

Synthesis, Spectroscopic Properties and Molecular Structure of the Paramagnetic Complex $[(\eta^5\text{-}3,5\text{-di-}t\text{-butyl-}1,2,4\text{-triphosphacyclopentadienyl})(\eta^5\text{-}2,4,5\text{-tri-}t\text{-butyl-}1,3\text{-diphosphacyclopentadienyl})\text{vanadium(II)}$

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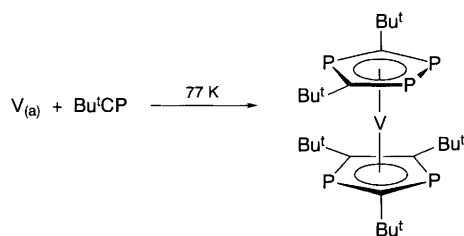
Cocondensation of vanadium vapour with the phosphalkyne Bu^tCP affords the paramagnetic complex $[\text{V}(\eta^5\text{-P}_3\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)(\eta^5\text{-P}_2\text{C}_3\text{Bu}^t_3)]$, whose molecular structure is determined by a single crystal X-ray diffraction study.

Phosphaalkynes have been shown to undergo oligomerisation reactions at transition metal centres, affording a variety of phosphorus-containing ring systems such as 3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-1,2,4-triphosphacyclopentadienyl, 2,4,5-tri-*tert*-butyl-1,3-diphosphacyclopentadienyl, 1,3-diphosphacyclobutadiene and 1,3,5,7-tetraphosphabarrelene.^{1–5} Recently we reported the first direct cocondensation of a metal vapour with phosphalkynes to afford the homoleptic tris-(η^4 -1,3-diphosphacyclobutadiene)molybdenum.⁶ Subsequent extension of this synthetic approach led to the preparation of the novel phosphiranyl cation $(\text{PC}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)^+$ ligated to nickel.⁷ Herein, we report that cocondensation of vanadium atoms with Bu^tCP yields the novel paramagnetic pentaphosphavanadocene $[\text{V}(\eta^5\text{-P}_3\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)(\eta^5\text{-P}_2\text{C}_3\text{Bu}^t_3)]$.

Cocondensation of electron-beam generated vanadium atoms with an excess of Bu^tCP at 77 K afforded a product of empirical formula $[\text{V}(\text{Bu}^t\text{CP})_5]$ in ca. 20–30% yield (ca. 1–1.5 g based on vanadium), which mass spectral, analytical,[†] magnetic and EPR[‡] data show to be the paramagnetic pentaphosphametalocene $[\text{V}(\eta^5\text{-P}_3\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)(\eta^5\text{-P}_2\text{C}_3\text{Bu}^t_3)]$ **1**, see Scheme 1. Compound **1** was obtained as orange-brown air-sensitive crystals either by sublimation at 160 °C (10^{-5} mbar) or recrystallisation from pentane at –30 °C.

The single-crystal X-ray diffraction study[§] (Fig. 1) confirms the formulation and shows that the $(\text{P}_3\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)$ and $(\text{P}_2\text{C}_3\text{Bu}^t_3)$ rings are parallel and eclipsed with the *tert*-butyl groups arranged so as to minimise inter-ring interactions. When compared to the previously reported structures for the analogous iron⁸ and chromium⁹ compounds, there is a noticeable lengthening of the metal–ring bond distances in **1**: e.g. V–C 2.42, Cr–C 2.30, Fe–C 2.20, V–P 2.56, Cr–P 2.45, Fe–P 2.33 and V– R_c 1.97, Cr– R_c 1.81 and Fe– R_c 1.69 Å (where R_c is the ring centroid). These elongations are larger than can be accounted for simply by the change in metal covalent radii (V 1.32, Cr 1.25 and Fe 1.24 Å).¹⁰ It is also interesting to note that this phenomenon can also be seen in the analogous metalocenes $[\text{M}(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2]$ (M = V, Cr or Fe), where V– R_c 1.92,¹¹ Cr– R_c 1.79¹² and Fe– R_c 1.66 Å (where R_c = C_5H_5 ring centroid),¹³ and has been rationalised in terms of the stepwise reduction in the number of bonding electrons for the open shell molecules.¹⁴

The solution magnetic moment[‡] of $3.54 \mu_B$ for **1** measured by the variable-temperature Evans' method¹⁵ and the bulk susceptibility measurement of $3.58 \mu_B$ are both close to the expected spin-only value for an $S = 3/2$ system. The EPR spectrum of **1** (Fig. 2) in toluene at room temperature is broad; however, the frozen solution spectrum at 77 K is reasonably well resolved in the perpendicular region which displays



Scheme 1

vanadium hyperfine coupling (^{51}V , $I = 7/2$, 99.75%). The spectrum is consistent with the non-axial symmetry of **1**, but all attempts at accurate simulation, and hence extraction of accurate, fully anisotropic A and g values, have been un-

