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(54) Title: CATALYST COMPONENTS BASED ON FULVENE COMPLEXES

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses metallic complexes based on hydroxyl- carbonyl fulvene ligands, their method of preparation and their use in the oligomerisation or polymerisation of ethylene and alpha-olefins.



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CATALYST COMPONENTS BASED ON FULVENE COMPLEXES.

The present invention discloses catalyst components based on hydroxyl-carbonyl fulvene ligands their method of preparation and their use in the polymerisation of olefins.

Several ligands have been described in literature, some of which were tested in complexation with metals but none of them have been used as catalysts for the polymerisation of ethylene or alpha-olefins. Some ligands are described for example in Lloyd and Preston (D. Lloyd, N.W. Preston, J. Chem. Soc. C, **1969**, 2464-2469.) or by Linn and Sharkey (W.J. Linn, W.G. Sharkey J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1957**, 79, 4970-2.) or in Snyder et al. (C.A. Snyder, J.P. Selegue, N.C. Tice, C.E. Wallace. M.T. Blankenbuehler, S. Parkin, K.D.E. Allen, R.T. Beck, J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2005**, 127, 15010-11.) or in Dong et al. (Y.B. Dong, Y. Geng, J.P. Ma and R.Q. Huang, Inorg. Chem. **2005**, 44, 1693-1703.)

There is a need to develop new catalyst system having good activity and able to produce polymers tailored to specific needs.

It is an aim of the present invention to prepare new catalyst components that can be used in the polymerisation of olefins.

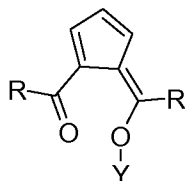
It is also an aim of the present invention to provide very active catalyst components.

It is another aim of the present invention to provide a method for polymerising or copolymerising olefins.

The present invention reaches, at least partially, any one of those aims.

Accordingly, the present invention discloses a method for preparing a metallic complex that comprises the steps of:

- a) providing a metallic precursor MZ_n wherein M is a metal Group 6 to 11 of the Periodic Table, Z is a negative counter-anion and n is the valence of M;
- b) complexing the metallic precursor of step a) with an hydroxycarbonyl fulvene ligand of formula



wherein R are the same or different and are selected from aryl, alkyl arylalkyl, alkylaryl having at most 20 carbon atoms or groups containing heteroatoms and Y is an element Group 1 from the Periodic Table.

- c) retrieving a metallic complex.

The reaction is carried out in a polar solvent such as tetrahydrofuran (THF) preferably at room temperature.

Preferably, R is selected from alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl (Ph), CPh_2 wherein Ph may be substituted or not, or the R groups include heteroatom-containing units. More preferably R is a bulky alkyl such as t-butyl or bulkier or contains furan units. Most preferably R is t-butyl or furan.

In a preferred embodiment according to the present invention, the ligand is deprotonated. The deprotonation reaction is carried out before metallation by addition of a base. Most preferably, deprotonation is achieved by addition of one equivalent of NaH to the neutral ligand with liberation of hydrogen.

Preferably Y is H or Na, more preferably it is Na.

Preferably, M is CrII, CrIII or Ni, more preferably, it is CrII or CrIII, most preferably it is CrIII.

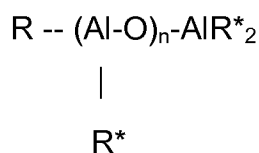
Preferably Z is halogen or acetate, more preferably, it is Cl.

Several types of metallic complexes can be formed, one where the metal is coordinated to one ligand and one where the metal is coordinated to two ligands. The relative amounts of each ligand and metal unit depend upon the nature of ligand and of the metal. The amount of ligand must therefore be of at least one equivalent of ligand per metallic equivalent. In another preferred embodiment according to the present invention, the metal is coordinated to two ligands.

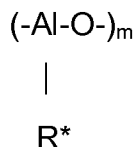
The present invention further discloses an active catalyst system comprising the metallic complex and an activating agent having an ionising action.

Suitable activating agents are well known in the art. The activating agent can be an aluminium alkyl represented by formula $\text{AlR}^+\text{X}_{3-n}$ wherein R^+ is an alkyl having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and X is a halogen. The preferred alkylating agents are triisobutyl aluminium (TIBAL) or triethyl aluminium (TEAL).

Alternatively and preferably, it is an aluminoxane and comprise oligomeric linear and/or cyclic alkyl aluminoxanes represented by formula



for oligomeric, linear aluminoxanes and by formula



for oligomeric, cyclic aluminoxane,

wherein n is 1-40, preferably 10-20, m is 3-40, preferably 3-20 and R^* is a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl group and preferably methyl.

The amount of activating is selected to give an Al/M ratio of from 100 to 3000, preferably of about 1000.

Suitable boron-containing activating agents may comprise a triphenylcarbenium boronate such as tetrakis-pentafluorophenyl-borato-triphenylcarbenium as described in EP-A-0427696, or those of the general formula $[L'-H] + [B \text{ Ar}_1 \text{ Ar}_2 \text{ X}_3 \text{ X}_4]^-$ as described in EP-A-0277004 (page 6, line 30 to page 7, line 7). The amount of boron-containing activating agent is selected to give B/M ratio of from 0.5 to 5, preferably of about 1.

The preferred activating agent is methylaluminoxane (MAO).

In another embodiment, according to the present invention, the metallic complex may be deposited on a conventional support impregnated with an activating agent. Preferably, the conventional support is silica impregnated with methylaluminoxane (MAO). Alternatively, it can be an activating support such as fluorinated alumina silica.

The present invention further discloses a method for preparing an active catalyst system that comprises the steps of:

- a) providing a hydroxyl-carbonyl fulvene ligand;
- b) optionally deprotonating the ligand of step a) with a base;
- c) complexing the ligand of step a) or of step b) with a metallic salt MZ_n in a solvent;
- d) retrieving a catalyst component;
- e) optionally depositing the catalyst component of step d) on a support;
- f) activating the catalyst component of step d) or of step e) with an activating agent having an ionising action;
- g) optionally adding a scavenger;
- h) retrieving an active oligomerisation or polymerisation catalyst system.

Alternatively, in step d), the catalyst component is deposited on a support impregnated with an activating agent or on an activating support.

The scavenger may be selected from triethylaluminium, triisobutylaluminum, tris-n-octylaluminium, tetraisobutyldialuminoxane or diethyl zinc.

The active catalyst system is used in the oligomerisation and in the polymerisation of ethylene and alpha-olefins.

The present invention discloses a method for the oligomerisation or the homo- or co-polymerisation of ethylene and alpha-olefins that comprises the steps of:

- a) injecting the active catalyst system into the reactor;
- b) injecting the monomer and optional comonomer;
- c) maintaining under polymerisation conditions;
- d) retrieving the oligomers and/or polymer.

