

# Synthesis and Characterization of the Phosphorus Halide–Boron Halide Complexes $X_3PBY_3$ ( $X = Cl, Br, I$ ; $Y = Br, I$ ) by $^{31}P$ MAS NMR, IR, and Raman Spectroscopy and the Crystal Structure of $Br_3PBBBr_3$

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The phosphorus halide–boron halide complexes  $X_3PBY_3$  ( $X = Cl, Br, I$ ;  $Y = Br, I$ ) were prepared and characterized by Raman and IR spectroscopy. Density functional theory (B3LYP) was applied to calculate structural and vibrational data. Assignments of the vibrational normal modes for these Lewis acid–base adducts were made on the basis of their Raman and IR spectra in comparison with computational results. The

compounds  $Cl_3PBBBr_3$ ,  $Br_3PBBBr_3$ ,  $I_3PBBBr_3$ , and  $I_3PBBI_3$  were also studied by solid-state  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR spectroscopy. Second-order  $^{31}P$ – $^{79,81}Br$  dipolar coupling effects were observed in the  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR spectrum of  $Br_3PBBBr_3$ . The molecular structure of  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  was determined by X-ray diffraction.

## Introduction

As early as 1893 Tarible synthesized the first phosphorus halide–boron halide complex  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  from the reaction of  $PBr_3$  and  $BBr_3$  in  $CS_2$ .<sup>[1]</sup> Subsequently, papers have appeared regarding the syntheses of the phosphorus halide–boron halide complexes  $Cl_3PBBBr_3$ ,<sup>[2,3]</sup>  $Cl_3PBBI_3$ ,<sup>[3,4]</sup>  $Br_3PBBI_3$ ,<sup>[3]</sup>  $I_3PBBBr_3$ ,<sup>[3,5]</sup>  $I_3PBBI_3$ ,<sup>[3,5–7]</sup> and the di-adduct of  $P_2I_4$  with  $BBr_3$   $P_2I_4 \cdot 2BBr_3$ <sup>[7]</sup> although only elemental analyses, melting points, and the infrared spectra of the adducts  $I_3PBBBr_3$ ,  $I_3PBBI_3$ ,  $P_2I_4 \cdot 2BBr_3$ ,<sup>[5,7]</sup> were published for the characterization of these species.

In 1978 Terao and co-workers reported nuclear quadrupole resonance (NQR) experiments ( $^{79}Br$  and  $^{127}I$ ) for the Lewis acid–base complexes  $X_3PBY_3$  ( $X = Br, I$ ;  $Y = Br, I$ ).<sup>[8]</sup> In 1983 the same authors also published  $Br-P-Br$  and  $Br-B-Br$  bond angles for  $Br_3PBBBr_3$ , which were derived from an  $^{81}Br$  NQR study.<sup>[9]</sup> Nevertheless, X-ray structural data for these phosphorus halide–boron halide donor–acceptor complexes were not available in the literature except for the related phosphane–haloboranes  $Me_3PBY_3$  ( $Y = Cl, Br, I$ ),<sup>[10]</sup>  $(SiMe_3)_3PBY_3$  ( $Y = Cl, Br$ )<sup>[11]</sup> and  $Ph_3PBBBr_3$ .<sup>[12]</sup>

Previous work has shown that the donor behavior of phosphorus trihalides depends on the electronegativity of the halogen substituents.<sup>[13,14]</sup> For the phosphorus trihal-

ides, the order of stability for the 1:1 donor–acceptor complexes with boron trihalides is  $PCl_3 < PBr_3 < PI_3$ .<sup>[3]</sup>  $PF_3$  appears to have no donor properties if only  $\sigma$  bonding is considered.<sup>[15]</sup> The order of stability of the adducts formed from boron trihalides with phosphorus trihalides is  $BF_3 < BCl_3 < BBr_3 < BI_3$ .<sup>[16]</sup>

Prior to the study described here these complexes had only been poorly investigated and so we repeated the syntheses and characterized the complexes by Raman and IR spectroscopy. In comparison with the results of density functional theory calculations, the vibrational spectra of these species were studied and a systematic order for assigning the vibrational normal modes was found. The compounds  $Cl_3PBBBr_3$ ,  $Br_3PBBBr_3$ ,  $I_3PBBBr_3$ , and  $I_3PBBI_3$  were studied by  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR. The structure of  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  was determined by X-ray diffraction.

## Results and Discussion

All the compounds reported here were prepared from the reaction of one equivalent of phosphorus trihalide with one equivalent of the boron trihalide.

We attempted to dissolve the iodine-containing adducts  $I_3PBBBr_3$  (**5**) and  $I_3PBBI_3$  (**6**) in solvents such as  $CS_2$ ,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ,  $CH_3CN$ ,  $CFCl_3$ , and  $SO_2$  but found the solubility of these complexes to be very limited. The saturated solution in  $CS_2$  contains essentially only very small amounts of the phosphorus trihalide  $PI_3$  and the corresponding boron trihalide  $BY_3$  ( $Y = Br, I$ ), as indicated by  $^{31}P$ - and  $^{11}B$ -NMR studies.

In contrast to **5** and **6**, the complexes  $Cl_3PBBBr_3$  (**1**),  $Cl_3PBBI_3$  (**2**),  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**), and  $Br_3PBBI_3$  (**4**) dissolve in  $CH_2Cl_2$  and  $CS_2$ .  $^{31}P$ - and  $^{11}B$ -NMR studies showed, besides signals for  $PX_3$  ( $X = Cl, Br, I$ ) and  $BY_3$  ( $Y = Cl, Br$ ,

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I), resonances for several of the mixed species  $PX_aY_b$  and  $BX_aY_b$  ( $a, b = 1, 2$ ;  $a \neq b$ ).

Sublimation of these adducts leads to decomposition into  $PX_3$  ( $X = \text{Cl, Br, I}$ ) and  $BY_3$  ( $Y = \text{Br, I}$ ) and we therefore concluded that all phosphorus halide–boron halide complexes **1–6** exist only in the solid state.

In the cases of  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**3**),  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**5**), and  $\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**6**), sublimation could be used to purify these adducts. For  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**1**),  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**2**), and  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**4**) only decomposition products such as mixed species, halogen and uncharacterized products were observed.

Experimental data for the mixed halogen substituted species ( $X_3\text{PBY}_3$ ,  $X \neq Y$ ) showed that halogen exchange only occurs in  $X_3\text{PBY}_3$ , where  $Y$  represents the heavier halogen [temperature for the halogen exchange;  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**1**) 35–42 °C,  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**2**) 0 °C, and  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**4**) room temp.].

