Preparation of CpMoX₃ (Cp = η -C₅H₅; X = Cl, Br, I) by Thermal Decarbonylation of $CpMoX_3(CO)_2$, a **Previously Overlooked Phenomenon**

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Introduction

We have been recently interested in the synthesis of new molybdenum compounds that contain only halides and one cyclopentadienyl ring, CpMoX,, as these are useful synthons for the preparation of a variety of other organometallic products.1 Although the $CpMoX_4$ (X = Cl, Br) materials have been known for a long time² and a variety of (ring)MoX₂ compounds (ring = Cp³ or other alkyl-substituted cyclopentadienyl rings⁴) have been more recently developed, monocyclopentadienyl halide derivatives of molybdenum(IV) were unknown until we recently reported the preparation of CpMoCl₃ by either oxidation of CpMoCl₂ by PhICl₂, reduction of CpMoCl₄ by TiCl₃, or conproportionation of CpMoCl₂ and CpMoCl₄.

We wondered whether the decarbonylation of CpMoCl₃(CO)₂ might represent a more direct route to CpMoCl₃ and whether this synthetic procedure could be extended to the heretofore unknown bromide and iodide analogues. CpMoX₃(CO)₂ complexes (X = Cl, Br, I) were reported over 25 years ago by two research groups^{6,7} and were described as unstable toward loss of CO, but the nature of the decomposition products was not investigated. We report here that the decarbonylation strategy is indeed a most convenient one for the preparation of CpMoX₃ (X = Cl, Br, I) materials.

Experimental Section

General Procedures. All operations were carried out under an atmosphere of dinitrogen with standard glove-box and Schlenk-line techniques. Solvents were purified by conventional methods and distilled under dinitrogen prior to use. Low-energy FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1800 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were obtained with a Bruker WP200 spectrometer; the peak positions are reported upfield of TMS as calculated from the residual solvent peaks (¹H and ¹³C) or external 85% H₃PO₄ (31P). EPR spectra were recorded with a Bruker ER200 spectrometer operating with an X-band radio-frequency generator. Room-temperature magnetic susceptibility measurements were carried out by a modified Gouy method with a Johnson Matthey balance, and low-temperature data were obtained with a computer-controlled Faraday system which consists of a Cahn 2000 microbalance, Applied Magnetics electromagnet, Lake Shore Cryotronics temperature controller, platinum resistance thermometer, and Abbess instrument cryostat. The magnetic susceptibility data were corrected for the diamagnetism of the ligands by using Pascal's constants before conversion to magnetic moments. The elemental analyses were performed by M-H-W, Phoenix, AZ, or Galbraith Laboratories, Inc., Knoxville, TN.

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Thermal Decarbonylation of CpMoX₃(CO)₂. Preparation of CpMoX₃ (X = Cl, Br, I). The starting materials $CpMoX_3(CO)_2$ were prepared in situ by a slightly modified procedure with respect to those reported in the literature. 6,7 In each case, [CpMo(CO)3]2 was treated in CH2Cl2 with 3 equiv of the oxidizing agent (PhICl₂, Br₂, and I₂, respectively). The reactions were followed by IR, showing the immediate formation of CpMoX(CO)₃, followed by the slower conversion to CpMoX₃(CO)₂, which was only sparingly soluble in the CH2Cl2 solvent (overnight stirring at room temperature was necessary in each case to complete this step). For each halogen system, the nature of the precipitate obtained by filtration at this point in a separate control experiment was confirmed as the desired CpMoX₃(CO)₂ complex by its IR properties (Nujol mull and CH₂Cl₂ solution) with those reported in the literature.^{6,7} We did not observe decomposition of these compounds by loss of CO upon standing in solution at room temperature. Overnight reflux of the resulting mixtures yielded insoluble materials (Cl, brown; Br, dark green; I, black), which were filtered off, washed with CH₂Cl₂, and dried under vacuum. Yields: 173 mg, 69% (Cl); 400 mg, 52% (Br); 669 mg, 61% (I).

