Steric and Electronic Structure of 2-Alkoxyphenyltrichlorostannanes according to Results of *ab initio* Calculations

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Abstract—Steric and electronic structure of 2-methoxy- and 2-ethoxyphenyltrichlorostannanes, as well as of 2-methoxyphenyltrichlorostannanes substituted in the ring, was studied using the RHF and B3LYP levels with the 3-21G* basis set. The results of calculations were compared with experimental ³⁵Cl NQR data. In all studied molecules the Sn atom is pentacoordinated. The structure of the coordination polyhedron is a highly distorted trigonal bipyramid. Replacing methyl group in the alkoxy substituent involved in the Sn←O coordination by a more electron-donor ethyl group increases the strength of the Sn←O coordination bond. The same occurs also at the introduction of an electron-releasing substituent in the aromatic ring.

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Earlier using the method of nuclear quadrupole resonance (NOR) on the ³⁵Cl nuclei it was found [1] that the tin atom in 2-alkoxyphenyltrichlorostannanes may be pentacoordinated through its interaction with the oxygen atom of the alkoxy group. For example, in the ³⁵Cl NQR spectrum of 2-CH₃OC₆H₄SnCl₃ I at 77 K the low-frequency line of the triplet (20.070 MHz) is considerably shifted from the high-frequency doublet (21.762 and 21.674 MHz). In the ³⁵Cl NQR spectrum of 2-C₂H₅OC₆H₄SnCl₃ II the low-frequency line (19.313 MHz) also is shifted significantly to lower frequencies as compared with the weakly split highfrequency doublet (21.880 and 21,475 MHz). In the doublet NQR spectrum of 2-methoxy-5-methylphenyltrichlorostannane III the low-frequency line (19.497 MHz) also is shifted considerably from the more intense high-frequency line (21.550 MHz). Such spectra are typical of the compounds of the IVA group elements with the trigonal-bipyramidal structure of the coordination polyhedron, in which one chlorine atom and the heteroatom of organic substituent occupy axial positions of the bipyramid, while the other two chlorine atoms are in the equatorial positions [1-3]. In the triplet NQR spectrum of 2-methoxy-3,5-dimethylphenyltrichlorostannane IV the low-frequency line (19.213 MHz) is in the same range as the low-frequency lines of the other alkoxyphenyltrichlorostannanes, the high-frequency line (22.119 MHz) is located at higher frequency by almost 3 MHz, and the third line (20.341 MHz) occupies an intermediate position [1].

To study steric and electronic structure of these compounds and the influence of substituents on the strength of coordination Sn←O bond in them we calculated the corresponding molecules with full geometry optimization using the levels RHF and B3LYP with basis set 3-21G* by the Gaussian 03W software [4]. Unfortunately, this program does not allow calculation of Sn compounds using a basic set of a higher level. However, the calulation with 3-21G* set also leads to satisfactory agreement with the experimental data [5].

The results of calculations of electronic distribution in molecules **I–IV** was used to estimate the parameters of the ³⁵Cl NQR and to compare them with experimental data. Therefore, we placed the coordinate system origin on the chlorine atom whose NQR parameters were determined. The *Z*-axis of the system coincided with the corresponding Cl–Sn bond.

In the previous paper [6] we reported the results of the study of steric and electronic molecular structure of the compounds 2- and 4-CH₃OC₆H₄SnCl₃ and 2,6-(CH₃O)₂C₆H₄SnCl₃ by the RHF/3-21G* and MR2/3-

21G* levels. The results obtained by these levels were fundamentally different. Moreover, the calculation of the molecules by MR2/3-21G*, which is of higher level, but more expensive, has led to worse agreement of calculated and experimental ³⁵Cl NQR parameters than the calculation using RHF/3-21G* level. Therefore, in this paper in addition to the last level we used the level of density functional B3LYP/3-21G*.