Another aim of our investigation was the preparation of  $\text{P}_2\text{I}_4 \cdot 2\text{BBr}_3$ , a compound that was claimed as being isolated in 1901 by Tarible in the reaction of  $\text{P}_2\text{I}_4$  with two equivalents of  $\text{BBr}_3$ .<sup>[17]</sup> Baudler and Fricke did not succeed in repeating Tarible's work,<sup>[18]</sup> whereas Cowley et al. claimed to have isolated the compound on the basis of IR data.<sup>[5]</sup>

The Raman spectrum of the yellow solid, obtained from the reaction of  $\text{P}_2\text{I}_4$  and  $\text{BBr}_3$  in  $\text{CS}_2$  according to the literature,<sup>[5]</sup> displayed unequivocally the Raman lines of  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**5**). The vibrational data are very similar to those obtained by Cowley and Cohen<sup>[5]</sup> and so it can be assumed that  $\text{P}_2\text{I}_4$  disproportionates into  $\text{PI}_3$  (which forms the observed adduct with  $\text{BBr}_3$ ) and a polymeric iodide  $(\text{PI})_n$ . The same disproportionation was suggested for the reaction of  $\text{P}_2\text{I}_4$  with  $\text{BI}_3$  resulting in the formation of  $\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$ .<sup>[5]</sup>

## Vibrational Spectroscopy

### Raman and IR Spectra of $X_3\text{PBY}_3$ ( $X = \text{Cl, Br, I}$ ; $Y = \text{Br, I}$ ) (**1–6**)

Table 1 and Table 2 summarize the computed and experimentally observed vibrational frequencies of the compounds **1–6** synthesized in this study. Figure 1 shows the Raman spectra of the adducts  $X_3\text{PBY}_3$  (**3**:  $X, Y = \text{Br}$ ; **6**:  $X, Y = \text{I}$ ) and Figure 2 the Raman spectra of  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**1**),  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**2**), and  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**5**). The vibrational spectra are in good agreement with our calculations (B3LYP) and allow structural assignments to be made. It should be noted that the computation was carried out for a single, isolated (gas-phase) molecule. There may well be significant differences between gas-phase and solid-state spectra.

The two broad peaks in the Raman spectra of **1, 3**, and **5** in the range of ca. 700–590  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  represent the asymmetric stretching vibration of the  $\text{BBr}_3$  unit ( $\omega_1$ ) in the complex. The asymmetric B–I stretching mode ( $\omega_1$ ) can be observed in the Raman spectra of **2, 4**, and **6** in the range of ca. 650–570  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (broad and weak peaks). In contrast to the Raman spectra, two very intense peaks can be assigned to this vibration in the IR spectrum of **6**. (The adducts **2** and **4** decompose rapidly at room temperature and, for this reason, IR data are not available. Compound **4** was contaminated with disproportionation products and therefore its spectrum is not included in Figure 2.) The asymmetric P–X stretching frequency,  $\omega_3$ , can be found for  $X = \text{Cl}$  at 590  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (**1**) and for  $X = \text{Br}$  at 421  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (**3**). Similarly, the values for the asymmetric stretching mode [ $\nu_4$  (E),  $\text{PX}_3$ ] for  $\text{OPCl}_3$  and  $\text{OPBr}_3$  are reported to be at 581 and 488  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,

Table 1. Calculated and observed vibrational frequencies for  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**3**) and  $\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**6**)

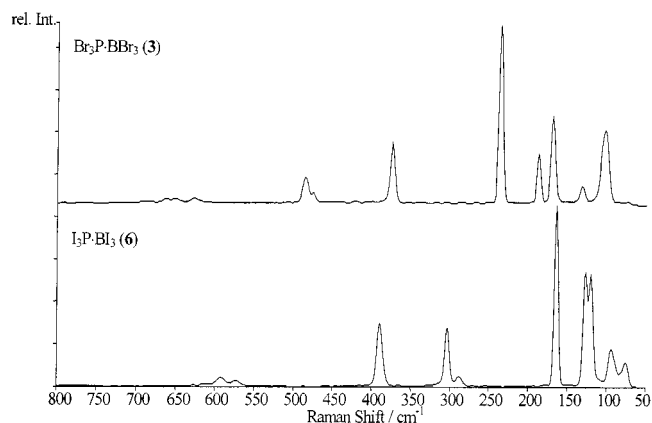
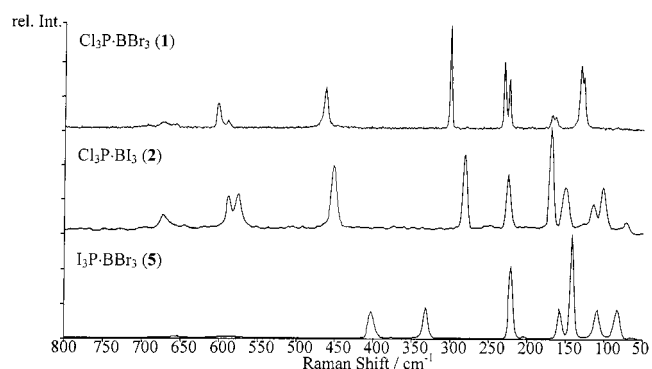
$\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$ ( <b>3</b> ) Calculation <sup>[a]</sup>	Raman	IR	$\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$ ( <b>6</b> ) Calculation <sup>[a]</sup>	Raman	IR	Assignment
657 (128)	650 (0.5)/ 627 (0.5)	687s/ 652vs/ 626s	565 (64)	592 (0.5)/ 572 (0.5)	591m/ 565s	$\omega_1$ , $\nu_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BX}_3$ )
452 (27)	484 (1)/ 475 (0.5)	472vs	440 (38)	n.o.	422w	$\omega_2$ , $\nu$ (P–B)
436 (102)	n.o.	421m	359 (77)	389 (3)	384vs	$\omega_3$ , $\nu_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ )
359 (198)	374 (3)	380vs	298 (101)	303 (3)/ 288 (0.5)	329w/ 306s/ 288w	$\omega_4$ , $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ (P–B), $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{BX}_3$ )
229 (9)	235 (10)	234w	157 (1)	163 (10)		$\omega_{5\text{a}}$ , $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ (P–B), $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{BX}_3$ )
175 (1)	186 (2)		122 (0)	126 (6)		$\omega_{6\text{a}}$ , $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ (P–B), $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{BX}_3$ )
161 (0)	169 (4)		113 (0)	120 (6)		$\omega_7$ , $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BX}_3$ ) (bend)
125 (0)	131 (1)		87 (0)	93 (2)		$\omega_8$ , $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BX}_3$ ) (wag)
92 (0)	102 (4)		70 (0)	75 (1)		$\omega_9$ , $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BX}_3$ ) (wag)
75 (0)	73 (0.5)		64 (0)			$\omega_{10\text{a}}$ , $\nu$ (P–B)
56 (0)			50 (0)			$\omega_{11}$ , $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BX}_3$ ) (wag)
28 (0)			26 (0)			$\omega_{12}$ (torsion)

<sup>[a]</sup> In parentheses: IR intensity [ $\text{km mol}^{-1}$ ].

