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Elgctron Density Distribution and Intramolecular Dynayics in Phosphorane (Cl₂C)₂PCl₂

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ELECTRON DENSITY DISTRIBUTION AND INTRAMOLECULAR DYNAMICS IN PHOSPHORANE (Cl₃C)₂PCl₃

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The trigonal-bipyramidal structure of phosphorane (Cl₃C)₂PCl₃ (I) with two non-equivalent axial Cl₃C-groups at the P atom was established by the X-ray diffraction method. At 2930K these groups are involved in independent libration around the longest molecular axis and some characteristics of these motions were estimated from diffraction data. Electron density distribution in I was studied at 153°K (\lambda Mo, ca. 7000 reflections, "high-angle" refinement to R=0.027 using 1310 reflections with $\sin\theta/\lambda \geqslant$ 0.70 A^{-1}). At low temperature the above-mentioned independent librations of the Cl₃C-groups become frozen, which is proved by the rigid-body analysis of the anisotropic thermal parameters of I, and also by the NQR 35 Cl spectral data. All chemical bonds in I are characterized by peaks of positive deformation electron density (DED). Positive DED peaks are also found near Cl-atoms and attributed to the lone pairs of Cl-atoms. Elongation of the P-C bonds (2.000 (2) and 1.992 (2) $^{\rm A}$) is caused by electrostatic repulsion of the positively charged P and C atoms, whose charges were estimated from diffraction data. The character of the electron density distribution in I is in accordance with the generally accepted notion on the nature of chemical bonds in pentacovalent phosphoranes.