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### Copper(I) Complexes with Electron Deficient $\mu_3$ -PRR' Bridging - a Novel Coordination Mode of Secondary Phosphido Groups in Transition Metal Chemistry

D. J. Brauer<sup>a</sup>; P. C. Knuppel<sup>a</sup>; O. Stelzer<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Fachbereich 9, Anorg. Chemie, Bergische Universität-GH Wuppertal, Wuppertal 1

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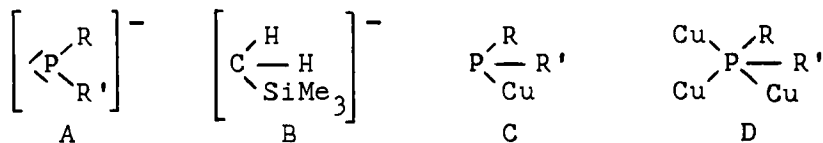
# COPPER(I) COMPLEXES WITH ELECTRON DEFICIENT $\mu_3$ -PRR' BRIDGING - A NOVEL COORDINATION MODE OF SECONDARY PHOSPHIDO GROUPS IN TRANSITION METAL CHEMISTRY

D. J. BRAUER, P. C. KNÜPPEL and O. STELZER  
 Fachbereich 9, Anorg. Chemie, Bergische Universität-  
 GH Wuppertal, Gaußstraße 20, D-5600 Wuppertal 1

**Abstract** Copper(I) phosphido complexes containing electron deficient  $\mu_3$ -PRR' bridges are formed by P-Si cleavage reactions in silylphosphines with CuCl or by depolymerization of polymeric  $[\text{Cu}(\text{PPh}_2)]_n$  with  $\text{PMe}_3$  or  $\text{PMe}_3/\text{CuCl}$ .

## INTRODUCTION

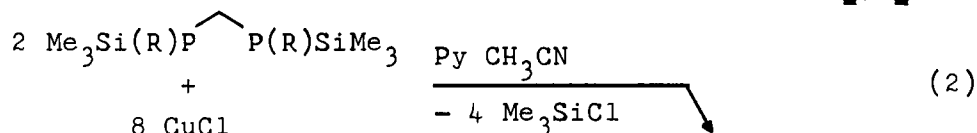
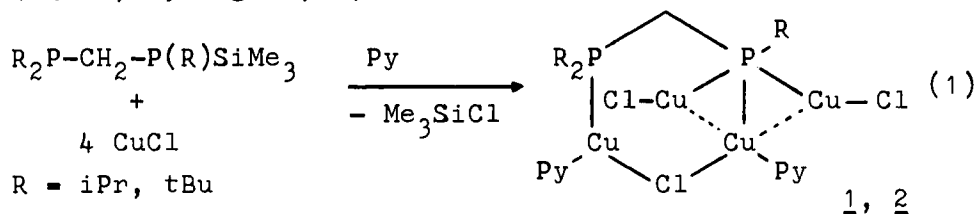
Secondary phosphido groups PRR' (A) with their two lone electron pairs typically bind two transition metals via electron precise M-P bonds.<sup>1</sup> Metal-metal bridging may, however, also be achieved by ligands X providing only one pair of electrons for bonding within the M-X-M units, the tetrameric copper(I) alkyls, e. g.  $[\text{Cu}(\text{CH}_2\text{-SiMe}_3)]_4$ <sup>2</sup> being an example. The copper(I) phosphido species PRR'Cu (C) which are isoelectronic to  $\text{CH}_2\text{SiMe}_3^-$  (B) should have the potential of binding two additional Cu(I) ions thus forming electron deficient  $\mu_3$ -PRR'Cu<sub>3</sub> bridges (D).