The CpMoCl₃ material had an IR spectrum (4000-200 cm⁻¹) identical to that reported previously for the same compound obtained by a different method,5 and a reaction with 2 equiv of P(OCH₂)₃CEt proceeded to produce CpMoCl₃[P(OCH₂)₃CEt]₂, as expected on the basis of the previous report.⁵ $\mu_{eff} = 1.25 \,\mu_{B}$ at room temperature, decreasing to 1.12 μ_B at 80 K (see supplemental figure). Anal. Calcd. for CpMoBr₃, C₅H₅Br₃Mo: C, 14.99; H, 1.26. Found: C, 14.9; H, 1.1. Low-energy IR (400-200 cm⁻¹; Nujol mull): 245 vs, 222 s. $\mu_{eff} = 1.66 \mu_{B}$. Anal. Calcd for CpMoI₃, C₅H₅I₃Mo: C, 11.09; H, 0.93. Found: C, 11.7; H, 0.8. Low-energy IR (400-200 cm⁻¹; Nujol mull): 324 w, 206 w, 188 s with sh at ca. 180. $\mu_{eff} = 1.84 \, \mu_{B}$.

For the purpose of measuring the variable-temperature magnetic moment of CpMoCl₃, a sample was obtained by refluxing isolated CpMoCl₃(CO)₂ in order to avoid any possible contamination with trace amounts of CpMoCl2 or CpMoCl4, which may form if a nonstoichiometric amount of PhICl2 is used.

Preparation of CpMoCl₄ from [CpMo(CO)₃]₂ and PhICl₂. [CpMo-(CO)₃]₂ (1.187 g, 2.42 mmol) was placed in a Schlenk tube and slurried in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. To the resulting suspension was added via cannula a solution of PhICl₂ (4.0 g, 14.5 mmol) in 30 mL of CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature with stirring. During the addition, vigorous gas evolution was observed, accompanied by the formation of a brown precipitate, presumably CpMoCl₃(CO)₂. When all the PhICl₂ solution was added, stirring was continued for a few minutes at room temperature, during which time the color of the precipitate changed to the characteristic purple color of CpMoCl4. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with n-heptane, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 1.281 g (87%). The color and EPR properties of this compound are identical with those of an authentic sample of CpMoCl₄.8

Preparation of CpMoBr₄ from [CpMo(CO)₃]₂ and Br₂. [CpMo(CO)₃]₂ (0.109 g, 0.22 mmol) was dissolved in 15 mL of CH2Cl2, and to the solution was added Br₂ (50 μ L, 0.16 g, 0.97 mmol), resulting in gas evolution and formation of a black solid. After the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, the solid was separated from the mother liquor, washed with heptane, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 96 mg (45%). The color of this compound is identical with that reported for a sample of CpMoBr₄ prepared from CpMoOBr₂ and HBr. 2b

Preparation of CpMoBr₄ from CpMo(CO)₃Me and PBr₅. CpMo(CO)₃-Me was prepared in situ from Mo(CO)₆ (1.914 g, 7.25 mmol) and NaCp as reported in the literature.8 After complete removal of the THF solvent, extraction of the residue with CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL), and filtration, the resulting solution was slowly transferred with a cannula into a suspension of PBr₅ (7.8 g, 18.1 mmol) in 50 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Gas evolution and formation of a black precipitate were observed during the transfer. The mixture was subsequently refluxed for 1.5 h. The product was recovered by filtration and washed with CH₂Cl₂. Yield: 2.645 g (76%). This compound has the same color and properties as that obtained from [CpMo(CO)₃]₂ and Br2; see previous paragraph.

Reaction of [CpMo(CO)3]2 and I2 in a 1:3.5 Ratio. Preparation of CpMoI_{3.5}. [CpMo(CO)₃]₂ (305 mg, 0.622 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂, and to the resulting solution was added I₂ (556 mg, 2.19 mmol). Gas evolution and the formation of a dark brown suspension were observed. The mixture was refluxed for 2 days, resulting in the formation of a black solid. The mother solution of this solid had a pale blue-purple color. The solid was filtered off, washed with heptane, and

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dried. Yield: 560 mg (74%). Anal. Calcd for C5H5I3.5Mo: C, 9.92; H, 0.83. Found: 9.7; H, 0.7. Low-energy IR (400-200 cm⁻¹; Nujol mull): 333 w with sh at ca. 328, 193 w. $\mu_{eff} = 1.01 \mu_{B} \text{ per } [Cp_2Mo_2I_7]$ unit. EPR (X-band, CH_2Cl_2 , room temperature): g = 2.054 (broad; peak-to-peak separation = 140 G).

