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Unusual Regioselectivity in the Reactions of Chlorocyclophosphazene-Containing Crown Ethers with Dinucleophiles

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UNUSUAL REGIOSELECTIVITY IN THE REACTIONS OF CHLOROCYCLOPHOSPHAZENE-CONTAINING CROWN ETHERS WITH DINUCLEOPHILES

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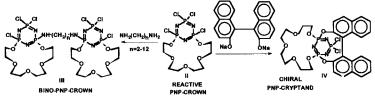
Abstract: New macrocyclic ligands with cyclophosphazene sub-units, representing geminally diamino-bridged derivatives of BINO-crown type (III), and bisansa-cyclosubstituted ones of chiral PNP cryptand type (IV) have been obtained by the regioselective substitution reactions of monoansa(oxytetraethylenoxy) reactive PNP-crown, N₃P₃Cl₄[O(CH₂CH₂O)₄] (II) with the dinucleophiles, like alkylenediamines or sodium diarylates. The supramolecular control of these processes is discussed.

Key Words: regioselective substitution, cyclophosphazenes, crown ethers, bis-crowns, cryptands

Only a few phosphorus cryptands and bimacrocycles are reported [1]. Therefore there is a need to develop synthetic routes to these systems which might present interesting complexation properties.

A new class of functional macrocyclic ligands with cyclophosphazene sub-units has been obtained in our laboratory by cyclosubstitution reactions of hexachlorocyclotriphosphazatriene, N₃P₃Cl₆ (I), with tetraethylene glycol in the presence of NaH, the resp. mono-ansa(oxytetraethylenoxy) derivative, N₃P₃Cl₄(O(CH₂CH₂O)₄), (II) being a major product of this reaction [2]. Owing to the incorporation of a 3-membered -P=N-P= fragment of the N₃P₃ ring into the macrocyclic polyether skeleton, the crown II is capable of forming coordination complexes both with alkali and transition metal cations.

The presence in PNP-macrocycle II of 4 reactive chloride functions enables the condensation of this compound with dinucleophiles, like alkylenediamines, or sodium diarylates, leading to the formation of the respective geminally diamino-bridged derivatives of BINO-crown type, III, or geminally cyclobis(dioxysubstituted) ones of the bis-ansa type, IV [3], representing chiral PNP cryptand:



Unusual regioselectivity of geminal substitution of chlorine atoms in II with the aforementioned dinucleophiles has been ascribed by us to the formation of the intermediate complexes of II with the resp. reagents; in the case of diamines a "sandwich"-type complex structure has been assumed. Without the supramolecular control the course of the given dinucleophilic substitution reactions would be determined by the respective steric and/or thermodynamic factors, that should yield structures different than III or IV: non-geminally bridged BINO-PNP-crowns (when reacting II with longer-chain diamines, n>4), or spiro-substituted PNP-ansa-macrocycles (in the reactions of II with shorter-chain diamines (n=2,3) and bis- β -naphthol). The formation of spiro structures in the reaction of I with bis- β -naphthol has been previously reported [4]. Studies on elucidating the phenomenon of supramolecular control in dinucleophilic substitution reactions of II are under way.

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