Table 2. Calculated and observed vibrational frequencies for  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**1**),  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**2**),  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**4**) and  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**5**)

$\text{Cl}_3\text{P}-\text{BBr}_3$ ( <b>1</b> )	Raman	IR	$\text{Cl}_3\text{P}-\text{BI}_3$ ( <b>2</b> )	Raman	$\text{Br}_3\text{P}-\text{BI}_3$ ( <b>4</b> )	Raman	$\text{I}_3\text{P}-\text{BBr}_3$ ( <b>5</b> )	Raman	IR	Assignment
Calculation <sup>[a]</sup>			Calculation <sup>[a]</sup>		Calculation <sup>[a]</sup>		Calculation <sup>[a]</sup>			
669 (156)	693 (0.5, br) 671 (0.5, br)	689s	566 (135)	576 (3)	567 (83)	616 (0.5, br) 575 (0.5, br)	673 (101)	656 (0.5, br) 589 (0.5, br)	647sh 597sh	$\omega_1$ , $\nu_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ )
562 (6)	602 (2)	600br	575 (33)	588 (3)	487 (1)	471 (2)	404 (154)	402 (2)	399s	$\omega_2$ , $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ )
550 (123)	590 (0.5)	588vs	545(100)	n.o.	431 (100)	n.o.	365 (79)	n.o.	361m	$\omega_3$ , $\nu_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ )
410 (232)	463 (4)	465sh	408 (157)	451 (7)	337 (155)	351 (3)	326 (77)	332 (3)	333vs	$\omega_4$ , $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ ), $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ )
							224 (9)	221 (7)	219m	$\omega_{5\text{a}}$ , $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ ), $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ )
288 (4)	301 (10)	302m	281 (18)	281 (8)	182 (0)	195 (10)				$\omega_{5\text{b}}$ , $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ ), $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ )
225 (4)	231 (6)	231m	161 (0)	168 (10)	151 (0)	147 (6)				$\omega_{6\text{a}}$ , $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ ), $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ )
							125 (2)	141 (10)		$\omega_{6\text{b}}$ , $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ )
217 (2)	224 (5)		215 (2)	224 (6)	139 (0)	127 (3)	153 (2)	157 (3)		$\omega_7$ , $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ ) (bend)
158 (0)	168 (1)/ 164 (1)		141 (0)	150 (5)	104 (0)		99 (0)	109 (3)		$\omega_8$ , $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ ) (wag)
123 (0)	131 (6)		97 (0)	101 (5)	83(0)	88 (4)	73 (0)	83 (3)		$\omega_9$ , $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ ) (wag)
106 (0)	128 (5)		103 (0)	114 (3)	77 (0)					$\omega_{10\text{a}}$ , $\nu$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ ) $\omega_{10\text{b}}$ , $\nu$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ )
							64 (1)	64 (0.5)		$\omega_{10\text{c}}$ , $\delta_{\text{s}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\nu$ ( $\text{P}-\text{B}$ )
69 (0)			62 (0)	71 (1)	53 (0)		47 (0)			$\omega_{11}$ , $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{PX}_3$ ), $\delta_{\text{as}}$ ( $\text{BY}_3$ ) (wag)
38 (0)			44 (0)		30 (0)		26 (0)			$\omega_{12}$ (torsion)

<sup>[a]</sup> In parentheses: IR intensity [ $\text{km mol}^{-1}$ ].

Figure 1. Raman spectra of  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**3**) and  $\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**6**)Figure 2. Raman spectra of  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**1**),  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**2**), and  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**5**)

respectively.<sup>[19]</sup> The experimental values in the vibrational spectra (IR, Raman) of  $\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**6**) at  $387\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and in the IR spectrum of  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**5**) at  $361\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be assigned to the asymmetric stretching vibration of the  $\text{PI}_3$  unit ( $\omega_3$ ). Similar vibrational frequencies were reported for the asymmetric stretching modes in the  $\text{PI}_4^+$  salts  $\text{PI}_4^+\text{EI}_4^-$  ( $\text{E} = \text{Al, Ga, In}$ )<sup>[20,21]</sup> at  $380\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [ $\nu_3$  ( $\text{T}_2$ ),  $\text{PI}_4^+$ ] and in the  $\text{P}_2\text{I}_5^+$  salts  $\text{P}_2\text{I}_5^+\text{EI}_4^-$  ( $\text{E} = \text{Al, Ga, In}$ ) at  $382\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>[22]</sup>

Almost purely symmetric  $\text{P}-\text{B}$  stretching vibrations ( $\omega_2$ ) can be observed at  $602$  (**1**),  $588$  (**2**),  $475$  (**3**),  $471$  (**4**),  $402$  (**5**), and  $422\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (**6**). With heavier halogen substituents the  $\text{P}-\text{B}$  stretching modes are shifted to lower frequencies. The experimental values for the corresponding modes of the related complexes  $\text{H}_3\text{PBY}_3$  ( $\text{Y} = \text{Cl, Br, I}$ ) are found in the range of  $679$  to  $699\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>[23,24]</sup>

The assignments of  $\omega_4$  to  $\omega_{12}$  are not as straightforward as those for  $\omega_1$  to  $\omega_3$ . These motions can be described as mixtures of stretches and deformations.

The vibrational mode  $\omega_4$ , which can be interpreted as a mixture of a  $\text{P}-\text{B}$  stretching mode and symmetric stretching vibrations of the phosphorus trihalide and the boron trihalide units, can be observed and has a similar trend to  $\omega_2$ :  $463$  (**1**),  $451$  (**2**),  $377$  (**3**),  $351$  (**4**),  $333\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (**5**), and  $300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (**6**).

The mode  $\omega_{5\text{a}}$ , observed as intense peaks in the Raman spectra of **3** (235), **5** (220), and **6** (163), can be described as mixtures of  $\text{P}-\text{B}$ , symmetric  $\text{PX}_3$  ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl, Br, I}$ ) stretching and symmetric  $\text{BY}_3$  ( $\text{Y} = \text{Br, I}$ ) deformation modes. A sim-

ilar combination mode, assigned as  $\omega_{5b}$ , can be observed at 301 (1), 281 (2), and 195  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (4).

The intense Raman frequencies ( $\omega_{6a}$ ), assigned as a combination mode of symmetric deformation modes of the phosphorus halide and boron halide units and a P–B stretching vibration (“umbrella” vibration,  $\text{PX}_3 + \text{BY}_3$  out-of-phase), at 231 (1), 168 (2), 186 (3), 147 (4), and 126  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (6) are reduced to lower wave numbers with heavier halogen substituents.

The bending modes of the  $\text{PX}_3$  ( $X = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$ ) and  $\text{BY}_3$  ( $Y = \text{Br}, \text{I}$ ) units,  $\omega_7$ , can be assigned to peaks with medium intensity in the Raman spectra at 224 (1, 2), 169 (3), 127 (4), 157 (5), and 120  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (6).

The normal modes  $\omega_8$  to  $\omega_{12}$  represent fairly complex mixtures of different deformation modes with the exception of the low-lying frequency  $\omega_{10a}$ , which represents the stretching mode of the entire  $\text{PX}_3$  unit towards the  $\text{BY}_3$  unit.

### Temperature-Dependent Raman Spectra

$\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (3) decomposes at 61 °C to give a colorless liquid that essentially contains  $\text{PBr}_3$  and  $\text{BBr}_3$ . We recorded the Raman spectra of compound 3 in the temperature region between 20 and 80 °C in steps of 5 °C. Above 60 °C the Raman spectra showed five intense peaks at 383 [ $\nu_1$  ( $A_1$ ),  $\text{PBr}_3$ ], 279 [ $\nu_1$  ( $A_1'$ ),  $\text{BBr}_3$ ], 162 [ $\nu_2$  ( $A_1$ ),  $\text{PBr}_3$ ], 152 [ $\nu_4$  ( $E'$ ),  $\text{BBr}_3$ ], and 115  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  [ $\nu_4$  ( $E$ ),  $\text{PBr}_3$ ], which can be assigned to the normal modes of  $\text{PBr}_3$  and  $\text{BBr}_3$  in the liquid phase.<sup>[25,26]</sup> The decomposition is reversible. The white  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  can be reformed by cooling the liquid to room temperature.