Reactions of $CpMoX_3$ (X = Br, I) with Phosphines and Phosphites. (a) Preparation of CpMoBr₃(dppe). CpMoBr₃ (249 mg, 0.62 mmol) and dppe (255 mg, 0.64 mmol) were introduced into a Schlenk tube and slurried in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The immediate formation of a red-purple solution was observed, followed by the slow precipitation of a red-brown solid. More precipitate formed after 20 mL of n-heptane was added to the mixture. The solid was filtered off, washed with n-heptane (5 mL), and dried under vacuum. Yield: 64.3%. Anal. Calcd for C31H29Cl3-MoP₂: C, 46.59; H, 3.66. Found: C, 46.8; H, 4.1. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.13, 7.61, 7.24 (m, 20H, C₆H₅), 5.24 (d, J_{PH} = 2.6 Hz, 5H, C₅H₅), 3.45, 3.33, 3.07, 2.93 (br, 4H, CH_2). ³¹P{¹H}-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 57.1 (d, $J_{PP} = 115 \text{ Hz}, 1P), 14.5 (d, 1P).$

- (b) Preparation of CpMoBr₃[P(OCH₂)₃CEt]₂. CpMoBr₃ (420 mg, 1.05 mmol) and P(OCH2)3CEt (343 mg, 2.12 mmol) were introduced into a Schlenk tube and slurried with 20 mL of CH2Cl2. The solution immediately turned brown. A minor amount of insoluble solid was eliminated by filtration, and from the solution, the product was crystallized by diffusion of a heptane layer (15 mL). The resulting crystals were filtered off, washed with heptane, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 503 mg, 70.7%. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₇Br₃MoP₂O₂: C, 28.16; H, 3.75. Found: C, 27.7; H, 4.0. ¹H-NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ 5.75 (t, J_{PH} = 3.8 Hz, 5H, C₅ H_5), 4.33 (vt, J_{PH} = 2.1 Hz, 12H, OC H_2), 1.25 (q, J_{HH} = 7.4 Hz, 4H, C H_2 CH₃), 0.83 (t, J_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 6H, C H_2 C H_3). ³¹P{¹H}-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 128.1.
- (c) Reaction of CpMoBr₃ with PMe₃. CpMoBr₃ (172 mg, 0.64 mmol) was suspended in THF (10 mL). The suspension was cooled to -78 °C in a dry ice/acetone bath, and then PMe₃ (135 µL, 1.28 mmol) was added. The mixture allowed to slowly warm to room temperature under magnetic stirring. At -5 °C the formation of a pale pink-red solution was noted. Further warming deepened the color of the solution to purple while a cream-white precipitate had replaced the initial insoluble CpMoBr₃. ¹H-NMR inspection of an aliquot of the solution showed no evidence for a diamagnetic CpMoBr₃(PMe₃)₂ product and revealed the presence of several paramagnetically shifted resonances in the δ -2 to -50 region, two prominent resonances in an approximate 1:1 ratio being observed at δ -38 and -40, but none of these could be assigned to a paramagnetic CpMoBr₃(PMe₃) adduct.
- (d) Reaction of CpMoI₃ with Dppe. CpMoI₃ (536 mg, 0.989 mmol) and dppe (399 mg, 1.00 mmol) were introduced into a Schlenk tube and slurried with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂. A deep red-brown solution immediately formed, and large amounts of a brown solid were also noted. After being stirred overnight at room temperature, the mixture had not changed in appearance. After the solid was filtered off, concentration of the mother solution, addition of toluene, and cooling to -80 °C produced crystalline CpMoI₂(dppe), which was separated from the solution, washed with n-heptane, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 218 mg (40.7% based on the stoichiometry of eq 4; see Results and Discussion). Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₂₉I₂MoP₂: C, 45.78; H, 3.59. Found: C, 45.4; H, 3.8. This solid had an EPR spectrum identical to that reported previously for CpMoI2-(dppe).8
- (e) Reaction of CpMoI₃ with PMe₃ and Then with I₂. CpMoI₃ (160 mg, 0.295 mmol) was slurried in a Schlenk tube with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂. PMe₃ (61 mL, 0.589 mmol) was added with a microsyringe while the suspension was kept at room temperature with magnetic stirring. An immediate reaction took place with formation of a green solution and a gray-green solid. An EPR spectum of an aliquot of the supernatant liquid indicated the presence of CpMoI₂(PMe₃)₂ by comparison with the literature spectrum.9 To the reaction mixture was added I₂ (112 mg, 0.441 mmol), and the resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature. Once all the I2 dissolved, the solution became noticeably darker green, while a green precipitate remained. At this point, an aliquot of the solution showed no residual EPR signal, while ¹H-NMR spectroscopy after evaporation to dryness and redissolution in CD2Cl2 confirmed the presence of the $[CpMoI_2(PMe_3)_2]^+$ ion. 10

