] EXAMPLE 10. SYNTHESIS OF RuH(OEt)(PPh₃)[(EtSC₂H₄)₂NH]·EtOH (**6·EtOH**)

[0071] A mixture of complex **1** (1.7 g, 2.71 mmol) and EtONa (553 mg, 8.13 mmol) in 30 mL of ethanol was refluxed for 1 h to give a yellow solution (Caution: vigorous H⁺ evolution!). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure (without heating) to give a highly air-sensitive yellow oil. The product was mixed with 20 mL of diethyl ether/toluene (3:1) and placed in a freezer for 1 h, then filtered through a glass frit, using 4-5 mL of hexane to wash the collected solids. The filtrate was evaporated under vacuum to dryness (without heating) to yield a yellow, air-sensitive solid. Yield:

1.32 g (75 %). The compound was isolated as a mixture of 3 isomers differing by the relative orientation of the SEt groups with respect to the SNS ligand plane. ^1H NMR ([D6]Benzene) δ 7.99 (m, {Ph}H^{ortho}), 7.59 (br, 2H, NH+OH), 7.10 (m, {Ph}H^{meta}+{Ph}H^{para}), 3.99 (br, 4H, OCH₂), 3.54 – 1.49 (m, 12H, CH₂), 1.44 (br, 6H, CH₃), 0.97 – -0.11 (br, 6H, CH₃), -20.30 – -21.73 (overlapped d, RuH). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D6]Benzene) δ minor isomers 70.44 – 69.00 (br. s), major isomer 69.00 – 67.49 (br. s). In the solid state, 5·EtOH rapidly changes color to black when exposed to air. No satisfactory elemental analysis could be obtained for 5·EtOH because of the sensitivity to air.

[0072] EXAMPLE 11. SYNTHESIS OF $\text{RuH}_2(\text{PPh}_3)[(\text{EtSC}_2\text{H}_4)_2\text{NH}]$ (7).

[0073] A solution of complex 6 (200 mg, 0.309 mmol, in 2 mL of benzene) was kept in an oil bath at 60°C for 30 min, then moved in a refrigerator, at +3°C. The product crystallized and was isolated by filtration. It was briefly (25 min) dried under vacuum thus affording an air-sensitive, yellow solid (74 mg, 44%) as a single isomer. ^1H NMR ([D8]THF) δ 8.38 (s, 1H, NH), 7.85 (m, 6H, {Ph}H^{ortho}), 7.25 – 6.97 (m, 9H, {Ph}H^{meta}+{Ph}H^{para}), 3.00 – 1.45 (overlapped br, 12H, CH₂), 0.84 (t, J(HH) = 7.1 Hz, 6H, CH₃), -12.20 (d, J(HP) = 27.9 Hz, 1H, RuH). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D8]THF) δ 144.96 (d, J(CP) = 33.0 Hz, 3C, {Ph}C^{ipso}), 134.22 (d, J(CP) = 11.2 Hz, 6C, {Ph}C^{ortho}), 127.58 (s, 3C, {Ph}C^{para}), 127.26 (d, 6C, J(CP) = 8.5 Hz, {Ph}C^{meta}), CH₂ carbons were not observed due to line broadening, 14.33 (s, CH₃). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D8]THF) δ 82.00 (s). In the solid state, 7 rapidly changes color to black when exposed to air. No satisfactory elemental analysis could be obtained for 6 because of the sensitivity to air.

[0074] EXAMPLE 12. SYNTHESIS OF $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)[(\text{EtSC}_2\text{H}_4)_2\text{O}]$ (8).

[0075] A 100 mL Schlenk flask containing a mixture of $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (4.93 g, 5.15 mmol) and $(\text{EtSC}_2\text{H}_4)_2\text{O}$ (1.00 g, 5.15 mmol) in 40 mL of toluene was heated at 100°C for 2 h to give a light-brown suspension. The product was filtered in air, washed with 15 mL of Et₂O affording a light-brown solid which was dried under vacuum for 2 h. Yield: 2.16 g (68 %). The compound was isolated as a mixture of 2 isomers differing by the relative orientation of the Set groups with respect to the SOS ligand plane. ^1H NMR ([D2]DCM) δ 7.83 – 7.48 (m, {Ph}H), 7.48 – 7.10 (m, {Ph}H), 4.40 – 4.18 (m, CH₂), 4.21 – 3.83 (m, CH₂), 3.32 – 3.01 (m, CH₂), 3.01 – 2.37 (m, CH₂), 1.76 – 1.37 (m, CH₂), 1.00 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2×CH₃). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ([D2]DCM) δ major isomer 136.81 (d, J(CP) = 45.2 Hz, {Ph}C^{ipso}), 134.84 (d, J(CP) = 9.7 Hz, {Ph}C^{ortho}), 129.70 (s, {Ph}C^{para}), 127.82 (d, J(CP) = 9.5 Hz, {Ph}C^{meta}), 69.80 (s, OCH₂), 36.99 (s, CH₂S), 27.59 (s, SCH₂), 12.92 (s, CH₃). ^{31}P NMR ([D2]DCM) δ major isomer 62.32 (s), minor isomer 60.42 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₃₄Cl₂ORuPS₂: C, 49.67; H, 5.29; S, 10.18. Found: C, 49.29; H, 5.18 S, 10.00.

[0076] EXAMPLE 13. SYNTHESIS OF $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)[(\text{EtSC}_2\text{H}_4)_2\text{NMe}]$ (**9**).

[0077] A 50 mL Schlenk flask containing a mixture of $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (924 mg, 0.964 mmol) and $(\text{EtSC}_2\text{H}_4)_2\text{NMe}$ (200 mg, 0.964 mmol) in 10 mL of toluene was heated at 110°C for 2 h to give a yellow suspension. The product was filtered in air, washed with 3×5 mL of Et_2O affording a yellow solid which was dried under vacuum for 2 h. Yield: 407 mg (66 %). ^1H NMR ($[\text{D}_2]\text{DCM}$) δ 7.97 – 7.62 (m, 6H, $\{\text{PPh}_3\}\text{H}^{\text{ortho}}$), 7.51 – 7.12 (m, 9H, $\{\text{PPh}_3\}\text{H}^{\text{meta+para}}$), 3.45 (m, CH_2), 3.17 (s, 3H, CH_3), 3.02 (m, 1H), 2.79 (m, 3H), 2.51 (m, 2H), 2.22 (m, 3H), 1.71 (m, 1H), 0.80 (overlapped, 6H, CH_3), 0.09 (m, 1H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ($[\text{D}_2]\text{DCM}$) δ 137.21 (d, $\text{J}(\text{CP}) = 41.4$ Hz, $\{\text{PPh}_3\}\text{C}^{\text{ipso}}$), 135.08 (d, $\text{J}(\text{CP}) = 9.2$ Hz, $\{\text{PPh}_3\}\text{C}^{\text{ortho}}$), 129.50 (s, $\{\text{PPh}_3\}\text{C}^{\text{meta}}$), 127.94 (d, $\text{J}(\text{CP}) = 9.1$ Hz, $\{\text{PPh}_3\}\text{C}^{\text{para}}$), 60.55 (s, CH_2N), 58.91 (s, CH_2N), 50.97 (s, NCH_3), 36.40 (s, CH_2S), 33.50 (s, CH_2S), 29.37 (s, SCH_2), 27.64 (s, SCH_2), 13.09 (s, CH_3), 12.90 (s, CH_3). ^{31}P NMR ($[\text{D}_2]\text{DCM}$) δ 44.94 (s).

[0078] EXAMPLE 13. TYPICAL PROCEDURE FOR HYDROGENATION OF ESTERS OR IMINES USING COMPLEX **1**.

[0079] A solution of catalyst **1** in THF (3.2 mg/mL) and 1 mol% of a base was mixed together with 0.02 mol of a substrate (ester or imine) in 6 g of THF (or neat). The mixture was then transferred into a 75 mL stainless-steel reactor (Parr 4740) equipped with a magnetic stir bar. The reactor was purged by two cycles of pressurization/venting with H_2 (150 psi, 10 Bar) and then pressurized with H_2 (725 psi, 50 Bar) and disconnected from the H_2 source. The reaction was conducted for a predetermined length of time at 20-100 °C. At the end of the reaction time, the reactor was placed into a cold water bath (if necessary) and it was depressurized after cooling to the ambient temperature.

[0080] EXAMPLE 14. HYDROGENATION OF METHYL BENZOATE USING COMPLEX **1**.