The pressure in the reactor can vary from 0.5 to 60 bars, preferably from 15 to 45 bars. The productivity of the catalyst system increases with increasing pressure.

The polymerisation temperature can range from 10 to 100°C, preferably from 30 to 55°C. The productivity of the catalyst system decreases with increasing temperature.

Most preferred polymerisation is carried out at a temperature of from 30 to 55 °C and at a pressure of from 24 to 45 bars.

Preferably the monomer and optional comonomer are selected from ethylene, propylene or 1-hexene.

The present invention also discloses the polymers obtained with the new catalyst systems.

List of figures.

Figure 1 represents the molecular structure of ligand 1-cyclohexanecarbonyl-6-hydroxy-6-cyclohexanefulvene.

Figure 2 represents the molecular structure of ligand 1-4-tertbutylbenzoyl-6-hydroxy-6-4-tertbutylphenylfulvene.

Figure 3 represents the molecular structure of ligand 1-diphenyl-6-hydroxy-6-diphenylfulvene.

Figure 4 represents the molecular structure of ligand 1-4-methoxybenzoyl-6-hydroxy-6-4-methoxyphenylfulvene.

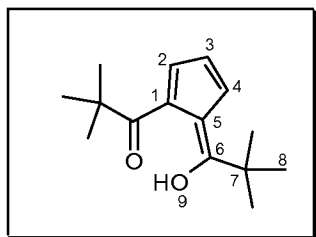
Figure 5 represents the crystal structure of the deprotonated chromium complex prepared from deprotonated ligand 1-neopentyl-6-hydroxy-6-tertbutylfulvene and metallic salt CrCl_3 .

Examples.

Synthesis of ligands.

The ligands were prepared following the methods similar to those described for example in Lloyd and Preston (D. Lloyd, N.W. Preston, J. Chem. Soc. C, **1969**, 2464-2469.) or by Linn and Sharkey (W.J. Linn, W.G. Sharkey J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1957**, 79, 4970-2.) or in Snyder et al. (C.A. Snyder, J.P. Selegue, N.C. Tice, C.E. Wallace. M.T. Blankenbuehler, S. Parkin, K.D.E. Allen, R.T. Beck, J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2005**, 127, 15010-11.) or in Dong et al. (Y.B. Dong, Y. Geng, J.P. Ma and R.Q. Huang, Inorg. Chem. **2005**, 44, 1693-1703.)

All reactivities were purchased from commercially available sources and used without purification and the solvents were purified following standard procedures. The NMR spectra were recorded either on a Brücker ARX 200 spectrometer, at 200 MHz for ^1H spectra and at 50 MHz for ^{13}C spectra, or on a Brücker AC 300P at 300 MHz for ^1H spectra and at 75 MHz for ^{13}C spectra. Mass spectra were obtained with a high resolution mass spectrometer Varian MAT 311 and microanalysis were carried out on a Flash EA1112 CHNS/O Thermo Electron (Centre Régional de Mesures des Physiques de l'Ouest, Rennes, France). Crystalline structure were studied with a diffractometer 'Enraf Nonius FR590' NONIUS Kappa CCD.

Preparation of ligand A: 1-neopentoyl-6-hydroxy-6-tertbutylfulvene.

$C_{15}H_{22}O_2$
 Mol. Wt.: 234,33
 C, 76.88; H, 9.46; O, 13.66
 Yellow solid
 Yield : 39 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 1.170 g (9.7 mmol) of trimethylacetyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.7 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The yellow mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (CH_2Cl_2 /heptane, 1:1) and dried on $MgSO_4$ to afford 440 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 39%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

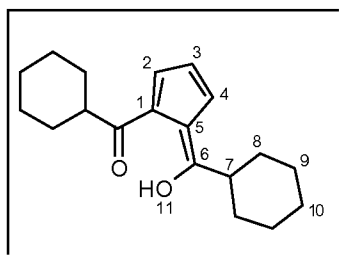
1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 200 MHz, ppm) δ 19.33 (1H, s, O^9H), 7.62 (2H, d, $J=0.21$ Hz, C^2H), 6.39 (1H, s, C^3H), 1.48 (18, s, C^8H_3).

^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 50 MHz, ppm) δ : 199.19 (C^6), 135.31 (C^2 ad C^4), 122.36 (C^1 and C^5), 119.98 (C^3), 42.84 (C^7), 31.21 (C^8).

HRMS: Calcd. for M^+ ($C_{15}H_{22}O_2$) m/z = 234.16198, found 234.1640.

Anal. Cald for $C_{15}H_{22}O_2$: C: 76.88, H: 9.46, O: 13.66 found C: 76.48, H: 9.40.

Preparation of ligand B: 1-cyclohexanecarbonyl-6-hydroxy-6-cyclohexanefulvene.



$C_{19}H_{26}O_2$
Mol. Wt.: 286.41
C, 79.68; H, 9.15; O, 11.17

Yellow solid
Yield : 70 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 1.422 g (9.7 mmol) of cyclohexane carbonyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.7 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The dark brown mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (CH_2Cl_2 /heptane, 90/10 AIT flash chromatography) and dried on $MgSO_4$ to afford 974 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 70%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 200 MHz, ppm) δ 18.78 (1H, s, $O^{11}H$), 7.44 (2H, d, $J=0.02$ Hz, C^2H and C^4H), 6.39 (1H, s, C^3H), 3.19 (2, t, $J=0.05$ Hz, C^7H), 1.55-1.87 (20H, m, C^8H_2 , C^9H_2 and $C^{10}H_2$).

^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 50 MHz, ppm) δ : 195.26 (C^6), 135.84 (C^2 and C^4), 123.37 (C^1 and C^5), 121.07 (C^3), 45.05 (C^7), 31.21 (C^8), 26.36 (C^9 and C^{10}).

HRMS: Calcd. for M^+ ($C_{19}H_{26}O_2$) m/z = 286.19328, found 286.1939

Calcd. for $[M-C_6H_{11}]^+$ ($C_{13}H_{15}O_2$) m/z = 203.10720, found 203.1086.

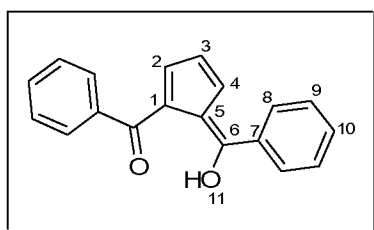
Anal. Cald for $C_{19}H_{26}O_2$: C: 79.68, H: 9.15, O: 11.17 found C: 79.54, H: 9.24.

Cristallography. Crystals were obtained by slow evaporation of a saturated solution of ligand in tetrahydrofuran (THF). The complex is represented in Figure 1, and it is characterised are as follows.

