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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

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### $^1\text{H}$ AND $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR SPECTRAL STUDIES OF SOME CYCLOPENTADIENYL IRON PHOSPHITE COMPLEXES. COMMENTS UPON THE EXTRACTION OF $J_{\text{HP}}$ AND $J_{\text{CP}}$ COUPLING CONSTANTS

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**To cite this Article** Duncanson, Philip and Osborne, Alan G.(1995) ' $^1\text{H}$  AND  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR SPECTRAL STUDIES OF SOME CYCLOPENTADIENYL IRON PHOSPHITE COMPLEXES. COMMENTS UPON THE EXTRACTION OF  $J_{\text{HP}}$  AND  $J_{\text{CP}}$  COUPLING CONSTANTS', Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements, 107: 1, 235 — 244

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/10426509508027939

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426509508027939>

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# <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRAL STUDIES OF SOME CYCLOPENTADIENYL IRON PHOSPHITE COMPLEXES. COMMENTS UPON THE EXTRACTION OF $J_{HP}$ AND $J_{CP}$ COUPLING CONSTANTS

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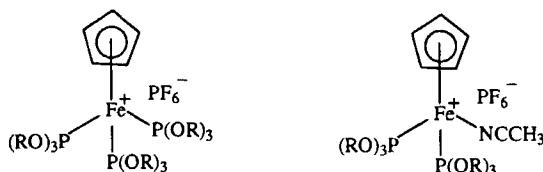
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(Received July 27, 1995; in final form August 15, 1995)

An AA'<sub>n</sub>X sub spectral analysis approach is proposed for the extraction of  $J_{HP}$  and  $J_{CP}$  coupling constants from the NMR spectra of cyclopentadienyliron phosphite complexes. Correlations with earlier corrected splitting values are presented.

**Key words:**  $J_{HP}$  and  $J_{CP}$  coupling constants, cyclopentadienyliron phosphite complexes, AA'<sub>n</sub>X sub spectra system, "virtual" coupling.

Ligand exchange reactions of  $\eta^6$ -arene- $\eta^5$ -cyclopentadienyliron cations with phosphite esters under either thermal or photochemical conditions have recently attracted some interest.<sup>1–3</sup> The resultant complexes (e.g. 1–3) have subsequently become versatile reagents for the synthesis<sup>4–6</sup> of a range of Fe<sup>II</sup> piano-stool complexes which have a useful role as electron transfer catalysts for the control of reactivity pathways.<sup>7,8</sup>



1 R=CH<sub>3</sub>, 2 R=CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, 3 R=C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>

4 R=CH<sub>3</sub>

Harris<sup>9</sup> has commented that the analysis of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of inorganic compounds that contain two or more phosphorus nuclei and which do not exhibit first order character have appeared to cause some mystification, especially when the spin systems are symmetric. Treatment of such spectra as AA'A'' . . . . X<sub>n</sub>X'<sub>n</sub>X''<sub>n</sub> . . . . systems was suggested and a procedure for the extraction of  $J_{AX} + J_{AX'} + J_{AX''}$  . . . . was given. However, despite the availability of this excellent monograph,<sup>9</sup> examples of inappropriate spectral analysis still continue to appear<sup>6,10,11</sup> which have also been perpetuated in some more recent <sup>13</sup>C NMR studies.<sup>6,12</sup>

In view of the continuing difficulties that the extraction of the appropriate  $J_{HP}$  and  $J_{CP}$  couplings still appears to present we now wish to report a simpler and more convenient approach for the analysis and presentation of these spin systems. This

approach has been applied to the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the aforementioned *tris* phosphite complexes 1–3 and also to the acetonitrile complex 4.<sup>10</sup>

## DISCUSSION

The underlying principles behind the simplified spectral analysis techniques for the complexes 1–3 presented in this paper may best be understood by reference to the more basic “model” ABX spin system,<sup>13a</sup> where  $X = ^1\text{H}$  and the A & B heteronuclei are  $^{31}\text{P}$ . Using the “X approximation approach” the X portion of such a second order system will comprise 6 lines symmetrically distributed about  $\delta_x$ . The two strongest lines have a separation equal to  $J_{AX} + J_{BX}$ . A special example of the ABX system must now be considered in which  $J_{BX} = 0$ .<sup>13b</sup> In such cases the X portion still comprises 6 lines, however, the outermost two are often quite weak and distant, and are frequently undetected, such that they have been described as “wings”. It is the resultant multiplicity of the remaining 4 stronger lines in the central X portion which, if analysed by a first order approximation, will produce erroneous results. This is because the observed multiplicity does *not* result from direct interactions with *both* nuclei A and B. Because of this unexpected additional multiplicity this effect has been termed<sup>14</sup> a “virtual coupling.”