[0081] 1 mL of a THF solution of complex **1** (3.2 mg/mL, 0.025 mol%) was added to KOCH_3 (14 mg, 0.2 mmol). The obtained mixture was stirred for 1-2 min and then methyl benzoate (2.72 g, 20.0 mmol) in 5 mL of THF was added. The subsequent manipulations were carried out following the procedure in Example 13.

EXAMPLE 15. HYDROGENATION OF ETHYL ACETATE USING COMPLEX **1** OR COMPLEX **2**

[0082] 1 mL of a THF solution of complex **1** (3.2 mg/mL, 0.0025 mol%) was added to NaOEt (136 mg, 2.0 mmol). The obtained mixture was stirred for 1-2 min and then ethyl acetate (17.6 g, 0.20

mol) was added. The subsequent manipulations were carried out following the procedure in Example 5 except that a 300 mL reactor was used and the reaction was conducted under a constant pressure of H₂ (50 Bar).

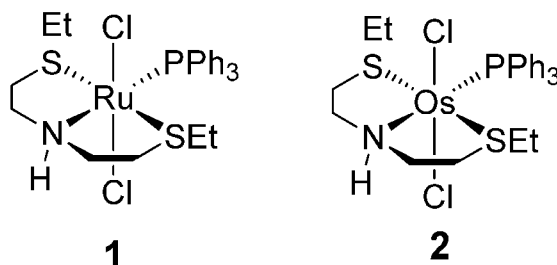


Table 1. Hydrogenation of esters catalyzed by complexes **1,2**.

Entry	Substrate	Cat	S/C	t, h	Solvent	Base, %	T, °C	Conv. (%) ^a
1	(-)-Methyl L-lactate	1, Ru	1000	16	MeOH	MeOK, 5	100	86
2	Ethyl acetate	1, Ru	20000	16	neat	EtONa, 1	40	99 ^b
3	Ethyl acetate	1, Ru	40000	14	neat	EtONa, 1	40	95 ^b
4	Ethyl acetate	1, Ru	80000	21	neat	EtONa, 1	40	73 ^c
5	Ethyl benzoate	1, Ru	20000	16	THF	EtONa, 1	40	85
6	Methyl benzoate	1, Ru	4000	6	THF	tBuOK, 1	40	95
7	N-Benzylideneaniline	1, Ru	20000	1.5	THF	tBuOK, 1	r.t.	100
8	2-methoxymethyl acetate	1, Ru	10000	16	THF	MeOK, 1	60	100
9	3-methoxymethyl propionate	1, Ru	2000	21	THF	MeOK, 2	r.t.	97
10	dimethyl phthalate	1, Ru	2000	2	THF	MeOK, 2	100	53
11	dimethyl phthalate	1, Ru	2000	4	THF	MeOK, 2	100	67
12	dimethyl phthalate	1, Ru	2000	1	THF	MeOK, 2	100	100
13	dimethyl iso-phthalate	1,	1000	1	THF	MeOK, 2	100	100

Entry	Substrate	Cat	S/C	t, h	Solvent	Base, %	T, °C	Conv. (%) ^a
		Ru						
14	dimethyl iso-phthalate	1, Ru	2000	16	THF	MeOK, 2	40	100
15	Methyl benzoate	2, Os	2000	2	THF	MeOK, 1	100	81
16	Acetophenone	1, Ru	20000	1.42	THF	<i>t</i> BuOK, 1	r.t.	100 ^d
17	Acetophenone	1, Ru	40000	24	THF	<i>t</i> BuOK, 1	40	100 ^d
18	Cyclohexanone	1, Ru	100000	24	THF	<i>t</i> BuOK, 1	r.t.	100 ^d

^a reactions were performed using 20 mmol of the substrates in THF at 100 °C and 50 Bar of H₂ pressure in a 75 mL autoclave. ^b reaction was performed in a 300 mL autoclave using 0.2 mol of the substrate. ^c reaction was performed in a 300 mL autoclave using 0.4 mol of the substrate. ^d reaction was performed in a 300 mL autoclave using 0.1 mol of the substrate and 15 mL of THF.

[0083] EXAMPLE 16: TYPICAL PROCEDURE FOR ACCEPTORLESS ALCOHOL DEHYDROGENATION.

[0084] In an argon glovebox, a 50 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirbar was charged with 0.02 mmol of the catalysts **1** or **2** and 136 mg (2.0 mmol) of EtONa. Then, 9.21 g (0.2 mol) of ethanol was added. After taking the stoppered flask out of the box, it was attached to a vacuum/Ar manifold. Under argon, the stopper was replaced by a finger condenser connected to a circulating refrigerated bath. When the temperature in the bath reached -10 °C, the flask was placed in an oil bath preheated to 90 °C. During dehydrogenation, the argon tank was kept closed and the H₂ gas produced passed through a mineral oil bubbler. The conversion to product was monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

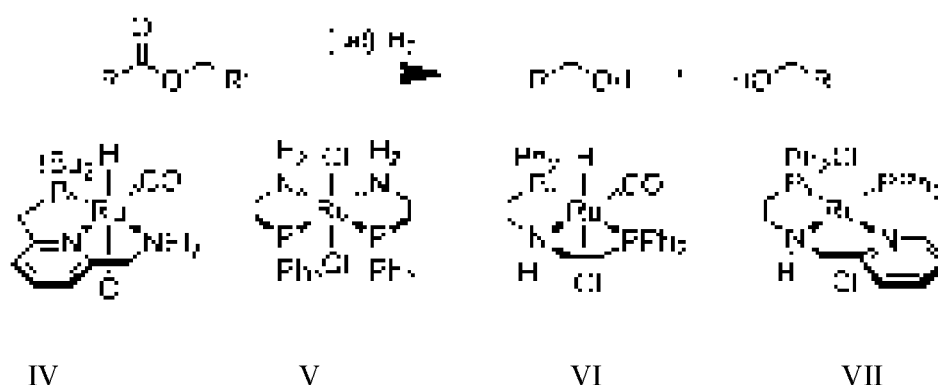
Table 2. Results of catalytic acceptorless dehydrogenation of ethanol to ethylacetate.

Entry	Cat	S/C	t, h	Conversion to EtOAc, %
1	1, Ru	2000	16	97
2	1, Ru	10000	24	89
3	1, Ru	20000	43	36 ^b
4	2, Os	2000	16	97
5	2, Os	10000	24	81
6	2, Os	20000	43	71 ^b
7	2, Os	50000	43	54 ^b

^b catalyst in solution of toluene was used.

[0085] EXAMPLE 17. CATALYTIC STUDIES

[0086] An attractive “green” alternative to the classical methods for reduction of carboxylic esters is the catalytic hydrogenation shown in Scheme 1, a method which has attracted much recent interest for the reduction of esters under H_2 . [3–7]



Scheme 1. Ester hydrogenation catalysts

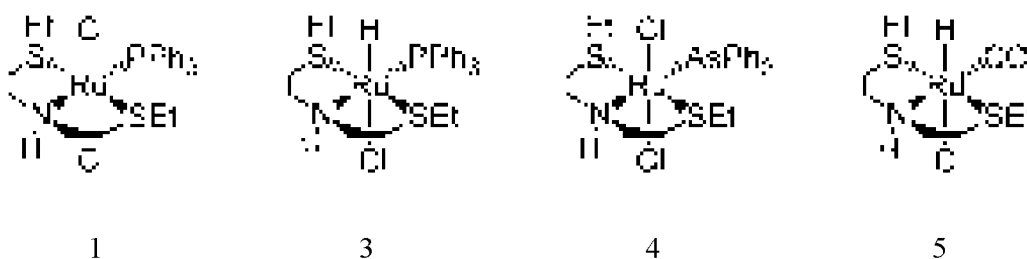
[0087] The disclosure of Milstein’s catalysts in 2006 (such as complex IV; Scheme 1)[3] was quickly followed by the development of the Firmenich catalysts in 2007,[4] among which $[RuCl_2(H_2NC_2H_4PPh_2)_2]$ (II) is effective at $100^\circ C$ at a 0.05 mol% catalyst loading.[4a] In 2011, a new catalyst, Ru-MACHO (III), was patented by Takasago chemists.[5] Ru-MACHO is useful at a 0.05 mol% loading for the hydrogenation of methyl lactate and methyl menthoxyacetate, giving high yields of (R)-1,2-propanediol and 2-(1-menthoxy) ethanol, respectively. The most recent additions to this list of efficient catalysts are osmium and ruthenium complexes from the present inventors,[6] particularly the air-stable complex $[RuCl_2-(PPh_3)\{PyCH_2NHC_2H_4PPh_2\}]$ (IV), which demonstrated unprecedented activity in the hydrogenation of esters and imines at [Ru] loadings as low as 50 ppm at $40^\circ C$.