On recording the Raman spectrum of  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (5) in the temperature range between 20 and 170 °C, we observed that  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  decomposes into liquid  $\text{PI}_3$  {320 [ $\nu_3$  ( $E$ )], 298 [ $\nu_1$  ( $A_1$ )], 112 [ $\nu_2$  ( $A_1$ )], and 82 [ $\nu_4$  ( $E$ )]  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ }<sup>[27]</sup> and  $\text{BBr}_3$ . Slow cooling of the sample to room temperature led to a yellow solid, which was identified as  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  with small amounts of  $\text{I}_2$  as an impurity. This experiment indicates that halogen exchange does not occur as long as  $X$  is heavier than  $Y$  ( $\text{X}_3\text{PBY}_3$ ).

The melting range of the complex  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (1) is 35–42 °C. The Raman spectrum of the colorless liquid, obtained by heating freshly synthesized  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$ , shows that at 45 °C the complex decomposes into  $\text{PCl}_3$  {514 [ $\nu_3$  ( $E$ )], 505 [ $\nu_1$  ( $A_1$ )], 259 [ $\nu_2$  ( $A_1$ )], and 190 [ $\nu_4$  ( $E$ )]  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ }<sup>[25]</sup>  $\text{PBr}_3$  (see above),  $\text{BCl}_3$  {472 [ $\nu_1$  ( $A'$ )], 255 [ $\nu_4$  ( $E'$ )]  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ }<sup>[26]</sup> and  $\text{BBr}_3$  (see above) by halogen exchange. Heating of a sample for 2 d at 70 °C led to a colorless liquid that contained only  $\text{PBr}_3$  and  $\text{BCl}_3$ . It appears that the complex undergoes total halogen exchange. An adduct of  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBCl}_3$  was not formed after the halogen exchange had occurred, even at temperatures below –130 °C. This result is in agreement with the reports of Holmes,<sup>[4]</sup> who found that there is no reaction between  $\text{PBr}_3$  with  $\text{BCl}_3$ . Moreover, our density functional calculations show that none of the phosphorus trihalides

form 1:1 Lewis acid–base complexes with boron trichloride.

### Solid-State $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR Spectroscopy

The  $^{31}\text{P}$  MAS NMR spectra of the compounds  $\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (6),  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (5),  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (3), and  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (1) are displayed in Figure 3 and the shift data derived from the spectra are summarized in Table 3. The two  $\text{I}_3\text{PBY}_3$  ( $Y = \text{Br}, \text{I}$ ) adducts 5 and 6 show typical spinning side band patterns due to chemical shift anisotropy as observed previously for  $\text{PI}_4^+\text{EF}_6^-$  ( $E = \text{As}, \text{Sb}$ )<sup>[20]</sup> and  $\text{P}_2\text{I}_5^+\text{EI}_4^-$  ( $E = \text{Al}, \text{Ga}, \text{In}$ ).<sup>[22]</sup> The central lines of the anisotropy patterns were identified by variation of the spinning frequency and the magnitude of the shift anisotropy  $\delta_{\text{CSA}}$  was estimated by simulation of the side band intensities using the PC program Bruker WINFIT. The spectrum of  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (5) shows a second weak pattern at  $\delta_{\text{iso}} = 237$ , which originates from  $\text{PI}_3$  impurities in the sample.<sup>[22]</sup>

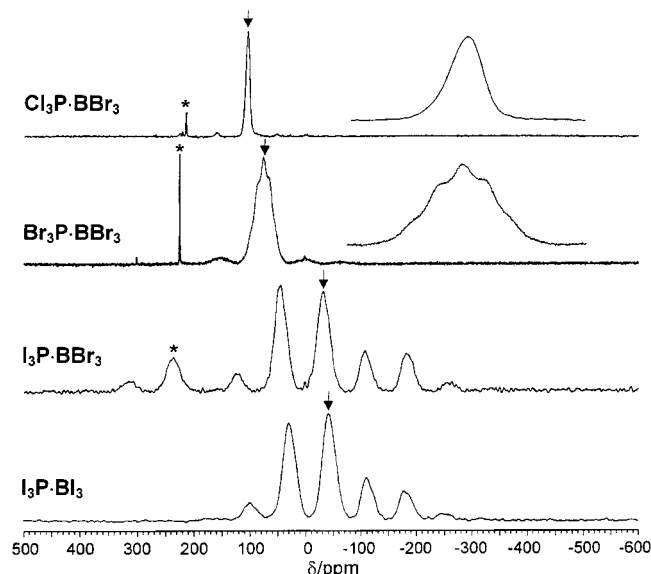


Figure 3.  $^{31}\text{P}$  MAS NMR spectra (161.96 MHz) of  $\text{X}_3\text{PBY}_3$  adducts; the isotropic resonance positions are indicated by arrows, asterisks denote  $\text{PX}_3$  impurities ( $\text{PI}_3$  in  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$ ,  $\text{Br}_3\text{P}$  in  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$ , and  $\text{PCl}_3$  in  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$ ), all the other lines are spinning side bands; the inserts in the  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  and  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  spectra are expanded plots of the resonances centered at  $\delta = 76.9$  and 105.3, respectively

Table 3.  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR isotropic chemical shifts,  $\delta_{\text{iso}}$ , shift anisotropies,  $\delta_{\text{CSA}}$ , and coordination shifts,  $\Delta\delta_{\text{coord}}$ , of  $\text{X}_3\text{PBY}_3$  compounds (in ppm)

	$\delta_{\text{iso}}$	$\Delta\delta_{\text{coord}}^{\text{[a]}}$	$\delta_{\text{CSA}}^{\text{[b]}}$
$\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$ (6)	–41.5	–278	–190
$\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$ (5)	–31.0	–268	–210
$\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$ (3)	+76.9	–149	–
$\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$ (1)	+105.3	–110	–

<sup>[a]</sup>  $\Delta\delta_{\text{coord}} = \delta_{\text{iso}}(\text{X}_3\text{P}\cdot\text{BY}_3) - \delta_{\text{iso}}(\text{PX}_3)$ . <sup>[b]</sup>  $\delta_{\text{CSA}} = \delta_{33} - \delta_{\text{iso}}$ .

The spectra of  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (3) and  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (1) exhibit only very weak spinning side bands, indicating small chemical shift anisotropies of the phosphorous atoms in these compounds. Besides the main signals of the adducts (indic-



ated by arrows in Figure 3), narrow lines appear at low field that are attributed to small amounts of  $PX_3$  impurities with  $X = Br$  ( $\delta = 226$ ) in  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**) and  $X = Cl$  ( $\delta = 214$ ) in  $Cl_3PBBBr_3$  (**1**).

