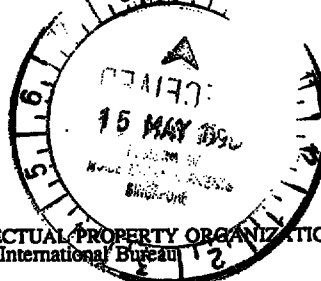


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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶: C08F 4/80, 32/04, 32/08, C07F 15/00, B01J 31/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: ✓ WO 97/06185 (43) International Publication Date: 20 February 1997 (20.02.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/12654 ✓ (22) International Filing Date: 1 August 1996 (01.08.96) ✓ (30) Priority Data: 60/001,862 3 August 1995 (03.08.95) ✓ US 60/003,973 19 September 1995 (19.09.95) US 08/693,789 31 July 1996 (31.07.96) US (71) Applicant: CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY [US/US]; 1201 East California Boulevard, Mail Code 305-6, Pasadena, CA 91125 (US). (72) Inventors: GRUBBS, Robert, H.; 1700 Spruce Street, South Pasadena, CA 91036 (US). SCHWAB, Peter; Krahnhollenweg 23, D-67098 Bad Dürkheim (DE). NGUYEN, Son-Binh, T.; 2044 Pratt Court, Evanston, IL 60201-3116 (US). (74) Agents: BENGTTSSON, W., Patrick et al.; Limbach & Limbach L.L.P., 2001 Ferry Building, San Francisco, CA 94111-4262 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: HIGH METATHESIS ACTIVITY RUTHENIUM AND OSMIUM METAL CARBENE COMPLEXES		
$\begin{array}{c} L \\ \\ X - M = C - R \\ \quad \\ X' \quad L^1 \\ \\ L^1 \end{array}$ (a)		
(57) Abstract Ruthenium and osmium carbene compounds that are stable in the presence of a variety of functional groups can be used to catalyze olefin metathesis reactions on unstrained cyclic and acyclic olefins are disclosed. Also disclosed are methods of making the carbene compounds. The carbene compounds are of formula (a) where M is Os or Ru; R¹ is hydrogen; R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted aryl; X and X¹ are independently selected from any anionic ligand; and L and L¹ are independently selected from any neutral electron donor. The ruthenium and osmium carbene compounds of the present invention may be synthesized using diazo compounds, by neutral electron donor ligand exchange, by cross metathesis, using acetylene, using cumulated olefins, and in a one-pot method using diazo compounds and neutral electron donors. The ruthenium and osmium carbene compounds of the present invention may be used to catalyze olefin metathesis reactions including, but not limited to, ROMP, RCM, depolymerization of unsaturated polymers, synthesis of telechelic polymers, and olefin synthesis.		