

Phosphastannirane: A Phosphorus/Tin(II) Lewis Pair that Undergoes Alkyne and Alkene Addition**

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Dedicated to Professor Werner Uhl on the occasion of his 60th birthday

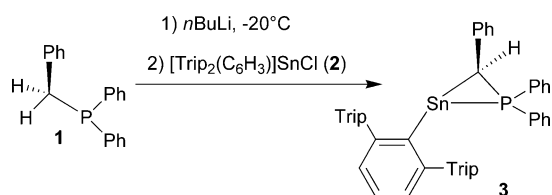
Research concerning frustrated Lewis pairs (FLPs) is currently of great interest. The groups of Stephan and Erker have recently published many articles about the activation of small molecules using inter- or intramolecular boron–phosphorus-based FLPs.^[1] The perfluorinated arylborane [B(C₆F₅)₃] and derivatives thereof act as the Lewis acid, whereas trialkyl- or triarylphosphines are very often the Lewis bases.^[1c,e,2] Apart from B/P, combinations of C/B, N/B, and P/Al pairs were investigated as FLPs.^[2,3] Reversible CO₂ coordination was found in reaction with a P,P-chelated stannylene [(iPr₂P)₂N]₂Sn.^[4]

The focus of our current research is the chemistry of tin,^[5] and especially the coordination chemistry of tin ligands.^[6] We have characterized the first tripodal tin ligand^[7] and reported recently on the coordination chemistry of a cyclic distannene.^[8] This xanthene-based distannene shows as a twisted distannene side-on coordination of the Sn–Sn bond at Ni. To synthesize a bipodal tin ligand with two different donor sites, we started to investigate the chemistry of phosphino-substituted stannylenes. Herein we present the synthesis of a benzylphosphine-substituted stannylene. This molecule exhibits formation of the first three-membered Sn–C–P ring comprising a phosphorus–tin donor–acceptor interaction and a small angle at tin. Furthermore we found an interesting room-temperature reaction of the cyclic molecule **3** with terminal alkynes and 1-pentene, showing the Sn^{II}/P molecule acting like a FLP.

Benzylidiphenylphosphine (**1**) was lithiated and then reacted with isopropyl substituted *m*-terphenyltin chloride (**2**) to give the stannylene **3** in high yield (Scheme 1).^[9] Orange

crystals of the stannylene were obtained after several days of crystallization from a hexane solution of **3** at –20 °C. The stannylene **3** is very sensitive towards moisture and air and was characterized by elemental analysis, NMR spectroscopy in solution and the solid state, and single-crystal structure analysis.^[10] In Figure 1 a,b the structure of the stannylene in the solid state is presented together with selected interatomic distances and angles.

The benzylphosphine-substituted stannylene forms a three membered Sn–C–P ring in the solid state that exhibits



Scheme 1. Formation of the cyclic Sn–C–P molecule **3**. Trip = 2,4,6-*i*Pr₃C₆H₂.

