Thermodynamic Scales for Sulfur Atom Transfer and Oxo-for-Sulfido Exchange Reactions

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Contents

1. Introduction

Inner sphere two-electron redox processes as represented by chalcogenido and imido transfer reactions constitute one

Jim Donahue was born in 1968 in Mishawaka, IN. He graduated in 1987 from Mishawaka Marian High School and then attended M.I.T. for his undergraduate studies, graduating in 1991 with a B.S. in chemistry. As a National Defense Science and Education Grant predoctoral fellow, he joined the research group of Professor Richard H. Holm of Harvard University. His doctoral work focused on small-molecule analogues of the active sites of molybdo- and tungstoenzyemes. In 1998 he received his Ph.D. degree and moved to Texas A&M University in College Station to do a postdoctoral study with Professor F. A. Cotton with the support of an NIH postdoctoral fellowship. In 2004 he accepted a position in inorganic chemistry at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he is currently an assistant professor of chemistry.

of the fundamental reaction types of transition metal chemistry. This reaction type is ubiquitous in biology and also of tremendous significance in industrial homogeneous catalysis. Transition metal mediated oxo transfer reactions comprise by far the greatest number of these reactions and have been the subject of several comprehensive reviews.¹ Within the past decade, imido group (nitrene) transfer reactions, particularly in the context of olefin aziridination, have also been investigated systematically and surveyed in a recent paper.²

Of the heavier chalcogens, the atom transfer reactions of sulfur comprise a significant majority of the systems that have been studied thoroughly. The steady growth that the past 15 years has seen in the number of well-defined metal sulfido complexes and metal-mediated sulfur atom transfer reactions stems from the convergence of several distinct interests. Some of the attention directed toward the synthesis of metal sulfido compounds simply arises from an interest in better understanding their structures, properties, and intrinsic reactivities. To an extent, the relative paucity of such molecules can be attributed to previous lack of a systematic effort to prepare and study them.

1.1. Homogeneous Catalysis

One reason for the increased attention that has been given $\ddot{\text{t}}$ Telephone (504) 862-3562; fax (504) 865-5596; e-mail donahue@tulane.edu. to sulfur atom transfer reactions is interest on the part of

organic chemists in developing synthetically useful organic transformations. In this regard, recent work by Adam on the direct sulfidation of olefins,³ allenes,^{3b,c} and isonitriles^{3c,4} with homogeneous molybdenum catalysts is particularly noteworthy. An incentive for such studies is the tremendously greater cost-effectiveness promised by direct sulfur atom transfer to organic substrates with S_8 , which is by far the least expensive form of the element. It is also worthwhile to simply have available another option in the synthetic toolbox for organic chemists seeking to prepare valuable functional groups, such as the thiacyclopropane ring, under mild conditions. These kinds of metal-meditated sulfur atom transfer reactions are completely analogous to metalcatalyzed oxygen atom transfer reactions, which have long been known.⁵

1.2. Sulfur Atom Transfer Reactions in Biology

In biology, metal sulfido ligation is known to occur at the active site of the oxidized form of molybdoenzymes in the xanthine oxidase family and is known to be requisite for enzyme function.6 Although not engaged in sulfur atom transfer in the normal functioning of the enzyme, xanthine oxidase is deactivated in the presence of CN^- , which abstracts the sulfido ligand to produce SCN^{-7} Indeed, this deactivation by sulfur atom transfer to CN^- is a distinctive assay for molybdoenzymes in the xanthine oxidase family. These enzymes, which in the desulfo form are inactive, can afterward be reconstituted by the addition of sulfide.7 A molybdoenzyme that may operate through bona fide sulfur atom transfer is polysulfide reductase, which catalyzes reduction of polysulfide with evolution of H_2S (reaction 1a).⁸ Other instances in which metal sulfido ligation and metalmediated sulfur atom transfer may occur are among the tungstoenzymes, particularly as the organisms that make use of this metal are generally found in sulfur-rich environments.⁹ Much, however, remains to be learned about these systems.

$$
S(S)_nS^{2-} + 2H^+ + 2e^- \longrightarrow S(S)_{n-1}S^{2-} + H_2S
$$
 (1a)

$$
\{C_{1/2}S\}^{Q} \longrightarrow \{C_{2}S\}^{Q} \longrightarrow \{C_{1/2}S\}^{Q} \longrightarrow \{C_{1/2}S\}^{Q} \longrightarrow \{C_{1/2}S\}^{Q} \longrightarrow (16)
$$

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n\searrow^2 & \searrow^2 & \searrow^2 \\
\searrow^2 & \se
$$

Other biological systems that may involve sulfur atom transfer reactions, although they are not metal-mediated transfers, are the reactions catalyzed by the ubiquitous mitochondrial enzyme rhodanese¹⁰ and other, related, enzymes such as mercatopyruvate sulfurtransferase.¹¹ Rhodanese catalyzes the in vitro transfer of a sulfur atom from thiosulfate to cyanide through the intermediacy of a persulfido cysteinate residue (reactions 1b and 1c). This reaction is believed to be a physiological defense mechanism to cyanide exposure, which occurs naturally at low levels in the metabolism of cyanogenic glycosides. Although rhodanese may have a biological function in cyanide detoxification, it is a multifunctional enzyme that appears to play critical roles in protein synthesis ranging from C-S bond forming reactions to the catalytic formation of prosthetic groups such as iron-sulfur clusters.12

1.3. Sulfur Atom Transfer in the Context of Petroleum Desulfurization

The commercial desulfurization of petroleum feedstocks is another important arena in which sulfur atom transfer reactions, especially their thermodynamic aspects, are of immediate relevance. This process has long been an essential part of the refining industry, and it generally involves a heterogeneous system employing Ni- or Co-doped molybdenum sulfide held on an alumina support.¹³ Although these systems are complex and have variable compositions, the work of several research groups has underscored the likelihood that bona fide sulfur atom transfer reactions are indeed operative in large-scale industrial hydrodesulfurizations. For instance, in his seminal studies upon thiophene desulfurization,¹⁴ Angelici has identified hydride and proton transfers [(a) and (b) in Scheme 1] as plausible initial steps that afford,

Scheme 1. Possible Mechanism for Thiophene Desulfurization*^a*

^a Step (d), as proposed by Angelici, is a sulfur atom abstraction by the metal. Reprinted with permission from ref 14a. Copyright 1988 American Chemical Society.

after an isomerization, an η ¹ S-bound 2,5-dihydrothiophene species. This intermediate then undergoes sulfur atom transfer to the metal surface to liberate butadiene and form metal sulfide $[(d)$ in Scheme 1].¹⁴ Studies by Friend on Mo(110) crystal surfaces¹⁵ and by Rakowski Dubois with homogeneous dinuclear molybdenum systems¹⁶ also have revealed sulfur atom abstraction from 2,5-dihydrothiophene as well as from small cyclic sulfides such as ethylene sulfide and thietane to form the corresponding hydrocarbons (reactions 2a and 2b).

The current technological challenge in this area lies in efficiently desulfurizing benzo- and dibenzothiophenes, especially those that bear sterically encumbering substituents, and the need for new ideas and innovations in this area is ongoing. Government standards for the sulfur content in refined petroleum are increasingly stringent and seek to minimize the environmental and health repercussions that attend the release of sulfur oxides into the atmosphere when fossil fuels are burned.17

1.4. Sulfur Vulcanization of Polyolefins

The vulcanization of polyolefins with elemental sulfur, a process of historical and commercial significance dating back nearly 170 years, is also a system in which sulfur atom transfer reactions are operative. This process, represented pictorially in Figure 1, involves the cross-linking of linear

Figure 1. Representation of the sulfur vulcanization of polyolefins. Only when $x = 1$ can the process be called a sulfur atom transfer. This figure is modified from ref 18e with permission of the American Chemical Society.

polymers with sulfide, disulfide, or polysulfide connectors so as to form an elastomeric network. It is only when $x = 1$ in Figure 1, however, that sulfur atom transfer according to the narrow definition adopted in this review (vide infra) can be said to have occurred. The resulting networked polymer has greatly enhanced elasticity, tear strength, and fatigue life compared to the material before cross-linking. Although a variety of cross-linkers have found use as vulcanization agents, sulfur is still widely used for this purpose because of its cost-effectiveness and because it is amenable to a high degree of control in this very complex process. The interested reader is referred to more authoritative sources on this subject.¹⁸

Placed in the light of these several broad-ranging interests, a current review of the existing body of information on sulfur atom transfer reactions has obvious and timely value. Furthermore, the usefulness of the thermodynamic scale for oxygen atom transfer reactions, which has been introduced by Holm and Donahue,¹⁹ makes it clear that analogous tables of thermodynamic data for sulfur atom donors and acceptors could have similarly broad utility. Related to the concept of an atom transfer reactivity scale is the idea of an atom exchange scale, which is also presented and discussed here inasmuch as many metal sulfido complexes derive from the corresponding oxo complexes by chalcogenide exchange. Certain aspects of metal sulfido chemistry have been dealt with previously by others, $1f,20$ and a limited sulfur atom transfer scale has been presented for reactions conducted in toluene or benzene solution.²¹

2. Definitions and Scope

This paper addresses thermodynamic aspects of sulfur atom transfer and oxo-for-sulfido exchange reactions chiefly when they involve transition metals. Some discussion of these

reaction types in main group and in purely organic systems is included, because it serves to call attention to potentially useful sulfur atom donors that are different from the reagents typically employed by inorganic chemists and also because it emphasizes the generality of these reaction types. Some aspects of sulfur atom transfer and oxo-for-sulfido exchange, for example, in thiirane synthesis and the preparation of thiones with Lawesson's reagent, are rather large subject areas in themselves. In these cases, the most current and comprehensive reviews are identified for the reader interested in further information. Not addressed here is any consideration of kinetics; that is, the information contained herein may suggest that a certain atom transfer or exchange reaction *can* occur but not necessarily that it *will* or in what time frame. Other molecular properties such as redox potentials and pK_a values can also offer predictive insight into the feasibility of atom transfer reactions but are outside the focus of this paper.

In their simplest conceptual form, sulfur atom transfer reactions and oxo-for-sulfido exchange reactions are depicted in reactions 3 and 4, respectively. In reaction 3, the sulfur

$$
X^{n} + Y^{n+2} S \xrightarrow{ } X^{n+2} S + Y^{n} \qquad (3)
$$

$$
X^{n} O + Y S \xrightarrow{ } X^{n} S + Y O \qquad (4)
$$

donor could be sulfur atom itself, in which case Y is absent. The term "oxo-for-sulfido exchange" *upon X* is used in the following discussion to refer specifically to reaction 4 as written, in which an oxygen atom bound to X is replaced by a sulfur atom bound to X, X being the substrate of interest. For clarity, reaction 4 is written in only the forward direction so as to emphasize the point that oxo-for-sulfido exchange upon X means the transformation of XO to XS through the agency of YS and not the reverse process. This review is limited to molecular species X or $\overline{X}S$ that are formed by oxidative addition or reductive elimination of sulfur atom or by pure chalcogenide exchange from the corresponding XO species without change in oxidation state (or valence state) and without other structural reorganization.

Not included in this review is any discussion of sulfur atom transfer to or from disulfide (S_2^2) or polysulfide (e.g., S_4^2) ligands (reactions 5 and 6), inasmuch as these reactions

$$
M^{n} = S \underbrace{\underbrace{\qquad \qquad}_{XS} \qquad}_{X_S} M^{n} \underbrace{\qquad \qquad}_{S} \underbrace{\qquad \qquad}_{X_S} M^{n} \underbrace{\qquad \qquad}_{X} M^{n} \underbrace{\qquad \qquad}_{S} S - S}_{X} \qquad (5)
$$
\n
$$
M^{n} \underbrace{\qquad \qquad}_{S} S - S \qquad (6)
$$

do not involve redox changes at the metal center. Such processes have been classified by Woo as "secondary" atom transfers,^{1f} although it is noted here that a different meaning has been applied to that term by Holm.^{1b} A further restriction placed upon the sulfido (S^{2-}) chemistry discussed herein is a limitation to systems with metal atom nuclearity of one or two. The formation of metal sulfide clusters from low-valent metal precursors and a source of sulfur atom can be viewed as occurring through sulfur atom transfer processes. However, because of some of the inherent complexities in systematizing such reactions, they are not considered here.

In the succeeding sections, many examples of transition metal and main group element sulfido (S^{2-}) compounds are

listed in table form. These tables do not represent an exhaustive catalogue of all known mono- and dinuclear sulfido species, but rather only those formed through the aforementioned atom transfer and chalogenide exchange processes. Sulfido compounds may be prepared by a variety of other distinct methods, such as by the direct addition of sulfide,²² by deprotonation of hydrosulfido ligand(s),²³ by exchange of sulfide for 2 equiv of halide, 24 and by internal redox rearrangement with sulfur-containing ligands such as dithiolates^{25a} or dithiocarbamates.^{25b} These reaction types fall outside the purview of this paper.