The results of calculations of geometric characteristics of molecules I-IV by the RHF/3-21G* and B3LYP/3-21G* levels do not differ essentially (Table 1). In all studied molecules the Sn-C¹ bond in the trans position to the oxygen atom (C¹SnO angle is close to 180°) is longer than two others, which in the molecules I and III are identical. In molecule IV the lengths of all three bonds are quite different. Angles Cl¹SnC¹ and Cl³SnC¹ in molecules I and III are identical, and in molecules II and IV they are some-what different. Their values are close to 120°. The ClSnC¹ angle is intermediate between the tetrahedral and right, but closer to tetrahedral. As in organyl-trichlorogermanes of the trigonal bipyramidal structure where the Ge atom becomes pentacoordinated at the closure of a five-membered ring as a result of its interaction with the heteroatom of the organic substituent [7, 8], the Sn atom in the studied molecules is shifted from the equatorial plane formed by the C¹, Cl², and Cl³atoms to the axial Cl¹ atom: the angles C¹SnO, Cl²SnO, and Cl³SnO are less than 90° (Table 1). The sum of angles between the equatorial bonds of the Sn atom is less than 360°. This indicates a pyramidal structure of the

equatorial fragment of the molecule with the Sn atom at the apex. In all the studied molecules the Sn···O distance is much less than the sum of Sn and O van der Waals radii (3.5 Å [9]). These geometric parameters of molecules I-III indicate a highly distorted trigonalbipyramidal struc-ture of the coordination polyhedron of the tin atom. Judging from the dihedral angles $ClSnC^1C^2$, the Cl²-Sn and Cl³-Sn bonds are arranged symmetrically with respect to the plane of the aromatic ring in molecules I and III, and almost symmetrically in the molecules II and IV (especially in B3LYP/3-21G* calculations). The intramolecular Sn←O interaction in these molecules reduces substantially the angles SnC¹C² and C¹C²O and increases the angles SnC¹C⁶ and C³C²O (Table 1), compared to similar angles in aromatic molecules without a coordination interaction between the atoms in ortho-positions to each other. Therewith, the angles involving Sn-C¹ bond are changed much stronger than those involving the shorter C^2 –O bond.

The dihedral angles C¹C²OC⁷ in molecules **I** and **III** are 180° in the calculations by both methods. In molecule **II** the calculations using RHF/3-21G* gives this angle close to 180°, but the value significantly less than 180° was obtained in the calculations by B3LYP/3-21G* level. Calculation of molecule **IV** by both methods gave this angle significantly different from 180°. Apparently, a decrease in this angle allows the interaction of the groups Cl³Sn and OCH₃ to occur directly through the field. The distance between the interacting Sn and O sites in this molecule is the

Table 1. Bond lengths (d), valence	(ω) , and torsion angles (β) in	molecules I-IV calculated by the RHF/3-21G* and
B3LYP/3-21G* levels		