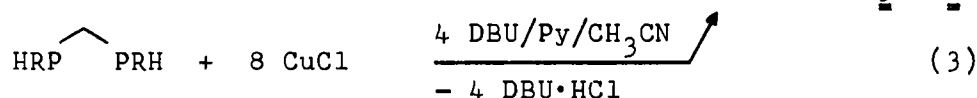
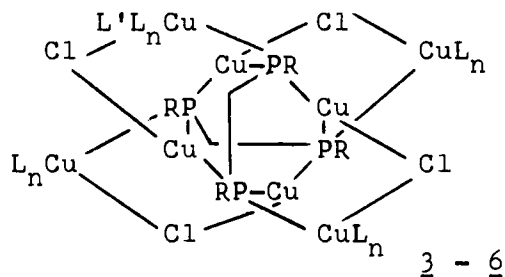
## Formation of Copper(I) Phosphido Complexes with $\mu_3$ -PRR' Bridges

Copper(I) complexes showing this new type of coordination mode for secondary phosphido groups may be obtained by i) cleavage of the P-Si bonds in silylphosphines with copper(I) halides or ii) depolymerization of polymeric copper(I) phosphides by Lewis bases (e.g. pyridine,  $\text{PMe}_3$ ). In preliminary work<sup>3,4</sup> we were able to show very recently that cleavage of the P-Si bond in the silylphosphines

(iPr)<sub>2</sub>P-CH<sub>2</sub>-P(iPr)SiMe<sub>3</sub><sup>5</sup> or Me<sub>3</sub>Si(iPr)P-CH<sub>2</sub>-P(iPr)SiMe<sub>3</sub><sup>5</sup> with CuCl in presence of pyridine affords copper(I) phosphido complexes containing  $\mu_3$ -P(iPr)(-CH<sub>2</sub>-)Cu<sub>3</sub> units (eq. 1, 2; fig. 1, 2).



R = iPr, tBu,  
2,4,6-Me<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>  
L, L' = Py, CH<sub>3</sub>CN  
n = 1, 2



In an alternative synthetic approach to the Cu<sub>8</sub> clusters 3 - 6 disubstituted methylenebisphosphines are employed as a source of [RP-CH<sub>2</sub>-PR]<sup>2-</sup> bridging anions (eq. 3).

Compounds 1 - 6 were characterized by molecular weight determinations, <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR spectra and conductivity measurements indicating a monomeric and nonionic structure in solution.

The x-ray structural analysis of 1 revealed that the R<sub>2</sub>P-CH<sub>2</sub>-PR unit ligates each copper atom and established  $\mu_3$ -bridging of the P(iPr)-CH<sub>2</sub> phosphido group (fig. 1). In the solid state 1 exists as an infinite polymer through Cu-Cl-Cu bridging of the monomers. The coordination geometry at P1 is distorted trigonal bipyramidal with P1, Cu2, Cl1, C4 forming the equatorial plane, the "axial" copper atoms Cu1 and Cu3 being inclined by 67.4° (Cu2-P1-Cu1)

and  $70.4^\circ$  (Cu3-P1-Cu2) towards this plane.

