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Hans. H. Karsch; Roland Richter; Eva Witt

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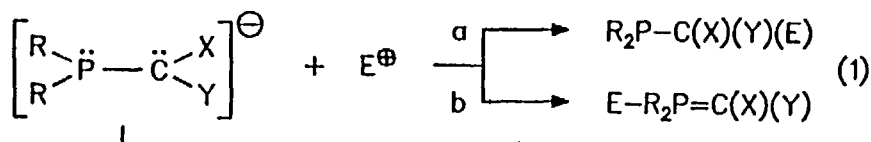
AMBIDENT PHOSPHINOMETHANIDE LIGANDS: FROM ROBUST COMPLEXES TO FRAGILE FRAMEWORKS

HANS. H. KARSCH*, ROLAND RICHTER and EVA WITT
 Anorganisch-chemisches Institut, Technische Universität München, Lichtenbergstraße 4, D-85747 Gar-
 ching, Germany

Abstract The ambidentate nature of phosphinomethanides leads to a broad variety of coordination modes to metal centers. For instance, high phosphine coordination numbers are achieved with diphosphinomethanide ligands. Furthermore, phosphinomethanides undergo readily rearrangements on reaction with electrophiles, leading to a manifold of new compounds with unexpected structural features, e.g. novel heterocycles. In addition, redox reactions with oxidative coupling of the phosphinomethanides are often encountered, which again lead to novel heterocyclic structures with group 15 element oxidants like PCl_3 or AsCl_3 .

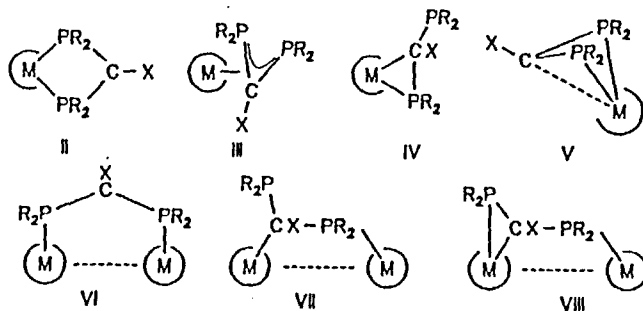
INTRODUCTION

Whereas carbon commonly is regarded as the typical element of the second period in the periodic table, phosphorus can be regarded as representative for the heavier elements. A comparison of both elements with regard to their chemical properties should use a system, which comprises the same number of bonds and electrons for both elements. This requirement is met by phosphinomethanides I, where both elements are connected directly together, which has the additional advantage, that the reactivity can be evaluated with one single component. Both reaction at carbon as well as at phosphorus is possible and tunable by the appropriate choice of substituents R, X and Y (eq. 1).



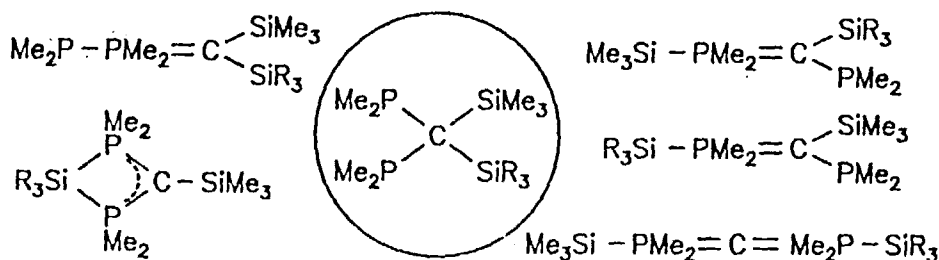
HIGH COORDINATION NUMBERS

Simple phosphinomethanides ($X = Y = H$) will react with most kind of electrophiles via carbon (a). With hetero-element substituents at carbon, ylide formation (b) is also possible. Thus, with diphosphinomethanides ($Y = PR_2$), complexes of s/p,d,f elements with high phosphine coordination numbers and with numerous kinds of coordination modes are accessible, e.g. II-VIII.



SKELETON REARRANGEMENTS/MONOFUNCTIONAL SYSTEMS

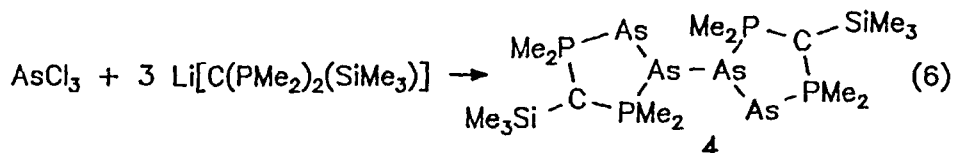
The coordination of heteroelement substituted phosphinomethanides to (formal) silicenium or phosphonium type of electrophiles depends on reaction conditions and substitution patterns. Quite frequently, the initially formed products are not stable and rearrange to thermodynamically more stable products. Thus combining $Li[C(PMe_2)_2(SiMe_3)]$ with R_3SiCl , potentially six different isomers are possible and - at least in part - indeed observed:



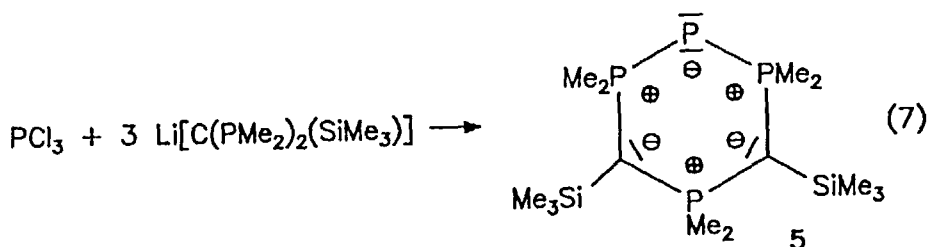
OXIDATIVE COUPLING OF PHOSPHINOMETHANIDES

P-P, P-C and C-C coupling reactions are observed in the reaction of titanocene dichloride with lithium phosphino-methanides. Similar coupling reactions are also observed in the reactions with group 15 element halides.

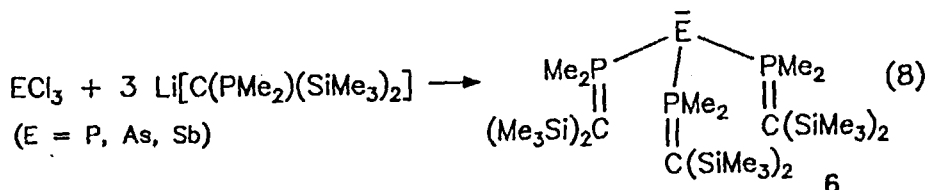
Thus, for instance, the tetranuclear arsenic derivative 4 is obtained according to eq. (6).



With PCl_3 , a variety of heterocycles with low coordinate phosphorus is obtained, e.g. according to eq. (7).



The postulated intermediate, a trisilyldic phosphine derivative can be characterized as well as its heavier congeners by slight changes in the substitution pattern eq.(8).



Compounds, 1-6 have been characterized by NMR spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction.

REFERENCE

H.H. Karsch, Russ. Chem. Bull. 1993, 42, 1937