

A New Synthetic Method and Solution Equilibria for the Chlorotitanate(IV) Anions – Evidence for the Existence of a New Species: $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$

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Keywords: Anions / Electrochemistry / Infrared spectroscopy / Titanium

TiCl_3 is oxidized by SOCl_2 in the presence of the appropriate amount of $[\text{NEt}_3\text{Bz}]\text{Cl}$ or $[\text{PPN}]\text{Cl}$ [Bz = benzyl; PPN = bis(triphenylphosphanyl)iminium] to afford the corresponding salts of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$, $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ or $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$. The results of cyclic voltammetric and solution IR studies in the Ti–Cl stretching region are interpreted in terms of a rapid chloride-redistribution equilibrium between $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ on one side and a mixture of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ and a previously unreported $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ spe-

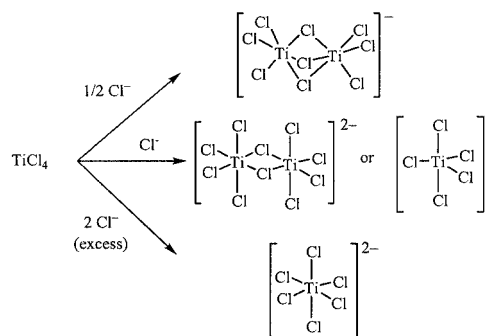
cies on the other side. In the solid state, however, a compound with the $[\text{PPN}]_3[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]$ stoichiometry exists as a mixture of $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$ and $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{TiCl}_6]$. The PPN salt of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ has been structurally characterized by X-ray diffraction.

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Introduction

Homoleptic chlorometallates are a wide class of fundamentally important coordination compounds. They are in general easily accessible by addition of the required amount of halide ions to the neutral metal halide. For Ti^{IV} , four different anionic complexes are known, the enneachlorodititanate $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$, the decachlorodititanate $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$, the pentachlorotitanate $[\text{TiCl}_5]^-$, and the hexachlorotitanate $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$, formally related to TiCl_4 by the addition of one half, one, or two Cl^- ions per titanium, respectively (Scheme 1).^[1] The choice between mononuclear or dinuclear pentachlorotitanate seems to be controlled by the size of the counterion.^[2] Since TiCl_3 is used extensively as a precursor of Ziegler–Natta polymerization catalysts,^[3–8] its coordination chemistry has been widely explored. However, the only reported chlorotitanate(III) anions are apparently the edge-sharing bioctahedral $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^{3-}$ and the mononuclear octahedral $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{3-}$.^[9–11] Furthermore, these ions are prepared at high temperatures in the solid state (no solvent),^[12,13] and therefore little information is available on their properties in solution.

In an attempt to gain access to soluble versions of these anionic complexes and perhaps to prepare the as-yet unknown^[14] decachlorodititanate(III) tetraanion $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{4-}$, we have investigated the interaction between TiCl_3 and



Scheme 1

chloride salts in solution. Given the hydrolytic sensitivity of Ti^{III} , our approach consists of the use of SOCl_2 as solvent, since this is a well-known medium for ensuring anhydrous conditions for transition metal chlorides.^[15] The results of this interaction, yielding metal oxidation, are reported here. Furthermore, we present new information on the solution behavior of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ ion and spectroscopic and electrochemical evidence for the existence of a previously unreported $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ ion in solution.

Results and Discussion

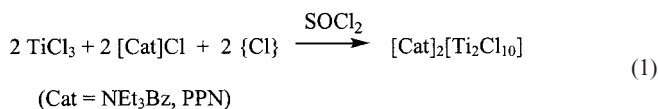
Syntheses

The addition of one equivalent of chloride, either as the triethylbenzylammonium (Et_3BzN) or the bis(triphenylphosphanyl)iminium (PPN) salt, to TiCl_3 in SOCl_2 results in a smooth reaction at room temperature accompanied by a sharp color change from dark purple to yellow. The color is

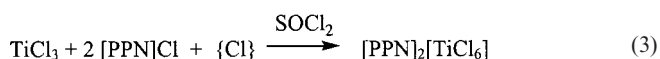
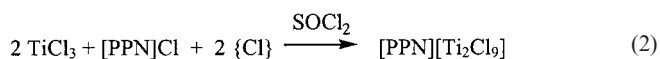
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indicative of chloro complexes of Ti^{IV} . Indeed, the selective product of the reactions are the decachlorodititanate(IV) salts [Equation (1)]. The products were obtained in a pure state and in good yields. They are moderately soluble in dichloromethane, the PPN salt being more soluble than the ammonium salt. The dinuclear nature of these salts is demonstrated by their IR properties (*vide infra*).



