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### The Mediated Cyclooligomerization of Phosphaalkynes-New Aspects in the Synthesis of Polycyclic Phosphorus Compounds [1]

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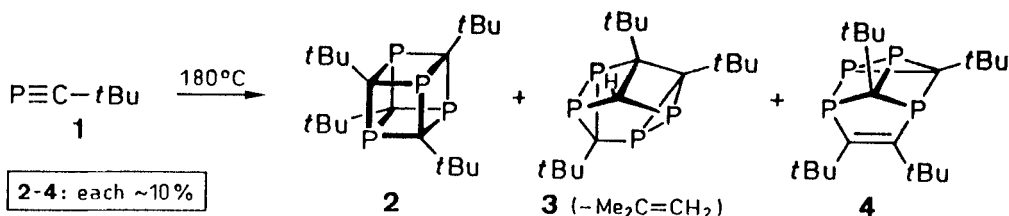
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## THE MEDIATED CYCLOOLIGOMERIZATION OF PHOSPHAALKYNES - NEW ASPECTS IN THE SYNTHESIS OF POLYCYCLIC PHOSPHORUS COMPOUNDS [1]

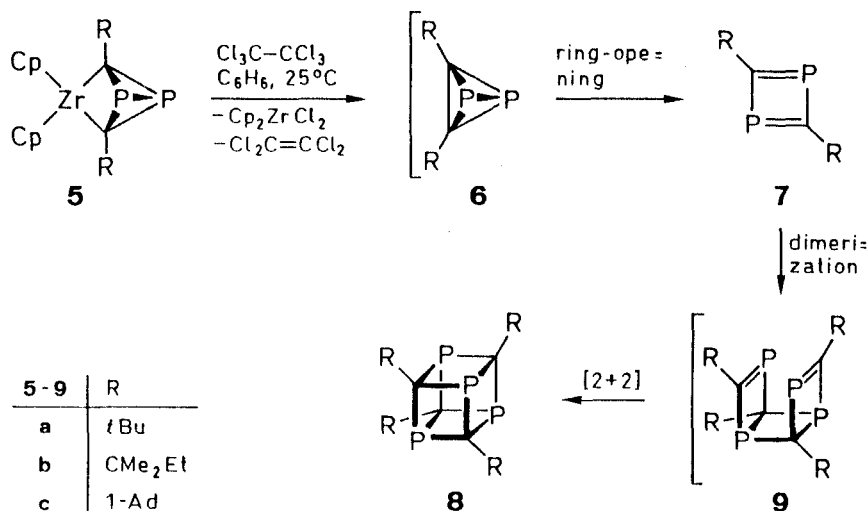
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**Abstract** Cyclooligomerization reactions of phosphaaalkynes make a great variety of polycyclic phosphorus compounds (**2-4**, **10-15**, **20**, **21**) readily available.

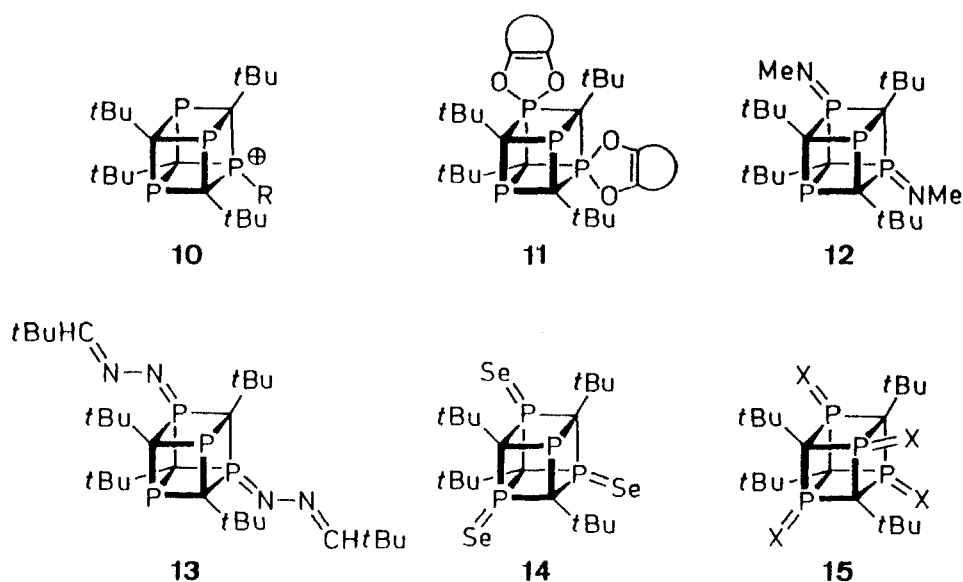
The uncatalyzed thermal cyclooligomerization of phosphaaalkyne **1** [2] leads first of all to the formation of cyclotetramers having cubane (**2**), cuneane (**3**) and bis(homo)prismane structure (**4**) [3].



Cubane formation is optimal [ $\rightarrow$  **8a-c**(**8a=2**)] and barely accompanied by side-products when the zirconium complexes **5** [4] are treated with hexachloroethane [5]. We presume that the diphosphatetrahedrane **6**, the diphosphete **7** as well as the tricyclic bis(phosphaaalkene) **9** are intermediates in the formation of the pentacyclic compounds. Evidence for the intermediacy of **7** comes from the isolation of its  $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_3$ -complex which is formed when the  $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_4$ -complex of **5** is treated with hexachloroethane [5].