Several distinct types of sulfur atom transfer reactions can be described. Type I, *metal-mediated* sulfur atom transfer reactions (reaction 7), are those in which the oxidation state of the metal is changed by 2 units. The number of supporting ligands often is, but is not necessarily, the same, and other structural reorganization is minimal. This reaction type is strictly analogous to the *primary* oxygen atom transfer reaction defined by Holm.^{1b} A significant number of sulfur atom transfer reactions are of type I, and in most instances $a = 0$ in reaction 7. In type II sulfur atom transfer reactions (reaction 8), atom transfer is an incomplete intermetal process. A binuclear species is formed in which sulfide bridges two metal ions, each of which has undergone an oxidation state change by 1 unit. Type II sulfur atom transfer reactions may be alternatively, and perhaps more usefully, expressed by reaction 9 in which 2 equiv of M*ⁿ* L*^m* react with 1 equiv of donor XS to form $L_m M^{n+1}-S-M^{n+1}L_m$. Such reactions may proceed by transient formation of $M^{n+2}SI_m$. reactions may proceed by transient formation of M*ⁿ*+² SL*m*, which is a more reactive species than XS and quickly adds to a second equivalent of M*ⁿ* L*m*. If transfer of a sulfur atom between two transition metal complexes does not result in a bridged species, then the reaction is said to be complete (reaction 10), and the oxidation state change at each metal site is by 2 units. Reaction 10 is a particular instance of reaction 7 in which $XS = M^{n+2}SL'_m$.

$$
M^{n}S_{a}L_{m} + XS \longrightarrow M^{n+2}S_{a+1}L_{m} + X \qquad (7) \qquad Type I
$$

\n
$$
M^{n}L_{m} + M^{n+2}SL_{m} \longrightarrow M^{n+1}L_{m} - S-M^{n+1}L_{m} \qquad (8)
$$

\n
$$
2 M^{n}L_{m} + XS \longrightarrow M^{n+1}L_{m} - S-M^{n+1}L_{m} + X \qquad (9)
$$

\n
$$
M^{n}L_{m} + M^{n+2}SL_{m} \longrightarrow M^{n+2}SL_{m} + M^{n}L_{m} \qquad (10)
$$

\n
$$
L_{m}M^{n} \longrightarrow M^{n}L_{m} + XS \longrightarrow L_{m}M^{n+1} - S-M^{n+1}L_{m} + X \qquad (11a) \quad Type IIIa
$$

\n
$$
L_{m}M^{n} \longrightarrow M^{n}L_{m} + XS \longrightarrow L_{m}M^{n+1}M^{n+1}L_{m} + X \qquad (11b) \quad Type IIIb
$$

$$
2 M^{n}L_{m} + 2 XS \longrightarrow L_{m}M^{n+2}M^{n+2}L_{m} + 2 X \quad (12) \quad \text{Type IV}
$$

A type III sulfur atom transfer reaction (reactions 11) involves the insertion of a sulfur atom into (11a) or across (11b) a metal-metal bond, the latter type being analogous to the episulfidation of an olefin. Type III reactions are distinctly different in that they combine features of both type I and type II reactions. As in type I sulfur atom transfer reactions, the nuclearity of the system does not change, but the oxidation state change is by 1 unit, and the sulfide is in a bridging mode as in type II reactions. Type IV sulfur atom transfer systems (reaction 12), which are comparatively less common, also combine aspects of reaction types I and II. The oxidation state change is by 2 units, as in type I atom transfer reactions, but the nuclearity of the system changes as in a type II reaction.

Reaction 13 represents a distinctly different reaction type than those given by reactions $7-12$, namely, chalcogenide exchange as opposed to chalcogen transfer. The terms

$$
M^{n}O_{a}L_{m} + XS \longrightarrow M^{n}O_{a-1}SL_{m} + XO \qquad (13)
$$

"transfer" and "exchange" refer specifically to the conceptually different reaction types illustrated by reactions $7-12$ and 13, respectively, and are not used interchangeably. The defining distinction (cf. reactions 3 and 4) is that sulfur atom transfer reactions involve oxidative addition of sulfur, whereas a chalcogenide exchange reaction involves no oxidation state change at the metal center. Chalcogenide exchange reactions are considered here because reactions of this kind may also be organized onto a thermodynamic scale that may offer some predictive insights.

3. Tables of Thermodynamic Data

3.1. Thermodynamic Tables for Sulfur Atom Transfer

The feasibility of and driving force for a given sulfur atom transfer reaction may be assessed by organizing all of the available thermodynamic data for potential sulfur donors and acceptors onto a common scale. If the enthalpies of reaction with sulfur for two different elements or molecules X and Y are known in the same phase and at the same temperature (reactions 14 and 15), then the difference between these

$$
X_{(g)} + S_{(g)} \longrightarrow X S_{(g)} \quad \Delta H_{X/XS} \tag{14}
$$

$$
Y_{(g)} + S_{(g)} \longrightarrow Y S_{(g)} \quad \Delta H_{Y/YS} \tag{15}
$$

$$
XS_{(g)} + Y_{(g)} \longrightarrow X_{(g)} + YS_{(g)}
$$
 (16)

$$
\Delta H = \Delta H_{Y/YS} - \Delta H_{X/XS}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{1}{8} S_{8(s)} \longrightarrow S_{(g)}
$$
\n
$$
\Delta_f H^{\circ} (298.15) = 66.25 \pm 0.04 \text{ kcal/mol}
$$
\n
$$
(17)
$$

reaction enthalpies is a measure of the propensity for sulfur atom transfer between X and Y (reaction 16). A key aspect in the formulation of gas phase sulfur atom transfer couples, such as that shown in reaction 16, is the implicit use of reaction 17, the formation of gaseous atomic sulfur from the solid element, and its associated enthalpy of formation ($\Delta_f H^{\circ}$ at 298.15 K) of 66.25 kcal/mol.26 The reported uncertainty for this number is ± 0.04 .²⁶ This value of $\Delta_f H^{\circ}$ for S(g) is used explicitly in the determination of reaction enthalpies $\Delta H_{\text{X/XS}}$ and $\Delta H_{\text{Y/YS}}$ (reactions 14 and 15), but it cancels when the difference between two such reaction enthalpies is taken to form a sulfur atom transfer couple such as reaction 16.

Assuming the reaction enthalpy to be the dominant term in the expression for free energy change, $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$, which is useful at least as an approximation in the absence of free energy data, then ∆*G* ≈ ∆*H* and reaction 16 proceeds from left to right if $\Delta H_{\text{X/XS}}$ > $\Delta H_{\text{Y/YS}}$. Furthermore, if the set of all elements and molecules X for which thermodynamic data on XS are available is arranged in line reactions such as 14 and 15 in order of decreasing (i.e., more negative) ∆*H*, then the resulting table serves as a predictor for the viability and direction of a wide range of possible sulfur atom transfer reactions. In other words, a molecule Y of a couple for which $\Delta H_{Y/YS}$ is more negative than the corresponding couple $\Delta H_{\text{X/XS}}$ for X is thermodynamically competent to accept a sulfur atom from XS. If structural changes are small, then ∆*H* for reaction 16 in the gas phase amounts to the difference between corresponding $X-S$ and $Y-S$ bond energies. The utility of such a table is that it enables one to see at a glance the sets of reagents that may be capable of effecting a particular sulfur atom transfer and those that are not. Hence, a more judicious choice of reagent may be made at the outset.

Table 1 presents selected thermodynamic information for sulfur atom donor-acceptor reagents in the gas phase and, with one exception, is restricted to neutral species. These data are largely assembled from the leading compilations of general thermodynamic data, $25-34$ although some of the table entries are drawn from sources in the primary literature, $35-39$ some dealing specifically with sulfur compounds. The sulfur atom transfer couples are arranged in order of decreasing reaction enthalpies (i.e., more negative reaction enthalpies) for the reaction $X(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g)$. When available, ΔG^{298} _{X/XS} values and estimated uncertainties are included. These ΔG^{298} _{X/XS} values are generally ~6-8 kcal/mol less negative than the corresponding ΔH^{298} _{X/XS} values because of the entropy decrease associated with forming one gaseous product from two gaseous reactants. When values for a particular couple are available from more than one source, they are usually, but not always, in close agreement. In the construction of Table 1, preference was given to sources that offered both ∆*G* and ∆*H* values for a particular couple or, when only enthalpy data were accessible, to the more recent source. Table 1 emphasizes couples with main group elements and with organic molecules most likely to be of potential use as sulfur atom donors or acceptors. A number of the couples listed, such as those for methanethiol, dibenzothiophene, and thiophene, are intended to serve as reference points.

Figure 2 presents the gas phase enthalpies for the reaction $X(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g)$ for all of the elements for which such data are available. Many of the data summarized in Figure 2 are also contained in Table 1. Many of the numbers in Figure 2 have high uncertainties (e.g., those for Be and Mg) or are not based upon measured values at all but originate from estimated values for $\Delta_f H^{\circ}$ at 298 K (e.g., that for Nb). The gaps and uncertainties in the data make difficult an identification of overarching trends or insights into the data beyond the observation that, for the main group elements in groups 13-16, for which $\Delta_f H(298)$ values are more accurately determined, the reaction enthalpies for the reaction $X(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g)$ become less negative in proceeding down a given main group column of the periodic table. This trend is a plausible one because the light main group elements generally form the strongest bonds to all of the other elements. Less favorable overlap with the larger, more diffuse valence orbitals of the heavier elements probably accounts for the decrease in exothermicity as one proceeds down a given column.

Tables 2 and 3 list thermodynamic data for sulfur atom transfer couples in the solid and liquids states, respectively, and are likewise assembled from standard reference sources for thermodynamic data. $27-30,34$ The information in Table 2 may possibly be useful for heterogeneous systems or in hightemperature syntheses conducted in the solid phase. The general order of entries in Tables 2 and 3 parallels that in Table 1, because enthalpies of vaporization and sublimation for a given species tend to cancel one another. Table 4 presents data measured by Hoff^{21,40} and Nolan⁴⁰ for couples in aromatic hydrocarbon solution and includes entries for several species not found in the other tables. Tables 1 and 4 contain only a single entry in common, namely $Ph₃PS$, and reveal a difference in reaction enthalpies for $Ph_3P + S \rightarrow$ Ph_3PS that is ≥ 72 kcal/mol between the two phases. The significantly less negative value for the solution phase is likely due to a large enthalpy of solvation for sulfur atom in going from the gas phase to a benzene or toluene solution.

3.2. Thermodynamic Data for Oxo-for-Sulfido Exchange Reactions

In addition to atom transfer reactions, another general method for the preparation of transition metal sulfido complexes is by atom exchange, as represented in generic form in reaction 18. If enthalpies of formation for $X-O(g)$ and $X-S(g)$ are available in the same phase and at the same temperature, then $\Delta H_{XO/XS}$ offers a measure of the propensity for X to undergo oxo-for-sulfido exchange. The reaction enthalpy for reaction 18 thereby provides a measure for the difference in dissociation energies between $X-O$ and $X-S$ bonds. A set of reaction couples such as 18 and 19, when

 $XO_{(q)}$ + S_(g) \longrightarrow XS_(g) + O_(g) $\Delta H_{XO/XS}$ (18)

$$
YO_{(g)} + S_{(g)} \longrightarrow YS_{(g)} + O_{(g)} \Delta H_{YO/YS}
$$
 (19)

$$
XS_{(g)} + YO_{(g)} \longrightarrow XO_{(g)} + YS_{(g)}
$$
 (20)

$$
\Delta H = \Delta H_{YO/YS} - \Delta H_{XO/XS}
$$

\n¹₂O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow O_(g) ΔH_{dis} (21)

placed in order of decreasing (i.e., more negative) ∆*H*, then provides a basis for anticipating the direction of a wide variety of chalcogen exchange reactions in a fashion completely analogous to the atom transfer reactivity scale just described. If $\Delta H_{XO/XS}$ > $\Delta H_{YO/YS}$ (i.e., $\Delta H_{XO/XS}$ has a less negative value than Δ*H*_{YO/YS}), then the driving force for reaction 20 is in the forward direction. In other words, a molecule Y for which the formation of $Y-S$ from $Y-O$ is a more negative (exothermic) process than the same process for molecule X will substitute sulfur in place of oxygen if ^Y-O and X-S are mixed (assuming kinetic considerations do not intervene). Such a chalcogen atom exchange table has the utility of permitting one to see the reagents most inclined to exchange oxygen in favor of sulfur (and vice versa) and therefore to select the reagent most suitable for the purpose at hand. These couples are all determined with the aid of reactions 17 and 21, which are the enthalpies of vaporization of elemental sulfur and of the dissociation of the $O₂$ bond in the gas phase.