By changing the stoichiometry to one or four equivalents of chloride salt per two of TiCl_3 , the ennachlorodititanate(IV) $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$, and the hexachlorotitanate(IV) $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ were obtained in good yields [Equation (2) and Equation (3), respectively]. We have also obtained a product with the stoichiometry $[\text{PPN}]_3[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]$ by using a 3:2 PPNCl/ TiCl_3 ratio. The solid state and solution nature of these products will be discussed in the next section. The necessary chlorine atoms for the stoichiometries of Equation (1), Equation (2) and Equation (3) are undoubtedly provided by the thionyl chloride solvent, which must therefore be reduced. The oxidizing properties of thionyl chloride relative to low-valent metal halides do not appear to have been extensively explored. A metal oxidation process has been witnessed for the dehydration of $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (leading to SnCl_4 while elemental sulfur was found amongst the reduction products), whereas the dehydration of $\text{TiCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$, which is affected by a spontaneous reduction to TiCl when the salt is thermally dehydrated, leads to pure TiCl_3 when using SOCl_2 .^[15] Another potentially reducing metal chloride is CrCl_2 , although the dehydration of the corresponding hydrate with SOCl_2 has apparently never been described^[16] (whereas it is known with COCl_2).^[15] Unlike the above-mentioned dehydration of SnCl_2 , we have not witnessed the formation of any elemental sulfur. It is known that SOCl_2 decomposes at high temperatures to yield Cl_2 , SO_2 and S_2Cl_2 ,^[17,18] but, remarkably, the Ti oxidation process that we report here occurs smoothly at room temperature. We have not explored the nature of the reduced sulfur products in this reaction further.



Electrochemical and Spectroscopic Characterization

Still with the goal in mind of exploring the solution chemistry of the chlorotitanate(III) complexes, we have carried out electrochemical investigations of the chlorotitanate(IV) anions. Previous electrochemical investigations on Ti^{IV} chloride systems appear to be limited to TiCl_4 in AlCl_3 /chloride melts.^[19,20] Basic melts ($\text{Cl}/\text{Al} > 4$) exhibit

only a reversible reduction that has been attributed to the $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ ion,^[19] whereas Lewis-acidic melts show less reversible features that are attributed to less chloride-rich anions, whose nature depends on the melt composition.^[20] It is reasonable to expect that the reduction process to Ti^{III} correlates with the effective charge at the metal center, a greater electron density leading to a more difficult reduction process. Therefore, one could reasonably expect a trend of reduction potentials in the order $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-} < [\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-} < [\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$.

A cyclic voltammetric analysis of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ in CH_2Cl_2 shows that the Ti^{IV} center undergoes the expected reduction process, which is irreversible. This irreversibility is probably linked to loss of chloride ions upon reduction, induced by the accumulation of too much negative charge and by the possible rearrangement to a triply bridged, face-sharing bi-octahedral $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ species. Such a mixed-valence complex is apparently not yet known. The surprising observation, however, is the complexity of the reduction wave (see Figure 1), which shows at least two distinct processes, the main one having a cathodic peak potential, $E_{\text{p,c}}$, of -1.03 V , with a broad shoulder between about -0.8 and -0.6 V .

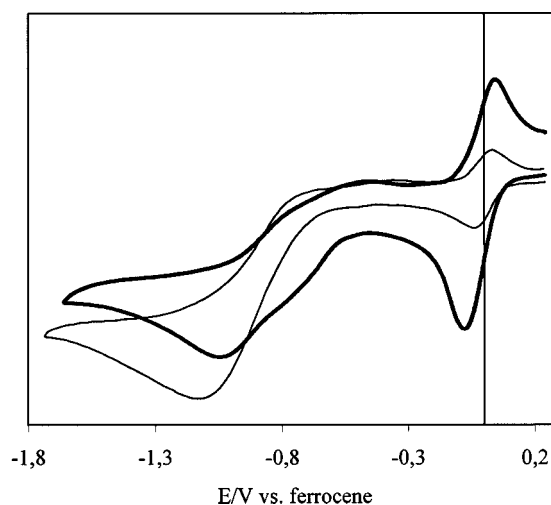
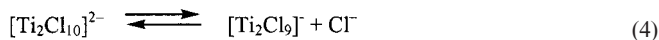


