Synthesis, Electronic Spectra and Solvent-Induced Reversible Dissociation of Diphosphine(hexafluoroacetylacetonato)copper(I) Complexes

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The complexes $Cu^I(P-P)(hfac)$ with P-P=1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane (diphos), 1,3-bis-(diphenylphosphino)propane (prophos), 2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthyl (binap) and hfac = hexafluoroacetylacetonate were synthesized and spectroscopically characterized. In the solid state or in solutions of non-polar solvents these compounds are yellow owing to a long-wavelength $(hfac^- \rightarrow P-P)$ ligand-to-ligand charge transfer absorption. In coordinating solvents such as CH_3CN the complexes undergo a reversible dissociation according to the equation:

$$Cu(P-P)(hfac) + n CH_3CN \Rightarrow [Cu(P-P)(CH_3CN)_n]^+ hfac^-.$$

While the complexes are not luminescent the ion pairs [Cu(P-P)(CH₃CN)_n]⁺hfac⁻ are emissive at 77 K. The cations and the anions show separate emissions as indicated by the excitation spectra.

Key words: Electronic Spectra, Luminescence, Copper Complexes, β -Diketonate Complexes