[0088] It can be seen that all of the ester hydrogenation catalysts in Scheme 1 possess amino-phosphine ligands. More generally, many Noyori-type catalysts incorporate a combination of phosphorus and nitrogen donors.[8] Despite the widespread application and tremendous success of phosphines in catalysis, they have well-known disadvantages. Their preparations are often far from trivial and require handling under an inert atmosphere. As a result, the amino-phosphines are costly chemicals that can be challenging to make on a large scale. Not surprisingly, catalysts I–III

(available from Strem Chemicals) are very expensive, especially I, which costs \$680 per gram. Considering that ruthenium contributes less than 1% to this cost, it is apparent that the development of practical ester hydrogenation calls for using practical ligands, preferably ones containing no phosphorus.

[0089] In the present study, the catalytic activity of ruthenium complexes with the $\text{HN}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{SEt})_2$ (SNS) ligand was evaluated for ester hydrogenation. The SNS ligand was obtained nearly quantitatively by adding bis-(2-chloroethyl)amine hydrochloride to a solution of ethanethiol and NaOH in ethanol.[9b] This synthesis has the practical advantages of being straightforward and scalable; it can be conveniently performed in air, and it provides the SNS ligand at a small fraction of the cost of the amino-phosphines used in catalysts I–IV. The present application provides details of the preparation of an air-stable ruthenium–SNS complex that has now been found to be the most efficient catalyst for ester hydrogenation to date, outperforming the known catalytic systems I–III by a large margin. The significance of this finding goes beyond ester hydrogenation. It is now apparent that a new class of catalysts for the Noyori-type hydrogenation of compounds with $\text{C}=\text{X}$ bonds can be made based on amino-sulfides that have the potential to replace the ubiquitous phosphorus-based ligands used in this area.

[0090] The ruthenium complexes shown below were obtained by the conventional ligand substitution reactions of $\text{HN}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{SEt})_2$ with $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3]$, $[\text{RuHCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3]$, $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{AsPh}_3)_3]$, and $[\text{RuHCl}(\text{CO})(\text{PPh}_3)_3]$, as documented in the above Examples. Complexes 1 and 5 have been crystallographically characterized and their molecular geometries are presented in Figures 1 and 3.[10]



[0091] The catalytic results of this Example are organized in Tables 3 and 4. First, the effectiveness of catalysts III–VII and present complexes 1, 3–5 were compared. Two typical substrates were selected for the comparative study: methyl benzoate and methyl hexanoate. The hydrogenations were performed at 40°C, under H_2 (50 bar), using a catalyst loading of 0.05 mol% in all cases. The

reaction mixtures were analyzed by ^1H NMR spectroscopy after 3 h of hydrogenation.

Table 3. Comparative hydrogenation with catalysts III – VII and catalysts 1, 3 – 5.

Substrate	Catalyst							
	IV	V	VI	VII	1	3	4	5
PhCO ₂ Me	4 (3) ^a	63 (6) ^b	4 (3) ^a	75 (6) ^b	86 (2) ^b	84 (3) ^b	57 (6) ^b	45 (7) ^c
C ₅ H ₁₁ CO ₂ Me	18 (7) ^c	55 (16) ^c	23 (8) ^c	89 (10) ^c	98 (1) ^d	96 (1) ^c	75 (13) ^c	66 (17) ^c

[a] Conditions: ester (0.1 mol), catalyst (0.05 mol%), KOMe (5 mol%) in THF (15 mL) under H_2 (50 bar) for 3 h at 40 °C. [b] Concentration (mol%) of benzyl alcohol in the product mixture; data in parentheses is the concentration (mol%) of benzyl benzoate. The balance of material present was unreacted starting material. [c] Concentration (mol%) of 1-hexanol in the product mixture; data in parentheses is the concentration (mol%) of hexyl hexanoate. The balance of material present was unreacted starting material.

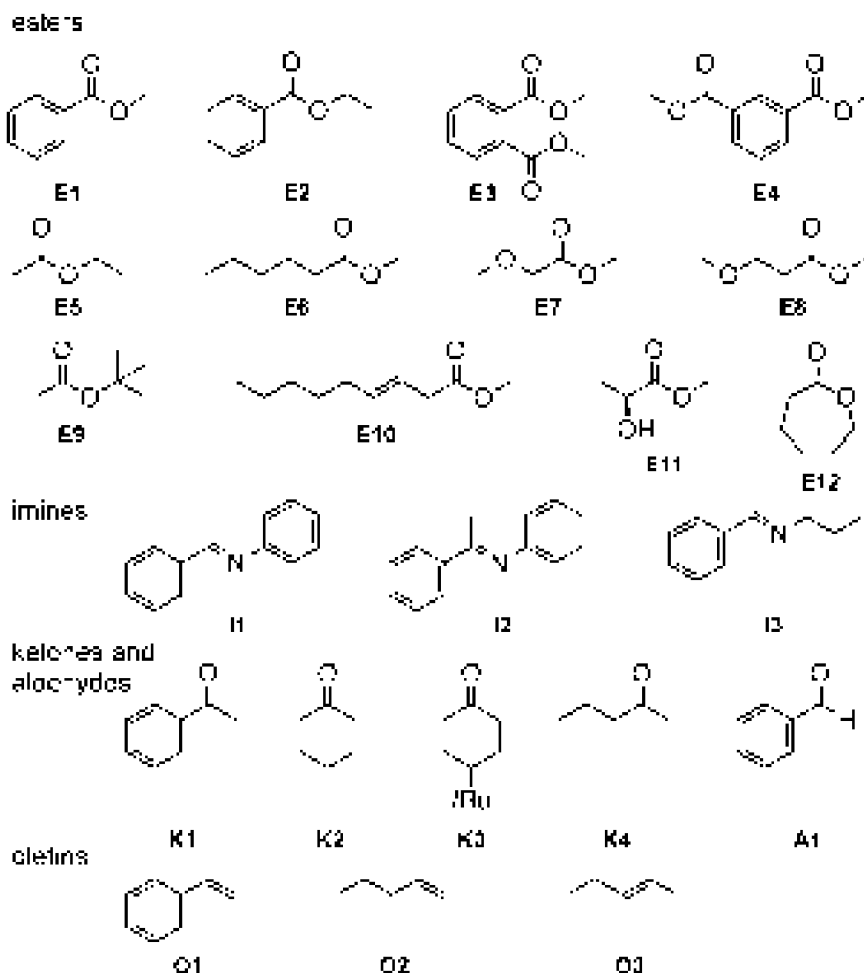
Table 4. Hydrogenation of the substrates catalyzed by complex 1

Entry	Substrate	S/C ^[a]	Base	Solvent	t [h]	T [°C]	Conv. [%]
1	E1	4000	tBuOK	THF	6	40	95
2	E2	20000	EtONa	THF	16	40	85 ^[b]
3	E3	1000	MeOK	THF	1.2	100	96
4	E4	2000	MeOK	THF	16	40	93
5	E4	1000	MeOK	THF	1	100	100
6	E5	40000	EtONa	neat	14	40	95 ^[c]
7	E5	80000	EtONa	neat	21	40	73 ^[c]
8	E6	20000	MeOK	THF	24	40	81 ^[b,c]
9	E6	10000	MeOK	THF	2	100	98 ^[c]
10	E7	10000	MeOK	THF	16	60	100 ^[c]
11	E8	2000	MeOK	THF	21	23	97
12	E9	4000	tBuOK	neat	1	100	100
13	E10	2000	tBuOK	THF	8	40	100 ^[b]
14	E11	2000	MeOK ^[d]	toluene	1	100	93
15	E12	10000	MeOK	toluene	2	100	99
16	I1	20000	tBuOK	THF	1.5	23	100
17	I2	50000	MeOK	THF	1	40	63
18	I3	2000	tBuOK	toluene	6	40	100
19	K1	40000	tBuOK	THF	24	40	100 ^[b,h]
20	K2	20000	tBuOK	THF	1	23	100 ^[b,h]
21	K3	20000	tBuOK	THF	2	23	100 ^[b,h]
22	K4	20000	tBuOK	THF	1	40	100 ^[b,h]
23	A1	10000	MeOK	toluene	1.5	100	94
24	O1	2000	tBuOK	THF	20	40	100
25	O2	2000	MeOK	THF	48	40	75
26	O3	2000	MeOK	THF	48	40	13

[a] Unless otherwise noted, the reaction was carried out on substrate {0.02 mol} with base additive {1 mol%} in solvent {6 mL} in a 75 mL Parr high-pressure vessel. [b] Substrate to catalyst ratio. [c] Substrate {0.1 mol} was hydrogenated in a 0.3 L vessel. [d] Substrate {0.2 mol} was hydrogenated in a 0.3 L vessel. [e] The product also contained hexyl hexanoate (9%). [f] *Trans*-3-nonen-1-ol/1-nonanol = 73:27. [g] 5 mol% of base was used. [h] In 15 mL of THF. [i] *Cis/trans* product ratio = 87:13.