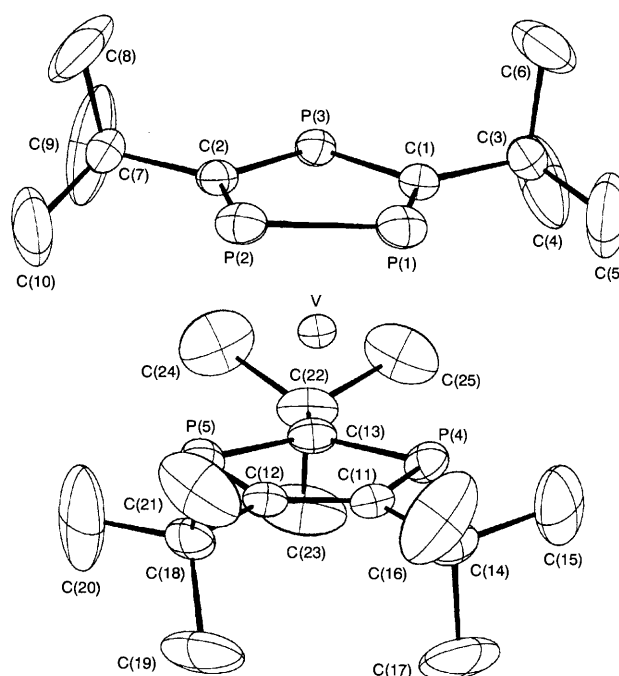


Fig. 1 Molecular structure of $[\text{V}(\eta^5\text{-P}_3\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)(\eta^5\text{-P}_2\text{C}_3\text{Bu}^t_3)]$ **1** (thermal ellipsoids at 50%). Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): V–C(1) 2.421(4), V–C(2) 2.423(4), C–P(1) 2.567(2), V–P(2) 2.567(2), V–P(3) 2.560(2), V–C(11) 2.383(4), V–C(12) 2.391(4), V–C(13) 2.402(4), V–P(4) 2.5216(14), V–P(5) 2.5226(14), V– $R_c(1)$ 1.972, V– $R_c(2)$ 1.977; $R_c(1)$ –V– $R_c(2)$ 179.5 [where $R_c(1)$ and $R_c(2)$ are the ring centroids of the upper and lower rings, respectively].

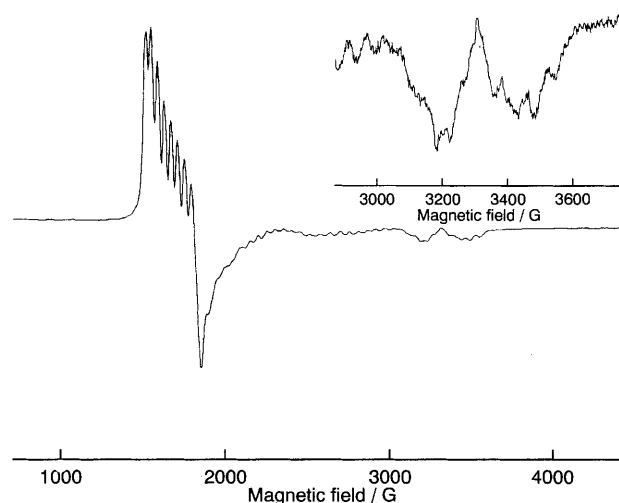


Fig. 2 Frozen solution EPR spectrum of **1**. Inset: expansion of low intensity region.

successful; estimated values for the main perpendicular feature are $g = 4.032$ and $A = 40$ G. The weak features in the parallel region of the spectrum may involve both vanadium and phosphorus coupling or possibly a formally forbidden $M_s = 2$ transition, but the present data do not allow us to comment further on this. However, the essential features of the EPR spectrum of **1** are very similar to that of vanadocene,¹⁶ which, together with the magnetic data, imply a $^4A_{1g}(e_{2g}^2a_{1g}^1)$ ground state for **1** also.

The comparatively high yield of **1** is also noteworthy; the only other paramagnetic phosphametalloocene is $[\text{Cr}(\eta^5\text{-P}_3\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)_2]$, obtained by a conventional route in extremely low ($\ll 1\%$ yield).⁸ Interestingly, similarly low yields of $[\text{Cr}(\eta^5\text{-P}_3\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)_2]$ (identified by its mass spectrum) were also obtained from the direct reaction of chromium atoms with Bu^tCP . The availability of reasonable quantities of **1** will thus allow exploration of the chemistry of an electron-deficient phosphametalloocene. Studies in this area are in progress.

We thank the EPSRC for financial support and Mr C. Dadswell for recording the EPR spectrum.

Received, 3rd May 1995; Com. 51028321

Footnotes

† $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{45}\text{P}_5\text{V}$: MS (EI, 70 eV), m/z 551 (M^+ , 100%), with the expected isotope pattern. Satisfactory elemental analysis (CH) was obtained.

‡ μ_{eff} (solution, variable-temperature Evans' method 255–295 K) = 3.54 μ_{B} ; μ_{eff} (solid, Johnson Matthey magnetic susceptibility balance, 295 K) = 3.58 μ_{B} . EPR (toluene, 77 K).

§ *Crystal data*: $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{45}\text{P}_5\text{V}$, $M = 551.4$, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$ (non-standard no. 14), $a = 10.429(5)$, $b = 16.672(5)$, $c = 17.137(5)$ Å, $\beta = 91.84(3)^\circ$, $U = 2978$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_c = 1.23$ g cm⁻³, $F(000) = 1172$. Monochromated Mo-K α radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073$, $\mu = 6.7$ cm⁻¹, $T = 293$ K. Data were collected on an Enraf-Nonius CAD 4 diffractometer in the θ - 2θ mode using a crystal of ca. $0.4 \times 0.4 \times 0.2$ mm. A total of 5244 unique reflections were measured for $2 < \theta < 25^\circ$ and $+h, +k, \pm l$, and used in the refinement based on F^2 using SHELXL-93.¹⁷ The structure was solved by direct methods using SHELXS-86¹⁸ and non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically by full-matrix least-squares methods. Hydrogen atoms were included in the riding mode with $U_{\text{iso}} = 1.5 U_{\text{eq}}$ for the parent carbon. The

final residuals were $R1 = 0.051$ [for 3841 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$] and $wR2 = 0.152$ (for all data). The drawing was prepared using CAMERON.¹⁹ 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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