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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

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To cite this Article Saito, Masaichi , Nitta, Minehiko and Yoshioka, Michikazu(2001) 'Synthesis of 9,10-Dihydro-9,10-Distannanthracene', *Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements*, 168: 1, 249 — 251

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10426500108546562

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426500108546562>

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Synthesis of 9,10-Dihydro-9,10-Distannanthracene

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The 9,9,10,10-tetramethyl-9,10-dihydro-9,10-distannanthracene has been first synthesized and characterized. The X-ray crystallographic analysis of 9,9,10,10-tetramethyl-9,10-dihydro-9,10-distannanthracene showed that the central tricyclic framework had a butterfly conformation with the dihedral angle of 143°.

Keywords: 9,10-dihydro-9,10-distannanthracene; X-ray crystallographic analysis; butterfly conformation

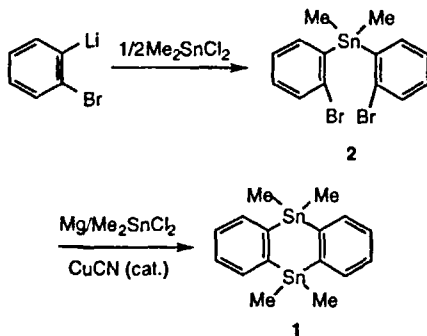
INTRODUCTION

Since the first synthesis of 9,9,10,10-tetraphenyl-9,10-dihydro-9,10-disilaanthracene,^[1] studies on the synthesis, structures, and reactions of 9,10-dihydro-9,10-disilaanthracene have been developed.^[2] The corresponding germanium analogs, 9,10-dihydro-9,10-digermaanthracenes, were also synthesized and characterized.^[3] One of the most interesting features of the dimetalaanthracene derivatives is their synthetic utilities as potential precursors for metal-containing reactive intermediates. Very recently, fascinating silicon-containing reactive species such as a bis(silyl anion)^[4] and a relatively stable silyl radical^[5] have been reported to be derived from the 9,10-dihydro-9,10-

disilaanthracene. As for tin analogs, only one report on the 9,10-dihydro-9,10-distannaanthracene where all aromatic hydrogens have been replaced by fluorine has been found without synthetic and structural details,^[6] although there are a few reports on 9,10-dihydroanthracenes having a tin atom at the 10-position.^{[7], [8]} We report herein the first synthesis and structure of 9,9,10,10-tetramethyl-9,10-dihydro-9,10-distannaanthracene (**1**).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(2-Bromophenyl)lithium (2 equiv) prepared by 1,2-dibromobenzene with butyllithium at -100°C was coupled with dimethyldichlorostannane to give bis(2-bromophenyl)-dimethylstannane (**2**). Reaction of **2** with magnesium and dimethyldichlorostannane in the presence of a catalytic amount of cuprous cyanide afforded 9,9,10,10-tetramethyl-9,10-dihydro-9,10-distannaanthracene (**1**) in a moderate yield, the structure of which was established by X-ray crystallographic analysis (Fig 1). The central six-membered ring has a boat conformation and hence the tricyclic framework has a butterfly conformation with the dihedral angle of 143° , which is the smallest angle among the dihydrodimetalaanthracene derivatives of group 14 metals.^[9]



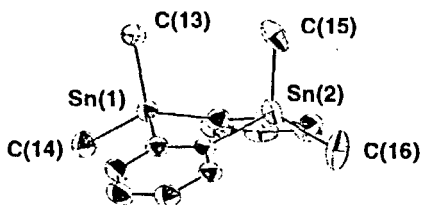


Fig 1. ORTEP drawing of **1** with thermal ellipsoids plots (40% probability for non-hydrogen atoms). Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Sn(1)–C(13), 2.139(10); Sn(1)–C(14), 2.165(11); Sn(2)–C(15), 2.142(13); Sn(2)–C(16), 2.108(15); C(13)–Sn(1)–C(14), 110.4(4); C(15)–Sn(2)–C(16), 110.5(7).

In ^1H NMR spectrum of **1**, there appeared a singlet at δ 0.47 assignable to methyl hydrogens which did not change significantly in the temperature range from 20 to -70°C , suggesting a rapid boat to boat inversion. It is reasonably assumed that a rapid boat-to-boat inversion occurs in solution as in the case of other tetramethyl derivatives.^[8]

Acknowledgment. This work was partially supported by a Grant-in Aid for Encouragement of Young Scientists (No. 10740288) from the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture, Japan.

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