Emprical formula	$C_{19} H_{26} O_2$
Formula weight	286.40
Temperature	120(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P 21/n
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 1.34010(3)$ nm $\alpha = 90$ deg.

	b = 0.92100(3) nm beta = 117.2020(10) deg.
	c = 1.45837(4) nm gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	1.60089(8) nm ³
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.188 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.075 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	624
Crystal size	0.3 x 0.25 x 0.2 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.71 to 27.49 deg.
Limiting indices	-17<=h<=17, -11<=k<=11, -18<=l<=18
Reflections collected / unique	6882 / 3672 [R(int) = 0.0326]
Completeness to theta	= 27.49 99.9 %
Absorption correction	None
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	3672 / 0 / 193
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.059
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0517, wR2 = 0.1370
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0810, wR2 = 0.1566
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.230 and -0.226 A ⁻³

Preparation of ligand C: 1-benzoyl-6-hydroxy-6-phenylfulvene.



C₁₉H₁₄O₂
 Mol. Wt.: 274,31
 C, 83.19; H, 5.14; O, 11.67

Yellow solid
 Yield : 81.5 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 1.363 g (9.7 mmol) of benzoyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.7 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The yellow mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product

was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/heptane, 70/30 AIT flash chromatography) and dried on MgSO₄ to afford 1084 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 81.5%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

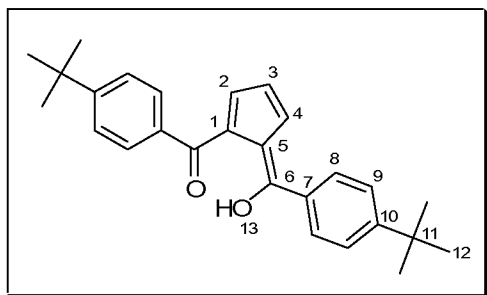
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz, ppm) δ 18.52 (1H, s, O¹¹H), 7.76 (4H, d, *J*=0.03 Hz, C⁸H), 7.46-7.75 (6H, m, C⁹H and C¹⁰H), 7.24 (2H, d, *J*=0.02 Hz, C²H and C⁴H), 6.46 (1H, t, *J*=0.05, C³H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz, ppm) δ: 185.80 (C⁶), 142.12 (C¹⁰), 138.07 (C⁷), 131.85 (C² and C⁴), 130.18 (C⁹), 128.61 (C⁸), 124.80 (C¹ and C⁵), 123.43 (C³).

HRMS: Calcd. for M⁺(C₁₉H₁₄O₂) *m/z*= 274.09938, found 274.0998

Anal. Cald for C₁₉H₁₄O₂: C: 83.19, H: 5.14, O: 11.67 found C: 82.99, H: 5.06.

Preparation of ligand D: 1-4-tertbutylbenzoyl-6-hydroxy-6-4-tertbutylphenylfulvene.



C₂₇H₃₀O₂
Mol. Wt.: 386,53
C, 83.90; H, 7.82; O, 8.28

Yellow solid
Yield : 75,5 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 1.908 g (9.7 mmol) of 4-tertbutylbenzoyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.7 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The yellow mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/heptane, 70/30 AIT flash chromatography) and dried on MgSO₄ to afford 1416 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 75.5%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz, ppm) δ 18.64 (1H, s, O¹³H), 7.77 (4H, d, *J*=0.04 Hz, C⁸H), 7.52 (4H, d, *J*=0.04 Hz, C⁹H), 7.33 (2H, d, *J*=0.04, C²H and C⁴H), 6.50 (1H, t, *J*=0.02 Hz, C³H), 1.41 (18H, s, C¹²H).

^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50 MHz, ppm) δ : 185.76 (C^6), 155.45 (C^{10}), 141.61 (C^2 and C^4), 135.61 (C^7), 130.23 (C^9), 125.61 (C^8), 124.72 (C^1 and C^5), 122.98 (C^3), 35.47 (C^{11}), 31.68 (C^{12}).

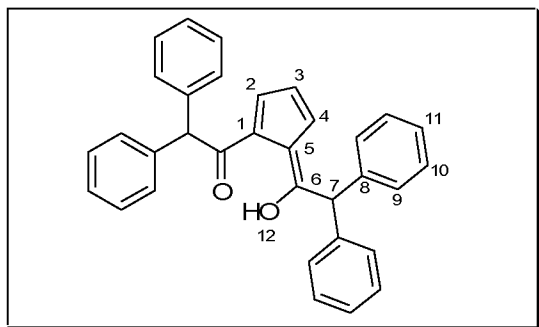
HRMS: Calcd. for M^+ ($\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_2$) m/z = 386.22458, found 386.2210.

Anal. Cald for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_2$: C: 83.90, H: 7.82, O: 8.28 found C: 83.64, H: 7.91.

Cristallography. Crystals were obtained by slow evaporation of a saturated solution of ligand in THF. The complex is represented in Figure 2 and it is characterised as follows.

Empirical formula	$\text{C}_{27} \text{H}_{30} \text{O}_2$
Formula weight	386.51
Temperature	120(2) K
Wavelength	0.071073 nm
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P 21/a
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 1.77026(3) \text{ nm}$ $\alpha = 90 \text{ deg.}$ $b = 0.648020(10) \text{ nm}$ $\beta = 98.1430(10) \text{ deg.}$ $c = 1.89891(3) \text{ nm}$ $\gamma = 90 \text{ deg.}$
Volume	$2.15640(6) \text{ nm}^3$
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.191 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	0.073 mm^{-1}
F(000)	832
Crystal size	$0.35 \times 0.3 \times 0.3 \text{ mm}$
Theta range for data collection	2.95 to 27.48 deg.
Limiting indices	$-22 \leq h \leq 22$, $-8 \leq k \leq 8$, $-24 \leq l \leq 24$
Reflections collected / unique	9424 / 4932 [$R(\text{int}) = 0.0326$]
Completeness to theta	= 27.48 99.6 %
Absorption correction	None
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data / restraints / parameters	4932 / 0 / 265
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.042
Final R indices [$ I > 2\sigma(I)$]	$R1 = 0.0511$, $wR2 = 0.1364$
R indices (all data)	$R1 = 0.0609$, $wR2 = 0.1463$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.283 and $-0.235 \text{ e.}\text{\AA}^{-3}$

Preparation of ligand E: 1-diphenylacetyl-6-hydroxy-6-diphenylfulvene.



$C_{33}H_{26}O_2$
Mol. Wt.: 454,56
C, 87.20; H, 5.77; O, 7.04

Yellow solid
Yield : 51 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 4.409 g (9.7 mmol) of diphenylacetyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.7 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The yellow mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (CH_2Cl_2 /heptane, 1:1) and dried on $MgSO_4$ to afford 1130 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 51%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 200 MHz, ppm) δ : 18.73 (1H, s, $O^{12}H$), 7.63 (2H, d, $J=0.02$ Hz, C^2H and C^4H), 7.27-7.35 (20H, m, C^9H , $C^{10}H$ and $C^{11}H$), 6.46 (1H, t, $J=0.02$, C^3H), 5.98 (2H, s, C^7H).

