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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713618290

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To cite this Article Scheer, Manfred , Kramkowski, Peter , Schiffer, Michael and Müller, Jan(1999) 'Complexes with a Metal Phosphorus Triple Bond', Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements, 144:1,717-720

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10426509908546345 URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426509908546345

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Complexes with a Metal Phosphorus Triple Bond

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Herein we report the synthesis of different phosphido-complexes and -intermediates with W=E-triple bond. These compounds reveal different reactivity patterns. Details of reactivity as well as spectroscopic and theoretical aspects will be discussed in detail.

Keywords: phosphido ligands; alkoxide complexes; metal-phosphorus-multiple bond

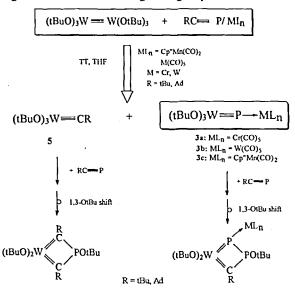
INTRODUCTION

Complexes with terminal pnicogenido ligands (except nitrogen) are a new class of compounds^[1] the first examples being phosphido(P³) ligands which were first isolated and structurally characterized in 1995 by Cummins and Schrock in form of the complexes of type A^[2] and B^[3], respectively. These complexes reveal "end-on" reactivity. Our synthetic goal however, has been directed towards the alkoxide substituted complexes of type C, showing a high "side-on" reactivity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Using our concept of the three-component-reaction^[4] to stabilize reactive intermediates the reaction of $W_2(OtBu)_6$ with $R^*C = P(R^* = tBu, Ad)$ was carried out in the presence of Lewis acidic carbonyl complexes and resulted in the formation of the alkylidyne complexes 5 and the phosphido complexes $3^{[5]}$. However, a subsequent reaction with additional $R^*C = P$ followed by 1,3-migration of the alkoxy ligand to form compounds with four-membered rings, cannot be completely prevented. Due to the decomposition

of the products a separation of the reaction mixture by column chromatography failed. The enrichment of 3a in solution was achieved by fractional crystallization. The ^{31}P NMR chemical shifts at $\delta = 595.4$, (3a) 544.6 (3b) and 614.0 (3c), the large $^{1}J(^{183}W,^{31}P)$ coupling constants of 536 Hz (3a), 554 Hz (3b) and 566 Hz (3c), and the appearance of a second coupling in the case of the $[W(CO)_{5}]$ -substituted product 3b of J = 163 Hz together with the ratio of the signal integrals prove the existence of 3.



When Schrock reported the NMR-data of 1¹³¹, the ¹⁸³W, ³¹P coupling constant of 138 Hz contradicted to the coupling constants observed for our carbonyl stabilized phosphido species 3a-c¹⁵¹. To shed light into this problem, we decided to synthesize 1, using Li[P(SiMe₃)₂] and then achieve complexation with [W(CO)₅(thf)]. The break through for the high yield synthesis and structural characterisation of the type C complexes 3 and 4 occurs when MesC≡P (Mes = 2,4,6-Me₃C₅H₂) is used in the reaction with W₂(OR)₆ and [M(CO)₅(thf)].

By PESHO analysis^[6] we searched for the triple bonding characteristics of 1 consisting of one d_{σ} - p_{σ} bond and two d_{π} - p_{π} bonds. Only a small contribution of the 6s W and the 3s orbital of P for the d_{σ} - p_{σ} bond is found. Coordination of 1 to a simple σ acceptor (e.g. BH₃, calculated) leads to a small shortening of the W=P bond due to the increase of the 3s orbital participation of the phosphido ligand. With an approximately constant π -bonding contribution, the phosphorus-3s orbital contribution to a W-P bond

increases whilst at the same time the phosphorus-3p σ -contribution decreases. Therefore, the corresponding Fermi contact term results in an increase of the ¹⁸³W, ³¹P coupling constant upon linear coordination of the phosphido ligand complex to a σ acceptor, which is both, expected and experimentally observed. Moreover the phosphido complex 1 is expected to have σ -donor and π -acceptor abilities and can be characterized by similar, but less pronounced, ligating properties as CO.

In fact the formation of linear complexes with σ acceptors such as $GaCl_3^{17}$ is possible, shown in the synthesis of complex 6. Furthermore, 1 reacts with $[M(CO)_5(thf)]$ (M = Cr, W) to form first complexes 7 although a second substitution in the *trans*-position is preferred leading to the $M(CO)_4$ complexes 8^{16} . The driving force for the *trans* substitution was found to be the formation of $M(CO)_6$.

From experimental data the coordination of the σ acceptor GaCl₃ or the σ -acceptor/ π -donor M(CO)_n (M = Cr, W; n = 4, 5) results in a high field shift of the ³¹P-NMR resonances and an increase of the ¹⁸³W, ³¹P coupling constants to about 400-750 Hz. This increase in coupling constants is much stronger for σ acceptors (> 700 Hz). For the latter complexes, the M=E bond length remains more or less the same as predicted by the theoretical studies^[6]. However, a σ -acceptor/ π -donor group such as M(CO)_n increases the triple bond distance due to the occupation of antibonding orbitals at the pnictinido atom.

Furthermore, the use of $[E(SiMe_3)_2]^T$ (E = As, Sb, Bi) should open the possibility to synthesize complexes containing the heavier homologues of phosphorus. In the case of E = As, the arsenido complex $[(N_3N)W=As]$ 2 is obtained. However, no E=W bond formation could be achieved for the heavier congeners so far. It is interesting to note

that the calculated W \equiv Sb distance in the compound [(N₃N)W \equiv Sb] is 2.514 Å^[6]. Attempts using less bulky organic substituents on the tren ligands result in the formation of the first neutral, paramagnetic heterocumulens of the type [(N₃N)W=Sb=W(N₃N)] (N₃N = N(CH₂CH₂NNP)₃)^[8].

Additionally, a novel approach to highly reactive phosphido complex intermediates of the type $[L_nM=P\to M'(CO)_5]$ (M' = Cr, W) is achieved by a migration of a σ -bounded Cp* at the P atom in the phosphinidene complex $[Cp*P\{W(CO)_5\}_2]$ to give η^5 -coordination at a transition metal. The intermediate stabilises itself by dimerisation to yield $[\{Cp*(CO)_2W\}_2((\mu,\eta^2-P_2)\{W(CO)_5\})]^{9]}$. If this thermolysis reaction is carried out in the presence of tBuC=P, a novel cyclo-diphosphabutenon ligated complex is formed.

Acknowledgments

We thank the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie for financial support.

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