[0092] In all cases, they were found to contain the product alcohols together with varied amounts of byproduct from transesterification, as well as methanol and unreacted starting material. The results in Table 3 demonstrate that the Milstein and Takasago catalysts IV and V are the least effective in the group and produce little product under the test conditions. The Firmenich catalyst V shows a moderate performance, whereas complex VII is the most effective of the known systems. The new catalysts 1 and 3–5 are all active for ester hydrogenation; among these, the dichloride and hydrido-chloride complexes 1 and 3 give the best conversions to products, accompanied by formation of the smallest amounts of the symmetrical ester byproducts. To gain a broader understanding of the catalytic performance of complex 1, it was tested in the hydrogenation of the diverse group of substrates shown below, accompanied by variation of the reaction temperature, time, and substrate-

to-catalyst (S/C) ratios.



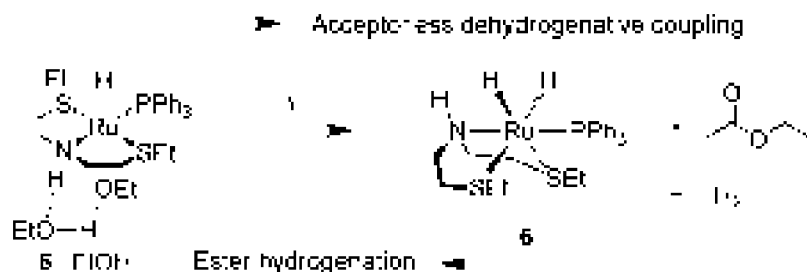
[0093] The data in Table 4 support the assessment of complex 1 as an outstanding hydrogenation catalyst possessing excellent efficiency and thermal stability and longevity in catalytic solutions. Large turnover numbers were observed for methyl and ethyl benzoates E1 and E2, respectively. For methyl hexanoate (E6), a high TON of 9800 is achieved in 2 h at 100°C with 1, whereas Firmenich catalyst IV is known to be 6.5 times slower at this temperature for a similar substrate, methyl octanoate, giving a TON of 1880 after 2.5 h.[4a] The reduction of neat ethyl acetate (E5) is particularly impressive with 1, affording a TON of 58 400 after 21 h under very mild reaction conditions (T=40°C). A relatively difficult substrate, methyl phthalate (E3) is also rapidly reduced with 1 (0.1 mol%) at 100°C.

[0094] Catalyst 1 was successfully tested for the hydrogenation of typical imines and ketones shown above, where TONs up to 40000 have been observed when running the reactions at 23–40°C.

Catalyst 1 also has some activity for olefin hydrogenation. Styrene was reduced relatively rapidly at 40°C with 1 (0.05 mol%). However, the reduction of 1-pentene was considerably slower, and 2-pentene was largely unchanged even after 48 h at 40°C. The latter observation is promising for the selective hydrogenation of esters, ketones, and imines containing internal C=C bonds. For example, the hydrogenation of methyl 3-nonenoate at 40°C afforded trans-3-nonen-1-ol in a 73% yield. Such selectivity is rare among catalysts that are active for ester hydrogenation. So far, only one ruthenium catalyst from Firmenich[4] and an osmium catalyst from our group[6a] have shown good selectivity for the reduction of esters with internal C=C bonds.

[0095] As commented recently,[6b] high catalytic efficiency in ester hydrogenation is expected to correlate with activity in the reverse reaction of acceptorless dehydrogenative coupling (ADC) of alcohols, affording symmetrical esters. Indeed, when tested in the ADC reaction of ethanol under reflux, with S/C=2000 and 10 000, complex 1 gave 97% and 89% conversion to ethyl acetate in 16 and 24 h, respectively. This performance is similar to that of catalyst VII, and complexes 1 and VII are currently among the most efficient ADC catalysts.[11]

[0096] When studying the reactions of complex 1 upon heating in basic ethanol, a quantitative conversion of the dichloride into species 6 was observed, which was isolated and characterized as $[\text{RuH}(\text{OEt})(\text{PPh}_3)\{\text{HN}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{SEt})_2\}]$ and crystallized with one equivalent of hydrogen-bonded ethanol, 6·EtOH (Figure 4). The preparation of 6 containing no ethanol was also possible by treating hydrido-chloride species 3 with EtONa in toluene. Interestingly, whereas 6 is thermally stable in solution, 6·EtOH is readily and selectively converted into $[\text{RuH}_2(\text{PPh}_3)\{\text{HN}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{SEt})_2\}]$ (6) and ethyl acetate upon mild heating in toluene, as shown in Scheme 2.[12] The molecular structure of 7 is presented in Figure 5; unlike the related mer-SNS compounds 1–6, the dihydride 7 adopts a fac-SNS geometry.



Scheme 2. Formation of dihydride 7 from 6·EtOH

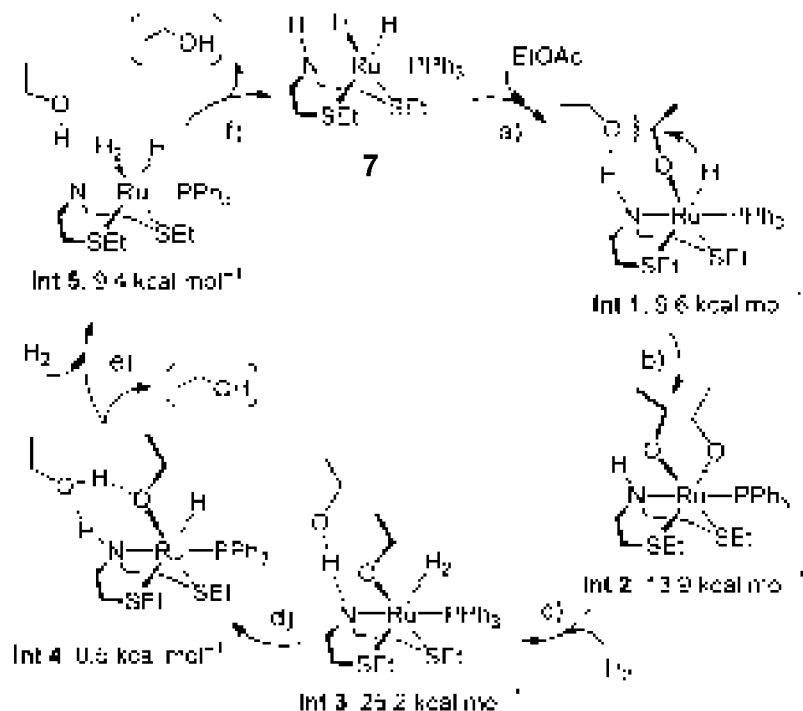
[0097] Scheme 2 has mechanistic implications, as the forward reaction is part of the ADC process,

whereas the reverse reaction is ester hydrogenation. Complex **6**·EtOH rapidly hydrogenates ethyl acetate at room temperature (23°C), giving 77% conversion into ethanol within 1 h, under H₂ (50 bar), with [Ru] (0.02 mol%) and NaOEt (1 mol%) and with an efficiency corresponding to TOF=3850 h⁻¹. Without wishing to be bound by theory, it appears that dihydride **6** is the hydrogenation catalyst involved in this process, as well as in the reactions of Table 4, where **6** is presumably produced under H₂ from **1** and base. The NH group also appears to be important for catalysis. We synthesized two analogues of catalyst **1**: [RuCl₂(PPh₃)₂][O(C₂H₄SEt)₂]**8** and [RuCl₂(PPh₃)₂][MeN(C₂H₄SEt)₂]**9**, and these complexes proved to be inactive in the hydrogenation of methyl benzoate at 40–100°C, under the reaction conditions given in Table 3.

