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# 3-tert-Butyl-4-methyl-2-phenyl-3-(trimethylsilyloxy)oxetane and 2-(2-Benzyl-oxyphenyl)-3-tert-butyl-3-(trimethylsilyloxy)oxetane 

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#### Abstract

In the structures of both of the title compounds, $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Si}$, (I), and $\mathrm{C}_{23} \mathrm{H}_{32} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Si}$, (II), the bulkiest substituents are trans with respect to one another, i.e. the phenyl group (or substituted phenyl) is trans with respect to the tert-butyl group. In compound (I), the methyl group at ring-position 4 is in a trans configuration relative to the tert-butyl group. The oxetane rings in both structures, especially (II), are non-planar. Both structures contain long $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ single bonds in the fourmembered ring ( $1.44-1.46 \AA$ ), which is typical of oxetane structures.

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## Comment

The Paternò-Büchi reaction represents the most convenient and straightforward access to functionalized oxetanes. It has been shown recently that the photocycloaddition of silyl enol ethers to various aldehydes proceeds with excellent regio- and diastereoselectivity (Bach, 1995a). The products formed are 3-silyloxysubstituted oxetanes, which represent versatile vehicles for further synthetic transformations (Bach, 1995b; Bach, Jödicke, Kather \& Hecht, 1995). The relative configuration of these heterocycles is presumably controlled by a two-step pathway via an intermediate triplet 1,4-biradical (Freilich \& Peters, 1981). Details of the synthetic work have been published elsewhere (Bach, 1995a). The crystals used in this work were obtained from an ether/pentane ( $1: 1$ ) solution. The photochemical reaction sequence is depicted in general terms below. The isolated yields were $82 \%$ for oxetane (I) and $56 \%$ for oxetane (II) after chromatographic purification.

(I) $X=\mathrm{H} ; R=\mathrm{Me}(82 \%)$
(II) $X=\mathrm{OCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ph} ; R=\mathrm{H}(56 \%)$

The structural studies of compounds (I) and (II) were undertaken in order to establish the relative configurations of the oxetane rings. The X-ray crystal structures [shown in Figs. 1 and 2 for (I) and (II), respectively] confirm the expected trans relationship of the bulkiest substituents. This geometry was also strongly suggested by NMR measurements (difference Nuclear Overhauser Effect) performed earlier (Bach, 1995a). The oxetane rings are not planar and the puckering angles (defined as the dihedral angle between planes $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}$ and $\mathrm{C}-$ $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ ) are 8.3 (3) and 20.7 (2) ${ }^{\circ}$ for compounds (I) and (II), respectively. The non-planarity can also be seen from the ring torsion angles, which are clearly different from zero [O1-C2-C3-C4 5.8(2) in (I) and $-14.2(2)^{\circ}$ in (II)]. Previous single-crystal X-ray investigations on substituted oxetane derivatives (Seitz et al., 1994; Khan, Morris, Smith \& Walsh, 1991; Morris, Smith \& Walsh, 1987; George \& Gilardi, 1986; Hospital, Leroy, Bats \& Moulines, 1978; Holan, Kowala \& Wunderlich, 1973) show that the puckering angles can vary from 0 to $22.9(2)^{\circ}$. Furthermore, the crystal structure of unsubstituted oxetane has been determined at temperatures of 90 and 140 K (Luger \& Buschmann, 1984); the ring exhibits a non-planar structure with puckering angles of $10.7(1)^{\circ}$ at 90 K and $8.7(2)^{\circ}$ at 140 K .

The $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ bond distances [ 1.442 (3)-1.455 (2) $\AA$ ] are larger than the average value for saturated heterocyclic C-O single bonds [ 1.426 (5) $\AA$; Sutton, 1965], but this


Fig. 1. SHELXTL-Plus (Sheldrick, 1990b) plot of (I) with the atomic numbering scheme and displacement ellipsoids shown at the $50 \%$ probability level.


Fig. 2. SHELXTL-Plus (Sheldrick, 1990b) piot of (II) with the atomic numbering scheme and displacement ellipsoids shown at the $50 \%$ probability level.
is in agreement with the assumption that the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ bond should be unusually long in four-membered rings (Mastryukov, Dorofeeva, Vilkov \& Hargittai, 1976). The $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ angle is the smallest in the oxetane ring, with values of 84.8 (2) for (I) and 84.1 (2) for (II), whereas the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}$ and the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ angles are in the range $89.7(2)-92.5(2)^{\circ}$. In previously determined oxetane structures, the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ angle varies from 83.5
to $85.6^{\circ}$, and the corresponding range for the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}$ and $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ angles is $89.9-92.5^{\circ}$. All phenyl groups are planar, with deviations from least-squares planes smaller than $0.012 \AA$. In compound (II), the dihedral angle between the phenyl plane and the benzyl plane is 89.0 (1) ${ }^{\circ}$.

