

New and Efficient Syntheses of Symmetrical Phosphorus-containing Cryptands

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Phosphorus cryptands **3–5** are obtained *via* [2 + 3] cyclocondensations between phosphodihydrazides **1a, b** and phosphorus-*p,p*-dialdehydes **2a, b** while another phosphorus cryptand **10** is prepared by treatment of the sodium salt of a phosphodihydrazone **8** with a dihalogenated phosphorus-containing macrocycle **9**.

In view of the widespread use of phosphorus-containing macrocycles¹—specifically for complexation of cations, transition metals, neutral organic species, *etc.*—it is somewhat surprising only a few reports deal with the synthetic approach to phosphorus-containing cryptands.² Moreover, most of the reactions suffer from numerous drawbacks. Therefore, there is a need to find strategies which allow the formation of species which might present useful complexation properties.

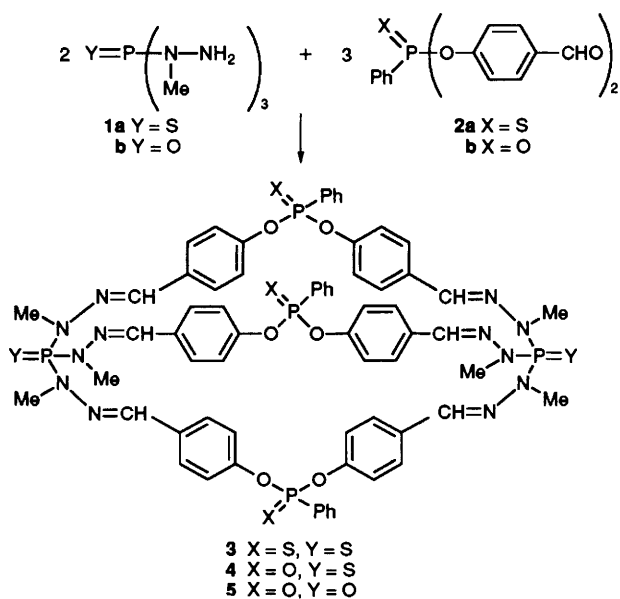
We recently proposed a general route to unsymmetrical cryptands.^{2r} We now report novel access to phosphorus cryptands possessing identical links between phosphorus atoms. The strategies used have the potential for ready modification to the preparation of a wide range of such new derivatives.

The appropriate first method consists of the treatment of phosphotrihydrazides (Y)(PNMeNH₂)₃ **1a** (Y = S) or **1b** (Y = O), (2 equiv.), with the phosphorus dialdehydes PhP(X)-O-*p*-C₆H₄-CHO) **2a** (X = S) or **2b** (X = O), (3 equiv.) in THF, at room temperature and in the presence of molecular sieve (4Å) (Scheme 1). Reactions are monitored by ³¹P NMR. After stirring for 24 h, compounds **3–5**[†] are obtained in good yield (**3**: 60%; **4**: 60%; **5**: 50%). ³¹P NMR spectra exhibit two signals for each derivative (**3** δ 73.2 [N–P(S)–N] and 82.5 [O–P(S)–O]; **4** δ 73.3 [N–P(S)–N] and 11.8 [O–P(O)–O]; **5** δ 12.1 [N–P(O)–N] and 11.1 [O–P(O)–O]). ¹H NMR spectra show the disappearance of resonances attributed to aldehyde groups (δ 9.8) and NH₂ groups (δ 3.5). ¹³C NMR and IR spectroscopy confirm the proposed structures, which are also corroborated by mass spectrometries (FAB⁺) (**3** *m/z* 1435 [M + 1]⁺; **4** *m/z*: 1387 [M + 1]⁺; **5** *m/z*: 1355 [M + 1]⁺). All these results are in agreement with [2 + 3] cyclocondensation reactions leading to symmetrical cryptands possessing five phosphorus atoms and two different environments around phosphorus.