^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 50 MHz, ppm) δ : 189.19 (C^6), 140.17 (C^8), 138.38 (C^2 and C^4), 129.53 (C^{10}), 129.14 (C^9), 127.68 (C^{11}), 125.39 (C^1 and C^5), 122.95 (C^3), 57.07 (C^7).

HRMS: Calcd. for M^+ ($C_{33}H_{26}O_2$) m/z = 454.19328, found 454.1978.

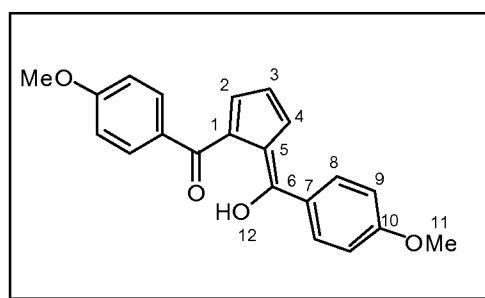
Anal. Cald for $C_{33}H_{26}O_2$: C: 87.20, H: 5.77, O: 7.04 found C: 87.26, H: 5.78.

Cristallography. Crystals were obtained by slow evaporation of a saturated solution of ligand in THF. The ligand is represented in Figure 3 and is characterized as follows.

Empirical formula	$C_{33}H_{26}O_2$
Formula weight	454.54
Temperature	100(2) K
Wavelength	0.071073 nm
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, $C 2/c$
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 3.50497(7)$ nm $\alpha = 90$ deg.

	b = 0.86045(2) nm beta = 93.6060(10) deg.
	c = 1.61448(4) nm gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	4.85939(19) nm ³
Z, Calculated density	8, 1.243 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.076 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	1920
Crystal size	0.4 x 0.25 x 0.1 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.73 to 27.54 deg.
Limiting indices	-45<=h<=45, -11<=k<=11, -20<=l<=20
Reflections collected / unique	10617 / 5581 [R(int) = 0.0589]
Completeness to theta	= 27.54 99.4 %
Absorption correction	None
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	5581 / 0 / 319
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.041
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0605, wR2 = 0.1588
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0777, wR2 = 0.1749
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.312 and -0.374 e.A ⁻³

Preparation of ligand F: 1-4-methoxybenzoyl-6-hydroxy-6-4-methoxyphenylfulvene.



C₂₁H₁₈O₄
Mol. Wt.: 334,37
C, 75.43; H, 5.43; O, 19.14

Yellow solid
Yield : 64 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 1.655 g (9.7 mmol) of 4-methoxybenzoyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.7 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The yellow mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room

temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (Et₂O/heptane, 70/30 AIT flash chromatography) and dried on MgSO₄ to afford 1040 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 64%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz, ppm) δ: 18.59 (1H, s, O¹²H), 7.78 (4H, d, *J*=0.05 Hz, C⁸H), 7.24 (2H, d, *J*=0.02 Hz, C²H and C⁴H), 6.96 (4H, d, *J*=0.04, C⁹H), 6.46 (1H, t, *J*=0.02 Hz, C³H), 3.87 (6H, s, C¹¹H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz, ppm) δ: 185.06 (C⁶), 162.93 (C¹⁰), 140.71 (C² and C⁴), 132.48 (C⁸), 130.52 (C⁵), 124.48 (C⁷), 122.59 (C³), 113.96 (C⁹), 55.92 (C¹¹).

HRMS: Calcd. for M⁺ (C₂₁H₁₈O₄) *m/z* = 334.12051, found 334.1217.

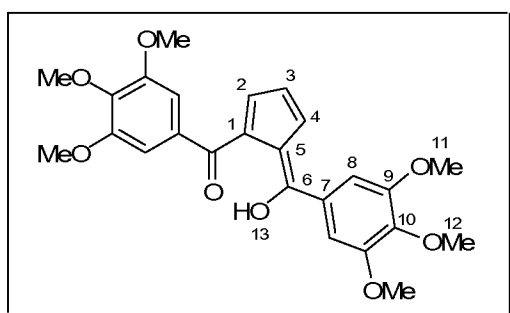
Anal. Cald for C₂₁H₁₈O₄: C: 75.43, H: 5.43, O: 19.14 found C: 75.36, H: 5.38.

Cristallography. Crystals were obtained by slow evaporation of a satrated solution of ligand in THF. The crystal structure is diplayed in Figure 4 and the ligand is characterised as follows.

Empirical formula	C ₂₁ H ₁₈ O ₄
Formula weight	334.35
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.071073 nm
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P 21/a
Unit cell dimensions	a = 1.58788(3) nm alpha = 90 deg. b = 1.18158(2) nm beta = 104.6490(10) deg. c = 1.80453(3) nm gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	3.27561(10) nm ³
Z, Calculated density	8, 1.356 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.093 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	1408
Crystal size	0.55 x 0.44 x 0.4 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.61 to 27.49 deg.
Limiting indices	-20<= <i>h</i> <=20, -15<= <i>k</i> <=15, -23<= <i>l</i> <=23
Reflections collected / unique	14636 / 7500 [R(int) = 0.0286]
Completeness to theta	= 27.49 99.8 %
Absorption correction	None

Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data / restraints / parameters	7500 / 0 / 457
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.060
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	$R1 = 0.0485$, $wR2 = 0.1221$
R indices (all data)	$R1 = 0.0710$, $wR2 = 0.1361$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.352 and -0.406 e.Å^{-3}

Preparation of ligand G: 1-3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoyl-6-hydroxy-6-3,4,5-trimethoxyphenylfulvene.



$C_{25}H_{26}O_8$
Mol. Wt.: 454.47
C, 66.07; H, 5.77; O, 28.16

Yellow solid
Yield : 28 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 2.230 g (9.7 mmol) of 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.5 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The yellow mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (Ether 100%) and dried on $MgSO_4$ to afford 614 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 28%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

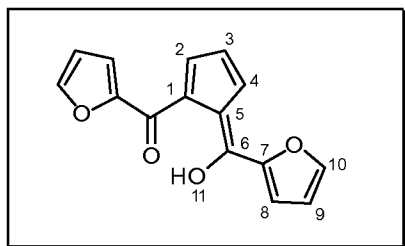
1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 200 MHz, ppm) δ : 18.51 (1H, s, $O^{13}H$), 7.35 (2H, d, $J=0.02$ Hz, C^2H and C^4H), 7.06 (4H, s, C^8H), 6.51 (1H, t, $J=0.02$, C^3H), 3.95 (6H, s, $C^{12}H$), 3.92 (12H, s, $C^{11}H$).