The possible appearances for the central portion of the X signal have been shown diagrammatically in Figure 1.

In case a the outer lines have merged to give the appearance of a broadened simple doublet.

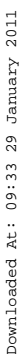
In case b, the 4-line pattern has the appearance of a doublet of doublets, however, the “roofing” effects are clearly inconsistent.

In case c, the appearance could again be taken as a doublet of doublets, or possibly of a 1:1:1:1 quartet. However, the latter description would only be strictly applicable for coupling to a single  $I = 3/2$  nucleus.

In case d, the inner lines have merged to give the appearance of an apparent triplet. First order analysis, such that  $J_{AX} = J_{BX}$  would, however, be inappropriate due to the broadened central band and considerable deviation from the expected 1:2:1 peak heights. For this case the outermost “wings” have also been illustrated.

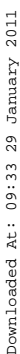
However, for all of cases a–d, the separation between lines 2 and 5 gives  $J_{AX} + J_{BX}$  (which with  $J_{BX} = 0$  actually represents  $J_{AX}$ ). This sum is the only accessible spectral parameter which may be readily extracted in all cases.

The above general principles may now be applied to the phosphite ester complexes 1–3. As suggested by Harris<sup>9</sup> such spectra should ideally be analysed as the full 30-spin  $AA'A''X_9X_9X_9''$  (retaining  $X = ^1\text{H}$ ) system for the methyl protons of 1 and 2, or as the full  $AA'A''X_6X_6X_6''$  system for the methylene protons of 2 to assess the required heteronuclear coupling. However, since any  $^8J_{HH}$  coupling between  $\text{CH}_3$  or  $\text{CH}_2$  groups bonded to the magnetically non-equivalent  $^{31}\text{P}$  nuclei may be taken as zero, then these alkyl protons may therefore be considered as effectively magnetically equivalent with respect to heteronuclear effects. The spin system may accordingly be simplified to a more manageable sub system. Such a procedure has merit since many spectral simulation programmes do not allow treatment of 21- or 30-spin sys-



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TABLE I  
300 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of Phosphite complexes ( $\delta$  p.p.m,  $J$  in Hz)

<u>Complex</u>	<u>Cp</u>		<u>Ligand</u>		
	$\delta$	$J_{\text{HP}}$	$\delta$	$J_{\text{HP}}$	$J_{\text{HH}}$
1	4.88 (q)	1.1	$\text{CH}_3$ : 3.83 (m) <sup>a</sup>	10.7 <sup>c</sup>	----
2	4.78 (q)	1.2	$\text{CH}_3$ : 1.35 (t)	----	7.0
			$\text{CH}_2$ : 4.22 (q of m) <sup>a</sup>	6.4 <sup>c</sup>	7.0
3	5.09 (q)	1.5	<i>o</i> -Ph : 7.05-7.11 (m)	----	----
			<i>m/p</i> -Ph : 7.20-7.32 (m)	----	----
4	4.71 (t)	1.3	$\text{CH}_3$ : 3.84 (m) <sup>b</sup>	10.9 <sup>c</sup>	----
			$\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ : 2.46 (t)	1.2	----

a - X portion of  $\text{AA}_2'\text{X}$  sub system (4 - lines)

b - X portion of  $\text{AA}_2'\text{X}$  sub system (80 MHz : 3 lines, <sup>10</sup> 300 MHz : 4 lines)

c -  $J_{\text{HP}} + (J_{\text{HP}}' = 0)$

resolved at high field (see Table I) the definitive identification of any  $^4J_{\text{HP}}$  coupling at the *ortho*-protons did not prove possible.

We have further extended our study (see Table I) to include the acetonitrile complex **4**, since the spectral interpretation of this compound has also presented some problems.<sup>10,11</sup> In accordance with one of the earlier investigations,<sup>10</sup> both the Cp and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  protons interact with the two  $^{31}\text{P}$  nuclei which are equidistant from these sites to give simple triplets as expected for the appropriate  $\text{A}_5\text{X}_2$  or  $\text{A}_3\text{X}_2$  ( $\text{X} = ^{31}\text{P}$ ) heteronuclear systems. However, in the later study made by Schumann *et al.*<sup>11</sup> these fine couplings were not resolved.