Table 5 assembles the available data for oxo-for-sulfido exchange reactions. It is noteworthy that F_2S and Cl_2S are two species that have an appreciable thermodynamic basis for preferring sulfur over oxygen; that is, replacing sulfur with oxygen in these molecules is an *endothermic* process. In contrast, most of the light main group elements such as hydrogen and boron and carbon have a strong preference for bonding oxygen over sulfur. Data are presented for species in the gas phase because this state provides the most direct assessment of intrinsic bond strength differences without the additional effect of solvation. Several of the entries in Table 5 may function as sulfur atom donors, according to the stoichiometry of any of the reactions $7-12$, or as oxo-for-sulfido exchange reagents, according to the stoichiometry of reaction 13, depending upon the particular system to which XS is introduced. The most important and widely used of these "dual" reagents is H_2S , for which $X =$

Table 1. Gas Phase S Atom Transfer Thermodynamic Reactivity Scale: $X(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g)$

$\mathbf X$	XS	$\Delta G^{298}_{\rm X/XS}$ (kcal/mol)	ΔH^{298} X/XS (kcal/mol)	ref	X	XS	ΔG^{298} X/XS (kcal/mol)	$\Delta H^{298}_{\rm X/XS}$ (kcal/mol)	ref
$\rm I$ Br	IS^a BrS^a		-19 -37	28, 39 28, 39	S_5	S_6 s		-71.7	27
								-71.7 ± 0.6^c	28, 30
CH ₃ CN Cd Zn Hg H_2S Me ₂ S CH ₄ H_3CCH_3 Br_2S H_2S	CH ₃ SCN CdS ZnS HgS HS(S)H MeS(S)Me CH_3SH H_3CSCH_3 Br_2S_2 H_2S_2	-41.1 -42.6 -44.2 -47.0 -47.4 -47.3 -49.4	-43.9 -47.4 -49.1 -50.5 $[-51 \pm 7]$ ^b $[-53 \pm 3]^b$ -54.1 -55.3 -55.8 -57.1	27 28 28 28 35 35 27 27 28 28	$_{\rm CO}$ Sb Bi SiS Fe In ₂ S SO F_3P Te	\cos SbS BiS SiS ₂ FeS In ₂ S ₂ S_2O F_3PS TeS	-63.3 -67.9 -65.1 -69.6 -64.6 -68.4 -68.1 $[-71.4]^{b}$	-72.9 ± 0.4 $[-73]^{b,d}$ -74.8 -75.1 -76.4 -76.9 -77.1 -78.3 $[-78.8]^{b}$	28 33 28 28 $28\,$ 28 28 31 28
H_3CCH_3	H_3CCH_2SH	-50.1	-57.3	27		s		-81.1 ± 0.5^c	28, 30
								-82.0 ± 0.7^c	28, 30
Cl C_6H_6	CIS PhSH	-51.0	-57.8 -59.1 ± 0.5^c	28 28, 30	F	FS s	-74.9	-82.1 ± 1.6 -82.9 ± 0.7 ^c	28 28, 30
$H_2C=CH_2$ H_3C	C_2H_4S		-59.0 ± 0.5^c	28, 29	B_2S_2	B_2S_3	-76.5	-84.5	28
	H_3C		-59.5 ± 0.8 ^c	28, 30	SCI	S_2Cl	-76.8	-84.8	28
H_3C Sb_2S_3 $H_3CCH=CH_2$	H_3C Sb_2S_4 н	-49.6	-60.0	28	Н	HS	-78.8	-85.0	28
			-60.0 ± 0.8 ^c	28, 30	Al	AlS	-80.8	-88.0 ± 3.1	28
$(CH_3)_3CH$	H_3C Bu'SH s		-60.3 ± 0.5^c	28, 30	Cl ₃ P	Cl ₃ PS	-78.1	-88.2	31
H_3C `СH ₃ $_{\rm H_3C}$	н H_3C H_3C CH ₃		-61.4 ± 0.8^{c}	28, 30	Se	SeS	$[-81.1]^{b}$	$[-88.5]^{b}$	28
$_{\mathsf{H}_3{\mathsf{C}}}$ CH ₃	н `СН $_3$ Н $_3$ С $^{'}$ CH ₃ CH ₃		-61.8 ± 0.8^{c} 28, 30		As	AsS	-82.0	-89.8	28
H_3C н	H_3C н		-62.6 ± 0.8 ^c	28, 30	F_2S	FSSF	-81.8	-91.2	31
H_2S_3 H_2S_4 H_2S_2 H_3CSCH_3 S_6 H ₂	H_2S_4 H_2S_5 H_2S_3 H_3CSSCH_3 S_7 $-$ CH ₂ S٠	-55.0	-62.9 -63.0 -63.1 -63.4 -64.0	28 28 28 27 27	B_2S_3 Ph_3P Br_3P S CS	B_2S_4 Ph_3PS Br ₃ PS S_2 CS ₂	-74.6 -84.1 -94.0 -95.3	-92.9 -93.5 ± 2.9 ^c -94.3 -101.7 ± 0.2 -105.3 ± 6.2	$28\,$ 28, 36, 37 31 28 28
	H_2C —CH ₂		-64.5 ± 0.6^c	28, 30	Al ₂ S	Al ₂ S ₂	$[-94.3]^{b}$	-105.5	28
H_2C — CH_2 CH ₃ SC1 PhSCl S_2 \mathbf{S}_3 SCl ₂	CH ₃ SSC1 PhSSCI S_3 S_4 CISSCI	-57.3	$[-65 \pm 3]^{b}$ $[-65 \pm 3]^b$ -65.6 -65.6 -66.0 ± 1.8	35 35 27 $27\,$ 28	Sn P OCI N	SnS $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{S}$ OSCI NS S.	-106 -106.0 -105.4 -109	-112 -112.9 -116.2 -116 ± 25	28 28 32 28
								-117.1 ± 1.2^c	28, 30
F_2S HCN S_7 'BuS'Bu In S_4 Cl ₂ CH ₃ NC H ₂	FS(S)F HNCS S_8 $^{\prime}{\rm BusS}$ $^{\prime}{\rm Bu}$ InS S_5 Cl ₂ S CH ₃ NCS H_2S	-56.8 -58.6 -63.0 -62.6 -62.1 -64.5	-66.3 -67.5 -69.3 -69.3 ± 0.9 ^c -69.4 -69.7 -70.4 ± 0.9 -70.9 -71.1	31 32 27 28, 30 28 27 28 27 28	B \mathbf{O} Al ₂ Ge O ₂ In ₂ BS Si	$_{\rm BS}$ SO Al ₂ S GeS SO ₂ In ₂ S \mathbf{BS}_2 SiS s	-111.9 -116.9 $[-118.5]^{b}$ -123.2 -128.3 $[-134]^{b}$ -138	-119.4 -124.6 ± 0.4 -127.5 -130.4 -137.1 ± 0.1 -143 -143.2 -146	27 28 28 28 28 27 $28\,$ 28
								-153 ± 11^{c}	28, 29, 38
					H^+ BН C ^a $\Delta_f H^{\circ}(298)$ values for IS(g) and BrS(g) are from ref 39. ^b These numbers are based upon estimated $\Delta_f H^{\circ}$ values. ^c For these couples, $\Delta_f H^{\circ}$	$HS+$ BSH CS	-151.1 -162.3	-158.6 -160.0 ± 4.5 -170.5 ± 6.2	27 28 28

(298.15 K) for S(g) is taken from ref 28. ^d The $\Delta_f H^{\circ}(298)$ value for SbS(g) is listed as -44.40 kcal/mol in ref 34 but as ~56 kcal in ref 33. The aurrounding elements (cf. Figure 2). The number from ref 34 but as appears to have a sign error, which, if simply taken as it is, produces -174.1 kcal/mol as the $\Delta H_{\text{rxn}}(298)_{\text{X/XS}}$ value for the couple Sb(g) + S(g) → SbS(g). In my opinion, this result is implausible.

Cе -126.3 I	Dr.	-116.9 -112.7 L	Nd Pm	Sm -93.4 l	Eu -87.0 I	Gd -124.0 l	Tb -121.4	Dv -96.6 I	Ho	--102.7 [-93.0] [-83.2] [-39.6]]	Τm .		-120.11
	Pa	-118	Np	Pu		Am I Cm.	Bk	Сf	Es	Fm.	Md	No.	∟r

Figure 2. $\Delta H(298)$ in kcal/mol for the gas phase reaction $X(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g)$. These numbers may be viewed as one way of expressing "thiophilicities" of the elements. Numbers in brackets are derived from estimated $\Delta_i H(298)$ values. $\Delta_i H(298)$ for SbS(g) is taken from ref 33, and ∆_fH(298) for BrS(g) and IS(g) are from ref 39. All other data that have been used are from ref 28.

H $^{+17.3}_{+1.6}$																	He
Li	Be $+24:18$											В -51.5	С $+86.8:25.6$	N $+34.8$ ± 25.2	O $^{5.4}_{0.4}$	F -29.6	Ne.
Na	Mg $+14:22$											Al $+34.4^+$ 4.2	Si $+42.7$	P 132.1 11.1	S $+22.91$ 0.5	$\overline{\rm C}$ $+6.5$	Ar
K	Сa $+12.4:$ 7.1	Sc $+50.$	Τi $+59.3$	v $+45.4$	Cr $+31.3$	Mn	Fe $+22.0:$ 9.0	Co	Ni $+4.8$	Cu -3.3	Zn	Ga	Ge $+29.7$	As $+55.5$	Se $\begin{bmatrix} +12.5 \\ 10.4 \end{bmatrix}$	Br $+20.$	Кr
Rb	Sr $+22.4+$ 1.5	Y	\overline{Zr} $+53.3$	Nb $[-48.9]$	Mo	Тc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd $+19.5$	In. -42.7	Sn $+14.4$	Sb $+74$	Te $[+13.6]$ $+0.1$	$+36$	Xe
$\overline{\text{Cs}}$	Ba $+32.0+$ 5.0	La $+51.0$	Hf	Та $+70.3$	$\overline{\mathsf{w}}$	Re	Os.	Ir	Pt	Au	H_9 _{+13.8}	ΤĪ	Pb $^{+8.1}_{+3.3}$	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Aс															
		Сe $+65.3$	Pr	Nd	Pm	$\overline{\mathsf{Sm}}$	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Тm	Yb	Lu		
		Th	Pa	U $+61$	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Сf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr		

Figure 3. $\Delta H(298)$ in kcal/mol for the gas phase reaction $XO(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g) + O(g)$. These numbers may viewed as an alternate way of expressing "thiophilicities" of the elements. Numbers in brackets are derived from estimated ∆f*H*(298) values. ∆f*H*(298) for SbS(g) is taken from ref 33, and $\Delta_i H(298)$ for BrS(g) and IS(g) are from ref 39. For X = In and U, the data used are taken from ref 27. All other data that have been used in the calculation of these ∆*H*(298) values are taken from refs 28 and 31.

 H_2 when it acts as pure sulfur atom donor, whereas $XO =$ H2O when it serves as an exchange reagent.

The utility of Table 5 is that it permits one to identify at least an upper limit on the difference in strength of an $M=$ O bond versus an M=S bond, where $M = a$ transition metal or main group element. If reaction 13 is a spontaneous process as written for a given chalcogenide exchange reagent, for instance, $XS = COS$ and $XO = CO₂$, then the 53.5 kcal/ mol greater bond strength of the C=O bond in $CO₂$ versus the C=S bond in CS_2 indicates that the M=S is only weaker than the corresponding M=O bond by an amount \leq 53.5 kcal/ mol. If reaction 13 proceeds in the reverse direction with $XO = H₂O$, for instance, then a value of 45.5 kcal/mol is established as a lower limit on the difference between $M=O$ and $M=S$ bond strengths. In principle, with demonstrated reactivity involving a broad enough set of chalcogenide exchange reagents, upper and lower limits on $M=O/M=S$ bond strength differences could be reliably established.

Figure 3 presents the gas phase enthalpies for the reaction $XO(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g) + O(g)$ for all of the elements for which they can be formulated. Figure 3 incorporates information from Table 5 but includes additional data as well. As was the case with Figure 2, a high degree of uncertainty and gaps in the data complicate the identification of trends. A natural question posed by the data in Figures 2 and 3 is whether these numbers constitute any useful index of "thiophilicity." One could argue that Figure 2 presents a measure of thiophilicity because the strength of the bond

Table 2. S Atom Transfer Thermodynamic Reactivity Scale in the Solid Phase: $X(c) + S(c) \rightarrow XS(c)$

formed in $XS(g)$ by oxidative addition of $S(g)$ to $X(g)$ reflects a greater or lesser affinity for sulfur. However, a more intuitive and perhaps more conventional idea of thiophilicity could be formulated along the lines of the hard-soft acidbase concepts that have been advanced by Pearson.⁴¹ This conceptualization of thiophilicity involves pairing "soft" bases such as S^{2-} with "soft" (or at least borderline soft) acids such as Pb^{2+} without any change in redox states. In the language of hard-soft acid-base ideas, thiophilicity is not really an absolute, determinable number but rather a *preference* by some species for sulfur (or sulfide, S^{2-}) vis- α -vis something else, such as oxide, O^{2-} . Polarizabilibity is a property often correlated to the "softness" or "hardness" of a particular chemical species.42

Some of the data contained in Figure 3 appear to be consistent with the idea of "thiophilicity" expressed in the sense of hard-soft acid-base ideas. For example, the group 14 elements all show the $XO(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g) + O(g)$ process to be endothermic, but the endothermicity decreases

significantly in moving down the column and suggests an increasing affinity for sulfur relative to oxygen. The group 13 elements, notwithstanding the missing datum for gallium, reveal a similar trend and indicate that the oxo-for-sulfido exchange process is *exothermic* for indium. According to this notion of interpreting thiophilicity as a preference for sulfur over oxygen, the data in Table 5 and Figure 3 show oxygen and fluorine themselves to be rather thiophilic elements. These elements are not typically thought of as thiophilic, but their high electronegativities probably enable them to form stronger, more polarized bonds with sulfur than with oxygen.

