Equilibrium between neutral hexacoordinate silicon complexes and ionic pentacoordinate siliconium salts through fast dissociation–recombination of the Si–Cl bond

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Equilibrium between neutral hexacoordinate silicon complexes and ionic siliconium chlorides, which is highly temperature, solvent, counterion, ligand and substituent dependent, was observed by low temperature 29Si NMR and confirmed by crystal analysis.

Numerous well established neutral octahedral silicon complexes1 are now shown to undergo unusual ionic (Si–Cl) dissociation in suitable solvents upon cooling, and consist of equilibrium mixtures with pentacoordinate siliconium chlorides. The only reported similar equilibria are between neutral pentacoordinate and ionic tetra-2 or pentacoordinate complexes.3,4 This appears to be the first report of a dissociation– recombination of the Si–Cl bond in hexacoordinate silicon compounds. Substantial temperature, solvent, substituent and counterion effects on the neutral-hexacoordinate/ionic-pentacoordinate population ratio are found.

We have recently reported the unexpected spontaneous formation of ionic pentacoordinate siliconium complexes (**1**), stabilized by two $O \rightarrow Si$ dative bonds,⁵ where neutral hexacoordinate complexes were expected, based on the chemistry of the isomeric $\hat{N} \rightarrow Si$ analogs (2) (Scheme 1).¹

In search for dissociation of **2**, to form siliconium complexes analogous to **1**, the ²⁹Si NMR spectra of **2a** in CD_2Cl_2 ⁻ were measured at low temperature. Line broadening over a large temperature range was observed, followed by the emergence of two signals, at -73.0 and -135.6 ppm, below 200 K, assigned to **5a** and **2a**, respectively (Fig. 1).† Thus, a reversible equilibrium reaction between neutral hexacoordinate complexes (**2a**–**d**) to ionic pentacoordinate complexes (**5a**–**d**) is demonstrated (Scheme 2).

The equilibrium constant $K = \frac{5a}{2a}$ changes quite dramatically with temperature, as is shown by the ²⁹Si NMR spectra below 190 K, when *both* signals are narrow (Table 1, Fig. 1). *K* values above the coalescence temperature were assessed by the temperature dependence of the weightedaverage 29Si chemical shift, and are listed in Table 1. Interestingly, the *K* values cross over from $K < 1$ to $K > 1$ upon a decrease in temperature, *i.e.* at higher temperatures **2a** is predominant, and at lower temperatures **5a** predominates. The *K* values obtained directly and from the weighted averages (below and above T_c) were used to calculate ΔH° and ΔS° (Table 1).

A similar measurement of the temperature dependence of d29Si of **2b** showed, likewise, line broadening and splitting of

Fig. 1 ²⁹Si NMR spectra (99.325 MHz) of $2a \rightleftharpoons 5a$ in CD₂Cl₂ solution at various temperatures.

the signal, at the slow exchange limit temperature (180 K), to two signals characteristic of hexa- and pentacoordinate silicon complexes (Table 1). However, in sharp contrast with **2a**, the population ratio $K = [5b]/[2b]$ is barely temperature dependent over the range 180–300 K. It follows that by changing the remote substituent (R) alone, a vast change in equilibrium constant and in its temperature dependence is generated.

An even more dramatic manifestation of this effect is found in the equilibrium $K = [5c]/[2c]$: *K* changes from 1:25 at 300 K to $30:1$ at 165 K, *i.e.* from an essentially all hexacoordinate to an essentially all pentacoordinate species (Table 1).

In **2d** the exchange rate is too fast to permit full splitting of the broad signal and evaluation of *K* down to 165 K. However, the huge temperature dependence of *K* is evident by the continuous change in δ^{29} Si, from -123.9 at 300 K, to -66.5 (br) at 165 K. Like in **2c**, this change indicates an essentially complete turnover from a hexacoordinate to a pentacoordinate complex upon cooling.

The wide temperature ranges over which line broadening took place in the equilibria $2\rightleftarrows$ provided approximate barrier heights, which are summarized in Table 1 It appears that while **Scheme 1** the equilibrium constant and its temperature dependence are

Table 1 ²⁹Si Chemical shifts and thermodynamic and activation parameters for the mixtures $2 \rightleftharpoons 5$ in CD₂Cl₂ solution at selected temperatures