[0098] The mechanism of ester hydrogenation is poorly understood.[7i] According to Milstein et al[3a] and Saudan et al,[4a] the concerted transfer of a metal hydride and a ligand proton to the C=O group of the substrate first takes place, affording a hemiacetal intermediate. Dissociation of the hemiacetal gives rise to an aldehyde, which is hydrogenated again by the catalyst, thus completing the reduction process. In the present study, examination of the reaction mixtures by ¹H NMR spectroscopy gave no evidence of the presumed hemiacetal or aldehyde intermediates of ester hydrogenation, ethanol dehydrogenation reactions, or the reaction shown in Scheme 2. It is likely that no free organic intermediate, hemiacetal or aldehyde, is released into the reaction solution during the reactions catalyzed by the SNS complexes presented herein.

[0099] A tentative mechanism for the base-free hydrogenation of ethyl acetate catalyzed by **6** is presented in Scheme 3. Free energies for all of the intermediates shown in Scheme 3 were calculated in ethyl acetate using the M06-L functional. Among the proposed key steps is the insertion of ethyl acetate into a Ru-H bond of **7**, to afford **Int 1**, which is analogous to the hemiacetaloxide formation in the reaction of trans-[RuH₂{(R)-BINAP}{(R,R)-dppe}] with γ -butyrolactone, as documented by Bergens et al.[7g] Inspection of the DFT-optimized structure of **Int 1** revealed an interesting feature: **Int 1** has a six-membered cycle formed by the H-N-Ru-OCH(Me)-OEt groups and closed by an NH–O hydrogen bond ($d_{O-H}=1.92$ Å). The single C–O bond of **Int 1** is elongated to 1.493 Å from the corresponding 1.345 Å distance in ethyl acetate. Without wishing to be bound by theory, it is conceivable that intramolecular nucleophilic substitution in step b results in the formation of bis(ethoxide) **Int 2**, which rearranges in step c to afford the dihydrogen complex **Int 3**. Heterolytic splitting of the η^2 -H₂ ligand in step d gives **Int 4**. Ethanol elimination accompanied by H₂ coordination and heterolysis in steps e and f regenerate dihydride **7**. The isolated complex **6**·EtOH (a mer-SNS isomer of **Int 4**) is apparently a resting state of the catalyst. Formation of **6**·EtOH from **7**,

ethyl acetate, and H_2 is favorable by $\Delta G = -6.2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$, which is $6.7 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ more stable than **Int 4**.



Scheme 3. Base-free reduction of ethyl acetate catalyzed by complex **7**

[00100] Base has a tremendous accelerating effect on the hydrogenation rate. Without base, $6 \cdot \text{EtOH}$ (0.02 mol%) gave only 4% conversion into ethyl acetate in 2 h at 40°C under H_2 (50 bar), which corresponds to $\text{TOF} = 100 \text{ h}^{-1}$ vs. $\text{TOF} = 4100 \text{ h}^{-1}$ with NaOEt (1 mol%) in 1 h under otherwise identical conditions. According to Bergens et al., [13] base helps by labilizing the alkoxide intermediates (such as **Int 2** and **Int 4**) for EtO^- substitution, through deprotonation of the NH group.

[00101] In conclusion, this Example demonstrates the successful use of embodiments of the present catalysts based on the $\text{HN}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{SEt})_2$ ligand. The air-stable complex $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)\{\text{HN}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{SEt})_2\}]$ (**1**) shows outstanding efficiency for the hydrogenation of a broad range of substrates with $\text{C}=\text{X}$ bonds (esters, ketones, imines) as well as for the acceptorless dehydrogenative coupling of ethanol to ethyl acetate. This study has demonstrated that the phosphorus groups of Noyori-type catalysts can be successfully replaced by sulfide groups, thus overcoming the many drawbacks of working with phosphines and phosphine-based catalysts, such as high synthetic costs and the need for handling under inert atmosphere. Complex **1** is a practical and highly active green hydrogenation

catalyst for substrates with C=X (X=O, N) bonds, and has a high potential to replace the use of main-group hydrides for the reduction of esters in the chemical industry and academic laboratories.

[00102] References

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[00103] *Experimental*

[00104] In all cases, the catalytic reactions were studied by ^1H NMR spectroscopy using approximately 0.65 mL samples taken from the reactions mixtures without dilution or mixing with other solvents. The NMR spectra were collected without 2H lock, using 0.3 μs 1H pulses and a 10 s acquisition time to ensure accurate integration of the peaks. Examples of typical dehydrogenation and hydrogenation procedures are given below.

[00105] Hydrogenation using complex 1. In an argon glovebox, the required amount of a 1.9 mg/g solution of 1 in THF was added to the desired amount of base (tBuOK, MeOK, or EtOK). The catalyst solution was further mixed with the substrate (0.02 – 0.20 mol) and transferred into a stainless-steel Parr reactor (75 mL or 300 mL) equipped with a magnetic stir bar. The reactor was closed, taken out of the glovebox, tightened and connected to a hydrogen tank. After purging the line, the reactor was pressurized to $p(\text{H}_2) = 725 \text{ psi}$ (50 Bar) and disconnected from the H_2 source (with the exception of reactions conducted in the 300 mL reactor using 0.2 mol of substrate). Then, the reactor was placed in an oil bath preheated to the desired temperature. At the end of the reaction time, the reactor was moved into a cold water bath for 5 min and depressurized.

[00106] Ethanol dehydrogenation. In an argon glovebox, a 50 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with the required amounts of the catalyst and EtONa. Then, 4.61 g (0.1 mol) or 9.21 g (0.2 mol) of ethanol was added. After taking the stoppered flask out of the box, it was attached to a vacuum/Ar manifold. Under argon, the stopper was replaced by a finger condenser connected to a circulating refrigerated bath. When the temperature in the bath reached -10°C , the flask was placed in an oil bath preheated to 90°C . During dehydrogenation, the argon tank was kept closed and the H_2 gas produced passed through a mineral oil bubbler.

[00107] Crystal Structure Determination. Single crystals of complexes **1** and **5** were grown by slow diffusion of hexanes into their saturated solutions in dichloromethane. Single crystals of complexes **6** and **7** were grown by slow diffusion of hexanes into their saturated solutions in toluene. The crystallographic data for complexes **1**, **5**, **6**, and **7** were collected on a Bruker APEX II QUAZAR equipped with the I μ S™ X-ray Source generator, a Kappa Nonius goniometer and a Platinum135 detector. Cell refinement and data reduction were done using SAINT.[SAINT (1999) Release 6.06; Integration Software for Single Crystal Data. Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA] An empirical absorption correction, based on the multiple measurements of equivalent reflections, was applied using the program SADABS.[Sheldrick, G.M. (1999). SADABS, Bruker Area Detector Absorption Corrections. Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA] The space group was confirmed by XPREP routine[XPREP (1997) Release 5.10; X-ray data Preparation and Reciprocal space Exploration Program. Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA] of SHELXTL.[SHELXTL (1997) Release 5.10; The Complete Software Package for Single Crystal Structure Determination. Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA] The structures were solved by direct-methods and refined by full-matrix least squares and difference Fourier techniques with SHELX-97[(a) Sheldrick, G.M. (1997). SHELXS97, Program for the Solution of Crystal Structures. Univ. of Gottingen, Germany. (b) Sheldrick, G.M. (1997). SHELXL97, Program for the Refinement of Crystal Structures. University of Gottingen, Germany.] as a part of LinXTL[LinXTL is a local program and it can be obtained free of charge from <http://sourceforge.net/projects/linxtl/>] tool box. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. Hydrogen atoms were set in calculated positions and refined as riding atoms with a common thermal parameter, except those of the NH, OH moieties and hydrides, which were positioned from residual peaks in the difference Fourier map. All publication materials (cif files validation and ORTEP drawings) were prepared using LinXTL and Platon[A. L. Spek, *Acta Cryst.* **2009**, *D65*, 148-155] programs.