3.3. Bond Dissociation Energies

The reverse of reaction 14 is sulfur bond dissociation, and the associated reaction enthalpy is a bond dissociation energy (BDE). Table 6 presents sulfur bond dissociation energies for a range of organic and inorganic sulfides, and these data have been determined several different ways as emphasized

Table 3. Sulfur Atom Transfer Thermodynamic Reactivity Scale in the Liquid Phase: $X(1) + S(1) \rightarrow XS(1)$

		$\Delta G^{298}{}_{\rm{X/XS}}$	$\Delta H^{\rm 298}{}_{\rm X/XS}$					
Χ	XS	(kcal/mol)	(kcal/mol)	ref				
CH ₃ CN	CH ₃ SCN		$+20.4^{\circ}$	27, 28				
PhPh	PhSPh		$+10.9a$	28, 30				
cyclohexane	hexamethylene sulfide		$+9.9^a$	28, 30				
$C_6H_5CH_3$	$C_6H_5SCH_3$		$+6.9^a$	28, 30				
$CH_3C(CH_3)_2CH_3$	$(CH_3)_3CCH_2SH$		$+5.5^{\circ}$	28, 30				
$CH_3CH_2CH_2CH_3$	$CH_3CH_2CH_2CH_2SH$		$+4.8^{\circ}$	28, 30				
CH ₃ CH ₂ SH	$HSCH_2CH_2SH$		$+4.3^{\circ}$	27, 28				
C_6H_6	PhSH		$+3.1^{\circ}$	28, 30				
н ${\sf H}_3{\sf C}$	н H_3C							
			$+2.7^{\circ}$	28, 30				
$_{\rm H_3C}$ н	$\mathsf{H}_3\mathsf{C}$							
(CH ₃) ₃ CH	'BuSH		$+2.7a$	28, 30				
н н	н н							
r			$+1.8^a$	28, 30				
H_3C н	$_{\mathsf{H}_3\mathsf{C}}$							
Cl ₂ S ₃	Cl ₂ S ₄		$+1.8^a$	27, 28				
н ${\sf H}_3{\sf C}$	н H_3C							
			$+1.4^a$	28, 30				
$_{\rm H_3C}$ CH ₃	$_{\rm H_3C}$ CH ₃							
Cl ₂ S ₂	Cl ₂ S ₃		$+1.3^a$	27, 28				
Cl ₂ S ₄	Cl ₂ S ₅		$+1.0^a$	27, 28				
H н	н н							
$_{\mathsf{H}_3\mathsf{C}}$ CH ₃			$+0.8^a$	28, 30				
	H_3C CH ₃							
CH ₃ Н	CH ₃ н							
			$+0.3^{\circ}$	28, 30				
H_3C н	H_3C н							
$_{\rm H_2S_2}$	H_2S_3		$+0.3a$	27, 28				
CH ₃ SCH ₃	CH ₃ SSCH ₃	$+2.4$	$+0.3^a$	27, 28				
H_2S_3	H_2S_4		$+0.1a$	27, 28				
H_2S_4	H_2S_5		$+0.05^a$	27, 28				
H_2S_5	H_2S_6		$+0.05^a$	27, 28				
	s							
			$-0.7a$	28, 30				
"BuS"Bu	"BuSS"Bu		-1.0^a	28, 30				
NiS	NiS ₂	-2.4	-1.4	28				
Cl ₂ S	Cl ₂ S ₂	-2.7	-2.5	28				
'BuS'Bu	'BuSS'Bu		-5.9^a	28, 30				
CH ₃ C(O)H	$CH_3C(O)SH$		$-6.6a$	27, 28				
	s							
			-10.2^a	28, 30				
Na ₂ S	Na ₂ S ₂	-14.4	-13.9	28				
			-18.7°	28, 29				
Ni	NiS	-19.2	-19.6	28				
Pb	PbS	-21.0	-21.6	28				
^{<i>a</i>} For these couples, $\Delta_f H^{\circ}$ (298.15 K) for S(1) = 1.9 kJ/mol is taken from ref 28.								

by their placement in different columns. In the second column are numbers that have recently been produced as computational estimates by Jenks and co-workers using G3 (Gaussian 3) methods. 43 In the third column are numbers that are the reverse of entries in Table 1 for the corresponding XS molecule. These sulfur bond dissociation energies are indirectly determined from independent experimental measurements of $\Delta_f H(298)$ for X(g), XS(g), and S(g) and, as such, are experimentally determined numbers themselves. The $\Delta_{rxn}H(298)$ for $XS(g) \rightarrow X(g) + S(g)$, which is the X-S bond dissociation energy, is then simply taken as $\Delta_f H(X)$ + $\Delta_f H(S)$ – $\Delta_f H(XS)$ at 298 K. The numbers determined by this approach are possibly the more accurate experimental numbers in Table 6 because they avoid the need to account for solvation enthalpies.

In the fourth column of Table 6 are $X-S$ bond dissociation energies determined through direct caloric measurement of $\Delta_{rxa}H(298)$ for X + S → XS. $\Delta_{rxn}H(298)$ values obtained by Chernick, Pedley, and Skinner were obtained in excess liquid phosphine and subsequently coupled to enthalpies of vaporization for R_3P , R_3PS , and atomic sulfur and to the enthalpy of solvation of R_3PS in liquid R_3P^{44} In contrast, Hoff and co-workers measured ∆rxn*H*(298) values for R3P $+ S \rightarrow R_3 PS$ in benzene or toluene solution.²¹ They obtained ^X-S bond dissociation energies by coupling these $\Delta_{r}H(298)$ values to $\Delta_fH(298)$ for S(g) and using the simplifying assumption that ∆vap*H* for X and XS have similar values and therefore can be neglected because they offset one another. In turn, bond dissociation energies for Ph3AsS and Ph₃SbS were obtained by measurement of $\Delta_{rxn}H$ (298) for $Ph_3AsS + Ph_3P \rightarrow Ph_3As + Ph_3PS$ and $Ph_3SbS + Ph_3P$ \rightarrow Ph₃Sb + Ph₃PS. Uncertainties in these numbers reported by Hoff are of the order of ± 3 kcal/mol. Carbon-sulfur bond dissociation energies for the sulfides (thiones) of the mesityl and adamantyl substituted Arduengo carbenes were determined by Hoff and Nolan in a similar manner through sulfur atom abstraction reactions by these carbenes from Ph₃AsS and Ph3SbS.40 The fourth column of Table 6 also contains the few known values for transition metal sulfide bond dissociation energies that have been either measured calorimetrically⁴⁵ or at least estimated.⁴⁶

For only one compound, namely Ph₃P, have bond dissociation energies been determined by all of the aforementioned approaches. The values for the phosphorus-sulfur bond dissociation energy in Ph₃PS by these experimental methods [93.5 \pm 2.9 from Δ *_fH*(298) values and 88 \pm 3 from Δ_{r} *H* measurements; see Table 6] are therefore the same within the given uncertainties. The somewhat lower value obtained by computational estimate is attributed in part to intrinsic limitations of the G3 method in dealing with sulfide bonds of this type.

The phosphorus-sulfur bond dissociation energies in phosphine sulfides generally correlate with electron richness as governed by the nature of the substituents on the phosphorus atom. Thus, F3PS, with highly electronegative fluorine atoms, has a bond dissociation energy ∼20 kcal/ mol less than the phosphine sulfides with electron-rich alkyl groups. A trend in olefin sulfide bond dissociation energies is more difficult to identify and likely reflects a competition between two distinct effects. More electron-rich olefins, that is, those with more alkyl substituents, ought to favor oxidative addition of sulfur and have the higher bond dissociation energies, but at the same time increased substitution disfavors the addition of sulfur because of steric crowding. The net result appears to be that the intermediate degree of alkyl substitution found in *trans*-2-butene produces the greatest stabilization in the corresponding olefin sulfide.

4. Compounds Prepared by Sulfur Atom Transfer Reactions

Well-defined sulfur atom transfer reactions involving the transition metals, main group elements in groups $13-15$, and the f-block elements are collected in Table 7 and, where classification is unambiguous, designated according to the reaction types defined in reactions $7-12$. The use of bold-faced type in the donor/**acceptor** column of Table 7 is intended to draw a clearer distinction for the instances of desulfurization versus sulfurization. Complexes prepared by or desulfurized by type I sulfur atom transfer (reaction 7) are designated as such in Table 7. Similarly, molecules prepared by secondary

Table 4. Sulfur Atom Transfer Thermodynamic Scale in C_6H_6 **or** $C_6H_5CH_3$ **Solution:** $X(sol) + S(sol) \rightarrow XS(sol)$

a Determined indirectly from $\Delta_{rxn}H$ for Ph₃SbS + Ph₃P → Ph₃Sb + Ph₃PS. *b* Determined indirectly from $\Delta_{rxn}H$ for BzSSSBz + Cy₃P → BzSSBz + Cy₃PS. ^{*c*} Determined indirectly from $\Delta_{rxn}H$ for Ph₃AsS + Ph₃P → Ph₃As + Ph₃PS. *d* Determined indirectly from $\Delta_{rxn}H$ for Ph₃AsS + X → Ph₃As $+ XS$, $X =$ carbene. ^{*e*} Determined indirectly from $\Delta_{rxn}H$ for Ph₃AsS $+ X \rightarrow$ Ph₃As $+ XS$ and from $\Delta_{rxn}H$ for Ph₃SbS $+ X \rightarrow$ Ph₃Sb + XS, X = carbene.

Figure 4. Examples of known arene epoxides: (a) naphthalene-1,2-oxide;⁴⁸ (b) phenanthrene-9,10-oxide;⁴⁹ (c) chrysene-5,6-oxide;⁵⁰ (d) pyrene-4,5-oxide;⁵¹ (e) anthracene-1,2,3,4-dioxide.⁵²

sulfur atom transfer processes are notated by II, tertiary processes are indicated by IIIa or IIIb, and quaternary reactions are denoted IV. In each case, the reagents used as sulfur atom donor or acceptor are also indicated. All ligand abbreviations are fully defined in section 11.

In many cases, a variety of sulfur atom donors are competent to effect the same reaction. In other instances, for reasons that are not necessarily clear a priori, some (or even only one) sulfur atom donor agents will work to effect a particular sulfur atom transfer, but others will not. For instance, Parkin has noted that the *trans*- $W^{IV}S₂(PMe₃)₄$ complex is cleanly prepared from W(PMe₃)₄(η²-CH₂PMe₂)H using H_2S , with concomitant evolution of H_2 , whereas elemental sulfur results in immediate and complete decomposition (reaction 22).⁴⁷ Observations such as these empha-

size the value in testing more than one donor reagent if an initial choice does not produce the desired sulfur atom transfer or does not do so cleanly. In the following sections, a variety of sulfur atom donors is discussed in an effort to identify their relative advantages and disadvantages. Some of these reagents are molecules that have been frequently employed as sulfur atom donors, whereas others have not been used at all. With regard to the potential usefulness of these sulfur atom donors, some aspects of the following discussion are speculative. The intent herein is merely to suggest possibilities to the reader who is interested in synthesis by sulfur atom transfer.

5. Sulfur Atom Donors

A scarcity of strong sulfur atom donors is immediately apparent from a cursory inspection of Tables $1-4$. In contrast to the gas phase table for oxygen atom transfer reagents,¹⁹ Table 1 contains no entry for which $XS \rightarrow X + S$ is an exothermic process. This paucity of strong sulfur atom donors may be attributed in some degree to the readiness by which sulfur bonds with itself. Whereas molecules such as H_2O_2 , Bu^{*f*}OOBu^{*t*}, and O₃ are active, indeed often indiscriminate, oxygen atom donors, the analogous sulfur compounds do not have similar atom transfer ability. The electron lone pairlone pair repulsions that activate peroxo species are mitigated by the larger, more diffuse nature of the valence sulfur p atomic orbitals.

