Organometallic aza-phospha compounds containing cobaltoceniumyl substituents

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In continuation of our exploration of functionalized cobaltocenium compounds [1] we three phosphine derivatives of azidocobaltocenium report here on new hexafluoridophosphate 1 and cobaltoceniumdiazonium bis(hexafluoridophosphate) 2 (Scheme 1). Staudinger reaction of 1 with triphenylphosphine afforded the expected phosphazene 3 under evolution of N₂. Interestingly, no further aza-Wittig reaction of 3 with aldehydes or ketones proved possible, due to the strongly electron-withdrawing, cationic cobaltoceniumyl substituent. However, Staudinger reaction of 1 with Verkade's superbase [2] allowed access to phosphazide 4, a new organometallic member in the limited number of isolable phosphazides [3]. Reaction of 2 with triphenylphosphine gave dicationic azophosphonium salt 5, an unusual redox-active azo dye. Spectroscopic and structural properties of these novel aza-phospha organometallic compounds will be presented.



Scheme 1. Aza-phospha cobaltocenium salts

^[1] Vanicek, S.; Kopacka, H.; Wurst, K.; Müller, T.; Hassenrück, C.; Winter, R. F.; Bildstein, B.; Organometallics **2016**, *35*, 2101–2109.

^[2] Tang, J.; Dopke, J.; Verkade, J. G.; J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1993, 115, 5015-5020.

^[3] Bebbington, M. W. P.; Bourissou, D.; Coord. Chem. Rev. 2009, 253, 1248-1261.