The coupling effects at the phosphite methyl protons are quite different, since the two  $^{31}\text{P}$  nuclei are then not equidistant and hence must be treated as being magnet-

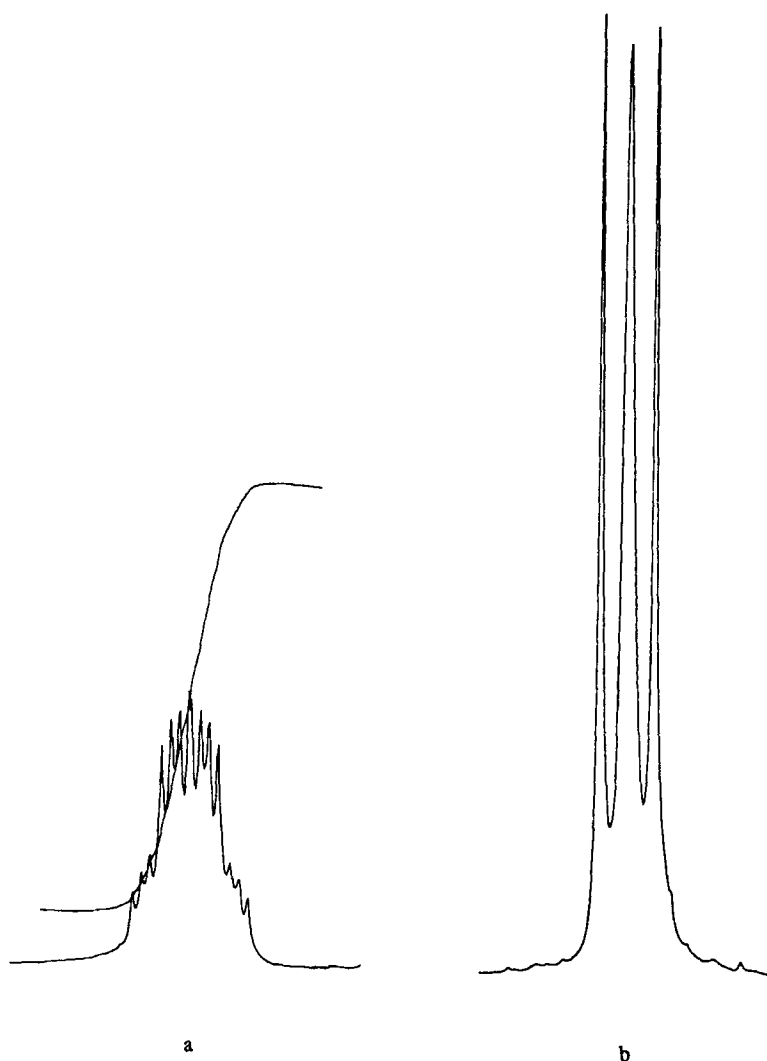


FIGURE 2 300 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectra: a) phosphite  $\text{CH}_2$  of complex **2** and b) phosphite  $\text{CH}_3$  of complex **4**.

ically non-equivalent. The sub system applicable in this case is therefore  $\text{AA}'\text{X}$ , which may be treated as for  $\text{AA}_2'\text{X}$ . Gill and Mann<sup>10</sup> observed an "apparent" triplet at 80 MHz from which  $J_{\text{HP}} = 10.8$  Hz was extracted by the procedure of Harris.<sup>9</sup> Such an analysis is entirely appropriate since the signal observed is just a special case for this sub system and is similar to that experienced for the "model" ABX case, see Figure 1d. In the present work at 300 MHz, a 4-line pattern was observed, see Figure 2b, from which  $J_{\text{HP}} = 10.9$  Hz was obtained. However, in the later study by Schumann *et al.*<sup>11</sup> the phosphite methyl protons were regarded as a true triplet arising from equal couplings to the phosphorus nuclei with  $J_{\text{PH}} = 5.0$  Hz. This analysis, and also those for the other nitrile complexes included in their study, is

TABLE II  
75 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of phosphite complexes ( $\delta$  p.p.m,  $J$  in Hz)