Another reason for the scant number of strong sulfur atom donors is that many reagents XS that are of conceivable use tend to be too unstable toward elimination of elemental sulfur and formation of X. Sulfur analogues of species such as trimethylamine *N*-oxide (Me₃NO), iodosyl benzene (C_6H_5 -IO), and the hypochlorite anion (OCl⁻) appear to be unknown species, probably for this reason. A class of compounds that is generally interesting as reagents for chalcogen transfer is the family of arene chalcogenides. The strong driving force for chalcogen atom transfer arises from the formation of arene, a relatively innocent byproduct that is easily separated from other species. Although numerous arene epoxides are known⁴⁸⁻⁵² (Figure 4) and many have even been structurally characterized by X-ray crystallography, the corresponding

Table 5. Oxo-for-Sulfido Exchange Thermodynamic Scale: $XO(g) + S(g) \rightarrow XS(g) + O(g)$

X _O	XS	ΔG^{298} XO/XS (kcal/mol)	ΔH^{298} XO/XS (kcal/mol)	ref
CO	CS	$+86.3$	$+86.8$	31
B_2O_3	B_2S_3		$+65a$	27
Me ₃ SiOSiMe ₃	Me ₃ SiSSiMe ₃		$\sim +61^b$	31, 189
COS	CS ₂	$+54.4$	$+54.4$	31
CO ₂	COS	$+53.5$	$+54.3$	31
F_3PO	F_3PS	$+51.5$	$+52.0$	31
BO	BS	$+51.0$	$+51.5$	31
OSO	OSS	$+47.7$	$+50.8$	31
Al_2O_2	Al_2S_2	$+48.7$	$+48.4c$	28
H_2O	H_2S	$+45.5$	$+46.3$	31
Ph ₃ PO	Ph ₃ PS		$+41.9$	31, 36, 37
SiO	SiS	$+42.3$	$+42.7$	31
In ₂ O	In ₂ S	$+41.1$	$+42.1$	28
Cl ₃ PO	Cl ₃ PS	$+35.8$	$+36.2$	31
N _O	NS	$+34.4$	$+34.8$	31
AlO	AlS	$+34.0$	$+34.4 \pm 4.0$	28
PO	PS	$+31.8$	$+32.1$	31
CIOS	CIS ₂		$+30.9$	$\mathbf d$
GeO	GeS	$+29.4$	$+29.7$	28
F ₂ SO	F_2SS	$+26.9$	$+27.4$	31
Ο H н	s н н			
			$+26.6$	27, 29
$_{\rm H_3C}$ н	H_3C н			
н н	H н	$+24.7$	$+25.2$	27
н н	н н			
Br ₃ PO	Br ₃ PS	$+22.9$	$+23.4$	31
HO	HS	$+17.0$	$+17.3 \pm 1.6$	28
SnO	SnS	$+14.2$	$+14.4$	28
PbO	PbS	$+7.7$	$+8.1 \pm 3.3$	28
CIO	CIS	$+6.1$	$+6.5$	31
$O=O$	$S=O$	-6.2	-5.4 ± 1.7	28
FO.	FS	-29.8	-29.6	31
Cl ₂ O	Cl ₂ S	-32.1	-32.4	31
InO	InS		-42.7	27
F_2O	F_2S	-83.7	-83.4	31

^{*a*} This value is one-third the value of the couple $B_2O_3(g) + 3S(g) \rightarrow$ $B_2S_3(g) + 3O(g)$. The other entries in the table are for single chalcogen atom exchanges, so this couple must be "normalized" so as to be fitted into a meaningful position in the table. Data are not available for the single atom exchange couples $B_2O_3(g) + S(g) \rightarrow B_2O_2S(g) + O(g)$ or $B_2O_2S(g) + S(g) \rightarrow B_2OS_2(g) + O(g)$ or $B_2OS_2(g) + S(g) \rightarrow B_2S_3(g)$ $+$ O(g), but $+65$ kcal/mol could be taken as a rough estimate for the value of each of these reactions. Inasmuch as the nearest other couples are \pm several kcal/mol, it is likely that the position for B₂S₃ in this table is not out of place. *^b* This value is estimated from the difference in approximate Si-O and Si-S bond strength energies given in ref 189. The difference between ∆*H*f(298) for O(g) and ∆*H*f(298) for S(g) is taken into consideration for this estimate. *^c* A "normalization" similar to that described in footnote *a* is performed here. *^d* Takacs, G. A. *J. Chem. Eng. Data* **1978**, *23*, 174.

Figure 5. Structure of $C_{60}S$.

sulfur analogues are unknown due to their instabilities relative to those of the aromatic molecules and elemental sulfur. Similarly, molecules such as 1,4-dihydro-1,4-thionaphthalene⁵³ can be generated and detected at low temperature but are are too unstable to permit their isolation (reaction 23).

5.1. Allotropes of Sulfur

The thermodynamic data in Table 1 involving S_3-S_8 presumably all refer to cyclic species rather than to linear or cage species. These data do not suggest any of these species to be especially active sulfur atom donors, at least not to weak acceptors. This fact notwithstanding, commercially available elemental sulfur (\sim 99% S₈) has found frequent use as a sulfur atom donor agent, principally because it is coupled to strong sulfur atom acceptors (vide infra). It bears mention here that many other allotropes of sulfur have been prepared, structurally authenticated by X-ray crystallography, and characterized by other means. Of these allotropes, which include S_6 ⁵⁴, S_7 ⁵⁵, S_9 ⁵⁶, S_{10} ^{55a}, 57 S_{11} ⁵⁸, S_{12} ⁵⁹ S_{13} ^{58bc} S_{14} ⁶⁰ S_{15} ⁶¹ S_{18} ^{55e,59d,62} and S_{20} ^{55e,59d,62a,63} S_6 is most amenable to preparative scale synthesis.^{54ab} In general, these species may be produced through kinetically controlled syntheses of the type $H_2S_x + Cl_2S_y \rightarrow 2HCl + S_{x+y}$ or Cp₂- $TiS_x + Cl_2S_y \rightarrow Cp_2TiCl_2 + S_{x+y}$.

It has been noted that S_6 and S_7 are more reactive allotropes of sulfur than is S_8 , with S_7 being quite prone to decomposition even at ambient temperature. Both S_6 and S_7 are known to be in equilibrium with S_8 in solution and combined account for approximately 1.2% of total sulfur by mass.64 As single sulfur atom transfer agents that would result in cyclic S_{n-1} byproducts, S_6 is weaker by 2.4 kcal/mol, whereas S_7 is stronger by 5.3 kcal/mol, than S_8 in terms of the thermodynamic data presented in Table 1. The more meaningful comparison between these allotropes, however, is to view each S_n species as a source of nS atoms. Considered in this "normalized" way, for instance, $8S_6(g)$ \rightarrow 48S(g) is more favorable enthalpically than 6S₈(g) \rightarrow 48S-(g) by 49.3 kcal/mol, which is consistent with S_8 being the most stable S_n allotrope. Cycloheptasulfur (and S_{12} also) has been observed to react with triarylphosphine to form the corresponding phosphine sulfide at rates that are \sim 10² greater than that shown by S_8 , whereas the rate of reaction of S_6 is even faster still by a factor of $\sim 10^{4.65}$ In these systems, it is quite likely that kinetic effects are contributing significantly to the observed rates. Although it has not (as yet) been synthesized and isolated, the fullerene sulfide $C_{60}S$ (Figure 5) has been suggested by semiempirical energy calculations to be a stable species. Its formation according to the stoichiometry $nC_{60} + S_n \rightarrow nC_{60}S$ is calculated to be more favorable for $n = 6$ over $n = 8$ by 32.5 kcal/mol.⁶⁶ Despite its accessibility and these indications that its reactivity is appreciably greater than that of S_8 , S_6 does not appear to have ever been used synthetically as a sulfur atom donor agent.

5.2. Oxathiiranes, Dithiiranes, and Sulfines

Possible strong sulfur atom donors for which no thermodynamic data are available are the oxathiiranes and dithiiranes, the general structures of which are given as (a) and (c), respectively, in Figure 6. Oxathiiranes as such are too reactive to permit isolation but may be generated photolytically⁶⁷ or thermally⁶⁸ from their isomeric form, the thione

Table 6. Bond Dissociation Energies for the Gas Phase, $XS(g) \rightarrow X(g) + S(g)$ **, in Kilocalories per Mole**

^a These computational estimates are for the gas phase at 0 °C. *^b* Values are based on estimated numbers. *^c* The reference given in footnote *d* lists BDEs of 100 and 68 kcal/mol for F₃PS and Cl₃PS, respectively. These numbers are appreciably different from the numbers obtained from ref 31, which is the source preferred here. Both sources have the same value for Br *Compounds*; CRC Press: New York, 2003; p 286. *e* R = C(CD₃)₂CH₃, Ar = 3,5-C₆H₃Me₂. *f* L = PMe₃ or PMe₂Ph.

S-oxide or sulfine [(b) in Figure 6]. Sulfines are considerably more stable than oxathiiranes, and the preparation and characterization of a variety of examples have been described.⁶⁹ Aryl-substituted oxathiiranes generated in situ by photolysis of sulfines have been shown to effectively transfer a sulfur atom to olefins such as norbornene and *trans*cyclooctene to produce the corresponding episulfide.⁷⁰ Curiously, thermolysis of fluorenethione *S*-oxide in the presence of olefinic substrate also resulted in efficient sulfur atom transfer but through the agency of an intermediate different from the expected oxathiirane.71 Beyond the episulfidation of olefins, the sulfur atom transfer capabilities of in situ generated oxathiiranes do not appear to have been systematically investigated. It is unclear how much synthetic value they will have as general sulfur atom donor reagents in reactions with other types of acceptors. Because any species

Table 7. Metal and Organic Sulfides Prepared or Desulfurized by Sulfur Atom Transfer Reactions

^a Woo, L. K.; Hays, J. A. *Inorg. Chem.* **1993**, *32*, 2228. *^b* Woo, L. K.; Hays, J. A.; Young, Jr., V. G.; Day, C. L.; Caron, C.; D'Souza, F.; Kadish, K. M. *Inorg. Chem.* **1993**, *32*, 4186. *^c* Thorman, J. L.; Young, Jr., V. G.; Boyd, P. D. W.; Guzei, I. A.; Woo, L. K. *Inorg. Chem.* **2001**, *40*, 499. *^d* Sweeney, Z. K.; Polse, J. L.; Andersen, R. A.; Bergman, R. G.; Kubinec, M. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1997**, *119*, 4543. *^e* If loss of H2S from a possible $[(\eta^5$ -C₅H₅)Ti(μ -H)]₂(μ -S)(μ - η :⁵ η^5 -C₁₀H₈) intermediate is viewed as a two-electron reductive elimination at each metal center, then the oxidative addition of two additional equivalents of S atom allow one to classify the reaction as a type IV sulfur atom transfer process. *^f* Cuenca, T.; Herrmann, W. A.; Ashworth, T. V. *Organometallics* **1986**, *5*, 2514. *^g* Mullins, S. M.; Duncan, A. P.; Bergman, R. G.; Arnold, J. *Inorg. Chem.* **2001**, 40, 6952. *h* Excess H₂S produced Cp^{*}₂Zr(SH)₂ as the final product. *i* Ethylene sulfide produced Cp^{*}₂ZrS(py) but only as one component in a mixture of products. ^{*j*} Howard, W. A.; Parkin, G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1994, 116, 606. ^kThis compound was originally formulated as Cp₂*Zr(*µ*-S)₂ZrCp^{*}₂ in ref 139 but was subsequently shown to be a mono- μ -sulfido species. *l* Classification of this molecule as resulting from a type III sulfur atom transfer reaction assumes reductive elimination of C₂H₆ from Cp'₂Zr(CH₃)(μ -O)Zr(CH₃)Cp'₂ followed by oxidative addition of elemental sulfur. *m* Tainturier, G.; Gautheron, B.; Fahim, M. *J. Organomet. Chem.* 1985, 290, C4. *n* Erker, G.; Mühlenbernd, T.; Benn, R.; Rufiñska, A.; Tainturier, G.; Gautheron, B. *Organometallics* **1986**, *5*, 1023. *^o* Baranger, A. M.; Hanna, T. A.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, *117*, 10041. *P* Howard, W. A.; Parkin, G. J. Organomet. Chem. 1994, 472, C1. ^q Schiemann, J.; Hübener, P.; Weiss, E. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. **1983**, 22, 980. *r* Albrecht, N.; Hübener, P.; Behrens, U.; Weiss, E. *Chem. Ber.* **1985**, 118, 4059. *Poncet, J.-L.; Guilard, R.; Friant, P.; Goulon, J. Polyhedron* **1983**, 2, 417. *'* Poncet, J. L.; Guilard, R.; Friant, Polyhedron 1983, 2, 417. 'Poncet, J. L.; Guilard, R.; Friant, P.; Goulon-Ginet, C.; Goulon, J. Nouv. J. Chim. 1984, 8, 583. " Strictly speaking, these systems do not involve pure sulfur atom transfer reactions because one ^V Nicholson, J. R.; Huffman, J. C.; Ho, D. M.; Christou, G. *Inorg. Chem.* **1987**, *26*, 3030. *^w* Money, J. K.; Huffman, J. C.; Christou, G. *Inorg. Chem.* **1988**, 27, 507. *x* Billen, M.; Hornung, G.; Wolmerschäuser, G.; Preuss, F. *Z. Naturforsch.* **2003**, 58, 237. *y* Floriani, C.; Gambarotta, S.; Chiesi-Villa, A.; Guastini, C. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1987**, 2099. *^z* Moore, M.; Feghali, K.; Gambarotta, S. *Inorg. Chem.* **1997**, *36*, 2191. *aa* Money, J. K.; Nicholson, J. R.; Huffman, J. C.; Christou, G. *Inorg. Chem.* **1986**, *25*, 4072. *ab* Chamberlain, M. M.; Jabs, G. A.; Wayland, B. B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1962**, *27*, 3321. *ac* This system also does not involve a pure S atom transfer reaction because the oxidation state change from the starting material, V(O'Bu)₄, is only one unit. The other reducing equivalent for the sulfur atom apparently originates from displaced 'BuO⁻. ^{*ad*} Cummins, C. C.; Schrock, R. R.; Davis, W. M. *Inorg. Chem.* **1994**, *33*, 1448. *ae* Gerlach, C. P.; Arnold, J. *Inorg. Chem.* **1996**, *35*, 5770. *af* Ruppa, K. B. P.; Desmangles, N.; Gambarotta, S.; Yap, G.; Rheingold, A. L. *Inorg. Chem.* **1997**, *36*, 1194. *ag* Sendlinger, S. C.; Nicholson, J. R.; Lobkovsky, E. B.; Huffman, J. C.; Rehder, D.; Christou, G. *Inorg. Chem.* **1993**, *32*, 204. *ah* Herrman, W. A.; Biersack, H.; Ziegler, M. L.; Balbach, B. *J. Organomet. 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Lett.* **1991**, 1067. *bb* This reference also describes