Table 5. Crystal Data Collection and Refinement Parameters for Complexes 1, 5, 6 and 7

	1	5	6	7
formula	C ₂₅ H ₃₄ Cl ₂ NPRuS ₂	C ₆ H ₂ ClNORuS ₂	C ₂₅ H ₄₀ NOPRuS ₂ .C ₂ H ₆ O	C ₂₅ H ₃₆ NPRuS ₂
crystal colour	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow
<i>F</i>₀₀; <i>F</i>(000)	627.60; 644	558.90; 564	646.82; 2704	558.72; 1160
<i>T</i> (K)	100	100	100	100
wavelength (Å)	1.54178	1.54178	1.54178	1.54178
space group	P-1	P-1	Pbca	P2 ₁ n
<i>a</i> (Å)	10.3422(3)	7.3771(9)	14.7252(3)	11.9869(3)
<i>b</i> (Å)	12.6042(3)	7.4984(9)	16.9510(4)	14.3757(5)
<i>c</i> (Å)	12.6473(3)	13.496(2)	24.6666(6)	15.6824(6)
<i>α</i> (deg)	95.192(1)	84.129(2)	90.00	90.00
<i>β</i> (deg)	110.203(1)	76.845(2)	90.00	94.104(1)
<i>γ</i> (deg)	104.025(1)	78.171(2)	90.00	90.00
<i>Z</i>	2	2.00	8.00	4.00
<i>V</i> (Å³)	1473.36(7)	710.3(2)	6157.0(2)	2695.5(2)
<i>ρ</i>_{calcd} (g·cm⁻³)	1.415	1.678	1.396	1.377
<i>μ</i> (mm⁻¹)	7.918	13.227	6.084	6.805
<i>θ</i> range (deg): completeness	3.68 – 69.92; 0.969	3.37 – 71.36; 0.968	3.58 – 71.09; 0.998	4.18 – 71.31; 0.988
collected reflections: <i>R</i>_c	23607; 0.0277	28192; 0.0165	115527; 0.0190	30975; 0.0248
unique reflections: <i>R</i>_{int}	23607; 0.0318	28192; 0.0365	115527; 0.0562	30975; 0.0390
<i>R</i>₁^a; <i>wR</i>₂^b [<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)]	0.0301; 0.0855	0.0276; 0.0724	0.0261; 0.0688	0.0291; 0.0749
<i>R</i>₁; <i>wR</i>₂ [all data]	0.0305; 0.0861	0.0284; 0.0729	0.0304; 0.0735	0.0294; 0.0752
GOF	1.040	1.069	0.991	1.039
largest diff peak and hole	0.728 and -1.002	1.184 and -0.645	0.695 and -0.426	2.708 and -0.420

^a $R_1 = \sum (|F_o| - |F_c|) / \sum F_o$ ^b $wR_2 = \{ \sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2] \}^{1/2}$

[00108] **Computational details.** All calculations were carried out in Gaussian 09[Gaussian 09, Revision C.01, M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, Ö. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski, and D. J. Fox, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2009.] (revision C.01) using the M06-L functional,[Y. Zhao, D. G. Truhlar, *J. Chem. Phys.* **2006**, *125*, 194101-194118] tight optimizations, and the ultrafine integration grid (a pruned 99,590 grid). The basis sets, listed by their corresponding Gaussian 09 keywords, included QZVP[This basis set is also known as def2-QZVP; F. Weigend, R. Ahlrichs, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2005**, *7*, 3297.] (with the corresponding ECP[The ECPs are available from the EMSL Basis Set Library (bse.pnl.gov)]) for Ru, and TZVP[A. Schaefer, C. Huber, R. Ahlrichs, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1994**, *100*, 5829-5835; This basis set is also known as def-TZVP (singly polarized).] for all other atoms. The following density fitting basis sets were employed: QZVP (Ru) and TZVPfit (all other atoms). The polarizable continuum model using the integral equation formalism (IEFPCM) was used for all calculations, with the radii and non-electrostatic terms of Truhlar and co-workers' SMD solvation model (scrf=smd).[A. V. Marenich, C. J. Cramer, D. G. Truhlar, *J. Phys. Chem. B*, **2009**, *113*, 6378-6396] The optimized geometries were verified to have no negative frequencies by frequency calculations, which also provided the enthalpies and free energies reported here. The free energies were calculated at 298.15 K under P = 249 atm (for ethyl acetate), following the approach of Martin and co-workers.[R. L. Martin, P. J. Hay, L. R. Pratt, *J. Phys. Chem. A* **1998**, *102*, 3565; N. Sieffert, M. Bühl, *Inorg. Chem.* **2009**, *48*, 4622].

Table 6. Calculated Energies

m06-L data in ethyl acetate	E	H	G
H ₂	-1.17132046	-1.158159	-1.167747
EtOH	-155.07589937	-154.990661	-155.016048
Ethyl acetate	-307.78104471	-307.654699	-307.688922
<i>cis, fac</i> -RuH ₂ (PPh ₃)[HN(C ₂ H ₅ SEt) ₂]	-2300.19167863	-2299.598012	-2299.691862
Intermediate 1	-2607.97820846	-2607.253670	-2607.365439
Intermediate 2	-2607.97385362	-2607.247311	-2607.358652
Intermediate 3	-2609.13814119	-2608.394529	-2608.508354
Intermediate 4	-2609.18231406	-2608.434144	-2608.547800
<i>trans, mer</i> -RuH(OEt)(PPh ₃)[HN(C ₂ H ₅ SEt) ₂] with a hydrogen-bonded molecule of EtOH	-2609.18805999	-2608.441394	-2608.558406
Intermediate 5	-2455.25398381	-2454.577389	-2454.685224

[00109] All publications, patents and patent applications mentioned in this Specification are indicative of the level of skill of those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains and are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual publication, patent, or patent applications was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

[00110] The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A metal complex of Formula II and III



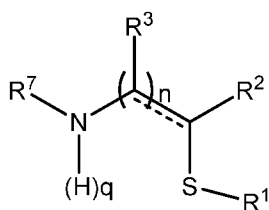
wherein:

each Z is simultaneously or independently a hydrogen or halogen atom, a C₁-C₆ alkyl, a carbene group, a hydroxyl group, or a C₁-C₇ alkoxy radical, a nitrosyl (NO) group, CO, CNR (R=Alkyl, Aryl), nitrile, phosphite, phosphinite, or phosphine such as PMe₃ or PPh₃;

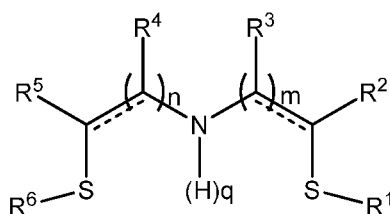
M is a transition metal; preferably from group 6, in which Ru and Os are particularly more preferable;

p is equal to 1 or 2, whereas a is equal to 1, 2, or 3;

SN and SNS are coordinated ligands of any one of Formulae IA,B:



Formula IA



Formula IB

where

SR¹ is a thioether group, which is coordinated to the metal center of the catalyst or pre-catalyst;

the dotted lines simultaneously or independently indicate single or double bonds;

R¹, R², R⁵, and R⁶ are each independently H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl (such as a C₁-C₈ alkyl), a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic C₃-C₈ alkyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, a substituted or unsubstituted C₅-C₂₀ aryl (such as a C₅-C₁₄ or C₅-C₈ aryl), OR or NR₂; or when taken together, R¹ and R² groups or R⁵ and R⁶ groups can form a saturated or partially saturated cycle;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₈ alkyl or alkenyl, a substituted or unsubstituted C₅-C₈ aromatic group, ester group; or, when

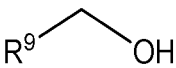
taken together, R^3 and R^4 can form an optionally substituted saturated or partially saturated hetero-aromatic ring;

R^5 when taken together with R^4 can form an optionally substituted saturated or partially saturated aromatic ring;

R^7 is H, a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl (such as a C_1 - C_8 alkyl), a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic C_3 - C_8 alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted C_5 - C_{20} aryl (such as a C_5 - C_{14} or C_5 - C_8 aryl); and

n, m, and q are simultaneously or independently 0, 1, or 2.

