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NOVEL ALUMINUM AND GALLIUM ATRANE STRUCTURES AND REACTIVITIES

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Abstract New monomeric azaaluminatranes and gallatranes of the type

$\overline{M(RNCH_2CH_2)_3N}$ ($M = Al$, $R = Me_3Si$ (8) or *tert*-BuMe₂Si (9); $M = Ga$, $R = Me_3Si$ (10) or *tert*-BuMe₂Si (11)) have been prepared, with characterization including a molecular structure determination in the case of 8. Three dimeric

azaalumatrane, namely, $\overline{[Al(MeNCH_2CH_2)_3N]_2}$ (12) and

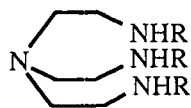
$\overline{[Al(Me_3SiNCH_2CH_2)_2(HNCH_2CH_2)N]_2}$ (13) and $\overline{[Ga(MeNCH_2CH_2)_3N]_2}$ (14) have also been structurally characterized and all three compounds feature a central (M-N)₂ four-membered ring with a *cis* configuration of the nitrogen substituents. Some of the reaction chemistry of these systems is outlined and ²⁷Al NMR trends as a function of coordination number and geometry are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Owing to efforts to improve the preparation of nitride ceramic materials and semiconductors¹⁻⁶, reactivity and structural studies of compounds of group 13 elements bonded to nitrogen is a research area of considerable current activity. While there is a vast literature concerning such compounds with multidentate amine ligands, few of these amines are highly symmetrical ones⁷.

SYNTHESES AND REACTIONS

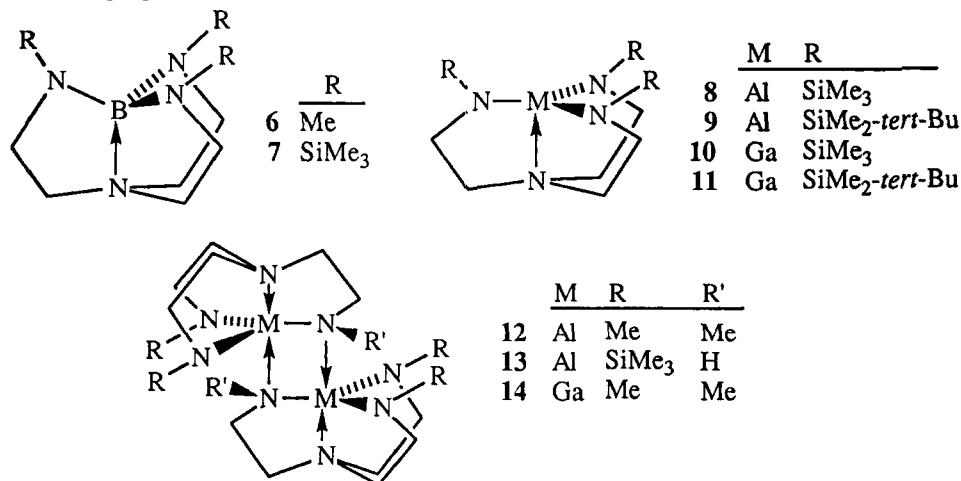
During the last few years we have focused our attention on utilizing symmetrical tripodal tetramine ligands such as 1-5 in the synthesis of volatile azatranes as potential nitride film



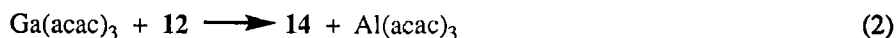
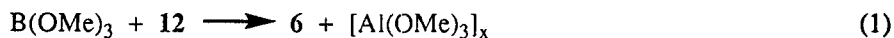
R = H (1), Me (2), *iso*-Pr (3), Me₃Si (4), *tert*-BuMe₂Si (5)

precursors.

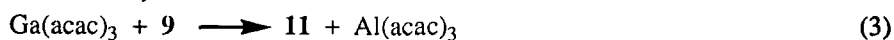
The preparation of monomeric 6-11 and dimeric 12 and 14 occurs by



transamination reactions involving the corresponding reactants (RHNCH₂CH₂)₃N and M(NMe₂)₃ in which Me₂NH is evolved⁸⁻¹⁰. Compounds 6 and 14 were also formed by a transmetallation reaction involving the dimeric azaaluminatranes 12:



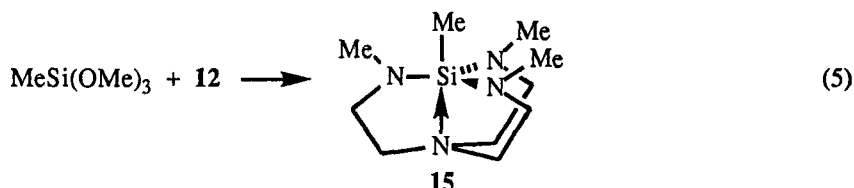
Similarly, 11 forms in the reaction of monomeric 9 with Ga(acac)₃:



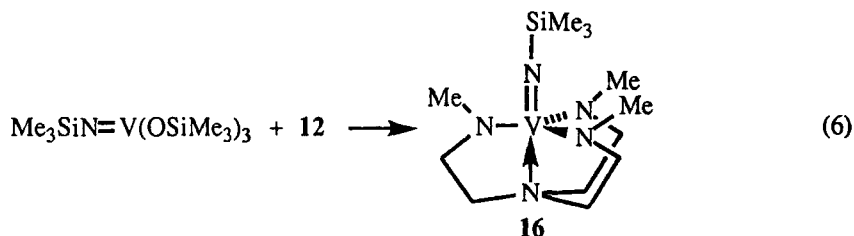
Although the source of the elements of water remain obscure so far, dimeric 13 arises in attempts to recrystallize 8¹⁰:



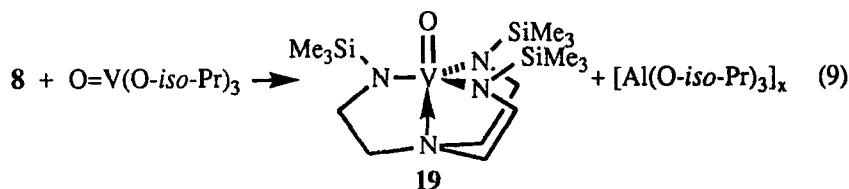
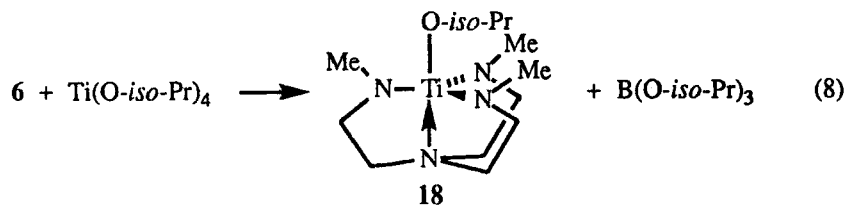
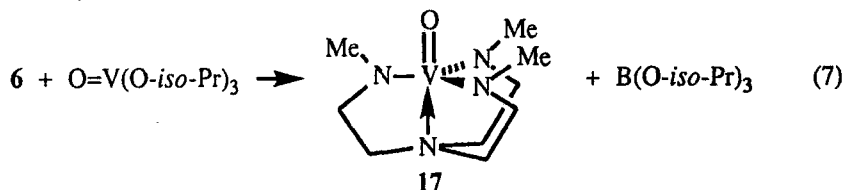
There are two major influences in promoting the transmetalation reactions 1-3. The higher strength of Al-O relative to B-O, Ga-O and Al-N bonds is responsible for an enthalpic advantage, while the conversion of dimeric **12** to monomeric **6** is favored entropically. Another factor in the case of azatrane systems is the stabilization effect of the transannular bond. Thus while MeSi(OMe)_3 reacts easily with dimeric azaalumatrane **12** in reaction 5, the analogous reaction of MeC(OMe)_3 failed. The transition metal



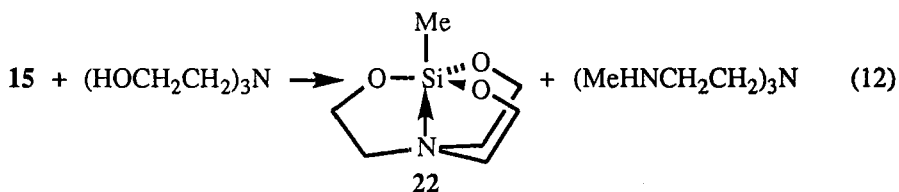
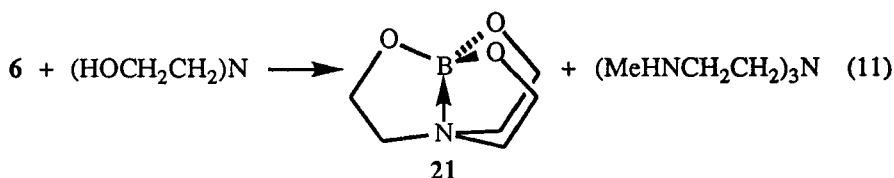
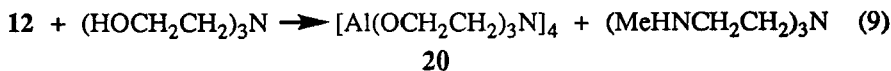
compound **16** can also be made from **12**⁸:



In a similar way, monomeric **6** and **8** can be used to construct transition metal azatranes⁸.



We have also found it possible to replace an entire tripodal ligand by another in the case of **12** and **8**¹¹, and also for **6** and **15**¹⁰:



STRUCTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Dimers **12**¹⁰, **13**⁹ and **14**¹⁰ each feature a *cis* configuration of the substituents on the central four-membered (M-N)₂ ring. This isomer was also observed to be the only species in solution as judged by ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopies. Heating **12** or **14** for 60 h at 120 °C in sealed NMR tubes resulted in no observation of *trans* isomers at room temperature. Moreover, their spectra remained unchanged up to 100 °C, thus indicating that fluxionality caused by racemization between the two enantiomers of the *cis* species is slow on the NMR time scale.

The molecular structure determination of **8** reveals the first example of a trigonal monopyramidal coordination geometry for aluminum, which is rare for main group elements in general. The propeller-like conformation of **8** implies the presence of Λ and Δ enantiomers in the solid state. An estimation of ΔS^\ddagger of racemization was precluded, however, by the observation that **8** and also **9** (which has even bulkier substituents) are freely fluxional down to -95 °C on the NMR time scale. Reasons for facile inversion of the rings in these compounds include a large aluminum atom and long Al-N_{eq} and Al-N_{ax} bonds compared with the tetrahedral boron analogue **7** for which a ΔS^\ddagger value could be estimated⁸.

Our syntheses of the trigonal monopyramidal aluminum compounds **8** and **9** and the trigonal bipyramidal examples **12** and **13** in combination with trigonal planar¹², tetrahedral¹³ and octahedral¹⁴ aluminum structures found in the literature allowed us to

examine the ^{27}Al NMR chemical shift for a variety of aluminum coordination numbers and geometries in which the metal atom is surrounded only by nitrogen ligands. The trend in $\delta^{27}\text{Al}$ is toward high field in the order trigonal planar, trigonal monopyramidal, tetrahedral, trigonal bipyramidal, octahedral, thus reflecting in an unusually detailed manner the trend typically seen for NMR-active nonmetallic elements.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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