^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 50 MHz, ppm) δ : 185.23 (C^6), 162.68 (C^7), 153.26 (C^9), 144.22 (C^2 and C^4), 133.11 (C^{10}), 124.54 (C^1 and C^5), 123.28 (C^3), 107.85 (C^8), 61.44 (C^{12}), 56.76 (C^{11}).

HRMS: Calcd. for M^+ ($C_{21}H_{18}O_4$) $m/z = 334.12051$, found 334.1217.

Anal. Cald for $C_{25}H_{26}O_8$: C: 66.07, H: 5.77, O: 26.16 found C: 65.28, H: 5.82.

Preparation of ligand H: 1-2-furoyl-6-hydroxy-6-2-furanefulvene.



$C_{15}H_{10}O_4$
Mol. Wt.: 254,24
C, 70.86; H, 3.96; O, 25.17

Red orange solid
Yield : 21 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 1.264 g (9.7 mmol) of 2-furoyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.7 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The orange mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (Et_2O /heptane, 70/30 AIT flash chromatography) and dried on $MgSO_4$ to afford 260 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 21%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

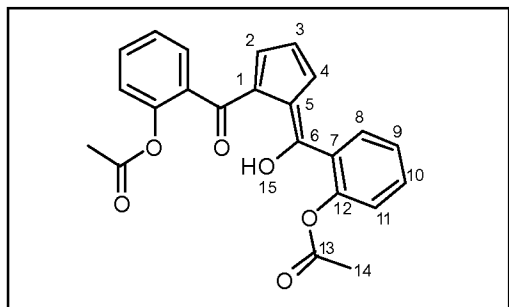
1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 200 MHz, ppm) δ : 18.49 (1H, s, $O^{11}H$), 8.14 (2H, d, $J=0.02$ Hz, $C^{10}H$), 7.71 (2H, s, C^8H), 7.39 (2H, d, $J=0.02$, C^2H and C^4H), 6.62 (2H, t, $J=0.01$, C^9H), 6.60 (1H, t, C^3H).

^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 50 MHz, ppm) δ : 169.60 (C^6), 152.31 (C^{10}), 147.24 (C^2 and C^4), 124.45 (C^3), (C^1 and C^5), 120.12 (C^9), 112.83 (C^8).

HRMS: Calcd. for M^+ ($C_{15}H_{10}O_4$) m/z = 234.16198, found 234.1640.

Anal. Cald for $C_{15}H_{10}O_4$: C: 70.86, H: 3.96, O: 25.17 found C: 70.50, H: 4.17.

Preparation of ligand I: 1-2-acetoxymethyl-6-hydroxy-6-2-acetoxymethylphenylfulvene.



$C_{23}H_{18}O_6$
 Mol. Wt.: 390,39
 C, 70.76; H, 4.65; O, 24.59

Yellow solid
 Yield : 18 %

Cyclopentadienyl lithium was prepared from 14.5 mmol of just distilled cyclopentadiene and 14.5 mmol of butyl lithium. A solution of 1.950 g (9.81 mmol) of 0-acetylsalicyloyl chloride in 20 mL of anhydrous ether was added dropwise to a solution of 14.7 mmol of cyclopentadienyl lithium in 20 mL of anhydrous ether, at a temperature of 0 °C. The dark brown mixture was placed under stirring overnight at room temperature (about 25 °C). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the remaining solid was treated with 20 mL of an acid HCl solution (5% in water) overnight. The product was extracted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, purified on silica gel (Ether/heptane, 2:1) and dried on $MgSO_4$ to afford 350 mg of yellow solid with a yield of 18%.

The ligand was characterised as follows.

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 200 MHz, ppm) δ 18.06 (1H, s, $O^{15}H$), 7.22-7.60 (8H, m, C^8H , C^9H , $C^{10}H$ and $C^{11}H$), 7.09 (2H, d, $J=0.02$ Hz, C^2H and C^4H), 6.43 (1H, s, C^3H), 2.18 (6H, s, $C^{14}H$).

^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 50 MHz, ppm) δ : 182.76 (C^6), 169.63 (C^{13}), 148.84 (C^7), 142.92 (C^2 and C^4), 131.97 (C^8), 131.33 (C^3), 130.68 (C^1 or C^5), 125.86 (C^{11}), 125.66 (C^{12}), 124.16 (C^{10}), 124.99 (C^9), 30.12 (C^{14})

HRMS: Calcd. for M^+ ($C_{23}H_{18}O_6$) $m/z=390.11034$, found 390.1087.

Calcd. for $[M-COCH_2]^+$ ($C_{21}H_{16}O_5$) $m/z=348.09977$, found 348.0965

Calcd. for $[M-CH_3COOH]^+$ ($C_{21}H_{14}O_4$) $m/z=330.08921$, found 330.0861

Anal. Cald for $C_{23}H_{18}O_6$: C: 70.76, H: 4.65, O: 24.59 found C: 71.17, H: 4.89.

Preparation of metallic complexes from neutral fulvenes.

Chromium complexes.

CrCl₃ / ligand A complex.

9.37 mg (40 μmol) of ligand A and 7.49 mg (20 μmol) of $\text{CrCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{THF}$ were introduced in a Schlenk with 200 μL of THF. The mixture was placed under stirring for 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum overnight to yield a dark brown solid.

CrCl_3 / ligand H complex.

10.17 mg (40 μmol) of ligand H and 7.49 mg (20 μmol) of $\text{CrCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{THF}$ were introduced in a Schlenk with 200 μL of THF. The mixture was placed under stirring for 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum overnight to yield a red solid.

CrCl_2 / ligand H complex.

10.17 mg (40 μmol) of ligand H and 2.46 mg (20 μmol) of CrCl_2 were introduced in a Schlenk with 200 μL of THF. The mixture was placed under stirring for 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum overnight to yield a red solid.

Nickel complexes.

$\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2$ / ligand A complex.

9.37 mg (40 μmol) of ligand A and 4.98 mg (20 μmol) of $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2$ were introduced in a Schlenk with 200 μL of THF. The mixture was placed under stirring for 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum overnight to yield a yellow-green solid.

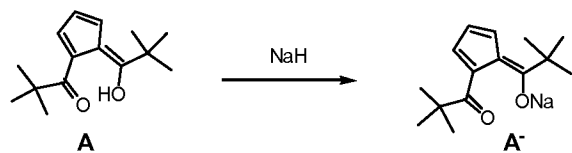
$\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2$ / ligand E complex.

18.18 mg (40 μmol) of ligand E and 4.98 mg (20 μmol) of $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2$ were introduced in a Schlenk with 200 μL of THF. The mixture was placed under stirring for 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum overnight to yield a yellow-green solid.

Preparation of metallic complexes from deprotonated fulvenes.

CrCl_3 / ligand A- complex.

Ligand A was first deprotonated with NaH.