Figure 1. Cyclic voltammograms of solutions of $[\text{NBzEt}_3]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$ alone (thicker line) and with two equiv. of $[\text{NBzEt}_3]\text{Cl}$ (thinner line); both solutions also contain the internal ferrocene standard (reversible wave at $E_{1/2} = 0$); solvent: CH_2Cl_2

The possibility that the complexity of this voltammetric response could result from sample impurities was soon excluded by the reproducibility when measuring several samples obtained from different syntheses. The key to understanding this complexity comes from the voltammetric measurement after the addition of excess chloride ions, which should quantitatively convert the electroactive species to the $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ ion (see Scheme 1), according to the literature. The single irreversible reduction wave at $E_{\text{p,c}} = -1.13 \text{ V}$ that is obtained under these conditions (see Figure 1) may therefore be attributed to the reduction of this ion. Note that this wave is irreversible, whereas full reversibility is observed in an AlCl_3 /chloride melt.^[19] This obser-

vation agrees fully with the likely instability of a reduced $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{3-}$ ion towards chloride-ion loss. This wave occurs at a very similar potential as the main wave of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ solution in the absence of free chloride ions. The second species is reduced at a less negative potential, therefore it must contain a higher effective positive charge on the metal center (lower Cl/Ti ratio). A logical hypothesis is to assign this wave to the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ ion. Indeed, the cyclic voltammogram for a solution prepared from the isolated $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ salt shows an irreversible wave with $E_{\text{p,c}} = -0.76$ V, corresponding closely to the shoulder of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ solution in the absence of free chloride ions. Therefore, we conclude that a chloride-dissociation equilibrium exists in solution starting from the dianionic decachloro species, according to Equation (4). The chloride ions that are freed up in solution can then break the bridge bonds of the decachloro species to yield a more chloride-rich species. It would seem reasonable to assume that this species is the mononuclear dianion $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$. However, the results obtained from a parallel IR investigation tell a different story.



An independent investigation of the solution equilibria is complicated by the absence of available spectroscopic probes such as spin-1/2 nuclei for an NMR investigation or unpaired electrons for an EPR investigation. The use of ^{47}Ti and ^{49}Ti NMR spectroscopy is unsatisfactory for compounds where the Ti center has lower than cubic symmetry.^[20,21] A suitable solution is provided by infrared spectroscopy in the low wavenumber region, which is sensitive to the Ti–Cl stretching vibrations. Infrared studies of chlorotitanate ions have been published previously, but these have mostly been confined to solid samples^[2,22–24] as the solubility of most available salts (e.g. with K^+ , Rb^+ , Cs^+ , Et_2NH_2^+ , and Et_4N^+)^[23] is too low. The PPN salts reported here are sufficiently soluble in dichloromethane to yield reasonable intensities ($A > 1$ for some bands in 0.5 mm pathlength polyethylene cells, see Figure 2). It should be noted that the PPN^+ ion does not interfere in the investigated region, since it shows only a very weak band at 464 cm^{-1} .

First, we shall comment on the dichotomy between $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ and its mononuclear version, the pentachlorotitanate(IV) anion $[\text{TiCl}_5]^-$,^[2,22,25–27] and then on the species with a different Cl/Ti ratio. Previous studies have shown that, in the solid state, the pentachlorotitanate(IV) salts feature a dichloro-bridged bioctahedral geometry for the anion in the presence of small cations, whereas salts of larger cations are mononuclear.^[2] The PCl_4^+ salt has been shown to undergo a temperature-dependent monomer-dimer equilibrium.^[22] The solid-state spectrum of the mononuclear salt is characterized by a very strong band at 348 cm^{-1} , which is absent from the solution spectrum of $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$. On the other hand, the solid-state spectra of dinuclear anions are characterized by a very strong band at around 380 cm^{-1} (385 cm^{-1} for the NEt_4 salt and 377 cm^{-1} for the PCl_4