<u>Complex</u>	<u>Cp</u>		<u>Ligand</u>		
	$\delta$	$J_{\text{CP}}$	$\delta$	$J_{\text{CP}}$	$J_{\text{CP}}^{\text{lit}}$
1	82.47 (s)		$\text{CH}_3$ : 54.70 (m) <sup>a</sup>	8.6 <sup>b,d</sup>	5.7
2	82.68 (q)	0.8	$\text{CH}_3$ : 16.83 (m) <sup>a</sup>	6.3 <sup>c,d</sup>	2.1
			$\text{CH}_2$ : 63.37 (m) <sup>a</sup>	8.9 <sup>b,d</sup>	3.0
3	83.21 (s)		<i>i</i> -Ph : 153.09 (m) <sup>a</sup>	15.3 <sup>b</sup>	5.2
			<i>o</i> -Ph : 122.33		
			<i>m</i> -Ph : 131.24		
			<i>p</i> -Ph : 126.73		
<p>a - X portion of <math>\text{AA}_2'\text{X}</math> sub system (4 - lines)</p> <p>b - <math>^2J_{\text{CP}} + ^4J_{\text{CP}}</math></p> <p>c - <math>^3J_{\text{CP}} + ^5J_{\text{CP}}</math></p> <p>d - values obtained at 15 MHz were : 1, 8.6 Hz; 2 <math>\text{CH}_3</math>- 6.3 Hz ;</p> <p><math>\text{CH}_2</math>- 9.0 Hz.</p>					

inappropriate and accordingly the values need to be multiplied by a factor of 2 to provide the required values.

Some preliminary  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR studies of cyclopentadienyliron phosphite complexes have already been reported, however, their analysis for  $J_{\text{CP}}$  coupling constants has been fraught with difficulty.<sup>6,12</sup> Our results are presented in Table II.



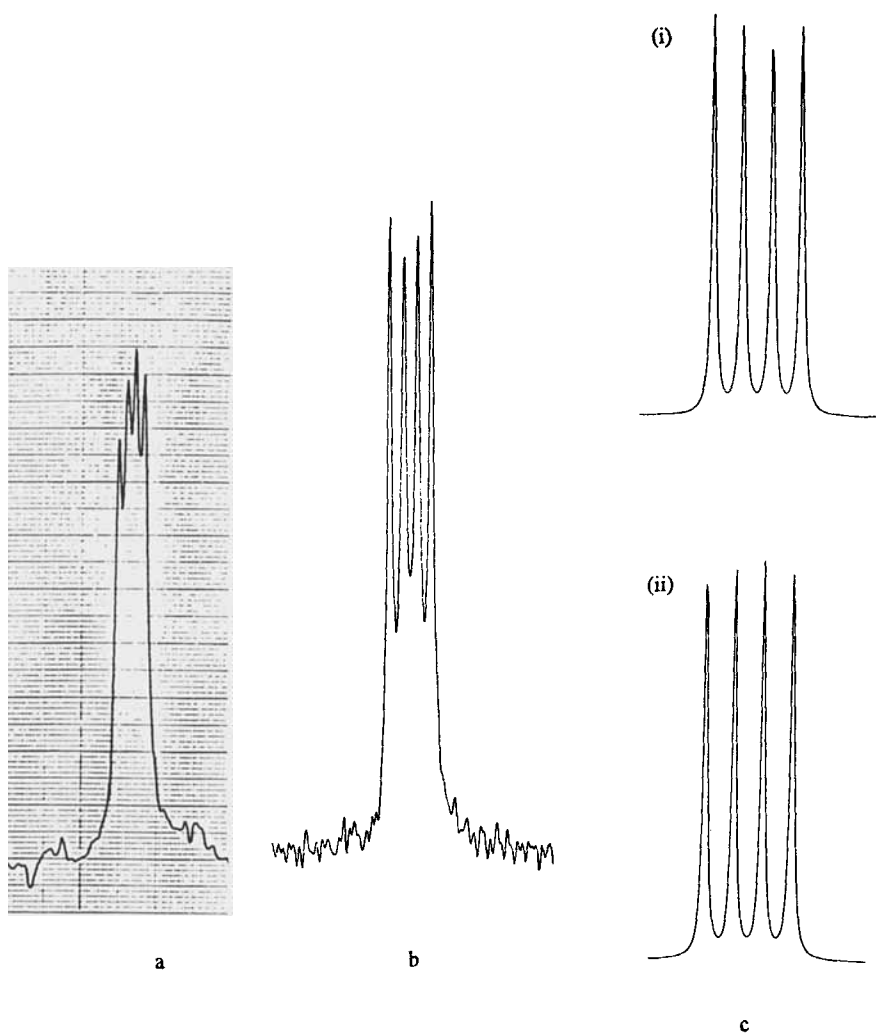
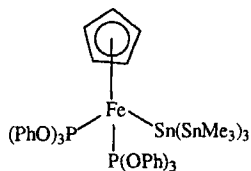


FIGURE 3  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of phosphite  $\text{CH}_3$  of complex 1: a) at 15 MHz; b) at 75 MHz and c) LAOCOON 5 simulation, (i)  $J_{\text{AA}'} = 20$  Hz, (ii)  $J_{\text{AA}'} = 30$  Hz.