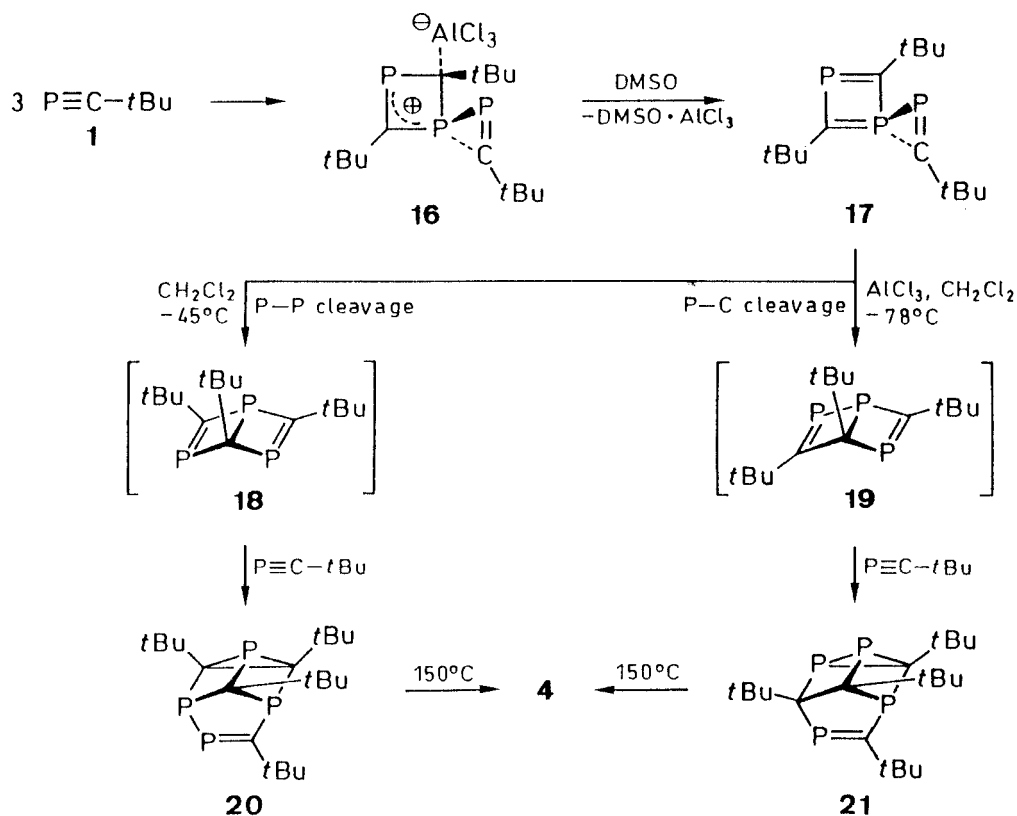


Tetraphosphacubane **8a** ( $\approx 2$ ) - now available in high yields - can be functionalized at the phosphorus atoms though their nucleophilicity has been reduced dramatically by participation of the P-"lone-pair" in the  $\sigma$ -P-C-bonding. Alkylation with methyl triflate as well as complex formation with nonacarbonyl diiron only takes place at one phosphorus atom [ $\rightarrow$  **10a**: R=CH<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>; **10b**: R=Fe(CO)<sub>4</sub>] even with an excess of the reagents.



A twofold [4+1] cycloaddition is observed with two equivalents of tetrahalogeno ortho quinones to yield the spirocyclic compounds of type **11**<sup>[6]</sup>. The same degree of substitution is observed in the Staudinger-reaction with methyl azide ( $\rightarrow$  **12**) and in the phosphazine formation with diazo compounds ( $\rightarrow$  **13**)<sup>[6]</sup>. In the selenation reaction three phosphorus atoms are attacked ( $\rightarrow$  **14**), whereas the oxidation with elemental sulfur or bis(trimethylsilyl)peroxide results in a complete transformation of the  $\lambda^3\sigma^3$ - into  $\lambda^5\sigma^4$ -phosphorus atoms (**15**, X=S,O)<sup>[6]</sup>.

The Lewis-acid induced cyclooligomerization of phosphaaalkynes opens a new field in the chemistry of low-coordinated phosphorus. If the phosphaaalkyne **1** and aluminium chloride are reacted in a ratio of 3:1, the spirocyclic betaine **16** can be isolated in excellent yield (> 90%)<sup>[7]</sup>. Removal of the Lewis acid, e.g. with dimethylsulfoxide generates the 1,3-diphosphete **17** having both a  $\lambda^3\sigma^2$ - and a  $\lambda^5\sigma^4$ -phosphorus atom.



This high-energy compound rearranges under the formation of Dewar-triphosphabenzene (**18** by P-P cleavage, **19** by P-C cleavage under assistance of an excess of  $\text{AlCl}_3$ ), which can be trapped by homo-Diels-Alder-reaction with **1** as cycloaddition partner to form the tetracyclic tetraphosphaoctenes **20** and **21**. Compounds of this type represent isomers of **8a(=2)** and can be transformed by thermal means into **4**<sup>[7]</sup>.

A detailed discussion of the reaction mechanisms as well as convincing arguments for the structure of the isolated compounds have been given in the oral presentation of this work.

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