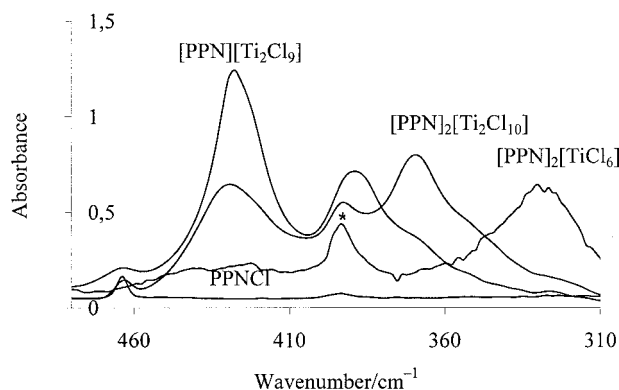


Figure 2. Infrared spectra of various chlorotitanate(IV) PPN salts in CH_2Cl_2 solution (Ti concentration = 2×10^{-2} M); the starred peak corresponds to an oxo impurity (see text)

salt).^[2] A band in this region is indeed observed in the solution spectrum of $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$ (maximum at 370 cm^{-1}). The solid-state spectrum of $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$ (see a in Figure 3), is characterized by a strong band at around 365 cm^{-1} , in-between those previously reported for the mono- and dinuclear ions, but quite close to the major band that is observed in solution. The overall shape of the two spectra, in dichloromethane solution and in the solid state, is very similar. We conclude that the compound structure is most certainly dinuclear both in solution and in the solid state. Thus, the rule stating that the pentachlorotitanate(IV) is mononuclear with large cations does not appear to have general validity, since PPN^+ is perhaps the largest cation with which this anion has ever been crystallized.

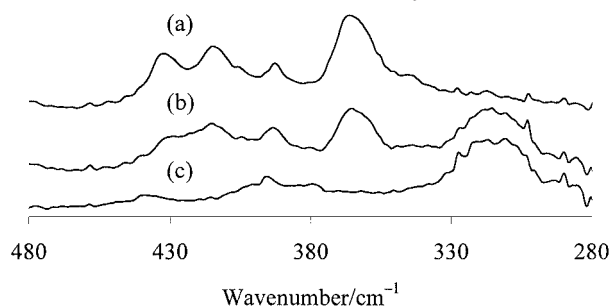


Figure 3. Solid state (nujol mull) infrared spectra of: (a) $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$, (b) $[\text{PPN}]_3[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]$, and (c) $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{TiCl}_6]$

The spectra of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ and $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ salts, also shown in Figure 2, are quite different from that of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ ion, demonstrating the suitability of IR spectroscopy in this spectral region for the analysis of the species present in solution. Complex $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ has a very strong band centered at 428 cm^{-1} and a strong band at 390 cm^{-1} . The shoulder on the right-hand side of the latter band may be due to minor amounts of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ salt. Complex $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$, on the other hand, is characterized by a strong and broad band centered at 327 cm^{-1} . This corresponds to the frequency reported in the literature for the IR-active stretching vibration (ν_3 , T_{1u}) of this ion (ca. 330 cm^{-1} depending on the counterion).^[23,24,28] It is worth noting the

weak band observed at 392 cm^{-1} . Only two IR-active bands (the ν_3 stretching and the ν_4 bending, both of T_{1u} type) are expected for the O_h $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ ion. According to the literature, these are located around 330 cm^{-1} and 183 cm^{-1} , respectively. Therefore, the weak band at 392 cm^{-1} cannot belong to this ion. We believe that this band is due to oxo impurities deriving from a small amount of hydrolysis, given the extreme moisture sensitivity of the $\text{Ti}^{\text{IV}}\text{--Cl}$ bonds. In support of this hypothesis, we have observed that the relative intensity of this band changes as a function of the care with which the solutions are handled and increases when undried dichloromethane is used as solvent, but we have been unable to completely eliminate it. The reported spectrum was recorded in carefully dried solvent and all glassware and transfer syringes were silylated by rinsing with a 10% v/v chloroform solution of Me_3SiCl . It is possible that some hydrolysis occurred during the isolation procedure (washings and transfer into the storage ampoules), as suggested by the observation of the same weak band in the IR spectrum of the solid sample (see c in Figure 3). Following this consideration, the band observed at about 390 cm^{-1} for the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ solution may also be due to a product of partial hydrolysis.

The spectrum of the $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ salt was also reproduced (except for the variable relative intensity of the 392 cm^{-1} band as outlined above) upon addition of ≥ 2 equivalents of PPNCl to the solution of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$. The addition of just one equivalent of PPNCl to the same solution, on the other hand, shows the complete disappearance of the bands of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ and the appearance of a very strong band centered at 355 cm^{-1} (Figure 4). It should be noted that the band of $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ is also absent from this spectrum. This suggests the formation of a complex having the stoichiometry $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$. Addition of PPNCl to this solution generated again the spectrum of $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$.