Reaction of CpMoX3 with CO. For each halide system, a small amount (ca. 50 mg) of the compound was suspended in CH₂Cl₂ (5-10 mL), and the suspension was stirred at room temperature under an atmosphere of

CO. The solid rapidly reacted to afford a solution of sparingly soluble CpMoX₃(CO)₂ (IR (cm⁻¹): CpMoBr₃(CO)₂, 2095 s, 2061 vs; CpMoI₃-(CO)₂, 2071 s, 2039 vs). The chloride analogue was not sufficiently soluble for an IR investigation in CH2Cl2, and it was identified from its Nujol IR spectrum (2116 s, 2076 vs cm⁻¹). Continued stirring at room temperature under CO with IR monitoring indicated no further change for CpMoCl₃(CO)₂ and CpMoBr₃(CO)₂, whereas CpMoI₃(CO)₂ was totally transformed to CpMoI(CO)₃ within 3 days (IR: 2042 s, 1966 vs, br cm⁻¹).

Results and Discussion

The Mo(IV) carbonyl compounds $CpMoX_3(CO)_2$ (X = Cl, Br, I) appear to be stable toward CO loss at room temperature, but they can be completely decarbonylated in refluxing CH₂Cl₂ to afford insoluble materials that analyze correctly for CpMoX₃. The CpMoCl₃ material obtained by this route shows physical and chemical properties identical with those of the same compound obtained by other routes.⁵ Considering that [CpMo(CO)₃]₂ is commercially available or can easily be prepared from Mo(CO)6, the procedure reported here represents by far the most convenient method for the preparation of CpMoCl₃ (eq 1) and also represents a convenient route to the previously unknown CpMoBr₃ and CpMoI₃ materials. For the chloride system, the stoichiometric reagent PhICl₂ was used rather than gaseous Cl₂.

$$[CpMo(CO)_3]_2 + 3X_2 \xrightarrow{CH_2Cl_2}$$

$$2CpMoX_3(CO)_2 \xrightarrow{CH_2Cl_2} 2CpMoX_3 (1)$$

Use of an excess of PhICl2 or Br2 affords a straightforward synthesis of the previously reported CpMoCl₄ and CpMoBr₄,² respectively (see eq 2), and is comparable in simplicity to the recently reported PX_5 (X = Cl, Br) method.^{8,11}

$$[CpMo(CO)_3]_2 + 4X_2 \xrightarrow{CH_2Cl_2} 2CpMoX_4$$
 (2)

The identity of the bromide compound is verified by derivatization reactions analogous to those previously run on the chloride system (eqs 3 and 4).

$$CpMoBr_3 + dppe \rightarrow CpMoBr_3(dppe)$$
 (3)

$$CpMoBr_3 + 2P(OCH_2)_3CEt \rightarrow CpMoBr_3[P(OCH_2)_3CEt]_2$$
(4)

