

Thermal Rearrangement of (Chloromethyl)silanes

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Summary Thermal rearrangements of hydridic (chloromethyl)silane and (chloromethyl)chlorosilane occur through an intermolecular process and not *via* the intramolecular reaction of the type invoked for analogous reactions in other (halogenoalkyl)silanes.

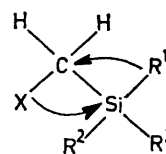
REARRANGEMENT reactions in carbon-functional organosilanes have been observed in many systems, both in the presence¹ and absence² of added Lewis acids. During the course of the rearrangement in equation (1), an electronegative atom or group (X) migrates from carbon to silicon while concurrently a less electronegative substituent (R) is transferred from silicon to carbon. This reaction has been



universally interpreted in terms of an intramolecular pathway [structure (A)], although in the Al_2Cl_6 -catalysed rearrangement, the extent of charge separation in the transition state is a matter of debate.³ ¹H N.m.r. evidence from the thermal rearrangement at 90 °C of $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_3$ and $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_2\text{Cl}$, however, indicates that in these hydridic compounds the reaction occurs through a bimolecular process.

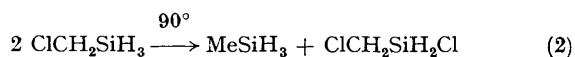
Carefully purified samples of $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_3$ and $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_2\text{Cl}$ were each heated to 90 °C in sealed n.m.r. tubes which had been previously conditioned with the silanes. The con-

tents of the tubes were monitored periodically by ¹H n.m.r. spectroscopy at 60 or 220 MHz.



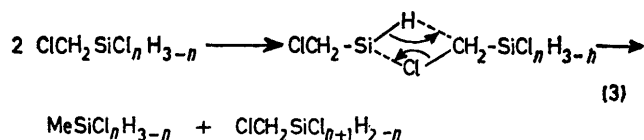
(A)

In the rearrangement of $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_3$, the first changes in the n.m.r. spectrum appeared after 40 h. Two quartets [MeSiH_3 , δ (Me) 0.14, δ (SiH_3) 3.52, ¹J (H-H) 4.6 Hz] and two triplets [$\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_2\text{Cl}$, δ (Me) 3.06, δ (SiH_3) 4.74 ¹J (H-H) 3.3 Hz] increased slowly in intensity with time. These resonances were assigned to MeSiH_3 and $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_2\text{Cl}$, respectively, indicating that the first step of the rearrangement is not intramolecular, but rather involves the reaction of two molecules of the substrate [equation (2)]. During



the 8 month reaction period absorptions due to each of the (chloromethyl)chlorosilanes ($\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_2\text{Cl}$, $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiHCl}_2$ and

$\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiCl}_3$ grew in intensity and then diminished in relative size as peaks ascribed to the methylchlorosilanes, $\text{MeSiH}_n\text{Cl}_{3-n}$, grew steadily larger until the latter species accounted for 98% of the integrated intensity of the entire



spectrum. After 8 months the methylchlorosilanes were present in the molar ratio: MeSiH_3 , 0.76; MeSiH_2Cl , 1.00; MeSiHCl_2 , 0.56; and MeSiCl_3 , 0.10. At the end of the experiment, the n.m.r. tubes were opened and the products were separated and identified. The identities were also confirmed by i.r. spectroscopy. Noncondensable material (-196°C) or HCl were not detected.

In the rearrangement of $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_2\text{Cl}$, the first changes in the spectra, observed after 100 h, indicated that the initial products formed in the reaction were equal amounts of MeSiH_2Cl [δ (SiH_2) 4.70, δ (Me) 0.50; 1J (H-H) 3.5 Hz] and $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiHCl}_2$ [δ (SiH) 5.60, δ (CH_2) 3.17; 1J (H-H) 2.5 Hz], rather than MeSiHCl_2 which would be expected on the basis of equation (1). At the end of the experiment the

signals due to the intermediates $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiHCl}_2$ and $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiCl}_3$ had disappeared from the spectra, and the final products consisted of MeSiH_2Cl , MeSiHCl_2 , and MeSiCl_3 in the molar ratio 0.53:1.00:0.46. MeSiH_3 or noncondensable material were not detected.

Thus, the identities and relative amounts of the final products in the reaction of $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_3$ can be accounted for by the type of reaction sequence previously suggested:^{1,2} an intramolecular rearrangement (similar to the Wagner-Meerwein reaction), followed by redistribution⁴ reactions (ligand scrambling among silicon centres). Clearly, however, the first products to be observed experimentally are not consistent with an intramolecular reaction. A more reasonable mechanism for these hydridic compounds is shown in equation (3). The absence of MeSiH_3 from the reaction products of $\text{ClCH}_2\text{SiH}_2\text{Cl}$ indicates that the redistribution⁴ reaction has a higher activation energy than the exchange of ligands between carbon and silicon. Therefore, redistribution occurs at a much slower rate under these conditions.

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