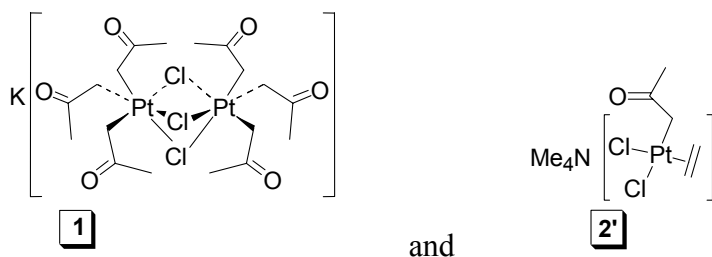


## Supplementary Information

An unprecedented process involving normal and redox transmetallation reactions between Hg and Pt affording the unexpected  $\text{K}[\text{Pt}^{\text{IV}}_2\{\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me}\}_6(\mu\text{-Cl})_3]$  complex: the key role of X-ray powder diffraction in unravelling its nature and structure

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### Experimental details for the preparation of



$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the 1:1 reaction mixture after 15 min in  $\text{d}^6$ -acetone

**Synthesis of  $\text{K}[\text{Pt}_2\{\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me}\}_6(\mu\text{-Cl})_3]$  (**1**).** To a solution of Zeise's salt,  $\text{K}[\text{PtCl}_3(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2)]$  (250 mg, 0.678 mmol), in acetone (10 mL),  $[\text{Hg}\{\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me}\}_2]$  (430 mg, 1.366 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at room temperature and the solvent was removed. The grey solid obtained was washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 x 5 mL) and the residue was suspended in MeCN (10 mL) and refluxed for 40 min. The hot suspension was filtered through Celite and the yellow filtrate was concentrated until a solid precipitated. Addition of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (5 mL) gave more precipitate. The suspension was filtered off and the solid was recrystallized from MeCN/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  to give **1** as a colourless microcrystalline solid. Yield: 102 mg, 0.253 mmol, 74%. Mp : 200 °C (dec).  $\Lambda_{\text{M}}$  (acetone,  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M):  $106 \Omega^{-1} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$  1689,  $\nu(\text{Pt}-\text{Cl})$  245.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $d_6$ -acetone):  $\delta$  3.20 (s, 2 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ,  $^2J_{\text{HPt}} = 103$  Hz), 2.12 (s, 3 H, Me).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -APT NMR (50.30 MHz,  $d_6$ -acetone):  $\delta$  210 (s, CO), 32.9 (s, Me), 25.8. (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ,  $^1J_{\text{CPt}} = 657$  Hz).  $^{95}\text{Pt}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (86.18 MHz,  $d_6$ -acetone, ref.  $\text{Na}_2[\text{PtCl}_6]$ ):  $\delta$  -1743 (s). Crystals for the X-ray diffraction study were grown by slow diffusion of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  into an MeCN solution of **1**. ESI-MS(-): 839  $[\text{M}-\text{K}^+]^-$ ; 437  $[\text{Pt}(\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me})_3\text{Cl}_2]^-$ . Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{30}\text{Cl}_3\text{KO}_6\text{Pt}_2$ : C, 24.62; H, 3.44. Found: C, 24.62; H, 3.44.

**Synthesis of  $\text{Me}_4\text{N}[\text{Pt}\{\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me}\}\text{Cl}_2(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2)]$  (**2'**).** To a solution of  $\text{K}[\text{PtCl}_3(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2)]$  (610 mg, 1.65 mmol), in acetone (17 mL),  $\text{Me}_4\text{NCl}$  (340 mg, 3.1 mmol) and  $[\text{Hg}\{\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me}\}_2]$  (280 mg, 0.889 mmol) were successively added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6.5 h and the solvent was removed. The grey residue obtained was suspended in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL) and the suspension was filtered through Celite. The yellow filtrate was concentrated (*ca.* 2 mL) and addition of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (3 x 5 mL) gave a suspension, which was filtered, and the solid was air-dried to

give **2'** as a pale yellow solid. Yield: 580 mg, 1.36 mmol, 83%. Mp: 72°C.  $\Lambda_M$  (acetone,  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M):  $114 \Omega^{-1} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$  1647,  $\nu(\text{C}-\text{N})$ ,  $\text{Me}_4\text{N}$  947,  $\nu(\text{Pt}-\text{Cl})$  311, 276.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.94 (bs, 4 H,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $^2J_{\text{HPt}} = 67.8$  Hz), 3.44 (s, 12 H,  $\text{NMe}_4$ ), 2.43 (s, 2 H,  $\text{PtCH}_2$ ,  $^2J_{\text{HPt}} = 106.8$  Hz), 2.23 (s, 3 H,  $\text{MeC}(\text{O})$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100.81 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  213.4 (s, CO,  $^2J_{\text{CPt}} = 46$  Hz), 64.91. (s,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $^1J_{\text{CPt}} = 230$  Hz), 56.4 (t {1:1:1},  $\text{Me}_4\text{N}$ ,  $^1J_{\text{NC}} = 4$  Hz), 31.0 (s,  $\text{MeC}(\text{O})$ ), 22.1 (s,  $\text{PtCH}_2$ ,  $^1J_{\text{CPt}} = 619$  Hz). (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ): 3.73 (bs, etileno,  $^2J_{\text{HPt}} = 66.7$  Hz), 3.45 (s, 12 H,  $\text{NMe}_4$ ), 2.34 (s, 2 H,  $\text{MeC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2$ ,  $^2J_{\text{HPt}} = 106.5$  Hz), 2.10 (s, 3 H,  $\text{MeC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2$ )  $^{195}\text{Pt}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (86.18 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ref.  $\text{Na}_2[\text{PtCl}_6]$ ): -3378.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{21}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_1\text{Pt}$ : C, 25.42; H, 4.98; N, 3.29. Found: C, 25.49; H, 4.95; N, 3.16.

### $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum of the 1:1 reaction mixture after 15 min in $d^6$ -acetone