Surprisingly, the resonance of  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**) shows an apparent “multiplet” structure (see insert in Figure 3) that is independent of the spinning speed and may formally be simulated by seven overlapping component lines with an equidistant separation of about 1780 Hz. Both the line separation and the intensity distribution rule out a simple explanation in terms of scalar spin-spin coupling between the  $^{31}P$  and the directly bonded  $^{79,81}Br$  nuclei [both Br isotopes have a nuclear spin of  $3/2$ ,  $^1J(^{31}P-^{79,81}Br)$  of 300–380 Hz is reported<sup>[28]</sup> for  $PBr_3$ ]. Most probably, the observed “splittings” are caused by second-order effects resulting from dipolar couplings of the  $^{31}P$  with the adjacent  $^{79,81}Br$  nuclei, which are not averaged out by magic-angle spinning because of the large quadrupole interaction of the bromine nuclei. Similar effects arising from interactions of  $^{31}P$  with neighboring spin-3/2 quadrupolar nuclei have been observed before for the spin pair  $^{31}P-^{63,65}Cu$  in bis(trimethylphosphane) copper(I) nitrate<sup>[29]</sup> and, more relevant in the context of this study, for  $^{31}P-^{35,37}Cl$  in the  $PCl_4^+$  and  $PCl_6^-$  ions of solid phosphorus pentachloride.<sup>[29]</sup> In the latter case, “multiplet” resonances are observed in the  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR spectra that are very similar to the one obtained for  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**). A detailed analysis of this type of second order effect<sup>[29]</sup> has shown that complex MAS NMR spectra of the spin-1/2 nucleus may arise if the Zeeman interaction of the spin-3/2 nucleus is comparable to, or smaller than, its quadrupole interaction. Under such circumstances the spin states of the quadrupolar nucleus are no longer quantized along the external magnetic field and new terms are introduced in the combined Zeeman-quadrupole Hamiltonian with a different angular dependence than the usual  $(3\cos^2\theta - 1)$  term, which is averaged by MAS. The dipolar interaction between the spin-1/2 and the spin-3/2 nucleus may then be reintroduced and gives rise to complex spectral patterns. The quadrupole coupling constant  $C_Q = e^2qQ/hbar$  of the bromine nuclei in the  $PBr_3$  group of  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**) is 426 MHz for  $^{81}Br$ <sup>[9]</sup> and 518 MHz for  $^{79}Br$ .<sup>[8]</sup> On comparing these values with the Larmor frequencies of  $\nu_L(^{81}Br) = 108$  MHz and  $\nu_L(^{79}Br) = 100$  MHz (at 9.4 T), it becomes clear that the quadrupole interaction far exceeds the Zeeman interaction and dipolar coupling may be effective in the  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR spectrum of  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**). To estimate the magnitude of the effect on the spectrum, we calculated the line positions of the  $^{31}P$  multiplets arising from the dipolar coupling with a single Br nucleus for both isotopes following the principles derived in ref.<sup>[29]</sup> To this end, the parameter  $K = -3C_Q/[4S(2S-1)\gamma_S B_0]$  and the dipolar constant  $D = (\mu_0/4\pi)\gamma_I\gamma_S hbar r_{IS}^{-3}$  were calculated, where  $C_Q = e^2qQ/hbar$  is the quadrupole coupling constant;  $S = 3/2$ , the nuclear spins of  $^{79,81}Br$ ;  $\gamma_I$  and  $\gamma_S$  the magnetogyric ratios of  $^{31}P$  and  $^{79,81}Br$ , respectively;  $B_0 = 9.4$  T, the magnetic field used in this study;  $r_{IS} = 2.152$  Å, the P–Br distance from Table 4. Values of  $K = 1.291$  and  $0.986$  and  $D = 1416$  and

1527 Hz are obtained for the  $^{79}Br$  and  $^{81}Br$  isotopes, respectively. Using these values, the expected spectra were taken from Figure 3 of ref.<sup>[29]</sup> and are schematically depicted in Figure 4. Theoretically the shape of each resonance is a powder pattern with characteristic divergences and shoulders, but in practice these will be smeared out resulting in broad lines that are approximated by Gaussian lines of equal peak height in Figure 4. It is apparent from this figure that the dipole interaction even with a *single*  $^{79}Br$  or  $^{81}Br$  nucleus already results in splitting of the  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR spectrum into four resonances extending over a spectral range of about 6 kHz, in contrast to the single narrow line to be expected for the unperturbed  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR spectrum. The theoretical spectra of Figure 4 are, of course, not very similar to that observed experimentally for  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**). However, in this molecule the  $^{31}P$  nucleus is coupled to three  $^{79}Br$  and three  $^{81}Br$  nuclei (natural isotopic abundance about 50% each), and further complications by interactions with the  $^{11}B$  nucleus cannot be ruled out. Theoretical calculations of MAS line shapes of spin-1/2 nuclei which interact with three or more spin-3/2 nuclei are difficult and, at present, not feasible. However, such calculations should result in very complex spectral patterns that are not simple superpositions of spectra characterized by interaction with a single quadrupolar nucleus. This conclusion is in full agreement with the experimental findings. It should be noted that, to the best of our knowledge,  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**) is the first example for the observation of second order  $^{31}P-^{79,81}Br$  dipolar coupling effects in a  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR spectrum.

Similar dipolar splittings are not observed in the  $^{31}P$  MAS NMR spectra of the  $I_3PBY_3$  ( $Y = Br, I$ ) and the

Table 4. Theoretical and experimental bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]

		$d(PB)$	$d(BY)$	$d(PX)$	$\angle(YBY)$	$\angle(XPX)$
$BI_3$	(calcd.)	—	2.142	—	120.0	—
	(exp.) <sup>[a]</sup>	—	2.100(1)	—	120.00(2)	—
$BBr_3$	(calcd.)	—	1.912	—	120.0	—
	(calcd.)	—	1.759	—	120.0	—
$BBr_3$	(calcd.)	—	1.759	—	120.0	—
	(exp.)	—	1.75(2)	—	120.0	—
$PI_3$	(calcd.)	—	—	2.511	—	103.6
	(exp.) <sup>[c]</sup>	—	—	2.463(5)	—	102.0(3)
$PBr_3$	(calcd.)	—	—	2.264	—	101.9
	(exp.) <sup>[d]</sup>	—	—	2.212(3), 2.216(4)	—	99.0(2), 101.3(2)
$PCl_3$	(calcd.)	—	—	2.097	—	100.8
	(exp.) <sup>[e]</sup>	—	—	2.0343(12), 2.0186(23)	—	100.04(7), 100.19(7)
$I_3PBI_3$	(calcd.)	2.090	2.231	2.481	114.4	105.1
$Br_3PBI_3$	(calcd.)	2.065	2.232	2.222	114.5	104.3
$Cl_3PBI_3$	(calcd.)	2.035	2.235	2.049	114.8	103.8
$I_3PBBBr_3$	(calcd.)	2.155	1.984	2.474	115.2	105.8
$Br_3PBBBr_3$	(calcd.) <sup>[f]</sup>	2.135	1.985	2.200	115.3	104.8
$Cl_3PBBBr_3$	(calcd.)	2.103	1.987	2.048	115.1	102.9

<sup>[a]</sup> X-ray diffraction: M. A. Ring, J. D. H. Donnay, W. S. Koski, *Inorg. Chem.* **1962**, *1*, 109. — <sup>[b]</sup> X-ray diffraction: M. Atoji, W. N. Lipscomb, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1957**, *27*, 195. — <sup>[c]</sup> X-ray diffraction: E. T. Lance, J. M. Haschke, D. R. Peacor, *Inorg. Chem.* **1976**, *15*, 780. — <sup>[d]</sup> X-ray diffraction: P. R. Enjalbert, J. Galy, *Acta Crystallogr.* **1979**, *B35*, 546. — <sup>[e]</sup> X-ray diffraction: H. Hartl, M. Rama, *Z. Naturforsch.* **1979**, *34B*, 1035. — <sup>[f]</sup> See Table 5 for experimental data.