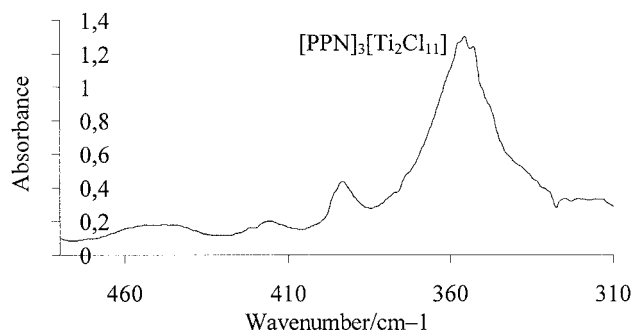
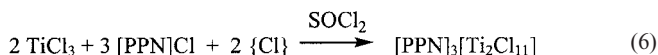
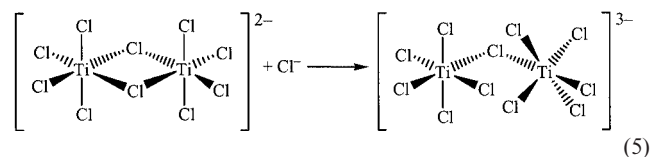


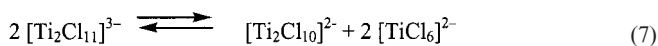
Figure 4. Infrared spectrum of a CH_2Cl_2 solution of $[\text{PPN}]_3[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]$ (Ti concentration = $2 \times 10^{-2}\text{ M}$)

The $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ anion does not appear to have been reported in the literature. Its structure most likely corresponds to a corner-sharing bioctahedron [Equation (5)]. On the basis of VSEPR theory, the geometry around the bridging Cl atom should be bent and the IR spectrum can be predicted to be quite similar to that of mononuclear octahedral $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ if vibrational coupling across the Cl bridge is weak. Thus, the slight shift to higher frequency on going

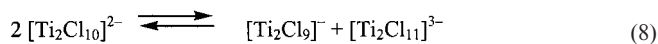
from $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ to $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ (327 to 355 cm^{-1}) suggests a force-constant increase upon reduction of the metal effective charge. Although the weak band at 392 cm^{-1} is identical to that observed for the $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$ solution, and is therefore attributable to minor amounts of a hydrolytic product, its attribution to a genuine normal mode of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ cannot be excluded. Once again, this spectrum was found to depend highly on the rigor with which the solution was prepared, and the band at 392 cm^{-1} could never be completely eliminated. The reported spectrum was obtained from a solution prepared in silylated glassware and in carefully dried dichloromethane, from a solid sample that was obtained by direct synthesis in SOCl_2 , according to the stoichiometry of Equation (6).



An additional interesting feature is shown by the IR spectrum of the $[\text{PPN}]_3[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]$ compound in the solid state (see b in Figure 3). This is quite clearly the superposition of the spectra of the $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$ and $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{TiCl}_6]$ salts that are shown in the same figure, whereas the band observed for the same compound in solution is absent. This observation demonstrates that the species $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ exists only in solution, and the crystallization process forces a ligand redistribution to yield $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ and $[\text{TiCl}_6]^{2-}$. In other words, the ligand-redistribution equilibrium shown in Equation (7) lies on the left in dichloromethane solution and on the right in the solid state for PPN salts.



As a final relevant observation, note that the solution spectrum of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ salt (Figure 2) does not show a significant absorption at 355 cm^{-1} , thus excluding the presence of large amounts of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ at equilibrium. A shoulder on the low-frequency side of the 368 cm^{-1} band signals the possible presence of minor amounts of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$, which could be related to an imprecise stoichiometry during the synthesis, or to a chloride-redistribution equilibrium as shown in Equation (8). In the latter case, the equilibrium must necessarily be shifted almost completely towards the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ ion.