2. The complex of claim 1, wherein M is a group 7 metal, a group 8 metal or a group 9 metal.
3. The metal complex of claim 2, wherein M is Ru or Os.
4. A process for dehydrogenation of a substrate comprising:
treating the substrate with a catalytic amount of a metal complex of any one of claims 1-3.
5. The process of claim 4, wherein the substrate comprises at least one alcohol moiety.
6. The process of claim 5, wherein the substrate is a compound of the following Formula:



where R^9 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl.
7. The process of claim 5, wherein the substrate comprises more than one hydroxyl moiety that undergoes dehydrogenation.
8. The process of claim 6, wherein R^9 comprises an amino group that undergoes dehydrogenation.
9. The process of claim 4, wherein the substrate and product pair of the dehydrogenation reaction is selected from the group consisting of:

Substrate	Product
alcohols	ester
alcohol	aldehyde
alcohol	ketone
diol	lactone
amine + alcohol	amide
amine + alcohol	substituted amine
amine + alcohol	imine
ammonia-borane	aminoboranes
ammonia-borane	borazine
amine	imine
amines	guanidine
alcohol + thiol	thioester
thiol	sulphoxide
alcohol + phosphine	acyl phosphine

10. A process for producing H₂ comprising dehydrogenation of a substrate by treating the substrate with a catalytic amount of a metal complex of any one of claims 6 – 9.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein the substrate comprises an alcohol, amine or thiol.

12. The process of claim 10, wherein the substrate is ammonia-borane.

13. The process of any one of claims 6– 12, wherein the process does not require a hydrogen acceptor.

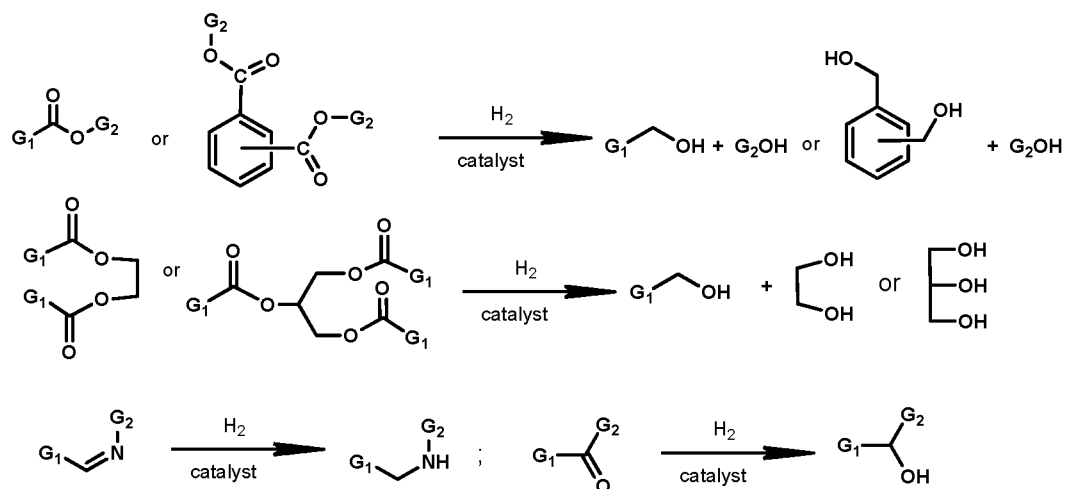
14. The process of any one of claims 6 – 13, which is a homogeneous process.

15. A process for hydrogenation of a substrate comprising:

treating the substrate under a pressure of hydrogen with a catalytic amount of a metal complex of any one of claims 1 – 3.

16. The process of claim 15, wherein the substrate comprises at least one ester group.

17. The process of claim 16, wherein the process proceeds according to the following scheme



18. The process of claim 15, wherein the substrate and product pair of the hydrogenation reaction is selected from the group consisting of:

Hydrogenation Substrate	Product
aldehyde	alcohol
ketone	alcohol
ester	alcohol
carboxylic acid	alcohol
ketene	alcohol
enol	alcohol
epoxide	alcohol
aldimine	amine
ketimine	amine
ketene-imine	amine
nitrile	amine
aziridine	amine
nitro	amine
diazo	amine
isocyanide	amine
enamine	amine
lactone	diol
amide	amine + alcohol
aminoboranes	amine-borane

Hydrogenation Substrate	Product
borazine	amine-borane
olefin	alkane
acetylene	alkane
allene	alkane