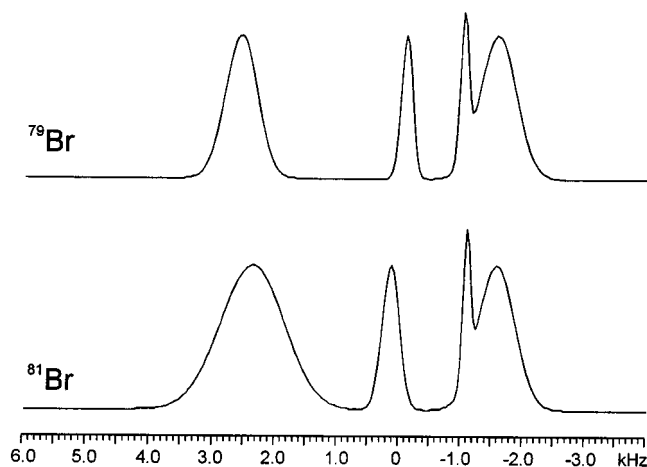


Figure 4. Schematic presentation of theoretical  $^{31}\text{P}$  MAS NMR spectra resulting from second-order dipolar splittings with a single  $^{81}\text{Br}$  and  $^{79}\text{Br}$  nucleus (see text); the frequency scale is relative to the unperturbed  $^{31}\text{P}$  resonance at 0 kHz

$\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**1**) compounds.  $^{127}\text{I}$  has a nuclear spin of  $S = 5/2$  and a very large  $C_Q$  [1931 MHz in  $\text{I}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**5**)<sup>[8]</sup>] but no theoretical treatment of the dipolar interaction between spin-1/2 and spin-5/2 nuclei has been available so far. Since  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  also has  $S = 3/2$ , the same calculations as considered above for  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**3**) were carried out for  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**1**). The use of  $C_Q = 60$  MHz<sup>[31]</sup> and  $\nu_L = 39.2$  MHz for the  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  nucleus and  $r_{\text{P-Cl}} = 1.9$  Å results in the values  $K = 0.383$  and  $D = 668$  Hz. The theoretical spectrum derived from the data in Figure 3 of ref.<sup>[29]</sup> consists of two resonance lines that are 380 and 250 Hz wide and are separated by about 750 Hz. Considering the experimental line width of about 1400 Hz, these splittings cannot be resolved, which explains the observation of a single but slightly asymmetric resonance in the  $^{31}\text{P}$  MAS NMR spectrum of  $\text{Cl}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**1**) (Figure 3).

On complexing the phosphorus halide molecules with the boron halide the  $^{31}\text{P}$  resonance is shifted significantly to higher field, the related “coordination shifts”  $\Delta\delta_{\text{coord}} = \delta(\text{X}_3\text{PBY}_3) - \delta(\text{PX}_3)$  are summarized in Table 3. The up-field shift is largest for  $\text{I}_3\text{PBI}_3$  (**6**) and decreases for the  $\text{X}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  complexes in the order  $\text{X} = \text{I} > \text{Br} > \text{Cl}$ . However, the coordination shifts do not reflect the increasing charge transfer from the  $\text{PX}_3$  donor to the  $\text{BBR}_3$  acceptor groups ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl} > \text{Br} > \text{I}$ ) and the concomitant increase of the ionicity of the P–X bonds in these compounds. The coordination shifts, on the other hand, have to be attributed to an increase of the heavy-atom effect at the four-coordinated phosphorus atom in the  $\text{X}_3\text{PBY}_3$  complexes due to the increased s-character in the P–X bond.<sup>[20]</sup> Moreover, theoretical studies of NMR chemical shifts revealed that the chemical shift is largely determined by the topology of the electron density distribution at the atom rather than by its partial charge.<sup>[32]</sup>

## Structure

Selected structural data for all  $\text{X}_3\text{PBY}_3$  adducts ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}; \text{Y} = \text{Br}, \text{I}$ ) and monomers are summarized in Table 4.

The molecular structures of all species were fully optimized at the B3LYP level. Most of the P–B adducts were shown to possess stable minima at the B3LYP level (no imaginary frequencies), whereas a stable minimum could not be found for any of the  $\text{X}_3\text{PBCl}_3$  adducts. All adducts possess  $C_{3v}$  symmetry with a staggered orientation of the  $\text{BX}_3$  and  $\text{PY}_3$  fragments. All structural parameters are in good agreement with those of other covalent P–B adducts.<sup>[10,11,12]</sup>

It should be noted, that the structures of such weakly bound systems may differ considerably between gas phase and the solid state.<sup>[33]</sup>

$\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**3**, Figure 5) crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group  $Pnma$  with  $Z = 4$ . Single-crystal X-ray structure determination showed that the skeletal atoms of this molecule possess a slightly distorted  $C_{3v}$  symmetry with a staggered conformation. The P–B bond length was found to be 2.01(2) Å, which is significantly longer than in the corresponding phosphane–haloborane adducts  $\text{R}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Me}$ ,<sup>[10]</sup>  $\text{Ph}$ ,<sup>[12]</sup>  $\text{SiMe}_3$ <sup>[11]</sup>) and corresponds to a bond order of less than 1. This situation can be explained by the greater electron transfer within  $\text{Me}_3\text{PBI}_3$  due to the positive inductive effect of the methyl groups, whereas in case of  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  and all the other  $\text{X}_3\text{PBY}_3$  adducts the halogen Y decreases the donor strength of the P atom. In addition, the  $\text{LP}(\text{Y}) \rightarrow \sigma^*(\text{BP})$  donor-acceptor interactions account for longer B–P distances and introduce a small amount of B–Y  $\pi$  bonding, which results in shorter B–Y distances.