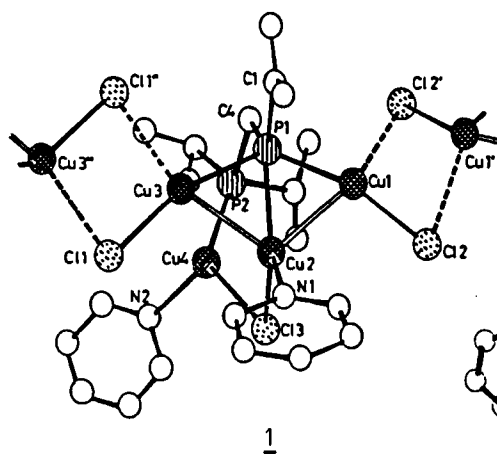


FIGURE 1

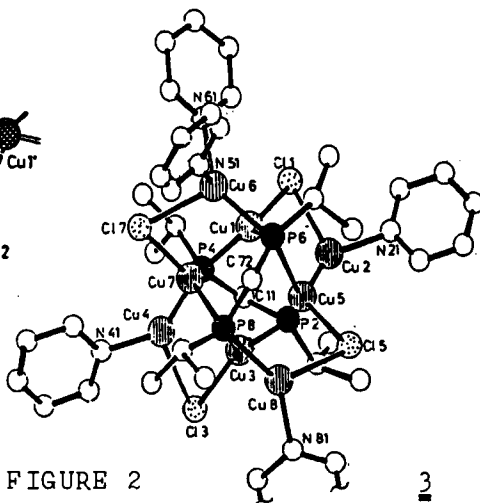
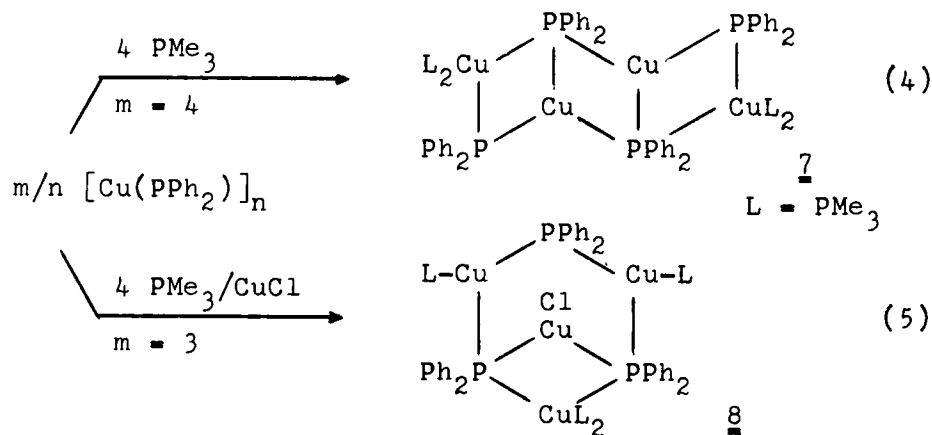


FIGURE 2

In the cluster type compound 3 ( $R = iPr$ ) four  $CuCl(Py)_n$  groups ( $n = 1, 2$ ) are bound to the  $Cu_4(RPCH_2PR)_2$  core via  $Cu-Cl-Cu$  and  $Cu-P-Cu$  bridges. As a result four electron deficient  $\mu_3-PR(CH_2)Cu_3$  units with distorted trigonal bipyramidal coordination geometry at P are formed.

Depolymerization of polymeric copper(I) phosphido complexes turned out to be an alternative synthetic procedure for the preparation of novel copper(I) phosphido complexes with  $\mu_3-PR_2$  bridges. Thus reaction of  $[Cu(PPh_2)]_n^6$  with  $PMe_3$  or  $PMe_3/CuCl$  yielded phosphido complexes (7, 8) containing  $\mu_2-PPh_2$  and  $\mu_3-PPh_2$  in the same molecule (eq. 4, 5).



The x-ray structural analysis of **8** (fig. 3, 4) shows an almost planar six-membered  $\text{Cu}_3\text{P}_3$  ring system to which one  $\text{CuCl}$  acceptor unit is added, thus forming two  $\mu_3\text{-PPh}_2\text{Cu}_3$  units with distorted trigonal bipyramidal coordination at phosphorus.

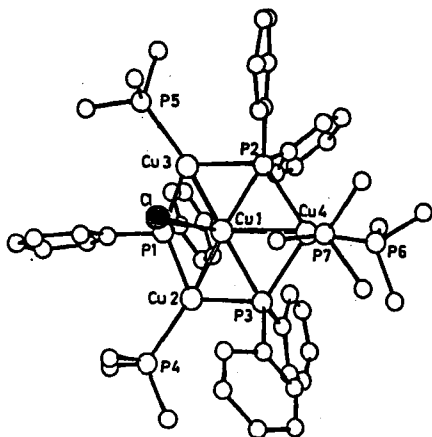


FIGURE 3

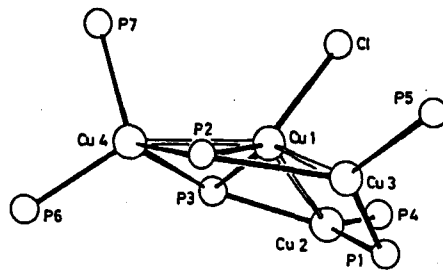


FIGURE 4

The atoms Cu1, P2, C19, C13 or Cu1, P3, C25, C31 define the equatorial planes, Cu3 and Cu4 or Cu2 and Cu4 occupy the "axial" positions. The position of the  $\text{CuCl}$  acceptor and the geometry of the six-membered  $\text{Cu}_3\text{P}_3$  ring system is shown in fig. 4. The average values of  $\text{Cu-P}(\mu_2\text{-PPh}_2)$  (229.5 pm) and  $\text{Cu-P}(\mu_3\text{-PPh}_2)$  239.0 (eq) or 246.5 ppm (ax)) are in agreement with the electron deficient nature of  $\text{Cu-P}$  bonding in the  $\mu_3\text{-PPh}_2\text{Cu}$  units.

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