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AMBIDENT PHOSPHINOMETHANIDE LIGANDS: FROM ROBUST COMPLEXES TO FRAGILE FRAMEWORKS

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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 PC1, or AsCl.

INTRODUCTION

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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).

$$\begin{bmatrix} R \\ R \end{bmatrix} \ddot{P} - \ddot{C} \lesssim_{Y}^{X} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\Theta} + E^{\Theta} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \xrightarrow{B_{2}P - C(X)(Y)(E)} + E^{-R_{2}P = C(X)(Y)}$$
(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 phosphino-methanides to (formal) silicenium or phosphenium 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(PMe₂)₂(SiMe₃)] with R₃SiCl, potentially six different isomers are possible and - at least in part - indeed observed:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Me}_2\text{P} - \text{PMe}_2 &= \text{C} < \underbrace{\overset{\text{SiMe}_3}{\text{SiR}_3}}_{\text{SiR}_3} \\ \text{Me}_2\text{P} &= \text{C} < \overset{\text{SiMe}_3}{\text{PMe}_2} \\ \text{R}_3\text{Si} &= \underbrace{\overset{\text{Me}_2}{\text{P}}}_{\text{C}} \\ \text{SiR}_3 \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{aligned} \text{Me}_3\text{Si} - \text{PMe}_2 &= \text{C} < \overset{\text{SiMe}_3}{\text{PMe}_2} \\ \text{R}_3\text{Si} - \text{PMe}_2 &= \text{C} < \overset{\text{SiMe}_3}{\text{PMe}_2} \end{aligned}$$

SKELETON REARRANGEMENTS/MULTIFUNCTIONAL SYSTEMS

The interaction of a silicon center with more than one phosphinomethanide ligand again will result in different kind of products (eq. 2):

$$R_{2}SiCl_{2} + Li[C(PMe_{2})_{2}(X)] \xrightarrow{Si-P} R_{2}Si[CH(PMe_{2})_{2}]_{2}$$

$$(tetrahedral)$$

$$R_{2}Si[CH(PMe_{2})_{2}]_{2}$$

$$(tetrahedral)$$

$$R_{2}Si[(PMe_{2})_{2}C(SiMe_{3})]_{2}$$

$$(octahedral)$$

Rearrangement and additional metalation is observed in the case of eq. (3), resulting in the novel, fluctional heterocycles 1.

RSiCl₃ + 3 Li[C(PMe₂)₂(SiMe₃)]
$$\longrightarrow$$
 Representation $\stackrel{\text{Me}_2}{\sim}$ $\stackrel{\text{SiMe}_3}{\sim}$ $\stackrel{\text{PMe}_2}{\sim}$ (3)

(R = Me, Ph, 'Bu)

P - PMe₂

Me 1

A methyl migration from one silicon to the other and chlorophosphine elimination are the key steps in the formation of the novel heterocycle 2, probably via a silene intermediate (eq. 4)

PhSiCl₃ + 2 Li[C(PMe₂)(SiMe₃)₂]
$$\longrightarrow$$
 \longrightarrow C C C SiMe₃ (4) \longrightarrow Me₃Si \longrightarrow Me₂Si \longrightarrow Ph Me

A silene intermediate also may be involved in the formation of the novel heterocycle 3 (eq. 5)

$$Ph_{2}SiCl_{2} + Li[CH(PMe_{2})_{2}] \longrightarrow Me_{2}P \qquad C \qquad PMe_{2}$$

$$Me_{2}P \qquad C \qquad PMe_{2} \qquad (5)$$

$$Me_{2}P \qquad Si \qquad PMe_{2}$$

$$Ph_{2} \qquad 3$$

OXIDATIVE COUPLING OF PHOSPHINOMETHANIDES

P-P, P-C and C-C coupling reactions are observed in the reaction of titanocene dichloride with lithium phosphinomethanides. 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).

$$AsCl_3 + 3 Li[C(PMe_2)_2(SiMe_3)] \xrightarrow{Me_2P} As Me_2P - C - SiMe_3$$

$$AsCl_3 + 3 Li[C(PMe_2)_2(SiMe_3)] \xrightarrow{Me_3P} As - As \qquad (6)$$

$$Me_3Si - C - PMe_2 \qquad As - PMe_2 \qquad (6)$$

With PCl₃, a variety of heterocycles with low coordinate phosphorus is obtained, e.g. according to eq. (7).

$$PCl_{3} + 3 \text{ Li}[C(PMe_{2})_{2}(SiMe_{3})] \longrightarrow Me_{3}Si \xrightarrow{P \oplus \Theta} PMe_{2}$$

$$Me_{3}Si \xrightarrow{P \oplus \Theta} PMe_{2}$$

$$Me_{3}Si \xrightarrow{P \oplus \Theta} SiMe_{3}$$

$$Me_{2} = 5$$

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

ECI₃ + 3 Li[C(PMe₂)(SiMe₃)₂]
$$\longrightarrow$$
 Me₂P \int PMe₂ (8)
(E = P, As, Sb) (Me₃Si)₂C || PMe₂ || C(SiMe₃)₂ C(SiMe₃)₂ 6

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

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