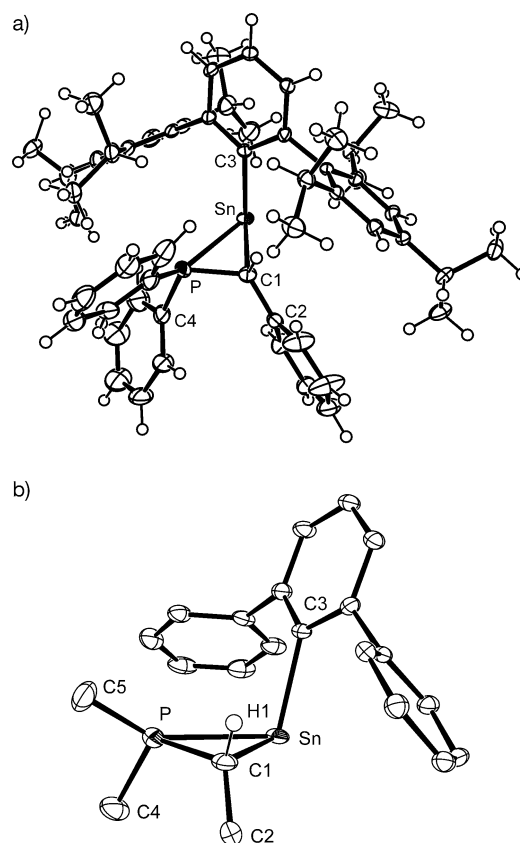


Figure 1. a) Molecular structure of stannylene **3** (ellipsoids set at 50% probability) in the solid state; the major contributor to the disordered structure is shown.^[11] b) Detailed molecular structure of stannylene **3** (ellipsoids set at 50% probability) in the solid state without isopropyl groups, hydrogen atoms (except at the ring carbon), and phenyl groups at ring atoms. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: Sn–C1 2.312(3), Sn–C3 2.217(2), Sn–P 2.663(1), P–C1 1.816(3); P–C1–Sn 79.3(1), Sn–P–C1 58.6(1), P–Sn–C1 42.1(1), P–Sn–C3 99.5(1), C1–Sn–C3 100.8(1), C2–C1–Sn 123.6(2), C5–P–C4 105.3(2).

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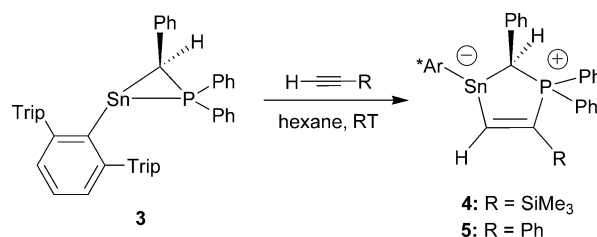
a Sn–P donor–acceptor bond. A three-membered ring with these elements is to the best of our knowledge unknown. Because of their interesting chemical properties, three-membered rings containing tin atoms have been an attractive synthetic goal.^[12] The reason for the ring formation might be the steric shielding of the *m*-terphenyl substituent together with a combination of the Lewis acidity of the stannylene and the Lewis basicity of the phosphine substituent. Geminal donor–acceptor bonds between N and Si were studied extensively by Mitzel.^[13] Obviously the phosphine reacts as a donor and forms an intramolecular bond with the tin atom, which is 2.663(1) Å long. The Sn–P distance in **3** lies in the range of published Sn–P bond lengths and belongs to the group of longer distances.^[6a,14] The Sn–C1 bond (2.312(3) Å) is longer than Sn–C bond lengths in the Sn₂C ring (2.209(12), 2.196(12) Å) and comparable with bonds in benzytin compounds.^[12d,15] The P–C1 bond length inside the ring can be compared with P–C distances inside a phosphasilirane,^[16] a phosphirane,^[17] or known benzylphosphines.^[18] The angles inside the ring (at C 79.3(1)°, P 58.6(1), Sn 42.1(1)°) are larger for carbon and phosphorus than comparable values in three-membered rings.^[12d] The angle at tin however is the smallest angle at tin found in three-membered rings (Sn₂C 50.7, 51.1; Sn₃ 60.0; Sn₂N 49.4, 49.2).^[12a–d] The bond length of the substituent at tin (Sn–C3 2.2217(2) Å) can be compared with the published example, namely 2,6-Trip₂(H₃C₆)Sn–SnMe₂C₆H₃-2,6-Trip₂ (2.201(2) Å).^[19]