	I		II		I	II	IV		
Bond	RHF	B3LYP	RHF	B3LYP	RHF	B3LYP	RHF	B3LYP	
		I	I.	<i>d</i> ,	Å	1	П	1	
Cl ¹ –Sn	2.369	2.382	2.371	2.384	2.370	2.383	2.373	2.387	
Cl^2 –Sn	2.351	2.369	2.354	2.375	2.351	2.369	2.358	2.378	
Cl ³ –Sn	2.351	2.369	2.352	2.365	2.351	2.369	2.348	2.367	
Sn–C ¹	2.130	2.147	2.130	2.148	2.131	2.147	2.128	2.145	
C^1 – C^2	1.384	1.397	1.385	1.397	1.384	1.397	1.384	1.394	
C^2 –O	1.394	1.403	1.396	1.407	1.396	1.404	1.412	1.426	
$O-C^7$	1.449	1.467	1.460	1.483	1.448	1.466	1.458	1.486	
Sn←O	2.438	2.560	2.420	2.521	2.433	2.554	2.416	2.517	
Angle	ω, deg								
Cl ¹ SnC ¹	106.99	106.78	106.91	106.76	106.96	106.88	106.78	106.52	
Cl^2SnC^1	117.71	117.13	117.72	116.47	117.82	117.24	116.81	116.63	
Cl^3SnC^1	117.71	117.13	118.34	118.62	117.81	117.24	119.63	119.24	
Cl ¹ SnCl ²	101.94	103.04	101.60	102.85	101.82	102.82	101.37	102.04	
Cl ¹ SnCl ³	101.94	103.04	101.63	102.51	101.82	102.82	101.33	102.08	
Cl ² SnCl ³	108.10	107.79	107.99	107.77	108.11	107.81	108.07	107.83	
SnC^1C^2	102.70	105.09	102.32	104.13	102.53	104.89	102.58	103.78	
SnC^1C^6	137.55	134.43	137.79	135.23	137.58	134.44	136.68	134.91	
C^1C^2O	109.37	110.41	109.14	110.01	109.40	110.43	108.70	110.45	
OC^2C^3	127.35	127.87	128.38	128.38	128.36	128.25	128.89	127.64	
C^2OC^7	123.41	120.60	124.70	121.79	123.27	120.51	124.79	119.72	
Cl^1SnO	166.09	164.47	166.21	165.04	166.14	164.71	166.38	165.45	
Cl ² SnO	86.06	85.90	86.73	86.11	86.16	85.98	86.02	85.72	
Cl ³ SnO	86.06	86.03	85.94	86.03	86.16	85.98	86.98	86.92	
C^1SnO	59.04	57.59	59.31	58.19	59.18	57.83	59.60	58.94	
Angle	β, deg								
Cl ¹ SnC ¹ C ²	180.0	180.0	179.45	-179.18	180.0	180.0	179.85	179.13	
$Cl^2SnC^1C^2$	-66.12	-65.21	-67.15	-65.45	-66.24	-65.35	67.32	66.04	
$Cl^3SnC^1C^2$	66.12	65.21	65.67	65.87	66.24	65.35	-66.10	-66.28	
SnC^1C^2O	0.0	0.0	-0.16	-1.92	0.0	0.0	-0.12	0.69	
$C^1C^2OC^7$	180.0	180.0	178.84	167.98	180.0	180.0	-146.91	-133.69	
	100.0	100.0	1 / 0.07	107.70	100.0	100.0	110.71	155.07	

smallest compared to all the studied molecules. Perhaps this interaction is the main cause of the difference in all three Sn–Cl bond lengths and Cl²Sn C¹ and Cl³SnC¹ valence angles in molecule **IV** and, consequently, the electronic distribution on the chlorine atoms of these bonds and ³⁵Cl NQR frequencies of this compound. Significant deviation of the C¹C²OC⁷ angle from 180° in molecule **II** as calculated by the B3LYP/3-21G* level also leads to a noticeable difference in the Sn–Cl bond lengths and Cl²SnC¹ and Cl³SnC¹ bond angles (Table 1). The dihedral C²OC⁷C⁸ angle in this molecule equals –80.11° (RHF) or –74.16° (B3LYP).

In molecule II the distance $Sn\cdots O$ is shorter than in I, that is, the replacement of the methyl group in the alkoxy substituent participating in the $Sn\leftarrow O$

coordination interaction by a more electron-donor ethyl group increases the strength of the $Sn \leftarrow O$ coordination bond. In molecules III and IV also the $Sn \cdots O$ distance is reduced compared with I, hence, the introduction of electron-donor substituent in the aromatic ring also increases the strength of the coordination $Sn \leftarrow O$ bond.

Earlier [10–12] we obtained satisfactory agreement between the experimental 35 Cl NQR frequencies (v) and those calculated with Eq. (1) from the population of the less diffuse 3p components of valence p orbitals of chlorine atoms in organic and organometallic molecules calculated by the RHF/6-31G(d) level. A satisfactory agreement was obtained also between the experimental asymmetry parameters (η) of the electric field gradient (EFG) at the 35 Cl nuclei and those

	of valence p orbitals of Cl atoms in the molecules calculated by the RHF/3-21G* and
B3LYP/3-21G* methods, the calculated	³⁵ Cl NQR frequencies and experimental frequencies measured at 77 K [5, 16]