The CpMoBr₃(dppe) compound had been previously described,12 but only a 1H-NMR characterization was given, which was not sufficient for a complete structural assignment. We find by ¹H- and ³¹P-NMR that freshly prepared solutions of this compound contain isomer I as the major species but that, upon standing at room temperature, the samples exhibit other peaks in the 31P-NMR spectrum, possibly indicating equilibration with other isomers, as was also suggested for the analogous CpMoCl₃(dppe) and CpMoClBr₂(dppe) compounds.¹³ In particular, a ³¹P-NMR singlet resonance at δ 39.3 is assigned to structure II [compare with δ 38.6 for CpMoCl₃(dppe) and δ 39.1 for CpMoClBr₂(dppe)].¹³ Structure I was found in the solid state for both CpMoCl₃(dppe)¹³ and CpMoCl₃(dmpe).¹⁴

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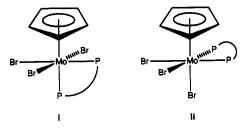
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CpMoBr₃[P(OCH₂)₃CEt]₂ has NMR properties that perfectly match these previously reported for the trichloride analogue.5



The reaction between CpMoBr₃ and PMe₃ did not produce the expected CpMoBr₃(PMe₃)₂ or the corresponding paramagnetic CpMoBr₃(PMe₃) adduct but rather produced a mixture of other paramagnetic products, as shown by ¹H-NMR, and thus takes a course rather similar to that of the previously investigated CpMoCl₃/PMe₃ reaction.⁵ CpMoI₃ rapidly reacted with dppe and PMe3, but 18-electron adducts were not obtained in these cases. Rather, the previously reported CpMoI2(dppe) complex was isolated in the dppe reaction and the known 10 CpMoI2(PMe3)2 and [CpMoI₂(PMe₃)₂]+I₃-complexes were identified by EPR in the PMe3 reaction. These reduction reactions probably occur as illustrated in eq 5, since the proposed intermediate (L = PMe₃)

$$3CpMoI3 + 3L2 \rightarrow \{3[CpMoI2L2]I\} \rightarrow 2CpMoI3L2 + [CpMoI3L3]I3 (5)$$

$$L_2 = dppe or (PMe_3)_2$$

was obtained earlier by interaction of CpMoI₂(PMe₃)₂ and ¹/₂ equiv of I₂ and shown to rapidly rearrange to the products of eq 5.10,15 Two possible reasons for the different reactivities of the tribromide and triiodide compounds are the greater steric requirements of the three iodide ligands and the greater reducing power of I- versus the corresponding Br- ion.

All three CpMoX₃ compounds promptly react with CO at room temperature to regenerate the 18-electron precursors, CpMoX₃(CO)₂, showing the reversibility of the decarbonylation process (eq 6). Whereas the chloride and bromide CpMoX₃(CO)₂

$$CpMoX_3 + 2CO \underset{\Delta/N_2}{\stackrel{rt/p_{CO} = 1 \text{ atm}}{\rightleftharpoons}} CpMoX_3(CO)_2 \qquad (6)$$

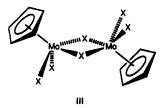
systems are stable under CO, the iodide analogue reacts further to quantitatively (by IR) produce the monoiodide tricarbonyl complex (eq 7), demonstrating that this step is also completely

$$CpMoI_3(CO)_2 + CO \rightleftharpoons CpMoI(CO)_3 + I_2$$
 (7)

reversible. Under CO (1 atm), equilibrium 7 is completely shifted toward the right whereas, under N2, the triiodide derivative can be made from the monoiodide complex in good yields. The lower solubility of the triiodide compound presumably contributes to shift this equilibrium toward the left under low CO pressure conditions.

A point of interest concerns the structure of the CpMoX₃ compounds. As these are all highly insoluble materials, solution spectroscopic methods cannot be applied. The sparing solubility also prevented recrystallization in the form of single crystals for an X-ray analysis. On the basis of the reactivity of these materials (see above) and parallels with the corresponding Cp* analogues, 16 it seems most likely that the CpMoX3 species are dinuclear or oligonuclear covalent species. Physical studies are also in accord

with this view and point more directly to a dinuclear structure as found for Cp*MoX₃ (Cp* = η -C₅Me₅; X = Cl, Br), e.g. III.



