

Studies of Germanium–Platinum Bonds in Bis(aryl-substituted Germyl)platinum Complexes by Laser Flash Photolysis and Chemical Trapping Experiments

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The UV photolysis of bis(triaryl-substituted germyl)platinum complexes, $\text{Pt}(\text{Ar}_3\text{Ge})_2(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})_2$ ($\text{Ar} = \text{Ph}$, $p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-SiMe}_3$, and $p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$) in THF at room temperature results in Ge–Pt bonds homolysis to give the corresponding germyl radicals.

Bis(silyl)- and bis(germyl)platinum(II) complexes are important intermediates in Pt-catalyzed synthetic reactions such as the bis-silylation and bis-germylation of C–C triple and double bonds and dehydrocoupling of group 14 element compounds.^{1–4} These complexes also act as useful starting materials for group 14 element-containing compounds. Previously,⁵ we reported on photoinduced trans–cis isomerization of *trans*-bis(germyl)platinum(II) at room temperature by irradiation with a xenon lamp ($h\nu > 450\text{ nm}$). As a part of our continuous study on germanium–transition metal bond, we have studied photochemical reactions of bis(triaryl-substituted germyl)platinum(II) complexes, $\text{Pt}(\text{Ar}_3\text{Ge})_2(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})_2$ ($\text{Ar} = \text{Ph}$ (**1**),⁶ $p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SiMe}_3$ (**2**),⁷ and $p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ (**3**)⁸) by laser flash photolysis and chemical trapping experiments.

Nanosecond laser flash photolysis⁹ was performed on degassed solutions containing $\text{Pt}(\text{Ph}_3\text{Ge})_2(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})_2$ (**1**) (ca. 10^{-4} M) in THF at 298 K using the fourth-harmonic pulse of a nanosecond Nd:YAG laser as the exciting light source ($\lambda = 266\text{ nm}$).

The time profile of the transient absorption, $A(t)$, was measured with THF solutions containing **1**. The $A(t)$ curves were measured over the 300–600-nm wavelength region. The time resolution of the apparatus was about 10 ns. Transient absorption spectra with a peak at 330 nm were obtained (Figure 1). The transient peak at 330 nm decayed under second-order kinetics ($k/\epsilon l = 8.0 \times 10^5$ at 330 nm) as is shown in Figure 1. Here, k is the rate constant for the second-order decay, ϵ is the molar extinction coefficient, and l is optical path length, $l = 0.5\text{ cm}$). The peak at 330 nm is further substantiated by quenching experiments with germyl radical trapping agents. The pseudo first-order rate constants (k_{obsd}) for decay depended linearly on the concentrations of such trapping agents (Figure 2). The rate constants for the disappearance of the transient at 330 nm obtained for these quenching experiments (oxygen, chloroform, and ethanol) were 1.7×10^9 , $0.8 \times 10^7\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$, and not quenched, respectively.

The experimentally determined decay constants of **1** are summarized in Table 1. The transient absorption at 330 nm is reasonably assigned to that of the triphenylgermyl radical $\text{Ph}_3\text{Ge}^\bullet$ from comparison of spectral characteristics with those of the germyl radical reported.¹⁰

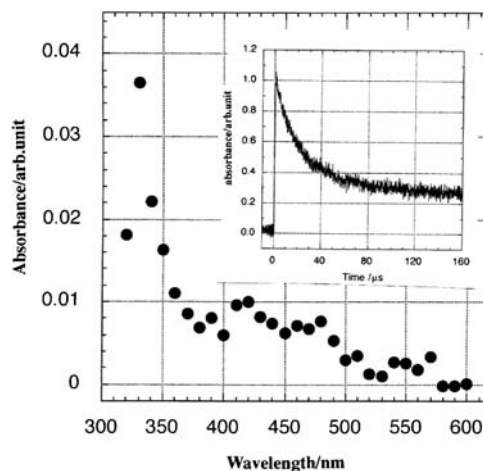


Figure 1. Transient absorption spectrum observed at 1 μs after photoexcitation of **1** (10^{-4} M) in degassed THF solution. Insert: $A(t)$ curve observed at 330 nm.

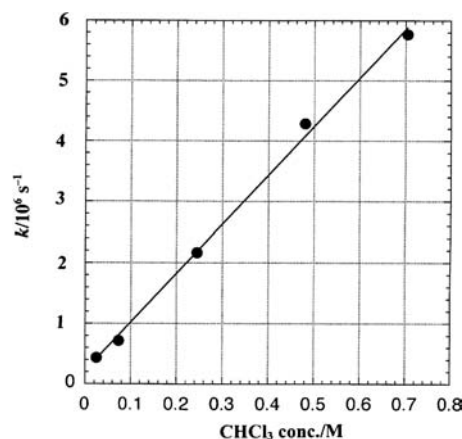


Figure 2. Quenching rate constants for the disappearance at 330 nm in **1** containing various concentrations of chloroform.

Laser flash photolysis studies of **2** and **3** were also carried out. Transient peaks observed and their experimentally determined rate constants are summarized in Table 1.

Along with laser flash photolysis experiments, product studies were carried out by photolyzing **1** (0.04 M) with a 110-W medium-pressure Hg arc lamp at room temperature for 30 min under argon in THF. The photolysis of **1** containing chloroform¹¹ as a germyl radical trapping reagent gave triphenylchlorogermane in 84% yield together with tetrachloroethane (35% yield).

Table 1. Quenching rate constants for disappearance of the transient at 330 nm in the photolysis of **1–3** in THF (10^{-4} M)^a

Complex	$\lambda_{\max}/\text{nm}$	$(k/\varepsilon l)/\text{s}^{-1}\text{b}$	Rate constant/ $\text{s}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$		
			O ₂	CHCl ₃	EtOH
1	330	8.0×10^5	1.7×10^9	0.8×10^7	NQ (34–696 mM)
2	340	3.0×10^5	5.4×10^9	1.3×10^7	NQ (19–699 mM)
3	340	7.9×10^5	6.4×10^9	1.3×10^7	NQ (18–698 mM)

^aMeasured in THF. ^b k is the rate constant of second-order decay, ε is the corresponding molar extinction coefficient, and l is optical path length.

The formation of tetrachloroethane is a result of the dimerization of dichloromethyl radical produced by abstraction of chlorine atoms from chloroform with germyl radicals (eqs 1 and 2).



This paper is dedicated to the memory of Professor Yoshihiko Ito.

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- 2** (trans isomer/cis isomer = 8/1) ¹H NMR (δ , C₆D₆) 0.22 (s), 0.27 (s), 0.89 (d), 1.28 (vt), 7.16–7.89 (m); ³¹P NMR (δ , C₆D₆) –10.52 ($J_{\text{Pt-P}}$ = 2555.1 Hz), –12.43 ($J_{\text{Pt-P}}$ = 2020.5 Hz).
- Trans isomer **3**: ¹H NMR (δ , C₆D₆) 0.39 (s, 6H), 1.26 (s, 9H), 7.19 (s, 5H), 7.22–7.72 (m, 4H); ³¹P NMR (δ , C₆D₆) –10.34 ($J_{\text{Pt-P}}$ = 2650 Hz).
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