Run no. Molecule	26.1	RHF				B3LYP				ν _{exp} ,
	$N3p_x$, e	$N3p_y$, e	$N3p_z$, e	ν_{calc},MHz	$N3p_x$, e	$N3p_y$, e	$N3p_z$, e	ν_{calc},MHz	MHz	
1	(ClCH ₂) ₂ SnCl ₂	1.102	1.110	0.785	35.961	1.121	1.133	0.804	36.151	36.708
2		1.059	1.059	0.894	18.480	1.081	1.081	0.907	19.409	18.030
3	ClCH ₃	1.104	1.104	0.798	34.273	1.126	1.126	0.810	35.350	34.029
4	ClC(O)CF ₃	1.131	1.091	0.812	33.713	1.143	1.086	0.845	30.649	33.432
5	ClCH=CH ₂	1.113	1.096	0.813	32.690	1.134	1.109	0.836	32.029	33.411
6	$Cl(CH_2)_3SnCl_3$	1.089	1.108	0.816	31.696	1.105	1.131	0.833	31.981	31.750
7		1.063	1.067	0.889	20.389	1.084	1.089	0.894	21.540	20.352
8		1.061	1.066	0.886	19.888	1.081	1.088	0.899	20.762	20.160
9		1.059	1.056	0.897	17.980	1.081	1.077	0.910	19.298	19.668
10	ClC(O)CH ₃	1.113	1.076	0.833	29.507	1.124	1.079	0.856	27.807	28.962°
11	GeCl ₄	1.081	1.081	0.862	24.528	1.101	1.102	0.874	25.393	25.661°
12	$C_6H_5SnCl_3$	1.062	1.061	0.889	19.321	1.083	1.083	0.901	20.340	20.674°
13	CH ₃ SnCl ₃	1.062	1.060	0.889	19.265	1.085	1.081	0.901	20.363	20.64^{a}
14	$ClGe(CH_3)_3$	1.060	1.060	0.903	17.584	1.083	1.083	0.914	18.905	17.919
15	SnCl ₄	1.068	1.068	0.873	21.840	1.091	1.091	0.883	23.268	24.095 ^a
16	CH ₃ SiCl ₃	1.074	1.070	0.918	17.253	1.093	1.088	0.933	17.625	19.043°
17	$ClSi(CH_3)_3$	1.062	1.062	0.933	14.375	1.083	1.083	0.945	15.437	16.506
18	$Cl_2Sn(CH_3)_2$	1.056	1.052	0.903	16.917	1.079	1.074	0.915	18.073	15.466
19	ClSn(CH ₃) ₃	1.049	1.049	0.913	15.232	1.073	1.073	0.921	17.004	11.73

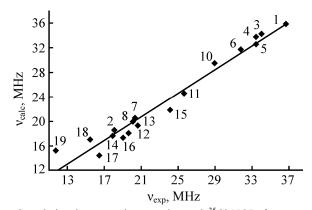
^a Mean value of the NQR frequency.

calculated from the 3p components with Eq. (2) for a number of organic molecules.

$$v = (e^2 Q q_{at}/2h[-N_z + (N_x + N_y)/2](1 + \eta^2/3)^{1/2},$$
 (1)

$$\eta = |3(N_x - N_y)/(2N_z - N_x - N_y)|. \tag{2}$$

Here $e^2Qq_{\rm at}$ is atomic nuclear quadrupole coupling constant, h is the Planck's constant; N_x , N_y , and N_z are the populations of 3p components of valence p_x , p_y , and p_z orbitals respectively of the indicatory chlorine atom. The value of $e^2Qq_{\rm at}/2h$ is found from the



Correlation between the experimental 35 Cl NQR frequencies ($v_{\rm exp}$) and the frequencies ($v_{\rm calc}$) derived from the populations of 3p components of valence p orbitals of chlorine atoms in these molecules calculated by the RHF/3-21G* method. The numbering of points corresponds to the numbers in Table 2.

experimental NQR frequency of Cl_2 at 77K and the population of the 3p components of valence p orbitals of Cl atoms of the molecule are derived from a calculation by an appropriate method [10–12].