Continuation of References for Table 7.

the synthesis and crystal structure of (dppee)Mo(O)(S), but the preparation involves use of MoCl₃(THF)₃/NaHS/dppee and does not appear to occur by bona fide S atom transfer. *bc* Lorenz, I.-P.; Walter, G.; Hiller, W. *Chem. Ber.* **1990**, *123*, 979. *bd* Brunner, H.; Meier, W.; Wachter, J.; Guggolz, E.; Zahn, T.; Ziegler, M. L. *Organometallics* 1982, *1*, 1107. *be* Formation of Mo^V(S)(N[R]Ar)₃ from CS₂ is attended by the formation of [Mo(N[R]Ar)₃]₂(μ -CS). *bf* Formation of Mo^V(S)(N[R]Ar)₃ from SO₂ is accompanied by the formation of 2 equiv of Mo^V(O)(N[R]Ar)₃. *bg* Johnson, A. R.; Davis, W. M.; Cummins, C. C.; Serron, S.; Nolan, S. P.; Musaev, D. G.; Morokuma, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 2071. *bh* Gorzellik, M.; Bock, H.; Gang, L.; Nuber, B.; Ziegler, M. L. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1991**, *412*, 95. *bi* Treichel, P. M.; Wilkes, G. R. *Inorg. Chem.* **1966**, *5*, 1182. *bj* Stevenson, D. L.; Dahl, L. F. *J. Am. Chem. 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G. *Polyhedron* **2004**, *23*, 385. *bz* Eagle, A. A.; Tiekink, E. R. T.; George, G. N.; Young, C. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **2001**, *40*, 4563. *ca.* Reference 47b also describes the preparation of $W^IV(S)(Se)(Me₃P)₄$ from H₂S and $W^IVSe(H)₂(Me₃P)₄$, but because no +2 change in oxidation state at the metal centers occurs, this system does fit the description of a sulfur atom transfer reaction. *cb* Bollinger, J. C.; Chisholm, M. H.; Click, D. R.; Folting, K.; Hadad, C. M.; Tiedtke, D. B.; Wilson, P. J. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **2001**, 2074. *cc* Hughes, D. L.; Lane, J. D.; Richards, R. L. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1991**, 1627. *cd* Drew, M. G. B.; Page, E. M.; Rice, D. A. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1983**, 61. *ce* Lorenz, I.-P.; Messelha¨user, J.; Hiller, W.; Conrad, M. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1986**, *316*, 121. *cf* Beuter, G.; Drobnik, S.; Lorenz, I.-P.; Lubik, A. *Chem. Ber.* **1992**, *125*, 2363. *cg* Herberhold, M.; Schmidkonz, B. *J. Organomet. 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Figure 6. Illustration of the oxathiirane, sulfine, dithiirane, and thione *S*-sulfide structures.

that would be a good sulfur atom acceptor from an oxathiirane would likely also be a good oxygen atom acceptor, oxygen atom transfer from an oxithiirane might be competitive with, or conceivably even preferred to, the desired sulfur atom transfer.

Dithiiranes [(c) in Figure 6], although relatively scarce and unusual molecules, are considerably more amenable to isolation and application as potential sulfur atom donor reagents. In contrast, thiocarbonyl *S*-sulfides [(d) in Figure 6] are highly reactive isomeric forms of dithiiranes, which are too unstable to permit isolation but which have been trapped in 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions with an appropriate electrophile.72 The current body of knowledge on dithiiranes, thiocarbonyl *S*-sulfides, and related compounds has been recently reviewed.⁷³

Several examples of dithiiranes have now been wellcharacterized spectroscopically72b,74 and by X-ray crystallography^{74ad} (Figure 6). These molecules are lightly orangecolored due to a $n_{\pi} \rightarrow \sigma^*$ (S-S, S-C) transition at 438-455 nm. When stabilized by the presence of bulky alkyl substituents such as *tert*-butyl and 1-adamantyl groups, dithiiranes may be handled at ambient temperature in the open air and be purified by column chromatography. With less sterically protecting groups, dithiiranes are susceptible to decomposition to elemental sulfur and the corresponding thione when subjected to chromatography on silica.⁷⁵ Apart from one report of the desulfurization of a dithiirane by Ph3P,72b the S atom donor ability of these molecules has not been systematically examined. The sulfur atom donor activity of dithiiranes is likely to be quite high, and although they are not commercially available molecules, they represent intriguing possibilities as potent but clean sulfur atom donor reagents. Their principal disadvantage is their relative

inaccessibility due to the multiple-step syntheses^{74d,76-78} through which they are prepared (Scheme 2).

5.3. R₃ES Compounds (E $=$ **P, As, Sb)**

Sulfur atom transfer reactions between triarylpnictogen sulfides R_3ES ($E = P$, As, Sb) and triaryl- or trialkylpnictogens $R'_{3}E$ are processes that are readily rationalized by the relative basicities of the pnictogen centers. Thus, phosphines are rapid and clean acceptors of sulfur atom from $R₃AsS$ and $R₃SbS$ complexes, whereas $R₃As$ compounds are themselves in turn facile acceptors of a sulfur atom from R3SbS.79 Sulfur atom transfer between phosphine compounds or between arsine compounds occurs in the direction that favors placement of sulfur on the more alkyl substituted, and therefore more electron rich, pnictogen center. These reactions typically exhibit clean second-order kinetics consistent with the bimolecular mechanism that is presumed to be operative in these atom transfers.79 Recent thermochemical measurements by Hoff²¹ on the reactions of elemental sulfur with a variety of phosphines in benzene or toluene solutions have verified earlier measurements by Chernick, Pedley, and Skinner44a and established a range of reaction enthalpies for $R_3P + S \rightarrow R_3PS$ that extends from -30.9 kcal/mol for Cy₃P to -21.5 kcal/mol for Ph₃P (Table 4).²¹ Associated PS bond dissociation energies trend in the same manner (Table 6) and range from 98 to 88 kcal/mol. Thermodynamic data for Ph_3E $+ S \rightarrow Ph₃ES$ (E = As, Sb) were derived indirectly from calorimetric measurements of sulfur transfer reactions to Ph_3P . The value obtained for Ph_3SbS indicates that elimination of sulfur is an approximately thermoneutral process in benzene or toluene solutions (Table 4).

Although sulfur atom transfer from Ph_3SbS to α - P_4S_4 has been reported to produce new phosphorus sulfides (γ -P₄S₅, **Scheme 2. Illustration of the Multistep Synthesis of Di(1-adamantyl)dithiirane Starting from Commercially Available 1-Cyanoadamantane***^a*

^a For step 1, cf. ref 76; for steps 2 and 3, ref 77; for step 4, ref 78; for step 5, ref 74d.

 δ -P₄S₆, and ϵ -P₄S₆)⁸⁰ that have not been accessible by thermal reactions of the elements or by sulfur atom abstractions with phosphines, others have noted that facile decomposition of $Ph₃SbS$ to $Ph₃Sb$ and elemental sulfur in solution limits the utility of this compound as a synthetic reagent and greatly complicates kinetics studies. The sulfur extruded appears to be singlet disulfur resulting from a bimolecular disproportionation process.81 Evidence for the presence of transient singlet S_2 arises from spectroscopic detection of 3,6-dihydro-4,5-dimethyl-1,2-dithiin when solutions of Ph3SbS are introduced to 2,3-dimethylbutadiene (reaction 24).

$$
2 Ph_3SbS
$$

$$
Ph_3Sb....S....S...SbPh_3 \longrightarrow S_2 \longrightarrow S_3
$$

A variety of other R3SbS compounds are known, including Me3SbS,82 Et3SbS,83 *ⁿ* Pr3SbS,83 *ⁿ* Bu3SbS,83 and Cy3SbS.83 Of these, Me3SbS warrants particular mention because it is a crystalline compound that is easily prepared and very amenable to purification and handling. The greater electron richness of methyl versus phenyl substitution probably renders Me3SbS somewhat less prone to spontaneous extrusion of elemental sulfur, possibly placing it closer to Ph_3 -AsS in terms of its stability. R_3SbS has been found to be competent to insert a sulfur atom into the metal-metal bond in R'₃M-MR'₃ (R = Me, R' = Ph or Bz, M = Sn;⁸⁴ R = R' $=$ Ph, M $=$ Sn;⁸⁴ R $=$ R' $=$ Ph, M $=$ Pb;⁸⁵ R $=$ C₆F₅, R' $=$ Ph, $M = Pb; ^{86} R = C_6F_5$, $R' = p-C_6H_4CH_3$, $M = Pb^{86}$) compounds (reaction 25), which generally places $R₃SbS$

compounds above $R_3Sn-S-SnR_3$ reagents in terms of sulfur donor reactivity. The reactions illustrated in reaction 25 are of type IIIa as defined in reaction 11a. Interestingly, no sulfur atom transfer is observed to occur when Me3SbS is treated with Ph_3M-MPh_3 species where $M = Si$ or Ge.⁸⁴

5.4. Bis(tri-n-butylstannyl)sulfide, ⁿBu3SnSSnⁿBu3

Bis(tri-*n*-butylstannyl)sulfide, known also as Harpp's reagent, has several particular attributes that render it to be

Scheme 3. Examples of the Use of Harpp's Reagent*^a*

an attractive candidate as a sulfur atom donor. It is commercially available and inexpensive.⁸⁷ The Sn-S bond dissociation energy is probably quite modest, although specific thermodynamic information on tin compounds is quite limited. The putative byproduct from sulfur atom donation, *n*²B₁₃Sn–Sn^{*n*}Bu₃, is unlikely to pose complications
by further acting as an oxidizing agent or as a ligand if used by further acting as an oxidizing agent or as a ligand if used as a sulfur atom donor in a transition metal system.88 Hexabutyldistannane should in most instances be readily separable from the desired sulfided product by extraction with an alkane solvent. Other hexaalkyldistannylsulfides are known,⁸⁹ readily prepared according to literature methods, and offer some degree of tunability from the sulfur atom donor capacity of "Bu₃SnSSn"Bu₃.

Bis(tri-*n*-butylstannyl)sulfide has found scant use thus far as a sulfur atom donor or chalcogenide exchange reagent in inorganic or organometallic systems. It has been used as a source of sulfur in the preparation of the cuboidal tungsten sulfide, $[W(NTol)(S_2P(OEt)_2)S]_4$ (NTol $= N$ -tolylimido),⁹⁰ although the complexity and low yield of the preparation leave it unclear as to whether $nBu_3SnSSn^nBu_3$ is a source of either sulfur atom or sulfide, S^{2-} . Depending upon reaction conditions and stoichiometry, "Bu₃SnSSn"Bu₃ has been demonstrated to be highly effective in transforming primary alkyl halides to thiols⁹¹ or to dialkyl sulfides.⁹² In the presence of acyl chlorides, sulfenyl chlorides (RSCl), or *N*-chlorosuccinamide as substrates, corresponding diacyl sulfides, organic dialkyl trisulfides, and bis(dialkylaminocarbonyl) sulfides are similarly formed (Scheme 3). 93 With these systems, the net reaction is effectively halide-for-sulfide exchange between *n* Bu3SnSSn*ⁿ* Bu3 and the organic chloride. This point suggests

Figure 7. Known sulfides of phosphorus.

that the ability of "Bu₃SnSSn"Bu₃ to engage in bona fide atom transfer may be improved in the presence of halogen so as to form a thermodynamically stable tin halide product and thereby drive the liberation of atomic sulfur (reaction 26).

 ${}^{n}Bu_{3}Sn-S-Sn{}^{n}Bu_{3} + I_{2}$ - \longrightarrow "S" + 2 ${}^{n}Bu_{3}SnI$ (26)

On balance, the currently available information on ⁿBu₃-SnSSnⁿBu₃ indicates that it may offer wider utility as a sulfur atom donor reagent than has been thus far demonstrated.

5.5. Phosphorus Sulfides, P4Sⁿ

Numerous sulfides of phosphorus are known, well characterized, and available either commercially or through clear preparative procedures. All phosphorus sulfides are of the general composition P_4S_n ($n = 3-10$) and conceptually may be derived from the P_4 tetrahedron through sulfur atom oxidative addition to a phosphorus lone electron pair to form a terminal thiophosphoryl group $(P=S)$ and/or insertion into a P-P single bond.⁹⁴ For sulfides where $n = 4-9$, more than one isomer may be prepared or at least detected spectroscopically (Figure 7). Those phosphorus sulfides that are available directly from melt reactions of the elements in the proper ratios are P_4S_3 ,^{95,96} α - P_4S_7 ,^{95,97,98} and P_4S_{10} , 95,97,99
Small quantities of β - P_4S_6 have also been identified in and Small quantities of β -P₄S₆ have also been identified in and isolated from phosphorus-sulfur melts.¹⁰⁰ Another longknown and well-characterized phosphorus sulfide is α -P₄S₅,^{95,97,101} which is obtained photochemically from CS₂ solutions of P₄S₂ and elemental sulfur with catalytic traces solutions of P_4S_3 and elemental sulfur with catalytic traces of I_2 .

