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# Investigations of the V/O/RAsO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> System: Solvothermal Synthesis and Crystal and Molecular Structure of $[(V_2O_3)(Ph_6As_6O_{14})]$

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The reaction of PPh<sub>4</sub>[VO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>] with PhAsO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub> in acetonitrile for 36 h at 100 °C and autogenous pressure yields [(V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)(Ph<sub>6</sub>As<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub>)], an unusual cluster with a {V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>}<sup>4+</sup> core straddled by the hexadentate ligand {Ph<sub>6</sub>As<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub>}<sup>4-</sup> which forms *via* thermally induced condensation of PhAsO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub> groups.

While the solid phases of the V/O/phosphate and V/O/ arsenate systems have been extensively investigated,<sup>1,2</sup> the corresponding systems incorporating organic substituents,  $V/O/RPO_3^{2-}$  and  $V/O/RAsO_3^{2-}$ , remain relatively unexplored. Recent studies of the  $V/O/RPO_3^{2-}$  system have revealed a wealth of molecular clusters.<sup>3-9</sup> In contrast. the chemistry of the V/O/RAsO32- system is limited to two examples, the mixed-valence cluster  $[V_6O_{10}(PhAsO_3)_4-(PhAsO_3H)_2]^{2-}$  and the vanadium(v) cluster  $[V_{10}O_{24}-$ (RAsO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>4-.10</sup> While the hexanuclear species forms exclusively in a variety of organic solvents under conventional conditions, we have found that the chemistry of the V/O/ RAsO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> system may be dramatically extended by exploiting the techniques of solvothermal synthesis,<sup>11</sup> which allow the isolation of metastable compositions not accessible through conventional or even hydrothermal techniques. The potential of this approach is demonstrated by the isolation of  $[(V_2O_3)(Ph_6As_6O_{14})]$ , an unusual vanadium(v) cluster incorporating a  $\{V_2O_3\}^{4+}$  unit coordinated to a  $\{Ph_6As_6O_{14}\}^{4-}$ ligand and resulting in an unusually large As: V ratio of 3:1.

The reaction of PPh<sub>4</sub>[VO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>] with PhAsO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub> in a 1:2 molar ratio in acetonitrile for 36 h at 100 °C and autogenous pressure yields bright orange needles of  $[(V_2O_3)(Ph_6As_6O_{14})]$ in 42% yield.<sup>†</sup> The infrared spectrum exhibits a medium intensity band at 907 cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to v(V=O) and a very strong broad band at 837 cm<sup>-1</sup>, associated with v(As-O-As) of the ligand and v(V-O-As). While reaction of PhAsO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub> alone under the conditions of this study yields no oligometric species, solvothermal reaction of PhAsO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub> in the presence of small amounts of vanadate produces a mixture of oligometric materials, confirming that the polyarsonate unit  $\{Ph_6As_6O_{14}\}^{4-}$  is formed in a metal-mediated thermally induced process.

The X-ray crystallographic study of  $[(V_2O_3)(Ph_6As_6O_{14})]$ <sup>‡</sup> reveals that the structure consists of discrete neutral clusters, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The structure may be described as a  $\{V_2O_3\}^{4+}$  unit coordinated to six oxygen donors of the novel  $\{Ph_6As_6O_{14}\}^{4-}$  ligand and weakly associated with a seventh oxygen of this unit. The novel polyorganoarsenate moiety  $\{Ph_6As_6O_{14}\}^{4-}$  consists of a central  $\{Ph_2As_2(\mu-O)_2\}^{4+}$  core, bonded to two symmetrically bridging  $(PhAsO_3)^{2-}$  groups and two unidendate  $(PhAsO_3)^{2-}$  units. Thus, the two central As sites, As(5) and As(6), are six-coordinate  $\{PhAsO_5\}$  centres, with relatively long As–O bond distances consistent with the higher coordination number. While six-coordinate As<sup>V</sup> is relatively unusual, it has been documented in a variety of species, such as  $As_2O_5$ ,<sup>13</sup>  $[As_2F_{10}O]^{2-}$ ,<sup>14</sup> and  $[As_2F_8O_2]^{2-}$ .<sup>15</sup>