In an early 25 MHz investigation, Kläui and Werner<sup>12</sup> studied the related *bis* (triphenylphosphite) nonamethyltetrastannane complex 5.



5

The  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra of the complex and of the triphenylphosphite ligand were illustrated in the paper. Whereas the *ipso*-phenyl signal of the ligand was a singlet, that

of the complex was a triplet due to "splitting by the  $^{31}\text{P}$ " for which  $J_{\text{CP}} = 8\text{ Hz}$  was reported.

The only study of the *tris* phosphite complexes 1–3 is that by Schumann,<sup>6</sup> in which the multiplicity of those carbon signals coupled to  $^{31}\text{P}$  was again reported as a 1:1:1:1 quartet and it was supposed that the individual line separations represented the appropriate  $^2J_{\text{CP}}$  or  $^3J_{\text{CP}}$  couplings. Such an analysis is clearly inappropriate.

For our work, the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR studies were conducted at two different frequencies, 15 MHz and 75 MHz. In all of the spectra, at both frequencies, the coupled nuclei appeared as 4-line patterns. (see Figures 3a and 3b) which resembled those noted earlier for the "model" ABX system, see Figure 1c. Analysis of these signals may again be satisfactorily undertaken as an  $\text{AA}'_2\text{X}$  sub system ( $\text{X} = ^{13}\text{C}$ ). Two simulations of the system using  $J_{\text{AX}} = 9\text{ Hz}$ ,  $J_{\text{A}'\text{X}} = 0\text{ Hz}$  with (i)  $J_{\text{PP}} = 20\text{ Hz}$  and (ii)  $J_{\text{PP}} = 30\text{ MHz}$  have been performed. The results are also shown in Figure 3, an excellent correlation may be seen. The values used for  $^2J_{\text{P-Fc-P}}$  ( $J_{\text{AA}'}$ ) were estimates since suitable literature values do not appear to be readily available.<sup>16,17</sup>

Some correlations with the earlier coupling studies are now presented. For the trimethylphosphite complex 1, the earlier  $J_{\text{CP}}$  value<sup>6</sup> of 5.7 Hz was obtained from a 1:1:1:1 quartet, however, it would appear that this represents the separation between only 3 lines, since multiplication by a factor of 1.5 gives  $J = 8.55\text{ Hz}$ , close to the value obtained in the present work (see Table II). In the case of the triethylphosphite complex 2, the earlier values obtained from individual line separations require multiplication by a factor of 3 to give  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 9.0\text{ Hz}$ , and  $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 6.3\text{ Hz}$ , consistent with our values (see Table II). Similar re-assessments of the earlier values for  $^2J_{\text{CP}}$  of 3 ( $5.2 \times 3 = 15.6\text{ Hz}$ ) and of 5 ( $8 \times 2 = 16\text{ Hz}$ ) also produce consistent results for the *ipso*-phenyl carbons. Although the Cp carbon signals for 1 and 3 both appeared as singlets at 75 MHz (with some broadening apparent) that for 2 was split into a very fine quartet,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 0.8\text{ Hz}$ .

We recommend that for the extraction of  $J_{\text{HP}}$  and  $J_{\text{CP}}$  coupling constants the  $\text{AA}'_n\text{X}$  sub spectrum approach be used to obtain values of  $J_{\text{HP}}(+J_{\text{HP}})$  and  $J_{\text{CP}}(+J_{\text{CP}})$ , and the signals be described as the appropriate multiplets. Moreover, any literature coupling constants obtained from simple "triplet" or "quartet" line separations will require multiplication by the appropriate factor to provide suitable corrected values.

## EXPERIMENTAL

300 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  and 75 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker AC 300 spectrometer as previously described.<sup>18</sup> 15 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were obtained using a Jeol FX 60 instrument as previously described.<sup>19</sup> Spectral simulations were performed using a LAOCOON 5 program supplied by NMRI Ltd.

The complexes were synthesised by the established procedure indicated; 1 and 2 (Reference 3), 3 (Reference 2) and 4 (Reference 8).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Dr. I. R. Herbert, Courtaulds Research Ltd, Coventry for measuring the 300 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  and 75 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra and for the  $\text{AA}'_n\text{X}$  spectral simulations.

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