Comp.	$29Si$ Chemical shift (ppm)			Equilibrium constant $K = \frac{5}{12}$			$\Lambda H^{\circ b/}$			ΔG_T * $(\pm 0.5)^{a/2}$
	300 K	253 K	165 K	300K	180 K	165 K	kcal mol $^{-1}$	$\Delta S^{\circ b}$ /cal mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹	$(\pm 5)/$ K ^a	kcal $mol-1$
$2a \rightleftarrows 5a$	-131.3	-128.9	$-73.0: -135.6$	0.08	1.38	4.00	-2.8	-15.0	215	8.4
$2b \rightleftharpoons 5b$	-133.7	-132.8	$-73.2: -137.0$	0.05	0.13		-0.8	-8.6	215	8.4
$2c \rightleftarrows 5c$	-125.4	-118.1	$-66.0c$	0.04		30.0	-3.9	-17.5	195	7.5
$2d \rightleftharpoons 5d$	-123.9	-120.7	-66.5 br ^d						170 .	6.5

a The large chemical shift difference causes line broadening over a large temperature range, preventing accurate barrier determination. *b* Obtained from plots of ln*K* vs. T^{-1} . $R > 0.99$. c At this temperature only the major component can be observed. *d* Barrier too low to permit resolution of the components.

affected primarily by the remote substituent R, the exchange rate constants strongly depend on the ligand X.

The remarkable counter-intuitive temperature dependence of the equilibria (*i.e.* dissociation upon cooling) may result from increased solvent organization around the ions. Alternatively, the $N \rightarrow Si$ coordination may strengthen upon cooling, in agreement with some observations in pentacoordinate complexes,1*e*,2*a,b* driving the chloro ligand away as a chloride anion.

Solvent and counterion effects shift the equilibrium: when the apolar toluene-d₈ was used as solvent instead of CD_2Cl_2 , the equilibrium shifted toward the hexacoordinate side and only **2** could be observed.‡ When the chloro ligand in **2** was replaced by triflate (OTf), using trimethylsilyl triflate (TMSOTf),3,4,6 only the pentacoordinate **6a**–**d** were observed (Scheme 3).

The crystal structure of **6a** (Fig. 2a) features a well separated triflate anion and a distorted trigonal bipyramid geometry, confirming the assigned pentacoordinate siliconium complex structure.§

The pentacoordination of **6** in solution is confirmed by the large downfield changes in ²⁹Si chemical shifts ($6a$, -73.2 ; $6b$, -72.3 ; **6c**, -65.3 and **6d**, -61.7 ppm) relative to the parent hexacoordinate **2**. Moreover, these shifts correspond almost exactly to those found for **5a**–**d** at 165 K (Table 1), also confirming the structural assignments of the latter.

A notable exception from the behaviour of **2a**–**d** was found in the low temperature 29Si NMR spectra of **2e** (Scheme 3).

Fig. 2 Crystal structures of **6a** (a) and **7** (b) at 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

Temperature independent 29Si chemical shift, and the absence of exchange phenomena upon cooling, indicated that in this case no ionization took place. Even replacement of the Cl ligands by OTf, which drove the $2 \rightleftharpoons 5$ equilibrium completely to the ionic side in **2a**–**d**, failed for **2e** and resulted in the covalent **7**, which was characterized by its crystal structure (Fig. 2b).§ This different behaviour of **2e** relative to **2a**–**d** may be accounted for by the greater electron withdrawing power of the chloro ligand, causing a greater electron defficency at silicon and hence stabilizing the hexacoordinate relative to the pentacoordinate complex.

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Notes and references

† These chemical shifts are highly characteristic, respectively, of penta- and hexacoordination in silicon chelates.^{1e} The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra featured only line broadening, but no splitting.

 \ddagger The use of toluene-d₈ as solvent prevented earlier detection of the dissociation reported here.1*b*

§ *Crystal data* for **6a**: $C_{15}H_{23}F_{3}N_4O_5SSi$, $M = 456.52$, triclinic, space group *P*¯1, *a* = 8.4678(15), *b* = 11.032(2), *c* = 11.517(2) Å, *V* = 1033.7(3) \AA^3 , $Z = 2$, μ (Mo-K α) = 0.118 mm⁻¹, 12650 reflections measured, 5128 unique ($R_{int} = 0.0241$) which were all used in calculations. Final $R1 =$ 0.0365 and wR_2 = 0.1016 (all data). For 7: C₂₀H₂₂F₆N₄O₈S₂Si, *M* = 652.63, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$, $a = 16.466(5)$, $b = 8.193(3)$, $c =$ 20.861(7) Å, $V = 2748.3(15)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, μ (Mo-K α) = 0.330 mm⁻¹, 26602 reflections measured, 3920 unique $(R_{int} = 0.0500)$ which were all used in calculations. Final $R_1 = 0.0506$ and $wR_2 = 0.1258$ (all data). Data were measured at 173(2) K on a Bruker SMART CCD 1000 diffractometer $[\lambda(Mo-K\alpha) = 0.711069 \text{ Å},$ graphite monochromator, a scan width of 0.3° in ω and exposure time of 10 s frame⁻¹, detector–crystal distance = 4.95 cm]. Bruker SHELX software was used. CCDC 157088 (**6a**) and 157089 (**7**). See http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/cc/b1/b102427m/ for crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format.

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