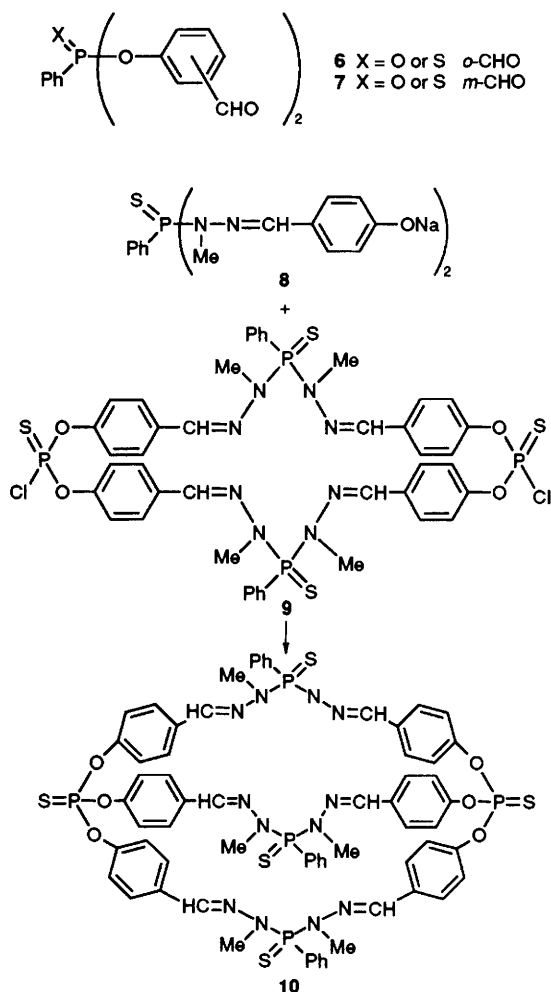
The use of phosphorus *o,o*-dialdehyde **6** or phosphorus *m,m*-dialdehyde **7** instead of **2a** or **2b** leads to a mixture of the

expected cryptands and oligomeric species. Attempts to isolate the cryptands have so far been unsuccessful.

The observation that a number of phosphorus-containing macrocycles, obtained *via* [2 + 2] cyclocondensations between phosphodihydrazides **1a** or **1b** and various dialdehydes, present an unusual butterfly-like structure³ is at the origin of the second approach to the synthesis of another symmetrical cryptand. It was expected that the bridging of the two wings of such a structure—provided one is able to functionalize these wings—would offer an alternative to the synthesis of such a cryptand. Indeed, the slow addition of the disodium salt **8** to the dihalogenated phosphorus macrocycle **9** in THF at room temperature leads to the new symmetrical cryptand **10**[†] (90% yield) possessing five phosphorus atoms and the same linkages than **3** but with three N–P(S)–N links and two O–P(=S)–O links instead of two N–P(S)–N and three O–P(=S)–O moieties (Scheme 2). All the spectroscopic data for **10** are fully consistent with the proposed structure which displays two signals at δ 78.5 and 57.8 in ³¹P NMR and a molecular ion at *m/z*: 1435 [M + 1]⁺.



Scheme 1



Scheme 2

Extension of these efficient methods to the preparation of other cryptands as well as studies concerning complexation properties of these new systems are underway.

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Footnote

† Selected spectral data for **3–5**, **10**. **3**: mp 170 °C (decomp.). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.7–3.7 (m, 18H, P-N-Me), 6.6–8.2 (m, 45H, C_6H_4 , C_6H_5 and HC=N); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl_3) δ 31.8 (br s, P-N-Me), 121.1–132.3 (m, C_6H_5 and C_6H_4), 135.4 (br s, HC=N), 149.9 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 9$ Hz, C-O-P). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{63}\text{N}_{12}\text{O}_6\text{P}_5\text{S}_5$: C, 55.24; H, 4.42; N, 11.71. Found: C, 54.99; H, 4.27; N, 11.62%. **4**: mp 210 °C (decomp.). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.8–3.5 (m, 18H, P-N-Me), 6.5–8.1 (m, 45H, C_6H_4 , C_6H_5 and HC=N); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl_3) δ 31.6 (br s, P-N-Me), 120.7–131.9 (m, C_6H_5 and C_6H_4), 134.3 (br s, HC=N), 151.2 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 8.7$ Hz, C-O-P). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{63}\text{N}_{12}\text{O}_9\text{P}_5\text{S}_2$: C, 57.14; H, 4.57; N, 12.11. Found: C, 57.26; H, 4.69; N, 12.15%. **5**: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 3.1 (d, $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 6$ Hz, 18H, P-N-Me), 6.8–8.9 (m, 45H, C_6H_4 , C_6H_5 and HC=N); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl_3) δ 32.2 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 7.6$ Hz, P-N-Me), 121.3–130.7 (m, C_6H_5 and C_6H_4), 134.7 (br s, HC=N), 149.7 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 9.1$ Hz, C-O-P). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{63}\text{N}_{12}\text{O}_{11}\text{P}_5$: C, 58.48; H, 4.69; N, 12.40. Found: C, 58.57; H, 4.75; N, 12.49%. **10**: ^1H NMR ($[\text{2H}]_8$ THF) δ 2.8–3.6 (m, 18H, P-N-Me), 7.0–8.5 (m, 45H, C_6H_4 , C_6H_5 and HC=N); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR ($[\text{2H}]_8$ THF) δ 31.8 (br s, P-N-Me), 122.6–135.4 (m, C_6H_5 and C_6H_4), 137.4 (br s, HC=N), 152.1 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 7$ Hz, C-O-P). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{63}\text{N}_{12}\text{O}_6\text{P}_5\text{S}_5$: C, 55.24; H, 4.42; N, 11.71. Found: C, 55.36; H, 4.49; N, 11.76%.

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