The low-energy IR spectra of CpMoCl₃ and Cp*MoCl₃ are similar, 16 and the two compounds also have a similar temperature dependences of their magnetic moments, which has been attributed to antiferromagnetic coupling.16 The room-temperature magnetic moment for CpMoX₃ increases in the order Cl > Br < I, with the moment for the iodide complex (1.84 μ_B/Mo) being still substantially smaller than the value found for magnetically diluted d^2 Mo(IV), for instance 2.63 μ_B (temperature independent) for Cp*MoCl₃(PMe₃).¹⁶ This trend indicates stronger antiferromagnetic coupling for the lighter halide system, in accord with the presumed smaller separation of the metals in the halidebridged dinuclear structure.

It is interesting to observe that a compound of empirical formula "Cp*MoI3.5" exists but it in fact consists of a MoIII MoIV system, e.g. [Cp*Mo₂I₄]+I₃-. Electrochemical work has established that further addition of I2 would not produce a complex of the metal in a higher oxidation state.¹⁷ Consequently, a question arises as to whether it is legitimate to describe CpMoI3 as a neutral Mo(IV) compound. It is worth mentioning here that CpVI₃ has also been shown to adopt a solid-state structure consisting of a molecular triiodo material of the metal in the +IV oxidation state whereas considerations of oxidation potentials as a function of halide for the $CpVX_3$ (X = Cl, Br, I) series would lead to the prediction of an internal redox process with production of polyiodides. 18 The related Cp*CrI₃ and Cp*CrI_{5.5} compounds, on the other hand, have been shown to be polyiodide complexes of Cr(III). 19

Support for the assignment of a neutral structure to CpMoI₃ is its rapid reaction with CO, which is analogous to those of $CpMoX_3$ (X = Cl, Br) (vide supra) and to those of the structurally characterized (see III) $[Cp*MoX_3]_2$ (X = Cl, Br). 16,20 "Cp*MoI_{3.5}", on the other hand, does not react with CO.²¹ As further support for this argument, we have prepared a compound of stoichiometry CpMoI_{3.5} by the reaction between [Cp*Mo(CO)₃]₃ and I₂ in a 1:3.5 ratio, followed by reflux of the resulting mixture that presumably contains Cp*MoI₃(CO)₂ and unreacted I₂ in a 4:1 molar ratio (eq 8). This product has

$$CpMoI_{3}(CO)_{2} + {}^{1}/{}_{4}I_{2} \xrightarrow{\Delta/CH_{2}CI_{2}} CpMoI_{3.5} + 2CO \quad (8)$$

properties substantially different from those of CpMoI₃. For instance, the two materials have different low-energy IR spectra, and while CpMoI₃ is completely insoluble in organic solvents, CpMoI_{3.5} is sparingly soluble in CH₂Cl₂, generating deep violet solutions. While CpMoI₃ rapidly reacts with CO to regenerate CpMoI₃(CO)₂, CpMoI_{3.5} does not react with CO over several days at room temperature and therefore behaves identically to "Cp*MoI3.5".

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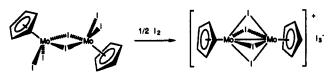
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Scheme I



We propose therefore that the structure of CpMoI_{3.5} is analogous to that of its more soluble Cp* analogue, i.e. [Cp₂Mo₂I₄]+I₃-, and that the affinity of I₂ for I- induces this curious rearrangement with formal reduction of the metal by action of the oxidizing agent I2 (see Scheme I). For the proposed structure of CpMoI_{3.5}, a single unpaired electron per dimeric

unit is expected since theoretical calculations on this system²² suggest a $\sigma^2 \delta^{*2} \delta^1$ configuration. Consistent with this view, CpMoI_{3.5} shows a broad EPR resonance at room temperature at g = 2.054.

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Supplementary Material Available: A figure showing the variabletemperature magnetic moment of CpMoCl₃ (1 page). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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