From the scant thermodynamic data that have been obtained either experimentally^{33,34} or computationally,¹⁰² indications are that phosphorus sulfides are potentially useful sulfur atom donors. The couples $P_4S_7(s) \rightarrow P_4S_6(s) + "S"(s)$ and $P_4S_6(s) \rightarrow P_4S_5(s) + "S"(s)$ are exothermic processes (Table 2) and among the few available that apparently favor sulfur atom donation. Unfortunately, it is unclear which of the various isomers of P_4S_7 , P_4S_6 , and P_4S_5 correspond to the data presented in the original sources. The only plausible couples are obviously those that interconvert topologically similar P_4S_{n+1}/P_4S_n species (e.g., α - P_4S_7/β - P_4S_6 in Figure 7

Scheme 4. Sulfur Atom Abstraction Reactions from P4S*ⁿ* **Molecules by Ph3P**

and Scheme 4) so that structural reorganization is minimized. Nevertheless, these data offer at least an approximate idea of where the sulfur atom couples connecting structurally related P_4S_n species might occur. It has been suggested that sulfur-binding energies decrease in P4S*ⁿ* compounds as the proportion of sulfur increases.¹⁰² It is unfortunate that a lack of thermochemical data on the P_4S_8 and P_4S_9 phosphorus sulfides prevents couples involving these higher sulfides from being formulated.

A point that further adduces the potential for P4S*ⁿ* compounds to serve as sulfur atom donor agents is the fact that many of the other known P_4S_n species are derived from α -P₄S₅, α -P₄S₇, and P₄S₁₀ by sulfur atom abstraction with phosphines. By this synthetic approach α -P₄S₀ may be phosphines. By this synthetic approach, α -P₄S₉ may be obtained from P₄S₁₀,¹⁰³ δ -P₄S₇ from α -P₄S₉¹⁰⁴ through the intermediacy of α -P₄S₉⁻¹⁰⁵ β -P₄S₆⁻¹⁰⁶ and β -P₄S₅⁻¹⁰⁷ intermediacy of α -P₄S₈,¹⁰⁵ β -P₄S₆¹⁰⁶ and β -P₄S₅¹⁰⁷ from α -P₄S₅ (Scheme 4)¹⁰⁸ Even a α -P₄S₇, and β -P₄S₄ from α -P₄S₅ (Scheme 4).¹⁰⁸ Even a relatively modest sulfur atom acceptor such as Ph₃As may be readily oxidized to $Ph₃AsS$ by sulfur atom transfer from $P_4S_{10}.^{81}$

One significant advantage to the use of P_4S_{10} and P_4S_6 as sulfur atom donor agents is their commercial availability,¹⁰⁹ but it should be noted that they are typically formulated incorrectly as P_2S_5 and P_2S_3 species. Conceivable disadvantages to their use are issues of solubility, which may render the reaction system to be heterogeneous rather than homogeneous, and their potential for forming $MS_2(S_2^{2-})$, disulfide) products in reactions with transition metal complexes.

5.6. Sulfur Diimides

A class of molecules with potential usefulness as sulfur atom donor agents is the family of molecules known as dialkyl and diaryl sulfur diimides, $R-N=S=N-R$ ($R =$ alkyl, aryl) (Figure 8). When these intriguing molecules were

Figure 8. Structures of diphenyl sulfur diimide (a), diphenyl diazene *N*-sulfide (azothiobenzene) (b), and diphenyl diazene *N*-oxide (azoxybenzene) (c).

first synthesized and studied, they were misidentified by some researchers as their structural isomers, the diazene *N*-sulfides¹¹⁰ (Figure 8). It was not until a later structural characterization by X-ray crystallography¹¹¹ that their correct identity was clearly established. The initial formulation of these molecules as diazene *N*-sulfides was not unreasonable because the oxygen analogue of this molecule type, the diazene *N*-oxide (Figure 8), was a known molecule type and because they were observed to undergo facile desulfurization, either on basic alumina^{110b} or in the presence of metallic zinc,^{110ab,112} to afford the corresponding diazenes. Notwithstanding the erroneous stereochemical conclusions to which they led, these observations of facile desulfurization suggest the possibility of applying these sulfur diimides as sulfur atom donor agents.

A conspicuous advantage to these molecules is their ready availability (in gram quantities) by several synthetic routes, as illustrated in Scheme 5. Diaryl sulfur diimides may be synthesized directly from elemental sulfur and the corresponding aniline through the mediation of mercuric acetamide,^{112,113} although this method appears to work best with electron-donating para substituents. Reductive coupling of *N*-sulfinyl amine by sodium metal in refluxing toluene^{110a,112,114} has also been reported to produce sulfur diimides, which can either be vacuum distilled or purified with column chromatography silica gel.112 Phenyl *N*-sulfinyl amine is not only available commercially¹¹⁵ but can also be readily prepared from the anilinium chloride and thionyl chloride.¹¹⁶ A third route to $R-N=S=N-R$ compounds involves treating primary amine with either SCl_4 ($R = {}^tBu$)¹¹⁷ or SF_4 ($R = Ph$)
in Me₂N as solvent ¹¹⁴ A further advantage to the use of sulfur in Me3N as solvent.114 A further advantage to the use of sulfur

Scheme 5. Synthetic Routes to Sulfur Diimides*^a*

^a See text for literature citations.

diimides is the possibility of achieving some tunability to their reactivity by appropriate variation of the R group. One disadvantage to their use is that, in sulfur atom transfer to metal complexes, the diazene byproduct could persist as an unwanted ligand.

5.7. Carbonyl Sulfide, COS

The transition metal chemistry of COS consists predominantly of the formation of $M-\eta^2$ -COS species, the formation
of dithiocarbonate ligand (COS₂²) via reductive disproporof dithiocarbonate ligand (COS_2^{2-}) via reductive disproportionation, and insertion into metal-ligand bonds.¹¹⁸ In metal complexes with phosphine ligands, the formation of an *η*2- COS carbonyl sulfide adduct is often attended by sulfur atom abstraction by displaced phosphine (reactions $27-29$).¹¹⁹⁻¹²¹

Nevertheless, carbonyl sulfide has in a variety of instances been observed to act as a sulfur atom donor to transition metal centers in reactions of types I and II. Carbonyl sulfide is a considerably better sulfur atom donor than CS_2 owing to the ∼30 kcal/mol greater stability of C≡O versus C≡S as the byproduct, the latter of which is not an isolable molecule. The first study in which COS was found to act as a sulfur atom transfer agent involved its reaction with Pt- $(PPh₃)₃$, 122 a reaction that is of the secondary type (reaction 30). Identification of the product as a dinuclear μ -sulfido species was later established by structural characterization by X-ray crystallography.123 Carbonyl sulfide has also been found to react by primary atom transfer with W^{II} complexes to afford species to which the CO byproduct is also bound (reaction 31).^{124,125} In other instances, COS is observed to cleanly transfer sulfur atom with complete elimination of CO, as with $Cp^*_{2}Yb^{II}$ and $(ArO)_{3}U^{III}(THF)$, which react by type II atom transfer to produce the corresponding $\text{CP*}_2\text{Yb}^{\text{III}} - \text{S}-\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}\text{CP*}_2$ 126 and $(\text{ArO})_3\text{U}^{\text{IV}} - \text{S}-\text{U}^{\text{IV}}(\text{OAr})_4$ 127 dinuclear species, respectively (reactions 32 and 33). Al-

though it has not been widely used as a sulfur atom donor agent, COS does have the convenience of being a gas, which can be used in excess and readily swept away. Although commercially available, it may also be generated conveniently and inexpensively in the laboratory.¹²⁸ Disadvantages to the use of COS include the possible formation of undesired $(\eta^2$ -COS) products and binding of CO to the Mⁿ⁺²S product.

5.8. Dibenzyl Trisulfide

Dibenzyl trisulfide has been determined by measurement of reaction enthalpies to be a relatively good sulfur atom transfer agent that falls between Ph₃AsS and SPh₃SbS in donor strength.21 It has been used by Holm in the preparation of a series of W^{VI}S complexes in couples of the type W^{IV} + $\text{IS1} \rightarrow \text{W}^{\text{VIS}}$ (reactions 34–36)^{129–131} as well as by Cotton $[S] \rightarrow W^{VI}S$ (reactions $34-36$)¹²⁹⁻¹³¹ as well as by Cotton
in the synthesis of *trans*-(dppe)-Mo^{IV}S₂ (reaction 37) and in the synthesis of *trans*-(dppe)₂Mo^{IV}S₂ (reaction 37) and

trans-(dppee)₂Mo^{IV}S₂ complexes.¹³² In a number of instances, BzSSSBz has been applied in the transformation of terminal or bridging sulfide ligands into the corresponding disulfide ligands (S_2^2) (reactions 38 and 39),^{133,134} a conversion that

may generally be reversed by a strong sulfur atom acceptor such as Ph₃P. However, the interconversions illustrated by reactions 38 and 39 are reactions of the type depicted in reaction 5 and are not oxidative addition or reductive elimination atom transfer processes as defined in reactions $7-12$.

Advantages to the use of BzSSSBz are its commercial availability, the fact that it is easily prepared, 135 and its stability as a solid in the open air, which makes it convenient in applications in which stoichiometric precision is essential. A potential disadvantage to the use of BzSSSBz is the formation of BzSSBz byproduct, which might undergo further oxidative addition to the intended product to form thiolate ligated species.

5.9. Hydrogen Sulfide, H2S

H2S is not commonly employed as a sulfur atom *donor* reagent, presumably because of the inconveniences associated with working quantitatively with a corrosive gas, which also has a highly offensive odor. When H_2S functions as a bona fide sulfur atom donor, an equivalent of H_2 gas is generated as byproduct. Mononuclear systems that show well-defined reactivity with hydrogen sulfide are the cyclometalated phosphine complexes $M(PMe₃)₄(\eta^2 - CH_2PMe_2)H$ of molybdenum¹³⁶ and tungsten⁴⁷ described by Parkin, which oxidatively add 2 equiv of H_2S and eliminate 2 equiv of H_2 to form the corresponding *trans*- $M^{IV}S_2(PMe_3)_4$ complexes (reactions 40 and 41). In the tungsten system, a bis-

(hydrosulfide) bis(hydrido) intermediate was isolated and identified analytically and spectroscopically by comparison with its deutero counterpart. Formation of H_2 was confirmed by conducting the reaction in the presence of 2 equiv of the oxametallacyle $W(PMe₃)₄H₂(\eta²-OC₆H₄)$, which functions as a hydrogen trap.47b

Primary sulfur atom transfer by H_2S to $Cp^*_{2}Zr(CO)_{2}$ has also been observed but only under conditions of substoichiometric H_2S in the presence of pyridine¹³⁷ (reaction 42a). In the absence of pyridine and in the presence of limiting H₂S (3 equiv) the monosulfido complex $[(Cp * 2Zr(SH))]_2(\mu$ -

S) may be isolated¹³⁸ (reaction 42b), a compound that was previously formulated as the bis(μ -S) dimer, $[Cp^*_{2}Zr]_{2}(\mu$ - S ₂.¹³⁹ With the less sterically crowded $Cp_2Zr(CO)_2$ system, reaction with H₂S does lead to the formation of $[Cp_2Zr]_2$ - $(\mu-S)_2$, a product that was characterized structurally by X-ray crystallography (reaction 43).139 It bears mention that although $[Cp^*_{2}Zr]_{2}(\mu-S)_{2}$ does not result from reaction between $Cp_{2}Zr(CO)_{2}$ and H₂S, presumably because of steric considerations, its formation by alternate routes is not necessarily precluded. Although they did not confirm its identity with a crystal structure, Thiele and Beckhaus have reported the synthesis of $[Cp *_{2}Zr]_{2}(\mu-S)_{2}$ from $Cp *_{2}Zr(CH=CH_{2})_{2}$ using elemental sulfur (reaction 44).¹⁴⁰

Most other instances of sulfur atom transfer involving H_2S fall under the type III classification (reactions 11) because reductive elimination of H_2 is facilitated in dinuclear complexes where each metal center can bear a hydride ligand. The most thoroughly studied such system is that of Pd_2 - $(\text{dppe})_2X_2$ (X = Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻), which is most reactive when $X = Cl^-$ (reaction 45). The sulfido-bridged compound Pd₂(μ -

 $S(\mu$ -dppe)₂Cl₂ was first prepared by Balch by oxidative addition of elemental sulfur or abstraction of sulfur from propylene sulfide.141 Subsequently, James discovered facile formation of $Pd_2(\mu-S)(\mu-dppe)_2Cl_2$ from H_2S as well and undertook a thorough study of the kinetics of this reaction. 142