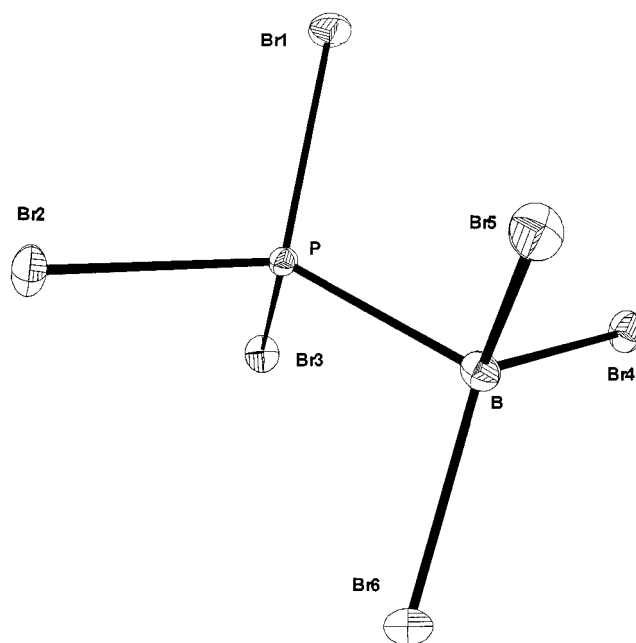


Figure 5. ORTEP plot of  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**3**)

Table 5 shows the comparison of bond lengths and bond angles of  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  (**3**) and the related phosphorus–boron adducts. The X-ray crystal data of **3** confirm that the Br–P–Br and Br–B–Br bond angles are significantly different from the experimental bond angles reported for  $\text{Br}_3\text{PBBBr}_3$  in a  $^{81}\text{Br}$  NQR study.<sup>[9]</sup> The angles and B–Y and P–X distances in all adducts do not change much in the

different  $X_3PBY_3$  species. However, there are more pronounced differences in the B–P distances.

Table 5. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for  $Br_3PBBBr_3$  (**3**)

P–B <sup>[a]</sup>	2.01(2)	B–Br(4) <sup>[b]</sup>	1.96(2)
P–Br(1)	2.151(4)	B–Br(5)	1.99(1)
P–Br(2)	2.152(3)	B–Br(6)	1.99(1)
P–Br(3)	2.152(3)		
Br(1)–P–Br(2) <sup>[c]</sup>	106.6(1)	B–P–Br(1)	114.0(6)
Br(1)–P–Br(3)	106.6(1)	B–P–Br(2)	110.9(3)
Br(2)–P–Br(3)	107.5(2)	B–P–Br(3)	110.9(3)
Br(4)–B–Br(5) <sup>[d]</sup>	114.7(6)	Br(4)–B–P	104.1(8)
Br(4)–B–Br(6)	114.7(6)	Br(5)–B–P	104.2(6)
Br(5)–B–Br(6)	113.2(9)	Br(6)–B–P	104.2(6)

<sup>[a]</sup> Cf.:  $d(P-B) = 1.998(21)$  [(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P–BBBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>[11]</sup> 1.924(12) [Me<sub>3</sub>P–BBBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>[10]</sup> 1.988(10) [Ph<sub>3</sub>P–BBBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>[12]</sup> – <sup>[b]</sup> Cf.:  $d(B-Br) = 1.995(20)$  to 2.035(20) [(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P–BBBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>[11]</sup> 2.016(10) to 2.025(6) [Me<sub>3</sub>P–BBBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>[10]</sup> 1.978(10) to 2.013(9) [Ph<sub>3</sub>P–BBBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>[12]</sup> – <sup>[c]</sup> Cf.: <sup>81</sup>Br NQR study,  $\angle(Br-P-Br) = 107.0 (\pm 0.1)$  to 109.1 ( $\pm 0.3$ );<sup>[9]</sup> 108.3(9) to 109.7(10) [(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P–BBBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>[11]</sup> 110.0(5) to 110.6(4) [Me<sub>3</sub>P–BBBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>[10]</sup> – <sup>[d]</sup> Cf.: <sup>81</sup>Br NQR study,  $\angle Br-B-Br = 111.2 (\pm 0.1)$  to 111.5 ( $\pm 0.1$ ).<sup>[9]</sup>

The calculated B–Y bond lengths in all adducts are much longer than in the isolated BY<sub>3</sub> moieties. Upon complexation, the lengthening of the B–Y bonds increases from BBr<sub>3</sub> to BI<sub>3</sub> adducts. This can be attributed to the greater  $\pi$  bonding character of the B–Y bonds in the isolated BY<sub>3</sub> molecules than in the adducts which increases from I to Cl.

Upon coordination, the lone pair electrons on the P atom are partially donated, resulting in a shrinking of the P–X bonds (compared to the PX<sub>3</sub> fragment) and opening of the X–P–X angles. This shortening is related to the dramatically increasing “s” character in the P–X bond of the complex [e.g.  $h_p(PI_3) \approx sp^{17.20}$  vs.  $h_p(I_3PBI_3) \approx sp^{2.71}$ ].

Additionally, the more electronegative Cl ligands in PCl<sub>3</sub> lead to better orbital overlap due to orbital contraction and, therefore, to a better electron transfer and a shorter B–P bond length. This feature is in agreement with Durig and Shen’s finding for the H<sub>3</sub>PBH<sub>3</sub> (1.943 Å) and F<sub>3</sub>PBH<sub>3</sub> (1.836 Å) complexes.<sup>[34]</sup>

## Conclusion

The structure and the vibrational normal modes of phosphorus halide–boron halide complexes Cl<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**1**), Cl<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> (**2**), Br<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**3**), Br<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> (**4**), I<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**5**), and I<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> (**6**) have been calculated, discussed and compared with the experimental values. Vibrational assignments have been made on the basis of the Raman and IR spectra in comparison with computational results. Our calculations agree reasonably with the experimental data.

Temperature-dependent Raman experiments indicate that halogen exchange cannot be observed as long as X is heavier than Y in X<sub>3</sub>PBY<sub>3</sub> (e.g. in I<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub>). In contrast, halogen exchange occurs when Y is heavier (e.g. within Cl<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub>).

The adducts Cl<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**1**), Br<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**3**), I<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**5**), and I<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> (**6**) have been characterized by solid-state <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR spectroscopy. The solid-state <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR

spectra reveal an increasing upfield shift for the X<sub>3</sub>PBY<sub>3</sub> complexes in the order X = Br < I and Y = Cl < Br < I due to heavy-atom effects. The <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR of Br<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**3**) represents the first example of second order <sup>31</sup>P–<sup>79,81</sup>Br dipolar coupling effects.

All P–B bond lengths are rather long due to destabilizing donor–acceptor interactions. The increasing s character of the P–X bond in the complexes results in a opening of the X–P–X angles.

Adduct structures that represent true minima were found for all X<sub>3</sub>PBY<sub>3</sub> species except for the cases where BCl<sub>3</sub> was the Lewis acid.