In the light of the IR study, we can now re-interpret the result of the cyclic voltammetric experiment on the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ salt by assigning the wave at -1.03 V to the

reduction of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ complex and the shoulder at about -0.7 V to the reduction of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$. The cyclic voltammetric results seem to indicate the presence of large amounts of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^- + [\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ species, i.e. the equilibrium of Equation 8 seems shifted extensively toward the right-hand side. This, however, contrasts with the IR results (see above). There is in fact no contradiction between these two results because of the dynamic nature of the electrochemical experiment. Since the equilibration process described in Equation (8) may be quite fast, and since the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ complex is reduced at a less-negative potential, its consumption by the reduction process shifts the equilibrium to the right-hand side at the expense of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ ion in the electrode diffusion layer.

Structural Characterization of $[\text{PPN}][\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]$

Single crystals of the PPN salt of the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ species were grown from dichloromethane/pentane solution and were investigated by X-ray diffraction. The structure confirms the expected face-sharing bioctahedral geometry (see Figure 5). The bond lengths and angles within the anion are given in the Exp. Sect. The Ti–Cl bond lengths involving the bridging chlorine atoms are longer [2.4775(8) Å to 2.5098(8) Å] than the terminal ones [2.1955(8) Å to 2.2216(8) Å] as reported for related compounds containing the $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ anion.^[1,29–33]

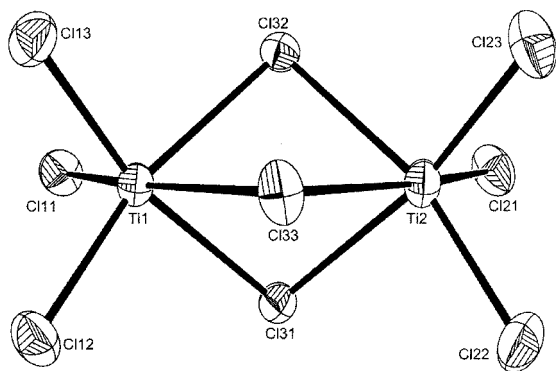


Figure 5. An ORTEP view of the anion of compound $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]$; ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level

Conclusions

The two main novelties of this new study of the well-developed coordination chemistry of chlorititanate(IV) complexes are: (i) the oxidation of TiCl_3 by thionyl chloride in the presence of chloride salts, and (ii) the complex chloride dissociation and redistribution equilibria that are established by these anions, with the unambiguous identification in solution of the previously unknown, yet simple, $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ species. The combined IR and electrochemical study has shown that: (i) complex $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]^{2-}$ is dinuclear in dichloromethane solution and in the solid state as a PPN^+ salt; (ii) this ion is stable in dichloromethane but a chloride-redistribution equilibrium to yield a mixture of $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]^-$ and the novel $[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]^{3-}$ complex is induced by

the more facile electrochemical reduction of the former species; (iii) $[\text{PPN}]_3[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{11}]$ is not a stable species in the solid state and redistributes to a mixture of $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$ and $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{TiCl}_6]$ upon crystallization.

Experimental Section

General Procedures. All manipulations were carried out under an atmosphere of dry and oxygen-free argon with standard Schlenk techniques. CH_2Cl_2 was purified by reflux and distillation over P_4O_{10} under argon. Pentane was purified by reflux over sodium benzophenone ketyl and distilled under argon. Cyclic voltammograms were recorded with an EG&G 362 potentiostat connected to a Macintosh computer through MacLab hardware/software. The electrochemical cell was fitted with an Ag–AgCl reference electrode, a platinum disk working electrode and a platinum wire counter-electrode. $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$ (ca. 0.1 M) was used as supporting electrolyte in CH_2Cl_2 . All potentials are reported relative to the ferrocene standard, which was added to each solution and measured at the end of the experiments. The infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Vector 22 instrument equipped with a Globar (MIR) source. The solution spectra in the far IR ($480\text{--}300\text{ cm}^{-1}$) region were obtained from CH_2Cl_2 solutions in polyethylene cells (0.5 mm path length). The elemental analyses were carried out by the analytical services of LSEO and LCC with Fisons EA 1108 and Perkin–Elmer 2400 instruments, respectively. Titanium(III) chloride (Aldrich), triethylbenzylammonium chloride (Aldrich) and bis(triphenylphosphanyl)iminium (PPN) chloride (Aldrich) were used as received.