9.37 mg (40 μ mol) of ligand A and 0.96 mg (40 μ mol) of NaH were introduced in a Schlenk with 400 μ L of THF. The mixture was placed under stirring for a period of time of 1 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum to yield a light brown solid. 7.49 mg (20 μ mol) of $\text{CrCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{THF}$ were then introduced in the Schlenk with 200 μ L of THF and the mixture was placed under stirring for a period of time of 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum overnight to afford a dark yellow-brown solid. The complex is soluble in THF, dichloromethane and toluene.

The complex was recrystallised by slow evaporation of a saturated solution of the complex in toluene. The crystals obtained were suitable for X-Ray analysis.

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{50}\text{O}_5\text{ClCr}$: C: 65.21, H: 8.05, found C: 64.83, H: 8.15.

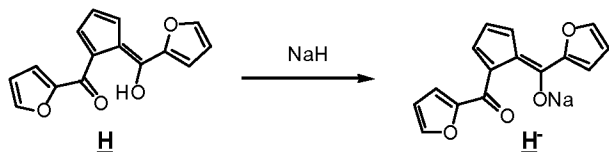
The complex crystallises in a triclinic environment with space group P-1. The chromium atom is coordinated to 2 molecules of bidentate fulvene of LX type each being coordinated by its 2 oxygen atoms. The chromium atom is further coordinated by a chlorine atom and a THF molecule. This can be seen in Figure 5. The complex is characterised as follows.

Empirical formula	$\text{C}_{34} \text{H}_{50} \text{Cl Cr O}_5$
Formula weight	626.19
Temperature	120(2) K
Wavelength	0.071073 nm
Crystal system, space group	Triclinic, P -1
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 0.95512(2) \text{ nm}$ $\alpha = 93.0100(10) \text{ deg.}$ $b = 1.09349(3) \text{ nm}$ $\beta = 91.3950(10) \text{ deg.}$ $c = 1.70208(5) \text{ nm}$ $\gamma = 112.2880(10) \text{ deg.}$
Volume	1640.71(7) $\text{\AA}^3$
Z, Calculated density	2, 1.268 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	0.468 mm^{-1}
F(000)	670

Crystal size	0.5 x 0.3 x 0.06 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.65 to 27.57 deg.
Limiting indices	-12<=h<=12, -14<=k<=13, -22<=l<=22
Reflections collected / unique	13520 / 7501 [R(int) = 0.0653]
Completeness to theta = 27.57	98.8 %
Absorption correction	None
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	7501 / 0 / 371
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.047
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	R1 = 0.0700, wR2 = 0.1771
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0870, wR2 = 0.1887
Extinction coefficient	0.039(4)
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.048 and -0.631 e.A ⁻³

CrCl₃ / ligand H- complex.

Ligand H was first deprotonated with NaH.



10.17 mg (40 μ mol) of ligand H and 0.96 mg (40 μ mol) of NaH were introduced in a Schlenk with 400 μ L of THF. The mixture was placed under stirring for a period of time of 1 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum to yield a yellow solid. 7.49 mg (20 μ mol) of CrCl₃.3THF were then introduced in the Schlenk with 200 μ L of THF and the mixture was placed under stirring for a period of time of 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum overnight to afford a dark red solid.

CrCl₂ / ligand H- complex.

10.17 mg (40 μ mol) of ligand H and 0.96 mg (40 μ mol) of NaH were introduced in a Schlenk with 400 μ L of THF. The mixture was placed under stirring for a period of time of 1 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum to yield a yellow solid. 2.46 mg (20 μ mol) of CrCl₂ were then introduced in the Schlenk with

200 μ L of THF and the mixture was placed under stirring for a period of time of 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum overnight to afford a dark red solid.

Homogeneous polymerisation of ethylene.

The metallic catalyst component were activated with 3.25 mL of methylaluminoxane (MAO)(30% in toluene). The solution was stirred for 5 minutes and then diluted with 1.75 mL of toluene. The reactor was dried under nitrogen at a temperature of 110 °C for a period of time of 30 minutes. The reactor was brought to a polymerisation temperature of 35 °C and 50 mL of toluene were added to the reactor under nitrogen. A scavenger solution consisting of 1 mL of MAO (30% in toluene) and 4 mL of toluene was added to the reactor and the solution was stirred for a few minutes. The solution of activated catalyst was added to the reactor under nitrogen. The flux of nitrogen was interrupted, the reactor was purged and placed under an ethylene pressure of 15 bars. It was placed under stirring for a period of time of 1 h. The reactor was purged and the polymerisation was stopped by adding a 10% solution of MeOH/HCl. The polymer was washed 3 times with 30 mL of MeOH and 3 times with 30 mL of acetone. The polymer was dried under vacuum overnight at room temperature. The results are summarised in Table I for the chromium-based catalyst systems, and in table II for the nickel-based catalyst systems.

TABLE I.

Catalyst	Mass PE (g)	Activity ($\text{kg}_{\text{PE}}/(\text{mol.h})$)	T_m (°C)	M_p	M_n	M_w	I_p
CrCl ₃ /A	1,20	60	125	689	1 453	129 217	89
CrCl ₃ /H	4,75	237	130	474	1 874	214 323	114
CrCl ₂ /H	5,56	278	133	538	1 452	240 331	165
CrCl ₃ /H ⁻	5,91	295	128	758	1 967	333 164	169
CrCl ₂ /H ⁻	6,47	324	131	804	2 061	388 029	188
CrCl ₃ /A ⁻	8,38	419	129	i	i	i	i

i : insoluble polymer

For all polymerisations, the conditions were as follows:

Cr 20 μmol ,

ligand 40 μmol ,

polymerisation temperature 35 °C,

ethylene pressure 15 bars,

1000 eq. MAO,

solvent: toluène,

polymerisation time 1h.

TABLE II.

	m_{PE} (g)	Activity $\text{kg}_{\text{PE}}/(\text{mol.h})$	Consum. $(\text{kg}_{\text{C}_2\text{H}_4}/(\text{mol.h}))$	Distributions oligo. (%)		
				C4 (α)	C6	C8
Ni(OAc)₂	0.021	1.05	580	73.2 (49)	21.9	4.9
Ni(OAc)₂/A	0.027	1.35	641	71.4 (50)	25.4	3.2
Ni(OAc)₂/E	0.028	1.4	890	57.2 (45)	36.4	6.5

For all polymerisations, the conditions were as follows:

Cr 20 μmol ,

ligand 40 μmol ,

polymerisation temperature 30 °C,

ethylene pressure 15 bars,

1000 eq. MAO,

solvent: toluène,

polymerisation time 1h.

The highest activity was obtained with the catalyst system based on CrCl_3 / ligand A-. Its activity has been studied as a function of temperature and of ethylene pressure. The results are displayed in Table III.

TABLE III.