Alternatively, the structure may be viewed as a  $\{V_2O_3\}^{4+}$ unit and a  $\{Ph_2As_2O_2\}^{4+}$  group bridged by four  $(PhAsO_3)^{2-}$ groups. Each vanadium(v) site exhibits distorted octahedral geometry through coordination to a terminal oxo-group, a bridging oxo-group, three oxygen donors from each of three organoarsonate units, and weak interaction with the central oxo-group O(16) of the cluster, which assumes a quadruply bridging mode between the vanadium centres and As(5) and As(6). While the O(16)…V interaction contributes only 0.2 valence units to the oxygen bond valence,<sup>12</sup> this contribution to the total valence sum is significant and accounts for the lengthening of the As(5)–O(16) and As(6)–O(16) bond lengths from the expected distances of *ca.* 1.79 Å to the observed 1.91 Å. Curiously, the  $\{V_2O_3\}^{4+}$  unit, while a common feature of V<sup>V</sup> chemistry,<sup>17</sup> is not observed in other V/O/RAsO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> clusters reported to date.<sup>10,16</sup>

The exploitation of solvothermal techniques has revealed a new member of the V/O/RAsO $_3^{2-}$  system with an unexpected structure and incorporating a novel polyorganoarsenate unit. Modifications in reaction times, temperatures, fill volumes, templates, and vanadium precursors dramatically influence the product compositions obtained from the V/O/RAsO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> system, leading to novel structural cores such as [V12O14- $(OH)_4(PhAsO_3)_{10}]^{4-}$ and  $[V_{12}O_{14}(H_2O)_2(PhAsO_3)_{10}]$  $(PhAsO_{3}H)_{4}]^{4-16}$  and confirming that an extensive structural chemistry is accessible. The richness of the chemistry reflects not only the structural diversity inherent in the linking of vanadium square pyramids and octahedra with organoarsenate tetrahedra but the potential for the formation of polyorganoarsenate units to contribute to the closure of unusual V/O/As shells.

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Fig. 1 A view of the structure of  $[(V_2O_3)(Ph_6As_6O_{14})]$ , showing the atom-labelling scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): V(1)–O(1) 1.581(10), V(1)–O(2) 1.813(9), V(1)–O(As) 1.885(9), 1.917(9), 1.873(9), V(1)–O(16) 2.95(1), V(2)–O(3) 1.568(10), V(2)–O(2) 1.790(9), V(2)–O(As) 1.922(9), 1.912(9), 1.936(9); V(2)–O(16) 2.97(1), As(5)–O(16) 1.904(9), As(6)–O(16) 1.909(8), As(5)–O(17) 1.792(8), As(6)–O(17) 1.791(9), As(5)–O(11) 1.894(9), As(5)–O(14) 1.894(9), As(5)–O(6) 1.855(9), As(6)–O(12) 1.902(9), As(6)–O(15) 1.910(9), As(1)–O (av.) 1.70(1), As(2)–O (av.) 1.70(1), As(3)–O (av.) 1.69(1), As(4)–O (av.) 1.68(1), O(1)–V(1)–O(16) 176.0(5), O(3)–V(2)–O(16) 175.6(5).

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## Footnotes

† Satisfactory elemental analyses

X-ray data for [(V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)(Ph<sub>6</sub>As<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub>)]: monoclinic, space group P2<sub>1</sub>/c,  $a = 10.963(2), b = 10.664(2), c = 35.931(6)Å, \beta = 96.15(2)^{\circ}, V = 4177(2)Å^3, Z = 4, D_c = 2.045 \text{ g cm}^{-3}, \mu(\text{Mo-K}\alpha) = 52.39 \text{ cm}^{-1};$ structure solution and refinement based on 3351 reflections with  $2\theta \le$ 45 ° and  $I_0 \ge 3\sigma(I_0)$  converged at R = 0.0499.

Atomic coordinates, bond lengths and angles, and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. See Information for Authors, Issue No. 1.

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