Synthesis of $[\text{NEt}_3\text{Bz}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$: A Schlenk tube was charged with TiCl_3 (0.114 g, 0.74 mmol) and $[\text{NEt}_3\text{Bz}]\text{Cl}$ (0.174 g, 0.76 mmol). Thionyl chloride (20 mL) was added by syringe under magnetic stirring and the apparatus was connected to an oil bubbler. **Warning:** The reaction between SOCl_2 and water (potentially present as a contaminant in the starting salts) produces toxic SO_2 and HCl , therefore the reaction must be carried out under a well-ventilated fume hood. The dark-purple suspension transformed gradually into a yellow solution. After four hours of stirring at room temperature, pentane (50 mL) was added, causing the precipitation of the product as a yellow powder. After filtration, the solid was washed with pentane and dried under vacuum for three hours. Yield: 0.276 g (45%). $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{44}\text{Cl}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{Ti}_2$: calcd. C 37.4, H 5.3, N 3.4; found C 37.8, H 5.1, N 3.3.

Synthesis of $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$: Following an identical procedure as described above for $[\text{NEt}_3\text{Bz}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$, 0.834 g (88%) of $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_{10}]$ was obtained starting from TiCl_3 (0.192 g, 1.24 mmol) and PPNCl (0.715 g, 1.25 mmol). $\text{C}_{72}\text{H}_{60}\text{Cl}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{P}_4\text{Ti}_2$: calcd. C 56.6, H 4.0, N 1.8; found C 56.0, H 3.7, N 1.8.

Synthesis of $[\text{PPN}][\text{Ti}_2\text{Cl}_9]$: A Schlenk tube was charged with TiCl_3 (0.565 g, 3.67 mmol) and PPNCl (1.050 g, 1.83 mmol). Thionyl chloride (30 mL) was added by syringe under magnetic stirring and the apparatus was connected to an oil bubbler. **Warning:** the reaction between SOCl_2 and water (potentially present as a contaminant in the starting salts) produces toxic SO_2 and HCl , therefore the reaction must be carried out under a well ventilated fume hood. The dark-purple suspension transformed gradually into a yellow solution. After cooling to room temperature, it was concentrated until approximately 10 mL and pentane (60 mL) was added, causing the precipitation of the product as a yellow powder. After filtration, the solid was washed with pentane and dried under vacuum. Yield:

1.574 g (87%). $C_{36}H_{30}Cl_9NP_2Ti_2$: calcd. C 45.3, H 3.2; found C 44.3, H 2.8.

Synthesis of $[PPN]_2[TiCl_6]$: Following an identical procedure as described above for $[PPN][Ti_2Cl_9]$, 0.822 g (96%) of $[PPN]_2[TiCl_6]$ was obtained starting from $TiCl_3$ (0.099 g, 0.64 mmol) and $PPNCl$ (0.740 g, 1.29 mmol). $C_{72}H_{60}Cl_{10}N_2P_4Ti_2$: calcd. C 64.6, H 4.5, N 2.1; found C 63.8, H 4.1, N 2.0. The solid state and solution IR characterization is presented in the Results and Discussion section.

Synthesis of a Product with Stoichiometry $[PPN]_3[Ti_2Cl_{11}]$: Following an identical procedure as described above for $[PPN][Ti_2Cl_9]$, $TiCl_3$ (0.112 g, 0.73 mmol) and $PPNCl$ (0.628 g, 1.09 mmol) yielded 0.712 g (93%) of a solid product corresponding to the $[PPN]_3[Ti_2Cl_{11}]$ stoichiometry. $C_{108}H_{90}Cl_{11}N_3P_6Ti_2$: calcd. C 61.7, H 4.3, N 2.0; found C 60.6, H 3.8, N 1.9. The solid state and solution IR characterization is presented in the Results and Discussion section.

X-ray Structural Determinations for Compound $[PPN][Ti_2Cl_9]$: A single crystal was mounted under inert perfluoropolyether at the tip of a glass fiber and cooled in the cryostream of the Oxford-Diffraction XCALIBUR CCD diffractometer. Data were collected using monochromatic Mo- K_α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$). The structure was solved by direct methods (SIR97)^[34] and refined by least-squares procedures on F^2 using SHELXL-97.^[35] All H-atoms attached to carbon were introduced in calculation in idealised positions [$d(CH) = 0.96$ Å] and treated as riding models. The drawing of the molecules (Figure 1) was realised with the help of ORTEP32.^[36] Crystal data and refinement parameters are shown in

Table 1 and selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 2. CCDC-233004 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge at www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html [or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax: +44-1223-336-033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].