In the oxetane rings, the substituents are essentially in eclipsed positions and the conformations are determined by a balance between bond-angle and torsion-angle strains. The puckering of the oxetane ring releases some of this strain. The following torsion angles define the relative orientations of the substituents in the oxetane rings: $\mathrm{C} 5-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{O} 1114.7$ (2), $\mathrm{C} 5-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 16$ $-118.3(2), \mathrm{Ol1}-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 20-8.3(3)$ and $\mathrm{Cl} 6-$ C3-C4-C20 120.6(2) ${ }^{\circ}$ in (I); C5-C2-C3-O19 -16.6 (2) and $\mathrm{C} 5-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 24-144.2(2)^{\circ}$ in (II).

In the crystal packing, no intermolecular contacts are shorter than normal van der Waals separations.

## Experimental

A quartz tube was charged with 1.5 mmol of aromatic aldehyde [(I): benzaldehyde ( $159 \mathrm{mg}, 150 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ); (II): 2-benzyloxybenzaldehyde $(320 \mathrm{mg})$ ], 3.0 mmol of silyl enol ether and 10 ml of benzene. The samples were irradiated at 300 nm (RPR $3000 \AA$ ) in an air-cooled merry-go-round unit (temperature ca 303 K ). The reaction was monitored by thin-layer chromatography. After complete consumption of the aldehyde, irradiation was stopped. The solvent was evaporated in vacuo and the residue purified by flash chromatography using a cyclohexane/ethyl acetate solvent mixture ( $100 / 1$ to $95 / 5$ ). Crystals suitable for data collection were obtained by recrystallization from ether/pentane (1:1) solution.

Compound (I)
Crystal data
$\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Si}$
$M_{r}=292.48$
Monoclinic
$P 2_{1} / c$
$a=8.699$ (1) $\AA$
$b=26.465(1) \AA$
$c=7.769(1) \AA$
$\beta=95.23(1)^{\circ}$
$V=1781.1(3) \AA^{3}$
$Z=4$
$D_{x}=1.091 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}$
$D_{m}$ not measured

## Data collection

Enraf-Nonius CAD-4
diffractometer
$2 \theta / \omega$ scans
Absorption correction: none
3885 measured reflections
3617 independent reflections 3242 observed reflections
$[I>2 \sigma(I)]$
$R_{\mathrm{in1}}=0.025$
$\mathrm{Cu} K \alpha$ radiation
$\lambda=1.54178 \AA$
Cell parameters from 25 reflections
$\theta=41.7-42.5^{\circ}$
$\mu=1.15 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$
$T=293$ (2) K
Block
$0.6 \times 0.4 \times 0.4 \mathrm{~mm}$
Colourless

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \theta_{\max }=74.1^{\circ} \\
& h=-10 \rightarrow 10 \\
& k=0 \rightarrow 33 \\
& l=-9 \rightarrow 0
\end{aligned}
$$

3 standard reflections orientation monitored every 250 reflections intensity check frequency: 120 min intensity decay: 5\%

## Refinement

Refinement on $F^{2}$
$R(F)=0.055$
$w R\left(F^{2}\right)=0.181$
$S=1.075$
3609 reflections
188 parameters
Methyl H atoms rigid, others riding

$$
\begin{aligned}
& w= 1 /\left[\sigma^{2}\left(F_{o}^{2}\right)+(0.1009 P)^{2}\right. \\
&+0.4515 P] \\
& \text { where } P=\left(F_{o}^{2}+2 F_{c}^{2}\right) / 3
\end{aligned}
$$

$(\Delta / \sigma)_{\text {max }}=0.001$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {max }}=0.43 \mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {min }}=-0.35 \mathrm{e}^{-3}$
Extinction correction: none Atomic scattering factors from International Tables for Crystallography (1992, Vol. C, Tables 4.2.6.8 and 6.1.1.4)