As we have to use the 3-21G* basis set to study the steric and electronic structure of the Sn compounds by the methods of quantum chemistry and to estimate the results of these calculations comparing them with experimental data on the ³⁵Cl NQR it was interesting to consider the experimental ³⁵Cl NQR frequencies of a series of chlorine-containing organic and organometallic compounds comparing them with the data derived from the populations of 3p components of valence p orbitals of chlorine atoms in these molecules calculated by the RHF/3-21G* and B3LYP/3-21G* levels (Table 2). For most molecules, including those containing the Sn-Cl bonds, the agreement between the experimental and calculated NQR frequencies is quite satisfactory. Linear correlation between the experimental (ν_{exp}) and calculated (ν_{calc}) ^{35}Cl NQR frequencies is satisfactory:

$$v_{\text{calc}} = (1.015 \pm 0.063) v_{\text{exp}} - (0.736 \pm 1.712),$$
 (3)
 $r = 0.996, n = 1-14 \text{ (RHF)},$

$$v_{\text{calc}} = (0.916 \pm 0.093)v_{\text{exp}} + (2.059 \pm 2.481),$$
 (4)
 $r \cdot 0.987, n \cdot 1-14 \text{ (B3LYP)}.$

Table 3. Populations of valence p orbitals of Cl (ΣNp) and their 3p components (N3p) in the molecules **I–IV** calculated by the RHF/3-21G* and B3LYP/3-21G* methods, and 35 Cl NQR frequencies (v_{calc}) and asymmetry parameters (η_{calc}) of electric field gradient on the 35 Cl nuclei calculated from the populations of 3p components

Molecule	Atom	Orbital	Np_x , e	Np_{ν} , e	Np_z , e	ν _{calc} , MHz	η _{calc} , %
				HF	F 27	cuicy	Teale)
	1						
I	Cl ¹	N3p	1.057	1.055	0.900	17.473	1.92
	2	ΣNp	1.967	1.964	1.592	_	_
	Cl ²	N3p	1.061	1.064	0.889	19.435	2.59
	,	ΣNp	1.966	1.970	1.571	-	_
II	Cl ¹	N3p	1.057	1.055	0.901	17.371	1.94
	2	ΣNp	1.968	1.964	1.593	_	_
	Cl ²	N3p	1.061	1.064	0.889	19.433	1.73
	,	ΣNp	1.966	1.970	1.572	_	_
III	Cl ¹	N3p	1.056	1.055	0.901	17.304	0.97
	2	ΣNp	1.968	1.965	1.593	_	_
	Cl ²	N3p	1.061	1.064	0.889	19.433	2.59
		ΣNp	1.966	1.970	1.572	_	_
IV	Cl ¹	N3p	1.056	1.055	0.901	17.305	0.97
	_	ΣNp	1.968	1.965	1.596	_	_
	Cl ²	N3p	1.060	1.062	0.893	18.817	1.79
	_	ΣNp	1.967	1.971	1.583	_	_
	Cl ³	N3p	1.062	1.065	0.887	19.770	2.55
		ΣNp	1.965	1.968	1.567	_	_
		II.	B31	LYP	<u> </u>		
I	Cl ¹	N3p	1.080	1.078	0.910	18.906	1.75
	_	ΣNp	1.953	1.947	1.545	_	_
	Cl ²	N3p	1.085	1.086	0.898	19.284	3.34
		ΣNp	1.951	1.954	1.522	_	_
II	Cl ¹	N3p	1.080	1.078	0.911	18.793	1.79
		ΣNp	1.953	1.947	1.546	_	_
	Cl ²	N3p	1.084	1.086	0.900	20.696	1.62
		ΣNp	1.952	1.956	1.530	_	_
	Cl ³	N3p	1.085	1.086	0.897	21.087	0.80
		ΣNp	1.951	1.953	1.521	_	_
III	Cl^1	N3p	1.079	1.078	0.910	18.849	0.89
		ΣNp	1.953	1.948	1.546	_	_
	Cl ²	N3p	1.085	1.086	0.898	20.975	0.80
		ΣNp	1.952	1.954	1.523	_	_
IV	Cl ¹	N3p	1.079	1.077	0.911	18.683	1.80
		ΣNp	1.954	1.948	1.550	_	_
	Cl ²	N3p	1.082	1.084	0.903	20.136	0.94
		ΣNp	1.954	1.956	1.538	_	_
	Cl ³	N3p	1.085	1.088	0.897	21.201	2.37
		ΣNp	1.950	1.952	1.519	_	_

