Cyclic Isomers and Cyclodimers of 3-0x0-I -silaprop-1 -enes

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 3 -Oxo-1-silaprop-1-enes, when generated by photochemical decomposition of α -diazo- α -silyl carbonyl compounds, cyclize to **l-oxa-2-silacyclobut-3-enes** provided that the substituent at **C-3** is sterically demanding; otherwise, the head-to-tail cyclodimers (1,5-dioxa-2,6-disilacyclo-octa-3,7-dienes) are obtained.

3-0x0-1-silaprop-1-enes ('acylated silaethenes') may be obtained from a-diazo-a-silyl carbonyl compounds *via* intermediate acyl silyl carbenes. By this method, **(2a)** and a few other representatives were generated and isolated in a matrix.1 In solution, **(2a)** cyclizes spontaneously to the 1-oxa-2-silacyclobut-3-ene **(3a),** so far the only one known.*

We have now compared the photochemical decomposition of the **(pentamethyldisilanyl-diazomethyl)** ketones **(la--d)3** and have found that the 1-oxa-2-silacyclobut-3-enes are obtained only if R is a sterically demanding substituent. If **(la)** or **(lb)** are irradiated in benzene (Philips HPK 125 W high pressure mercury lamp, $\lambda \ge 300$ nm), the products **(3a)** or **(3b)** are obtained. In contrast to the earlier report,² (3a) can be isolated in pure form by low-temperature crystallization from pentane, even though it is highly reactive and thermally (> *ca.* 80° C) unstable. The same holds true for the new compound **(3b).** On the other hand, photolysis of **(lc,d)** in benzene yields the novel **1,5-di-oxa-2,6-disilacyclo-octa-3,7-dienes (4c,d),**

Scheme 1

Scheme 2. *Conditions and yields:* i, benzene, 80"C, 90 min, 64% of **(Sb)** (R = But); ii, diethyl ether, 100"C, 30 min, 33% of **(6c);** iii, diethyl ether, 120 °C, 90 min, 132-166% of (5c).

formal cyclodimers of intermediate silaethenes **(2)** or of the oxasilacyclobutenes **(3)** (Scheme 1). Relevant spectroscopic data for **(3)** and **(4)** are given in Table 1. Attention should be paid to the ¹³C n.m.r. signal of the olefinic C^b in $(3a,b)$; the low-field shift with respect to the analogous signal in **(4c)** is *ca.* twice as high as one would expect from the substituent increments of Bu^t and Prⁱ groups.⁴ In the ²⁹Si n.m.r. spectrum, there is a significant difference between the ring silicon chemical shift of (3a) and **(4c).** This is another example of ring strain causing strong deshielding of the silicon in rings containing Si-O bonds.⁵

Not unexpectedly, heterocycles (3) and **(4)** also differ in their chemical reactivity. Whereas (3a) readily undergoes ring-opening under the action of methanol,2 **(4d)** is recovered unchanged even after 6 h at 65°C. On the other hand, the respective alkyl-trimethylsilyl-acetylene *(5)* is obtained thermally, both from **(4c,d)** and from (3a,b)2 (Scheme 2). The fragmentation of the eight-membered ring **(4c),** by extrusion of one molecule of the alkyne, yields 1,3-dioxa-2,4 disilacyclohex-5-ene **(6c)** which, on prolonged heating, fragments further into a second alkyne molecule and a siliconcontaining polymer.[†] Formation of **(6)** also occurs by electron impact on **(4c,d)** (see Table 1).

Ring contraction/fragmentation accompanied by transannular silicon-to-oxygen bond formation has precedent, e. g. the thermal6 and mass-spectrometric7 cleavage of dimeric to monomeric silicon-oxygen rings. The crystal structure analysis of **(4d)S** (Figure 1) offers a hint as to the reason for the facile thermal fragmentation: although the bond angles around the ring silicon atom are in the range expected for tetrahedral configuration, the transannular $Si \cdots O$ distance (2.799 A) is much shorter than the sum of the van der Waals radii (3.60 Å) . This points to the possibility of co-ordinative interaction,⁸ which might ultimately lead to bond formation and expulsion of an alkyne fragment.

If **(Id)** is irradiated in acetone instead of benzene, the enol ether **(7)** (61%) and bis(trimethylsilyl)ketene **(8)**⁹ (28%) are

Selected physical and spectroscopic data for **(6c):** i.r. **(v** in cm - 1, film), 1538 (C=C), 1253, 1218, 1070; 1H n.m.r. (90 MHz, CDC13): 6 0.08 (SiMe₃), 0.10 (SiMe₂), 0.15 (SiMe₂), 0.96 (d, CHMe₂), and 2.65 (sept., *CH*Me₂); mass spectrum (70 eV): 288.5 (8%, M⁺), 273.5(16), 245.5(7), 221.4(52), 133 (28, M^+ - PriC=CSiMe₃, -Me), 125 (23, Pr'C \equiv CSiMe₂), 73 (100, SiMe₃); b.p. 70 °C at 0.01 Torr (Kugelrohr distillation).