19. The process of any one of claims 15 – 18, which is a solvent-free process.

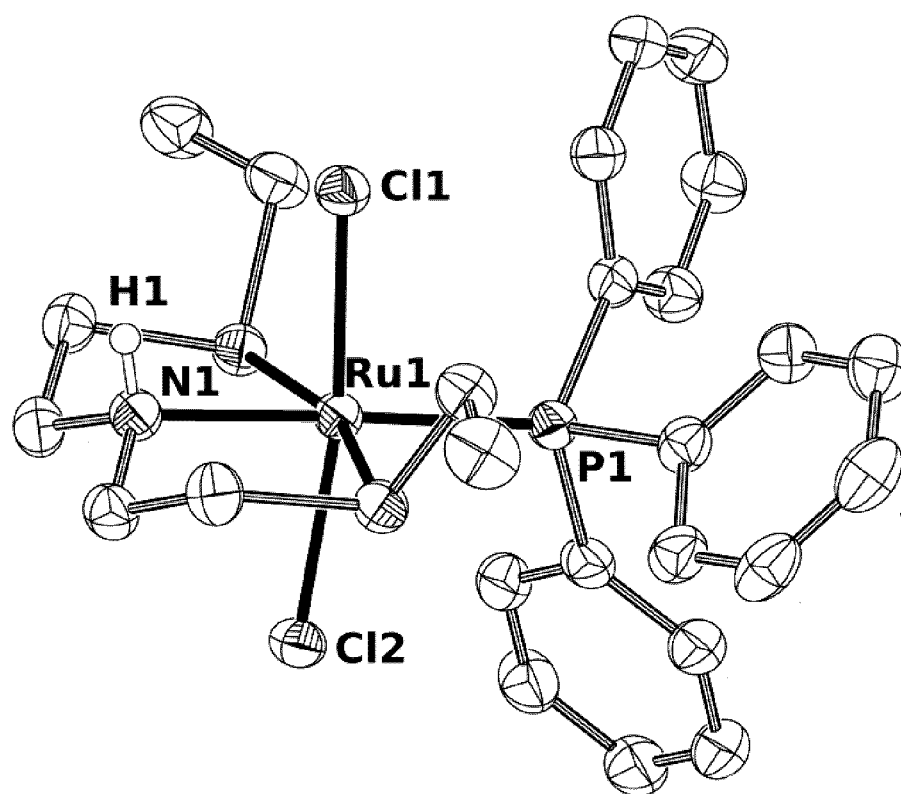


Figure 1

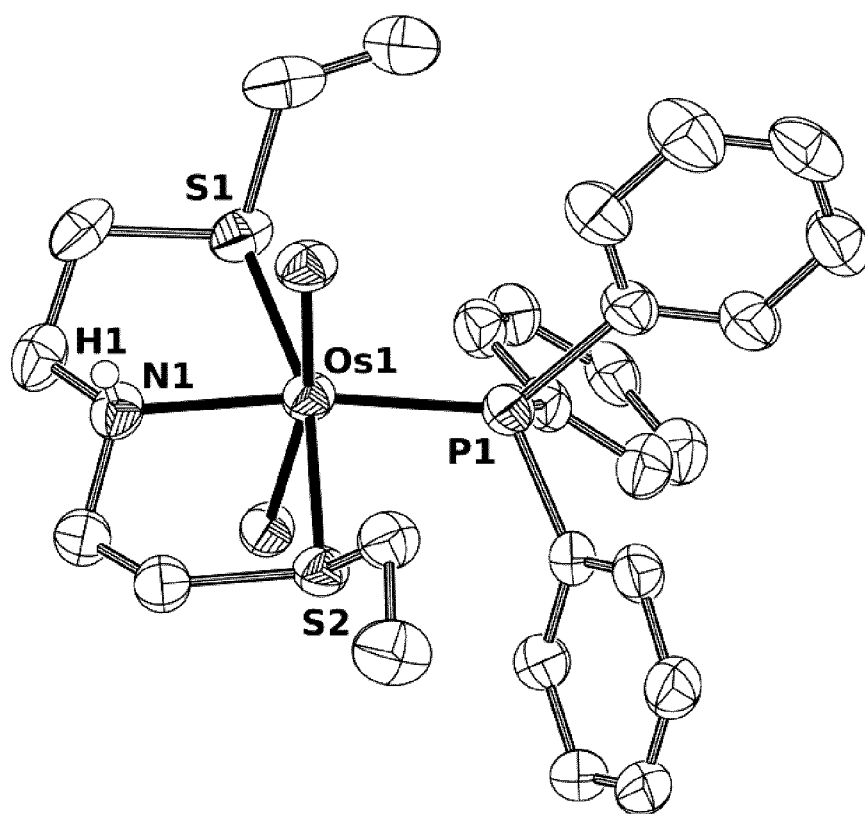


Figure 2

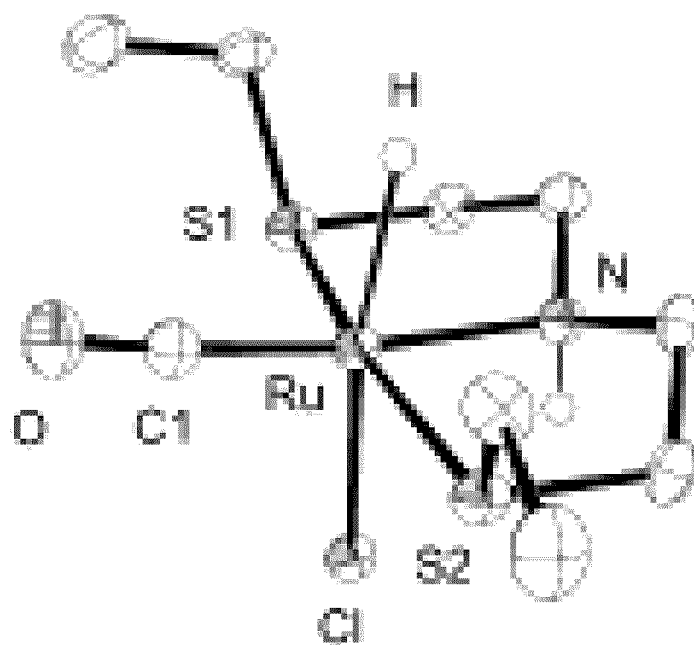


Figure 3

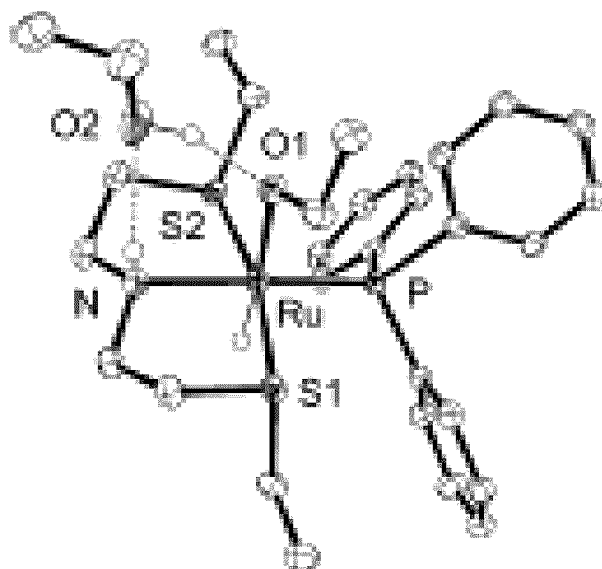


Figure 4

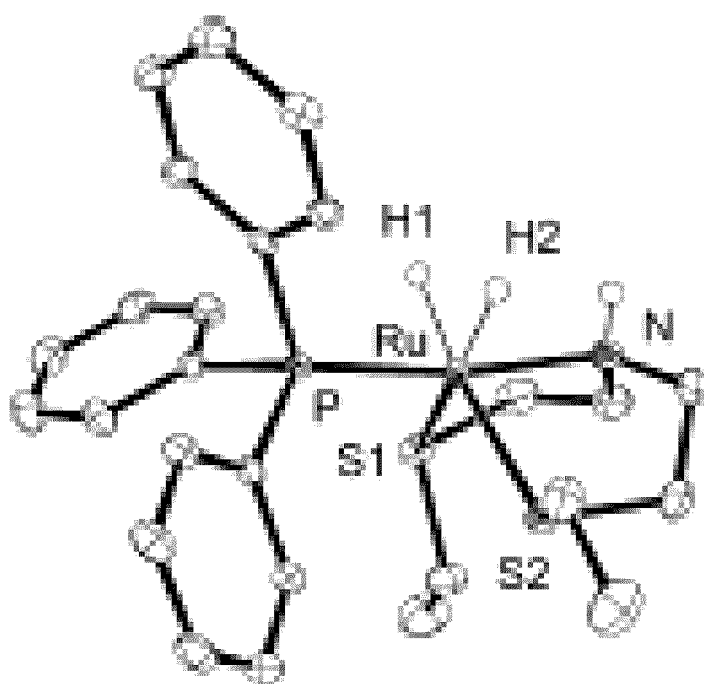


Figure 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2013/050679

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC (2013.01): **C07C 323/25** , **B01J 31/22** , **C01B 3/02** , **C07C 209/30** , **C07C 209/44** , **C07C 29/132** , **C07C 5/03**

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC (2013.01): **C07C** , **B01J** , **C01B**

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used)

Databases: Canadian Patent Database, STN (Registry, CAPlus!)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	SPASYUK, <i>et al.</i> ANGEWANDTE CHEMIE INTERNATIONAL EDITION, Vol. 52, epub 28 January 2013 (28-01-2013), pages 2538-2542. See entire document.	1-19
X	-- BLOMENKEMPER, <i>et al.</i> INORGANICA CHIMICA ACTA, Vol. 390, 15 July 2012 (15-07-2012), pages 143-147. See entire document.	1
X	-- AHMADI, <i>et al.</i> CATALYSIS LETTERS, Vol. 141, 31 August 2011 (31-08-2011), pages 1191-1198. See entire document.	1
X	-- BAI, <i>et al.</i> CRYSTENGCOMM, Vol. 12, 4 September 2009 (04-09-2009), pages 226-233. See Figure 1.	1
X	-- DOWNING, <i>et al.</i> ORGANOMETALLICS, Vol. 28, epub 4 January 2009 (04-01-2009), pages 2417-2422.	1

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 December 2013 (12-12-2013)

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 December 2013 (19-12-2013)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/CA
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Authorized officer

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2013/050679

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BAI, <i>et al.</i> CHEMICAL COMMUNICATIONS, epub 29 April 2008 (29-04-2008), pages 3172-3174. See entire document.	1
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X	WO 2007/001649 A2 (HOLTCAMP, <i>et al.</i>) 4 January 2007 (04-01-2007) See examples 1 and 2.	1
	--	
X	MCGUINNESS, <i>et al.</i> ORGANOMETALLICS, Vol. 24, epub 13 January 2005 (13-01-2005), pages 552-556. See Scheme 1 and 10.	1
	--	
X	AMBUNDO, <i>et al.</i> INORGANIC CHEMISTRY, Vol. 38, epub 27 August 1999 (27-08-1999), pages 4233-4242. See abstract.	1
	--	
A	SPASYUK, <i>et al.</i> ORGANOMETALLICS, Vol. 31, 24 July 2012 (24-07-2012), pages 5239-5242. See charts 1-3. ----	1-19

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of the first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons :

1. ☐ Claim Nos. :
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely :

2. ☒ Claim Nos. : 1-19
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically :

The above claims do not clearly and concisely define the subject matter for which protection is sought, and thus fail to comply with Article 6 of the PCT. By the same token, the subject matter encompassed by said claims has not been clearly and completely disclosed in the description, such that the application does not comply with Article 5 of the PCT. **See extra sheet for further details.**

3. ☐ Claim Nos. :
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows :

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claim Nos. :
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim Nos. :

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Continuation of Box II:

Claims 1-19 do not clearly define the matter for which protection is sought, and thus fail to comply with Article 6 of the PCT. The inclusion of a variety of incompletely defined variable groups (*i.e.*, undefined substitutions; carbon containing groups with no specified number of carbons; cyclic groups with specified number of carbons; transition metals) causes considerable ambiguity as to what compounds are encompassed by formulas II and III in claim 1. By the same token, the process claims relate to processes solely defined in terms of “treating” an incompletely defined substrate under undefined conditions. In both cases, the disclosure relating to the compounds of interest and processes of interest is so incomplete with regards to the meaning of Article 5 as to result in the claims also lacking support with regards to the meaning of Article 6. The resulting lack of clarity and lack of support renders a search across the full breadth of the claims impossible. As a result, the claims have only been searched on the basis of the subject matter that is clearly supported in the description, namely the complexes appearing in the examples.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/CA2013/050679

Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Publication Date	Patent Family Member(s)	Publication Date
WO2007001649A2	04 January 2007 (04-01-2007)	US2006293539A1 US7285679B2 WO2007001649A3	28 December 2006 (28-12-2006) 23 October 2007 (23-10-2007) 28 June 2007 (28-06-2007)