Activity (kg_{PE}/(mol.h))		Pressure (bars)		
		15	24	45
Temp. (°C)	35	486	512	588
	55	292	538	602
	85	47	119	254

The conditions were as follows:

Cr 10 µmol,

ligand 20 µmol,

1000 eq. MAO,

solvent: toluene,

polymerisation time 1h.

It can be concluded that the activity of the catalyst system increases with increasing pressure and decreases when the temperature is increased.

The same catalyst system based on CrCl₃ / ligand A- was used for additional ethylene polymerisations under the following conditions:

Complexation time: 12 h,

1000 eq. MAO,

solvent: toluene,

polymerisation time 1 h,

TABLE IV

Catalyst amount (µmol)	Temperature (°C)	Pressure (bars)	m PE (g)	Activity (kg_{PE}/(mol.h))	Consum. (kg_{C2H2}/(mol.h))
5	35	45	15,18	3 077	n.m.
5	25	45	20,34	4 069	n.m.
2,5	35	45	9,10	3 642	n.m.
2,5	35	45	7,78	3 112	3 000
2,5	25	45	8,90	3 560	n.m.
2,5	25	45	10,10	4 040	4 430
1,0	25	45	5,298	5 298	n.m.
3,26	0	45	5,36	1 645	n.m.
3,26	0	45	5,34	1 639	4 982

n.m. = not measured

Polymerisation of ethylene with supported catalyst systems.

The activity of the unsupported CrCl_3 / ligand A- catalyst system was evaluated in heptane. There was not a selective amount of ethylene present in the polyethylene.

The polymerisation conditions were as follows:

complexation time: 12 hours,

5 μmol of ligand with 2.5 μmol of Cr,

polymerisation temperature: 25 °C,

polymerisation pressure: 45 bars,

1000 equ. of MAO,

solvent: heptane,

polymerisation time: 1 hour.

The results are displayed in Table V.

TABLE V.

<i>mPE (g)</i>	<i>Activity (kg_{PE}/(mol.h))</i>	<i>Consom. (kg_{C₂H₄}/(mol.h))</i>	<i>Tm (°C)</i>
3,40	1 360	3 214	139

Impregnation of the catalyst on silica/MAO.

5 μmol of complex CrCl_3/A^- were dissolved in 600 μl of toluene and then introduced in a schlenk with 100 mg of silica/MAO (50 $\mu\text{mol}_{\text{Cr}}/\text{g}_{\text{Si}}$) under stirring for a period of time of 30 minutes. The impregnated silica was filtered and washed either with once 600 μl of toluene and three times with 600 μl of heptane (condition 1) or three times with 600 μl of heptane (condition 2).

Polymerisation of ethylene with impregnated silica/MAO.

The reactor was dried under nitrogen for a period of time of 30 minutes and at a temperature of 90 °C. 50 mL of heptane were then introduced into the reactor with 100 mL of scavenger, MAO (30 %) diluted in 5 mL of heptane, at a temperature of

25 °C. 50 mg of silica, containing about 2.5 μmol of activated catalyst (50 $\mu\text{mol}_{\text{Cr}}/\text{g}_{\text{SiO}_2}$) were introduced into the reactor with 5 mL of heptane. The polymerisation reaction was carried out at a temperature of 25 °C under an ethylene pressure of 45 bars and for a period of time of 1 hour for conditions 1 and 2. The results are displayed in Table VI.

TABLE VI.

	<i>m PE (g)</i>	<i>Activité (kg_{PE}/(mol.h))</i>	<i>Consom. (kg_{C₂H₄}/(mol.h))</i>	<i>Activité (g_{PE}/(g_{Si}.h))</i>	<i>Consom. (g_{C₂H₄}/(g_{Si}.h))</i>	<i>Tm (°C)</i>
Cond. 1	1,02	408	3 993	20,4	200	139
Cond. 2	3,42	1 368	3 530	68,4	177	133

The complexation time was of 12 hours.

Polymerisation of alpha-olefins.

The unsupported catalyst system CrCl_3/A^- was used for the polymerisation of hexene with the following conditions: $\text{CrCl}_3/\text{A}^- / \text{MAO} / \text{hexene} = 1 / 100 / 2000$. After a period of time of 24 hours and a polymerisation temperature of 30 °C the yield was of about 2%.

CLAIMS.

1. A method for preparing a metallic complex that comprises the steps of:
 - a) providing a metallic precursor MZ_n wherein M is a metal Group 6 to 11 of the Periodic Table, Z is a negative counter-anion and n is the valence of M;
 - b) complexing the metallic precursor of step a) with a ligand of formula



wherein both R are the same and are selected from aryl, alkyl arylalkyl, alkylaryl having at most 20 carbon atoms or groups containing heteroatoms and Y is an element Group 1 from the Periodic Table.

- c) retrieving a metallic complex.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein R is alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, CPh₂ wherein phenyl group Ph is substituted or unsubstituted or furan-containing group.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein R is tert-butyl or furan.
4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein Y is H or Na.
5. The method of any one of the preceding claims wherein M is CrII, CrIII or Ni.
6. The method of any one of the preceding claims wherein Z is halogen or acetate.
7. The method of any one of the preceding claims wherein the ligand is deprotonated with a base prior to complexation step b).
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the base is NaH.

9. A metallic complex obtainable by the method of any one of claims 1 to 8.
10. An active catalyst comprising the metallic complex of claim 9, an activating agent having an ionising action and optionally a support.
11. The active catalyst system of claim 10 wherein the activating agent is methylaluminoxane.
12. A method for preparing an active catalyst system that comprises the steps of:
 - a) providing a hydroxyl-carbonyl fulvene ligand;
 - b) optionally deprotonating the ligand of step a) with a base;
 - c) complexing the ligand of step a) or of step b) with a metallic salt MZ_n in a solvent;
 - d) retrieving a catalyst component;
 - e) optionally depositing the catalyst component of step d) on a support;
 - f) activating the catalyst component of step d) or of step e) with an activating agent having an ionising action;
 - g) optionally adding a scavenger;
 - h) retrieving an active oligomerisation or polymerisation catalyst system.
13. A method for oligomerising or for homo- or co-polymerising ethylene and alpha-olefins that comprises the steps of:
 - a) injecting the active catalyst system into the reactor;
 - b) injecting the monomer and optional comonomer;
 - c) maintaining under polymerisation conditions;
 - d) retrieving the oligomers and/or polymer.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the monomer and comonomer are selected from ethylene or propylene.