§ *Crystal data* for **(4d)**: $C_{16}H_{36}Si_4O_2$, $M = 372.8$, monoclinic, $P2_1/c$, a $= 7.331(5)$, $b = 13.443(7)$, $c = 11.531(10)$ Å, $\beta = 92.21(8)$ °, $U =$ 1135.6(1.3) Å³, $F_{000} = 408$, $Z = 2$, $D_c = 1.09$ g cm⁻³; Enraf-Nonius CAD4 diffractometer, monochromatized Mo- K_{α} radiation, 1310 independent reflections, $2.00 \le \theta \le 21.50^{\circ}$, full-matrix least-squares refinement with 1142 reflections $[I > 2\sigma(I)]; R = 0.0457, R_w = 0.038$ ${w = k [\sigma^2(F_o) + (0.0015 F_o)^2]^{-1}}$. Atomic co-ordinates, bond lengths and angles, and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. See Notice to Authors, Issue 1.

^{?.} Properties of alkynes *(5)* were consistent with the structures reported.

Table 1. Physical and spectroscopic data for **(3)** and (4)

a 90 MHz, CDCl₃, internal CHCl₃, $\delta(SiMe_4) = 7.27 - \delta(CHCl_3)$. $\delta(3.28 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3, \delta(SiMe_4) = 77.0 - \delta(CDCl_3)$. c 53.54 MHz, C₆D₆, internal SiMe₄. ^d cm⁻¹, KBr pellet except for (3b) (film). ϵ 70 eV, relative intensity (%) in parentheses. ^f See ref. 2. ^g Additional peaks: $(Me_2Si=O)_n$, $n = 2,3,4$, and fragments thereof.

Figure 1. ORTEP plot of **(4d).** The molecule is centrosymmetric about centre at $\frac{1}{20}$ /2. Distances: Si(1)-O 1.651(1), Si(1)-C(2) 1.844(2), C(2)-C(1) 1.330(3), C(1)-0 1.388(2) A; Si(1)-0 (transannular) 2.799(2) Å. Angles: Si(1)-O-C(1) $128.7(1)$, O-C(1)-C(2) 119.4(2), C(1)–C(2)–Si(1) 113.8(2), C(2)–Si(1)–O 107.6(1), C(4)– Si(1)-C(5) 109.7(2), C(3)-C(1)-C(2) 131.3(2), Si(2)-C(2)-C(1) 125.0(2)°. Interplanar angle between Si(1)-O-Si(1)-O and Si(1)- $C(2)$ - $C(1)$ -O 53.3°.

formed (Scheme **3).** Both products are likely to result from the intermediate silaethene **(2d),** the former by an ene reaction with the solvent and the latter by a $1,3$ -Me shift.¹⁰ In contrast, photolysis of **(la)** in acetone, as in benzene, yields only **(3a)** (62% isolated yield), *i.e.,* the silaethene **(2a)** cannot be trapped.

These findings are in agreement with the hypothesis that the cyclodimers **(4c,d)** are formed directly from the silaethenes **(2c,d)** whilst cyclization to give oxasilacyclobutene is too slow to compete with the intermolecular reactions. **As** a reason for fast cyclization of **(2a,b),** one could invoke the bulkiness of the adamantyl and But groups, which certainly would enforce cyclization, if the silene is formed in the *s-cis* conformation.

However, **(4c,d)** could also result from dimerization of initially formed **(3c,d).** Dimerization of strained rings containing Si-O bonds is known;⁶ 1,3-dioxa-2-sila-cyclopentanes¹¹ and -cyclopentenes,¹² in some cases, could not be obtained as monomers. Thermodynamic stabilization could prevent dimerization in the case of **(3a,b).** Formation of the eightmembered ring increases the steric repulsion between the bulky substituent R and the SiMe₃ group because of smaller exocyclic bond angles; the adaptation of the endocyclic bond angles to 'normal' values, then, could not compensate for this repulsive interaction as well as for the one between SiMe₃ substituent and the neighbouring equatorial methyl group at silicon $[(4d)$: torsion angle C(5)-Si(1)-C(2)-Si(2) 17.6°].

This work was supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie.

Received, 3rd August 1987; Corn. 1137

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