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters $\left(\AA^{2}\right)$ for (I)

| $U_{\mathrm{eq}}=(1 / 3) \sum_{i} \sum_{j} U_{i j} a_{i}^{*} a_{j}^{*} \mathbf{a}_{i} . \mathbf{a}_{j}$. |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $U_{\text {eq }}$ |
| Sil2 | 0.20888 (6) | 0.56554 (2) | 0.36464 (7) | 0.0547 (2) |
| 01 | 0.4945 (2) | 0.66510 (6) | 0.0469 (2) | 0.0661 (4) |
| 011 | 0.3552 (2) | 0.59702 (5) | 0.3080 (2) | 0.0480 (3) |
| C2 | 0.3894 (2) | 0.68076 (7) | 0.1716 (2) | 0.0484 (4) |
| C3 | 0.4530 (2) | 0.63864 (6) | 0.3000 (2) | 0.0403 (3) |
| C4 | 0.5718 (2) | 0.62898 (8) | 0.1667 (2) | 0.0564 (5) |
| C5 | 0.2234 (2) | 0.68175 (7) | 0.1004 (2) | 0.0498 (4) |
| C6 | 0.1249 (2) | 0.71686 (8) | 0.1628 (3) | 0.0618 (5) |
| C7 | -0.0299 (3) | 0.71830 (11) | 0.1015 (3) | 0.0761 (7) |
| C8 | -0.0865 (3) | 0.68516 (13) | -0.0247 (3) | 0.0827 (8) |
| C9 | 0.0101 (3) | 0.65060 (13) | -0.0894 (3) | 0.0826 (8) |
| Cl 0 | 0.1662 (3) | 0.64846 (10) | -0.0278 (3) | 0.0656 (5) |
| C 13 | 0.1658 (5) | 0.51777 (13) | 0.1925 (5) | 0.1106 (11) |
| C14 | 0.2608 (3) | 0.53150 (11) | 0.5725 (4) | 0.0865 (8) |
| C15 | 0.0354 (3) | 0.60438 (11) | 0.3902 (4) | 0.0794 (7) |
| C16 | 0.5187 (2) | 0.65620 (7) | 0.4817 (2) | 0.0499 (4) |
| C17 | 0.6283 (3) | 0.70133 (11) | 0.4747 (4) | 0.0822 (7) |
| C18 | 0.6090 (3) | 0.61218 (10) | 0.5716 (3) | 0.0681 (6) |
| C19 | 0.3867 (3) | 0.67175 (9) | 0.5861 (3) | 0.0633 (5) |
| C20 | 0.5824 (4) | 0.57799 (11) | 0.0880 (4) | 0.0910 (9) |

Table 2. Selected geometric parameters $\left(\AA^{\circ},^{\circ}\right)$ for (I)

| O1-C2 | 1.452 (2) | C2-C3 | 1.563 (2) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| O1-C4 | 1.455 (2) | C3-C4 | 1.550 (2) |
| O11-C3 | 1.396 (2) | C3-C16 | 1.545 (2) |
| C2-C5 | 1.498 (2) | C4-C20 | 1.488 (4) |
| $\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{Ol}-\mathrm{C} 4$ | 92.5 (1) | O11-C3-C2 | 114.2 (1) |
| $\mathrm{Ol}-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 5$ | 113.8 (2) | $\mathrm{C} 16-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 2$ | 116.7 (1) |
| $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 3$ | 90.8 (1) | C4-C3-C2 | 84.8 (1) |
| C5-C2-C3 | 121.4 (1) | $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 20$ | 112.1 (2) |
| $\mathrm{Ol1-C3-C16}$ | 111.9 (1) | $\mathrm{Ol}-\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 3$ | 91.3 (1) |
| O11-C3-C4 | 110.2 (1) | C20-C4-C3 | 119.6 (2) |
| C16-C3-C4 | 116.5 (1) |  |  |
| Compound (II) |  |  |  |
| Crystal data |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{C}_{23} \mathrm{H}_{32} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Si}$ |  | Mo $K \alpha$ radiation |  |
| $M_{r}=384.58$ |  | $\lambda=0.71073 \AA$ |  |
| Monoclinic |  | Cell parameters from 25 reflections |  |
| $P 2_{1} / \mathrm{c}$ |  |  |  |
| $a=14.701$ (2) $\AA$ |  | $\theta=10.0-18.0^{\circ}$ |  |
| $b=10.153$ (1) $\AA$ |  | $\mu=0.121 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$ |  |
| $c=15.420$ (2) $\AA$ |  | $T=293$ (2) K |  |
| $\beta=96.26$ (1) ${ }^{\circ}$ |  | Block |  |
| $V=2287.9$ (5) $\AA^{3}$ |  | $1.0 \times 0.6 \times 0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ |  |
| $Z=4$ |  | Colourless |  |
| $D_{x}=1.117 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}$ |  |  |  |
| $D_{m}$ not measured |  |  |  |