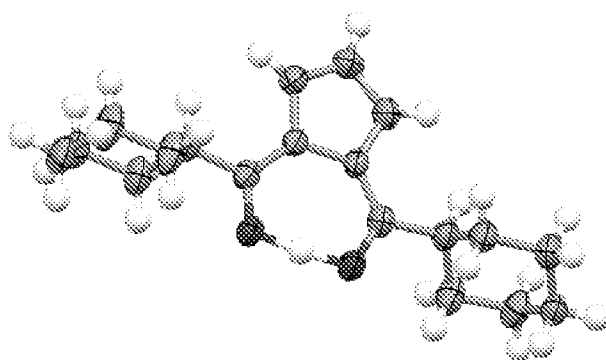


FIGURE 1

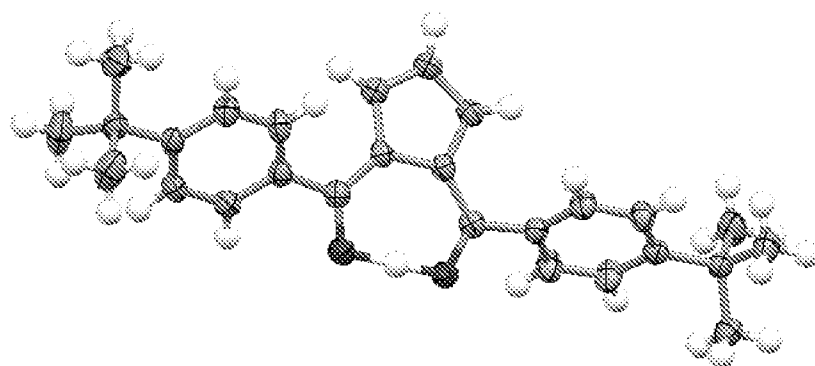


FIGURE 2

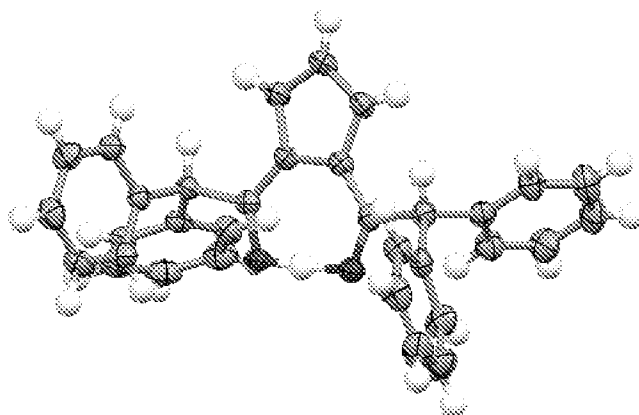


FIGURE 3

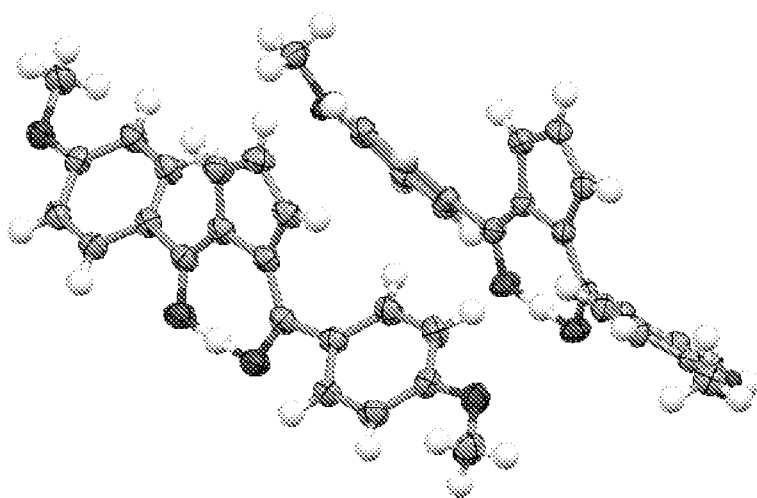


FIGURE 4

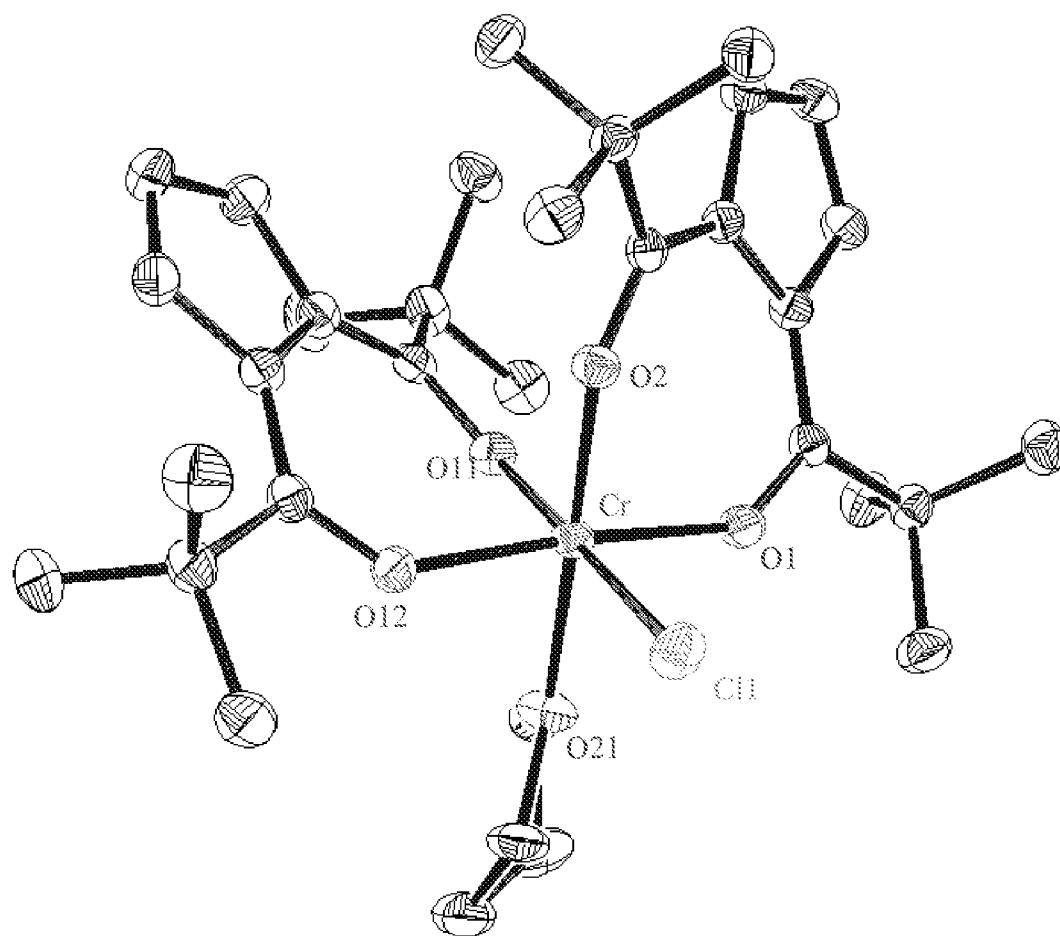


FIGURE 5