The ³¹P NMR spectrum recorded in the solid state exhibits a signal for the cyclic molecule **3** at –50.3 ppm with a coupling constant with the tin atom *J*_{Sn–P} of 364 Hz. In solution at room temperature, the molecule shows a resonance in the ³¹P NMR spectrum at –38.6 ppm with a coupling constant of *J*_{Sn–P} 82.7 Hz. This coupling constant is small in comparison to a variety of ¹*J*_{Sn–P} coupling constants (1682, 1628 Hz for Sn[P(SiPr₃)(SiFtBuTrip)]₂,^[20] 1274 Hz for Sn[PPh-2,6-C₆H₃-(CH₂NMe₂)₂]₂,^[14b] 1050 Hz for Sn[P(CH(SiMe₃)₂C₆H₄NMe₂)₂]₂,^[14d] 767 Hz for Ph₃Sn[η²-P–P–MeP₃C₃tBu₃]).^[14e] We have studied the temperature dependence of the ³¹P NMR resonance (80 °C, –36.8 ppm; –90 °C, –37.6 ppm) and the tin–phosphorus coupling in solution: cooling the sample from 80 °C to –90 °C results in an increase of the coupling constant from 14.5 Hz to 220 ± 20 Hz. The ¹¹⁹Sn NMR resonance in solution at room temperature at 716 ppm lies between signals typical for triply coordinated Sn^{II} ([SnPh₃][–] –98.4 ppm)^[21] and signals for dialkylstannylenes with tin having a coordination number of two ([Sn(*t*Bu)(C₆H₃-2,6-Trip₂)] 1904 ppm).^[19] Owing to a half width of 290 Hz of the ¹¹⁹Sn NMR signal, the coupling with the phosphorus atom was not detected. Attempts to obtain a ¹¹⁹Sn NMR spectrum of compound **3** in the solid state were not successful. By evaluation of the spin–lattice relaxation time in ¹¹⁹Sn solution NMR spectroscopy at variable temperature, we are able to estimate the chemical shift anisotropy to be ≥ 2000 ppm.^[10,22] This probably accounts for the difficulties in observing the resonance in the solid state. The ring formation reaction (Scheme 1) is stereoselective, as we detect only one signal in solution in the ¹H NMR spectrum (3.67 ppm) for the CH unit of the ring and also only one signal in the ³¹P NMR spectrum (–38.6 ppm).

The tin and carbon atoms of the ring are centers of chirality, but we found formation of only one pair of enantiomers (*R,R* configuration shown in Figure 1). The reason for this diastereoselectivity might be due to the sterical requirements of the *m*-terphenyl ligand, which exhibits *trans* position to the phenyl group at the ring carbon atom.

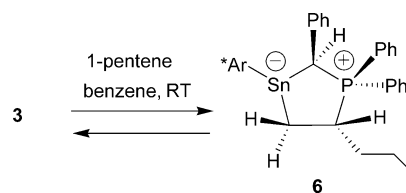
To better understand the bonding situation in the ring, we studied the molecule by DFT calculations on revPBE-D3(BJ)/TZP(all electrons) level of theory using the ADF program.^[23] Full computational details are given in the Supporting Information. A geometry optimization starting from the crystal structure and subsequently a natural bond analysis (NBO) and an atoms-in-molecules analysis (AIM) were calculated. The NBO analysis indicates a donor–acceptor interaction of the phosphorus lone pair donating into a tin p orbital. Additionally, in the topological analysis of the electron density (AIM), a bond path and a bond critical point between the phosphorus and the tin is found, confirming a bonding interaction.

We started to investigate the chemistry of the cyclic stannylene in reactions of the small ring with unsaturated organic molecules. The addition of element–element bonds to alkynes has previously been carried out by using radical reaction conditions^[24] or palladium catalysis.^[25] Stannylene **3** reacts in a straightforward manner at room temperature with phenylacetylene or trimethylsilylacetylene under addition of the Sn–P bond to the triple bond to give phosphastannacyclopentenes **4** and **5**, respectively (Scheme 2).^[26] In the case of



Scheme 2. Formation of the phosphastannacyclopentenes **4** and **5**. Ar* = 2,6-Trip₂C₆H₃.

1-pentene, the reaction with an excess of the olefin takes one day at room temperature to reach completion (Scheme 3). After dissolving crystals of **6** in benzene, the formation of an equilibrium mixture between the trinuclear cycle **3**, olefin, and cyclopentane **6** was detected. The new five-membered ring molecules **4–6** were characterized by elemental analyses, NMR spectroscopy, and in the case of **4** and **6** by X-ray crystal structure analysis. The reaction of the P–Sn bond with the



Scheme 3. Formation of the phosphastannacyclopentane **6**. Ar* = 2,6-Trip₂C₆H₃.

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- [10] See the Supporting Information.
- [11] Crystal structure of compound **3** shows disorder in the solid state. For further details, see the Supporting information. CCDC 923361, 923362, and 923363 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.
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