## Experimental Section

**General Remarks:** All compounds reported here are moisture-sensitive, some extremely so, and decompose within a few seconds if exposed to the atmosphere. Consequently, strictly anaerobic and anhydrous conditions were employed for their synthesis. Any subsequent manipulations were carried out inside a dry-box under dry nitrogen. PBr<sub>3</sub>, PCl<sub>3</sub>, PI<sub>3</sub>, BBr<sub>3</sub>, and BI<sub>3</sub> (all Aldrich) were used as received. CS<sub>2</sub> was refluxed with P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> and distilled before used. – <sup>31</sup>P-NMR spectra were measured at 161.96 MHz with a BRUKER MSL-400 NMR spectrometer under magic-angle-spinning (MAS) conditions. A standard double-bearing MAS probe for 4-mm rotors was used with spinning frequencies up to 12 kHz. Single-pulse acquisition with 1- $\mu$ s pulse width (corresponding to 25° flip angle) and 5-s pulse repetition was applied. The samples were filled in 4-mm zirconia rotors under nitrogen in a glove box. The spectra were referenced to 85% aqueous phosphoric acid. Simulations of spectra were carried out with the PC program WINFIT from the BRUKER WINNMR software package. – Raman spectra of powdered solid samples contained in glass capillary tubes were obtained with a Perkin–Elmer 2000 NIR spectrometer in the range 800–50 cm<sup>–1</sup>. The low-temperature spectra were recorded using a Ventacon low-temperature cell and the high-temperature spectra were obtained using a Ventacon high-temperature cell. – IR spectra of Nujol mulls between CsI plates were taken in the range 800–200 cm<sup>–1</sup> with a Nicolet 520 FT IR spectrometer. – For the determination of decomposition points, samples were heated in sealed glass capillaries in a Büchi B450 instrument.

**Cl<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**1**):** Cl<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> was prepared by addition of BBr<sub>3</sub> (1.56 g, 6.23 mmol) to PCl<sub>3</sub> (1.57 g, 11.40 mmol) with stirring at –40 °C. A colorless solid formed immediately. After warming the mixture to –30 °C, the remaining PCl<sub>3</sub> was removed under dynamic vacuum. – Yield: 1.50 g (44%) of a colorless solid, m.p. 35–42 °C (decomp.).

**Cl<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> (**2**):** Cl<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> was prepared by addition of PCl<sub>3</sub> (1.57 g, 11.40 mmol) to BI<sub>3</sub> (0.92 g, 2.35 mmol) with stirring at –40 °C. A colorless solid formed immediately. After warming the mixture to –30 °C, the remaining PCl<sub>3</sub> was removed under dynamic vacuum. – Yield: 1.30 g (95%) of a colorless solid, m.p. 0 °C (decomp.). – *Note:* Compound **2** undergoes halogen exchange above 0 °C, as indicated by a change in color from colorless to yellow. The impurity at 673 cm<sup>–1</sup> in the Raman spectrum of **2** is due to this halogen exchange.

**Br<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (**3**):** Br<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> was prepared by addition of PBr<sub>3</sub> (1.66 g, 6.13 mmol) in CS<sub>2</sub> to CS<sub>2</sub> solutions of BBr<sub>3</sub> (1.76 g, 7.03 mmol) with stirring at –40 °C. A colorless solid formed immediately. After



stirring for 15 min, the solid was filtered off. Traces of the solvent were removed under dynamic vacuum at room temperature. – Yield: 2.64 g (83%) of a colorless solid, m.p. 61 °C (decomp.).

**Br<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> (4):** Br<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> was prepared by addition of PBr<sub>3</sub> (0.42 g, 1.55 mmol) in CS<sub>2</sub> to CS<sub>2</sub> solutions of BI<sub>3</sub> (0.61 g, 1.55 mmol) with stirring at –40 °C. A yellow solid formed immediately. After stirring for 15 min, the solid was filtered off. Traces of the solvent were removed under dynamic vacuum at room temperature. – Yield: 0.92 g (90%) of a yellow solid, m.p. 150 °C (decomp., halogen exchange).

**I<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> (5):** I<sub>3</sub>PBBBr<sub>3</sub> was prepared by addition of PI<sub>3</sub> (1.63 g, 3.95 mmol) in CS<sub>2</sub> to CS<sub>2</sub> solutions of BBr<sub>3</sub> (0.99 g, 3.95 mmol) with stirring at –40 °C. A yellow precipitate formed immediately. After stirring for 15 min, the precipitate was isolated by filtering twice and washing with CS<sub>2</sub>. Traces of CS<sub>2</sub> were removed under dynamic vacuum at room temperature. – Yield: 2.90 g (51%) of a yellow solid, m.p. 158–160 °C (decomp.).

**I<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> (6):** I<sub>3</sub>PBI<sub>3</sub> was prepared by addition of PI<sub>3</sub> (1.24 g, 3.01 mmol) in CS<sub>2</sub> to CS<sub>2</sub> solutions of BI<sub>3</sub> (1.17 g, 3.01 mmol) with stirring at room temperature. An orange precipitate formed immediately. After stirring for 15 min, the precipitate was isolated by filtration and washed with CS<sub>2</sub> until the filtrate was colorless. Traces of CS<sub>2</sub> were removed under dynamic vacuum at room temperature. – Yield: 1.88 g (78%) of an orange solid, m.p. > 250 °C (decomp.).

**Computational Methods:** The structure and vibrational data for the phosphorus halide–boron halide complexes **1–6** were calculated using the density functional theory with the program package Gaussian 94.<sup>[35]</sup> For P and B a standard 6-31G(d) basis set was used and for I, Br, and Cl a quasi-relativistic pseudopotential (I: ECP46MWB; Br: ECP28MWB; Cl: ECP10MWB)<sup>[36]</sup> and a (5s5p1d)/[3s3p1d]-DZ+P basis set.<sup>[37]</sup> The computations were carried out at the DFT level using the hybrid method B3LYP, which includes a mixture of Hartree–Fock exchange with DFT exchange–correlation. Becke's 3 parameter functional, where the non-local correlation is provided by the LYP expression (Lee, Yang, Parr correlation functional), was used as implemented in Gaussian 94. For a concise definition of the B3LYP functional see ref.<sup>[38]</sup>

**Crystal Structure Analysis of 3:** BBr<sub>6</sub>P, *M* = 521.24, crystal size: 0.40 × 0.10 × 0.10 mm, colorless prism, orthorhombic, space group *Pnma*, *a* = 12.195(3), *b* = 11.054(2), *c* = 7.053(1) Å, *V* = 850.8(4) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 4, *d*<sub>calcd.</sub> = 3.641 Mg m<sup>–3</sup>, *μ* = 25.418 mm<sup>–1</sup>, *F*(000) = 920. Siemens P4 diffractometer with CCD area detector, scan type: hemisphere, Mo-*K*<sub>α</sub> (*λ* = 0.71073 Å), *T* = 185 K, 2θ range = 6.68–55.20° in –15 ≤ *h* ≤ 15, –11 ≤ *k* ≤ 11, –9 ≤ *l* ≤ 9, reflections collected: 5006, independent reflections: 962 (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.0634), observed reflections: 733 [*F* > 4σ(*F*)], *T*<sub>max</sub>/*T*<sub>min</sub> = 0.1854/0.0350. Structure solution and refinement program: SHELXL-97,<sup>[39]</sup> direct methods, data-to-parameter ratio: 22.4:1 (17.0:1 [*F* > 4σ(*F*)]), final *R* indices [*F* > 4σ(*F*)]: *R*1 = 0.0842, *wR*2 = 0.2131, *R*1 = 0.0976, *wR*2 = 0.2204 (all data), GOF on *F*<sup>2</sup> = 1.123, largest and mean Δ/σ: 0.000, 0.000, largest difference peak/hole: 2.666, –3.458 e Å<sup>–3</sup>. – Further details of the crystal structure investigation may be obtained from the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, D-76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany, on quoting the depository number CSD-41194.

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