The correspondence between these NQR frequencies is better when the calculation is based on the results of RHF/3-21G* calculations. The NQR frequencies only of a few (15–19) molecules deviate from the correlation line corresponding to Eq. (3). In Eq. (3) the coefficient at $v_{\rm exp}$ is close to unity and the absolute term differs from zero. Consequently, the 35 Cl NQR frequencies derived from the results of calculations of the molecules by RHF/3-21G* level usually are lower than the experimental values by the value of the absolute term in Eq. (3). Apparently, the steric and

electronic structures of molecules in the gaseous and crystalline states are quite different. The obtained correlation indicates that the comparison of the ³⁵Cl NQR frequencies derived from the results of calculations of the molecules by RHF/3-21G* level with experimental data is quite acceptable.

For comparison with experimental NQR data, we estimated ³⁵Cl NQR frequencies and asymmetry parameters of the electric field gradient on the ³⁵Cl nuclei from the results of quantum chemical calcula-

tions of the studied molecules I-IV by the RHF/3-21G* and B3LYP/3-21G* levels (Table 3). Given the similarity of Sn-Cl² and Sn-Cl³ bond lengths in molecules I and III, as well as valence and dihedral angles involving them, we can assume that the electronic distribution on their chlorine atoms is also the same. This is valid also for the molecule II calculated by RHF/3-21G* level. Therefore, Table 3 includes the populations of valence p orbitals and the 3p components of these orbitals, as well as calculated from them ³⁵Cl NQR parameters for only one of these chlorine atoms. For the molecule II calculated by the B3LYP/3-21G* level these data are shown for the three chlorine atoms. Unfortunately, the NQR frequencies of all studied molecules derived from the results of RHF/3-21G* calculations were significantly lower than the experimental data obtained at 77 K. At the same time, the ratio of the calculated NQR frequencies for axial and equatorial chlorine atoms in these molecules corresponds to the experimental one. The ³⁵Cl NQR frequencies derived from the populations of 3p components of valence p orbitals of chlorine atoms in molecules I-IV calculated by B3LYP/3-21G* are slightly lower than experimental ones, but close to them (the difference is within 1.0 MHz), with the exception of the axial Cl1 atom in molecule I. Apparently, the steric and electronic structure of the studied molecules in the crystalline state, characteristic of the sample during measuring the NQR spectra, differs markedly from that of individual molecules, for which the quantum-chemical calculations were performed. Therewith, the steric and electronic structure of the studied molecules in the crystalline state is better described by B3LYP/3-21G* level.

Lower NQR frequencies of the axial chlorine atoms Cl^1 compared with the equatorial Cl^2 and Cl^3 in the studied molecules are due both to a higher half-sum of the populations of 3p components of valence p_x and p_y orbitals of the equatorial chlorine atoms and lower occupancy of the 3p components of their valence p_z orbitals (Table 3).

Usually, when the structure of coordination polyhedron of an atom of IVA group element is a trigonal bipyramid, the parameter of asymmetry of electric field gradient on the ³⁵Cl nucleus of equatorial chlorine atoms is rather large, while on the axial it is close to zero [13–15]. In the studied molecules **I–IV** the parameters of the electric field gradient asymmetry on ³⁵Cl nuclei of both axial and equatorial chlorine atoms are close to zero (Table 3). This is due to the close

value of the populations of p_x and p_y orbitals and their 3p components for all three chlorine atoms in each studied molecule. In turn, this is due to the pyramidal structure of the equatorial fragment of trigonal-bipyramidal coordination polyhedron of Sn atom and indicates a significant distortion of the structure of this polyhedron. Unfortunately, the experimental asymmetry parameters of the electric field gradient on the 35 Cl nuclei of the studied compounds have not been measured. Therefore, no data exist for comparison with the calculated asymmetry parameters.

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