## Data collection

Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer
$2 \theta / \omega$ scans
Absorption correction: none
4009 measured reflections
3850 independent reflections
2942 observed reflections
$[I>2 \sigma(I)]$
$R_{\text {int }}=0.051$

## Refinement

Refinement on $F^{2}$
$R(F)=0.046$
$u \cdot R\left(F^{2}\right)=0.147$
$S=1.052$
3844 reflections
250 parameters
Methyl H atoms rigid, others
riding
$\begin{aligned} u= & 1 /\left[\sigma^{2}\left(F_{o}^{2}\right)+(0.0805 P)^{2}\right. \\ & +0.4521 P]\end{aligned}$
where $P=\left(F_{o}^{2}+2 F_{c}^{2}\right) / 3$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \theta_{\max }=24.6^{\circ} \\
& h=-17 \rightarrow 0 \\
& k=0 \rightarrow 11 \\
& l=-17 \rightarrow 18 \\
& 3 \text { standard reflections } \\
& \text { orientation monitored } \\
& \text { every } 250 \text { reflections } \\
& \text { intensity check frequency: } \\
& 120 \text { min } \\
& \text { intensity decay: } 4 \%
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& (\Delta / \sigma)_{\max }<0.001 \\
& \Delta \rho_{\max }=0.30 \mathrm{e} \AA^{-3} \\
& \Delta \rho_{\min }=-0.18 \mathrm{e}^{-3}
\end{aligned}
$$

Extinction correction: none
Atomic scattering factors from International Tables for Crystallography (1992, Vol. C. Tables 4.2.6.8 and 6.1.1.4)

Table 3. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters $\left(\AA^{2}\right)$ for (II)

| $U_{\text {cq }}=(1 / 3) \sum_{i} \sum_{j} U_{i j} a_{i}^{*} a_{j}^{*} \mathbf{a}_{i} . \mathbf{a}_{j}$. |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $x$ | $y$ | こ | $U_{\text {eq }}$ |
| Si20 | 0.37904 (4) | 0.18526 (6) | 0.72347 (4) | 0.0570 (2) |
| Ol | 0.11600 (10) | 0.3839 (2) | 0.63835 (9) | 0.0628 (4) |
| 011 | 0.10889 (9) | 0.1254 (2) | 0.84549 (8) | 0.0487 (3) |
| 019 | 0.28860 (8) | 0.2490 (2) | 0.75901 (8) | 0.0481 (4) |
| C2 | 0.12451 (13) | 0.3032 (2) | 0.71665 (12) | 0.0464 (5) |
| C3 | 0.22518 (13) | 0.3508 (2) | 0.73805 (12) | 0.0457 (5) |
| C4 | 0.2139 (2) | 0.3994 (2) | 0.64351 (14) | 0.0623 (6) |
| C5 | 0.10917 (12) | 0.1597 (2) | 0.69613 (12) | 0.0443 (5) |
| C6 | 0.10309 (12) | 0.0703 (2) | 0.76388 (11) | 0.0417 (4) |
| C7 | 0.09038 (13) | -0.0627 (2) | 0.74705 (13) | 0.0495 (5) |
| C8 | 0.08098 (14) | -0.1067 (2) | 0.66204 (14) | 0.0570 (5) |
| C9 | 0.0847 (2) | -0.0194 (2) | 0.59407 (14) | 0.0610 (6) |
| $\mathrm{Cl})$ | 0.09925 (14) | 0.1121 (2) | 0.61167 (13) | 0.0550 (5) |
| C12 | 0.09630 (14) | 0.0415 (2) | 0.91726 (12) | 0.0504 (5) |
| C 13 | 0.17753 (14) | -0.0442 (2) | 0.94493 (11) | 0.0471 (5) |
| C14 | 0.2644 (2) | -0.0094 (2) | 0.9289 (2) | 0.0624 (6) |
| C15 | 0.3384 (2) | -0.0854 (3) | 0.9598 (2) | 0.0784 (7) |
| C16 | 0.3262 (2) | -0.1978 (3) | 1.0066 (2) | 0.0771 (7) |
| C17 | 0.2406 (2) | -0.2337 (2) | 1.0230 (2) | 0.0735 (7) |
| C18 | 0.1666 (2) | -0.1582 (2) | 0.9918 (2) | 0.0601 (6) |
| C21 | 0.4267 (2) | 0.2841 (4) | 0.6382 (2) | 0.1113 (12) |
| C22 | 0.4656 (2) | 0.1762 (3) | 0.8202 (2) | 0.0939 (9) |
| C23 | 0.3494 (2) | 0.0184 (3) | 0.6826 (3) | 0.1102 (12) |
| C24 | 0.2387 (2) | 0.4599 (2) | 0.8083 (2) | 0.0578 (5) |
| C25 | 0.1680 (2) | 0.5706 (2) | 0.7908 (2) | 0.0869 (8) |
| C26 | 0.3334 (2) | 0.5205 (3) | 0.8071 (2) | 0.0861 (8) |
| C27 | 0.2299 (2) | 0.4011 (3) | 0.8977 (2) | 0.0764 (7) |