Table 2. Bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for $[PPN][Ti_2Cl_9]$

Ti(1)–Ti(2)	3.3922(7)		
Ti(1)–Cl(11)	2.2216(8)	Ti(2)–Cl(21)	2.2124(9)
Ti(1)–Cl(12)	2.1955(8)	Ti(2)–Cl(22)	2.2175(9)
Ti(1)–Cl(13)	2.2046(9)	Ti(2)–Cl(23)	2.2031(9)
Ti(1)–Cl(31)	2.4620(8)	Ti(2)–Cl(31)	2.4937(8)
Ti(1)–Cl(32)	2.5098(8)	Ti(2)–Cl(32)	2.4785(8)
Ti(1)–Cl(33)	2.4775(8)	Ti(2)–Cl(33)	2.4496(8)
Cl(12)–Ti(1)–Cl(11)	98.02(3)	Cl(21)–Ti(2)–Cl(22)	97.49(4)
Cl(13)–Ti(1)–Cl(11)	97.12(3)	Cl(23)–Ti(2)–Cl(21)	96.84(3)
Cl(12)–Ti(1)–Cl(13)	99.71(3)	Cl(23)–Ti(2)–Cl(22)	98.94(4)
Cl(11)–Ti(1)–Cl(31)	91.45(3)	Cl(21)–Ti(2)–Cl(31)	91.30(3)
Cl(11)–Ti(1)–Cl(32)	90.86(3)	Cl(21)–Ti(2)–Cl(32)	89.43(3)
Cl(11)–Ti(1)–Cl(33)	166.67(3)	Cl(21)–Ti(2)–Cl(33)	166.33(3)
Cl(12)–Ti(1)–Cl(31)	91.01(3)	Cl(22)–Ti(2)–Cl(31)	89.23(3)
Cl(12)–Ti(1)–Cl(32)	165.52(3)	Cl(22)–Ti(2)–Cl(32)	165.02(3)
Cl(12)–Ti(1)–Cl(33)	91.65(3)	Cl(22)–Ti(2)–Cl(33)	92.14(3)
Cl(13)–Ti(1)–Cl(31)	165.17(3)	Cl(23)–Ti(2)–Cl(31)	167.58(3)
Cl(13)–Ti(1)–Cl(32)	90.45(3)	Cl(23)–Ti(2)–Cl(32)	93.37(3)
Cl(13)–Ti(1)–Cl(33)	90.21(3)	Cl(23)–Ti(2)–Cl(33)	91.19(3)
Cl(31)–Ti(1)–Cl(32)	77.29(3)	Cl(32)–Ti(2)–Cl(31)	77.29(3)
Cl(31)–Ti(1)–Cl(33)	79.18(3)	Cl(33)–Ti(2)–Cl(31)	79.11(3)
Cl(33)–Ti(1)–Cl(32)	77.92(3)	Cl(33)–Ti(2)–Cl(32)	79.04(3)

Table 1 Crystal data and structure refinement for $[PPN][Ti_2Cl_9]$

Empirical formula	$C_{36}H_{30}Cl_9NP_2Ti_2$
Molecular mass	953.40
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	$P\bar{1}$
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 9.9904(10)$ Å $b = 12.0458(12)$ Å $c = 17.4335(14)$ Å $\alpha = 86.057(8)^\circ$ $\beta = 82.379(8)^\circ$ $\gamma = 83.861(8)^\circ$
Volume	2064.4(3) Å ³
Z	2
Density (calculated)	1.534 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	1.075 mm ^{−1}
$F(000)$	960
Crystal size	0.16 × 0.09 × 0.04 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	2.95 to 26.37°
Index ranges	−12 ≤ h ≤ 9 −15 ≤ k ≤ 15 −21 ≤ l ≤ 21
Reflections collected	16046
Independent reflections	8414 [$R(int) = 0.0421$]
Completeness to $\theta = 26.37^\circ$	99.7%
Absorption correction	analytical
Max. and min. transmission	0.92334 and 0.78155
Refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data/restraints/parameters	8414/0/451
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	0.795
Final $R(int)$ [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	$R1 = 0.0348$, $wR2 = 0.0496$
$R(int)$ (all data)	$R1 = 0.0706$, $wR2 = 0.0554$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.349 and −0.428 e [−] Å ^{−3}

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the French Ministry of Research, to the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and to Polimeri Europa for support of this work, and to Mr. Sébastien Maria for technical assistance.

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Received April 10, 2004

Early View Article

Published Online August 17, 2004