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ORGANOMETALLICS



Ni (II) and Co (II) halide complexes with novel NNNOheteroscorpionate ligands in ethylene oligomerization: the crucial role of AOC

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Heteroscorpionate complexes of different metals are widely used in catalysis¹. Recently we have reported synthesis and catalytic oligomerization of ethylene on nickel (II) complexes with NNN-heteroscorpionate ligands².

In this study we report novel NNNO-heteroscorpionate ligands with 8-methoxyquinoline pendant arm, that are able to form complexes with nickel **1** and cobalt **2** halides strictly in 1:1 stoichiometry (Fig. 1), without regrouping to ionic compounds^{2,3} of the following composition: [MeL₂]²⁺[MeHal₄]²⁻.

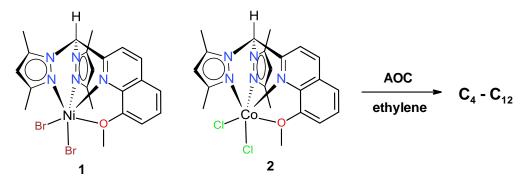


Figure 1. Scheme of ethylene oligomerization by complexes 1 and 2.

These complexes yielded active systems only when activated with Et_2AlCl , $Et_3Al_2Cl_3$, $EtAlCl_2$ or MAO. The AOC plays a crucial role in determining the properties of these systems. So for complex 1 the activity ranges from 90 to 1900 kg[olig]·(mole[Ni]·h·atm)⁻¹, constantly increasing in the following sequence: MAO< Et_2AlCl < $Et_3Al_2Cl_3$ < $EtAlCl_2$. The addition of 1 mol. equiv. of PPh₃ to the system raises the activity up to 4200 kg[olig]·(mole[Ni]·h·atm)⁻¹. According to GC/MS data, oligomeric mixtures consist of different isomers with chain lengths from C₄ to C₁₂, with predominant shares of butenes and hexenes (α -olefin share is up to 50% in each fraction).

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