Table 4. Selected geometric parameters $\left(\AA,^{\circ}\right)$ for (II)

| $\mathrm{O1}-\mathrm{C} 2$ | $1.453(2)$ | $\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 3$ | $1.558(3)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Ol}-\mathrm{C} 4$ | $1.442(3)$ | $\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 4$ | $1.531(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 19-\mathrm{C} 3$ | $1.405(2)$ | $\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 24$ | $1.547(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 5$ | $1.502(3)$ |  |  |


| $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C} 2$ | $91.2(1)$ | $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 24$ | $115.3(2)$ |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 5$ | $112.0(2)$ | $\mathrm{O} 9-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 2$ | $114.3(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 3$ | $89.7(1)$ | $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 2$ | $84.1(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 5-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 3$ | $117.6(2)$ | $\mathrm{C} 24-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 2$ | $114.7(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 19-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 4$ | $117.2(2)$ | $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 3$ | $91.2(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 19-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 24$ | $109.5(2)$ |  |  |

For both compounds, data collection: CAD-4 EXPRESS (Enraf-Nonius, 1992); cell refinement: CAD-4 EXPRESS; data reduction: own programs; program(s) used to solve structures: SHELXS86 (Sheldrick, 1990a); program(s) used to refine structures: SHELXL93 (Sheldrick, 1993); molecular graphics: SHELXTL-Plus (Sheldrick, 1990b); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL93.

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Lists of structure factors, least-squares-planes data, anisotropic displacement parameters, H -atom coordinates and complete geometry have been deposited with the IUCr (Reference: JZ1113). Copies may be obtained through The Managing Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square. Chester CHI 2HU, England.

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# (Pentafluorophenyl)diphenylphosphine 

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#### Abstract

In solid $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{~F}_{5} \mathrm{P}$ the average $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}$ distance and $\mathrm{C}-$ $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}$ angle are 1.838 (2) $\AA$ and $102.9(1)^{\circ}$, respectively. Intermolecular $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{F}$ hydrogen bonds and short F...F contacts are observed.


## Comment

The title compound [(I), Fig. 1] has the expected geometry: the three $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}$ bonds are folded back from the lone-pair site, giving a slightly distorted tetrahedral geometry and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}$ angles less than $109.5^{\circ}$.

(I)

The mean $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}$ bond length $[1.838(2) \AA$ ] is comparable with values of 1.828 (3) and 1.831 (2) $\AA$ for $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ (Dunne \& Orpen, 1991; Daly, 1964) and with the mean value of $1.828 \AA$ for 2239 metal complexes containing $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ (Orpen et al., 1989). $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C} 12$ is short $[1.827$ (2) $\AA$ ] compared with P-C6 [1.846(2) $\AA$ ] ] and $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C} 18[1.840(2) \AA$ A . A similar trend was observed in $\left[\left(\eta^{6}-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{6}\right) \mathrm{Cr}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{~F}_{5} \mathrm{PPh}_{2}\right)\right]_{2} \mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{CO}) \mathrm{Cl}$ (Faggiani, Hao, Lock, Sayer \& McGlinchey, 1983). The average C-C distances are 1.375 (4) A for the pentafluorophenyl ring and 1.382 (4) and 1.383 (4) $\AA$ for the two phenyl rings (C7-C12 and C13-C18).

The molecules are packed so that the lone pair of each P atom points along the shortest axis ( $b$ axis), a feature also observed in (2-methoxyphenyl)diphenylphosphine

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