Balch had noted that the μ -sulfido ligand could be oxidized by MCPBA to μ -SO₂, which readily dissociates to regenerate the starting $Pd_2(dppe)$, Cl_2 complex. This reactivity scheme thus provides a conceptual basis for a catalytic cycle of reduction of H_2S to H_2 . Since the studies done by James, a number of related dinuclear *µ*-bis(phosphine) complexes of late transition metals have been observed to accept the sulfur atom from H_2S and eliminate H_2 . These systems include zerovalent MnRh,¹⁴³ Ru₂,¹⁴⁴ RhRe,¹⁴⁵ Rh₂,¹⁴⁶ and Ir₂,¹⁴⁶ complexes with bridging dppe ligands. An interesting and unusual example of reversible elimination/addition of H_2 to a dinuclear bis(μ -S) complex is the [(triphos)Rh^{III}(μ -S)₂Rh^{III}- $(triphos)]^{2+}$ system, which is formed in a type IV reaction from (triphos)RhCl(H_2 CCH₂) and 2 equiv of H₂S (eq 46).¹⁴⁷

5.10. 5-Aryloxy-1,2,3,4-thiatriazoles

Molecules with potential usefulness as clean, powerful sulfur atom donors are 5-aryloxy-1,2,3,4-thiatriazoles. These molecules are readily prepared by reaction of aryloxide with thiophosgene¹⁴⁸ and subsequent treatment of the resulting *O*-arylthionochloroformate with azide¹⁴⁹ (Scheme 6). These

Scheme 6. Synthesis of 5-Aryloxy-1,2,3,4-thiatriazoles*^a*

5-aryloxythiatriazoles undergo thermolysis under mild conditions to liberate aryl cyanate and, ultimately, elemental sulfur and dinitrogen. The irreversible formation of dinitrogen gas provides the strong thermodynamic impetus for sulfur atom donation. Vacuum flash pyrolysis experiments and matrix isolation of the labile species formed have identified dinitrogen sulfide, N_2S , as the reactive intermediate that donates sulfur atom in the presence of a suitable substrate.¹⁵⁰

Aryloxy-1,2,3,4-thiatriazoles have been found to produce modest yields of the corresponding olefin sulfides when reacted with norbornene and *trans*-cyclooctene.151,152 Reactivity with triphenylpnictogens, Ph_3E ($E = P$, As, Sb) to produce triphenylpnictogen sulfide was somewhat cleaner and higher yielding.153 Although these sulfur atom donors do not appear to have been used in any other instances as sulfur atom donors, they do have the advantages of being readily accessible on a preparative scale, of being stable when stored at low temperature, and of forming relatively benign, easily separated byproducts (ArOC \equiv N and N₂) after atom transfer. Furthermore, their reactivity can be tuned to some degree by appropriate variation of the para substituents on the aryl ring.151 Other types of 1,2,3,4-thiatriazoles, such as 5-alkyl- and 5-amino-substituted variants, have been described and reviewed elsewhere.¹⁵⁴

6. Compounds Prepared by Oxo-for-Sulfido Exchange Reactions

Oxo-for-sulfido exchange is a second method for the synthesis of molecular sulfides and is arguably of greater historical and general significance than sulfur atom transfer reactions. If oxo-for-sulfido exchange reactions are considered to include organic systems, such as the synthesis of thiiranes from epoxides and the conversion of ketones and aldehydes into the corresponding thiones, then the number of specific examples of chalcogenide exchange reactions would appreciably exceed the number of instances in which sulfur atom transfer has been described. Indeed, for the two cases just mentioned, chalcogen exchange remains the preferred preparative route to these types of compounds, many of which are biologically relevant or synthetically useful. In general, these oxo-for-sulfido exchange reactions work because light main group elements such as carbon and phosphorus generally form appreciably stronger bonds to oxygen than to sulfur in isostructrual compounds. Thus chalcogen exchange is a thermodynamically favorably process. Table 8 summarizes known instances of oxo-forsulfido exchange along with the exchange reagent used and the corresponding literature reference.

7. Oxo-for-Sulfido Exchange Reagents

7.1. Lawesson's Reagent, [2,4-Bis- (p-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithiaphosphetane-2,4-disulfide]

Although it has been almost exclusively under the domain of organic chemistry, the most convenient, versatile, and probably most effective oxo-for-sulfido exchange reagent is [2,4-bis(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithiaphosphetane-2,4-disulfide], which is commonly known as Lawesson's reagent. Lawesson's reagent enjoys the advantages of being commercially available and inexpensive. Its ready solubility in common organic solvents renders it effective under mild conditions (e.g., ambient temperature, short reaction times) compared to heterogeneous reagents such as B_2S_3 . The mechanism through which Lawesson's reagent is known to operate involves dissociation to the highly reactive dithiophosphorus ylid, which then reacts with carbonyl substrate (Scheme 7). The thiooxaphosphetane intermediate that forms then decomposes to liberate thioketone and phosphoryl byproduct in a manner completely analogous to the Wittig reaction. This mechanism very likely extends to other types of substrates such as phosphoryl and metal oxo groups. To date, the only instances in the literature in which Lawesson's reagent has been used to prepare a metal sulfido moiety from the corresponding metal oxo group are the syntheses of $(HuO)_3V=O^{155}$ and $(Bu'_3tach)MS_3$ $(M = Mo, W)^{156}$
Lawesson's reagent should find wider application in the Lawesson's reagent should find wider application in the future among synthetic inorganic chemists and will likely prove to be effective in cases where B_2S_3 or $Me₃SiSSiMe₃$ have been previously used. An extensive body of literature on applications of Lawesson's reagent in thiocarbonyl synthesis has been built over the past 40 years, and further discussion is beyond the focus of this review. The interested reader is referred to several leading reviews.157

7.2. Boron Trisulfide, B₂S₃

The usefulness of B_2S_3 as an oxo-for-sulfido exchange reagent is suggested by its placement in Table 5, which calls attention to the fact that boron is significantly more oxophilic than thiophilic. The exchange ability that is suggested from the thermodynamic data has been amply demonstrated by the conversion of a variety of $M=O$ fragments in a variety of oxidation states into the corresponding $M=S$ moiety. Indeed, the first thiovanadyl $V^{IV}=S$ compounds were prepared from corresponding oxo homologues with B_2S_3 (reactions 47 and 48).^{158,159} Similarly, the first mononuclear $Mo^V=S¹⁶⁰ Te^V=S¹⁶¹$ and $Re^{III} \equiv S¹⁶²$ complexes were prepared and isolated with B_2S_3 as the chalcogen exchange reagent (reactions 49 and 50). Other types of $M=S$ complexes prepared with this reagent include $Nb^V=S$, ¹⁶³ Mo^{IV}= $\rm S, ^{164,165}$ $\rm Mo^{VI}OS, ^{166}$ $\rm W^{VI}OS, ^{167-170}$ $\rm W^{VI}S_2, ^{167-171}$ $\rm W^{VI}OS_2, ^{156}$ and $Re^V=S¹⁶¹$ (reactions 49, 51-53, and 55-60). In one

instance, B_2S_3 has been reported to convert nonenolizable ketones to corresponding thiones.172 A notable case in which B_2S_3 fails to react in an exchange reaction is with [HB(3- P ^{*i*}Prpz)₃]Mo^VOCl₂, an observation that is attributed to the steric shielding of the $Mo^V=O$ group that is presented by the three isopropyl substituents on the pyrazole rings (reaction 54).¹⁶⁵ The lessened crowding found in the [HB(3-^{*i*}Prpz)₂(5-^{*i*}Prpz)]- $Mo^VOCl₂$ isomer is sufficient to permit the exchange reaction to occur (reaction 53).

An advantage to the use of B_2S_3 is the fact that the $B_2O_nS_{3-n}$ byproducts are generally insoluble and conveniently removed by filtration or column chromatography. A disadvantage to the use of B_2S_3 is the possible formation of

Table 8. Metal and Organic Sulfides Prepared by Oxo-for-Sulfido Exchange Reactions

a Goedken, V. L.; Ladd, J. A. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1982**, 142. *b* The (η ⁴-Me₄taa)Ti=S that initially forms from the reaction of (η ⁴-Me₄taa)Ti=O with CS₂ reacts with a second equivalent of CS₂ to yield (*η*⁴-Me₄taa)Ti(*η*²-[S₂]-CS₃) as the ultimate product. ^{*c*} These mixed oxothiovanadates salts were generated in solution and observed spectroscopically but were not isolated. ^{*d*} Ranade, A. C.; Müller, A.; Diemann, E. *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **1970**, *373*, 258. *^e* Harrison, A. T.; Howarth, O. W. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1986**, 1405. *^f* Do, Y.; Simhon, E. D.; Holm, R. H. Inorg. Chem. 1985, 24, 4635. ^{*g*} Krüss, G.; Ohnmais, K. Chem. Ber. 1890, 23, 2547. ^{*h*} Krüss, G.; Ohnmais, K. Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem. **1891**, *263*, 39. *ⁱ* Kru¨ss, G. *Z. Anorg. Chem.* **1893**, *3*, 264. *^j* Newton, W. E.; Chen, G. J.-J.; McDonald, J. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1976**, *98*, 5387. *^k* Schultz, F. A.; Ott, V. R.; Rolison, D. S.; Bravard, D. C.; McDonald, J. W.; Newton, W. E. *Inorg. Chem.* **1978**, *17*, 1758. *^l* Dirand-Colin, J.; Ricard, L.; Weiss, R. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1976**, *18*, L21. *^m* Winograd, R.; Spivack, B.; Dori, Z. *Cryst. Struct. Commun.* **1976**, *5*, 373. *ⁿ* Spivack, B.; Dori, Z. *Chem. Commun.* **1970**, 1716. *^o* Ott, V. R.; Swieter, D. S.; Schultz, F. A. *Inorg. Chem.* **1977**, *16*, 2538. *^p* Spivack, B.; Gaughan, A. P.; Dori, Z. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1971**, *93*, 5265. *^q* Fletcher, J.; Hogarth, G.; Tocher, D. A. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1991**, *405*, 207. *^r* Newton, W. E.; McDonald, J. W.; Yamanouchi, K.; Enemark, J. H. *Inorg. Chem.* **1979**, *18*, 1621. *^s* These compounds were detected spectroscopically but not isolated when generated by this method. *^t* Sakurai, T.; Okabe, H; Isoyama, H. *Bull. Jpn. Pet. Inst.* **1971**, *13*, 243. *^u* Spivack, B.; Dori, Z.; Stiefel, E. I. *Inorg. Nucl. Chem. Lett.* **1975**, *11*, 501. ^V Faller, J. W.; Ma, Y. *Organometallics* **1989**, *8*, 609. *^w* Hofer, E.; Holzbach, W.; Wieghardt, K. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1981**, *20*, 282. *^x* Gheller, S. F.; Hambley, T. W.; Traill, P. R.; Brownlee, R. T. C.; O'Connor, M. J.; Snow, M. R.; Wedd, A. G. *Aust. J. Chem.* **1982**, *35*, 2183. *^y* Wieghardt, K.; Hahn, M.; Weiss, J.; Swiridoff, W. *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **1982**, *492*, 164. *^z* The formation of these bis(dialkyl-*N*-oxido)MoOS and -MoS₂ species from Me₃SiSSiMe₃ was observed by ⁹⁵Mo NMR. Reaction products were not isolated. ^{*aa*} Krüss, G. *Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem.* **1884**, 225, 1. *ab* Müller, A.; Dornfeld, H.; Schulze, H.; Sharma, R. C. *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **1980**, 468, 193. *ac* Moore, F. W.; Larson, M. L. *Inorg. Chem.* **1967**, *6*, 998. *ad* Harmer, M. A.; Sykes, A. G. *Inorg. Chem.* **1980**, *19*, 2881. *ae* Kutzler, F. W.; Scott, R. A.; Berg, J. M.; Hodgson, K. O.; Doniach, S.; Cramer, S. P.; Chang, C. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 6083. *af* Brule, J. E.; Hayden, Y. T.; Callahan, K. P.; Edwards, J. O. *Gazz. Chim. Ital.* **1988**, *118*, 93. *ag* McDonald, J. W.; Friesen, G. D.; Rosenhein, L. D.; Newton, W. E. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1983**, *72*, 205. *ah* The reference given in footnote *y* describes preparation of the R = Et compound but not the R = Bz compound. $\frac{d}{dx}$ Krebs, B.; Müller, A.; Kindler, E. *Z. Naturforsch., B: Chem. Sci.* **1970**, *25*, 222. *aj* Ansari, M. A.; Chandrasekaran, J.; Sarkar, S. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1987**, *133*, 133.

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Scheme 7. Structure of Lawesson's Reagent and Mechanism for the Oxo-for-Sulfido Exchange Reaction*^a*

^a Reprinted with permission from Jesberger, M.; Davis, T. P.; Barner, L. *Synthesis* **²⁰⁰³**, 1929-1958. Copyright 2003 Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, **Germany**

undesired disulfide S_2^2 or tetrasulfide S_4^2 species (reactions 51, 58, and 61) rather than terminal sulfido complexes by pure chalcogenide exchange. In cases when the products are

amenable to purification by column chromatography, these disulfide or tetrasulfide species may be separated if they constitute only minor byproducts. A further disadvantage to the use of B_2S_3 is the fact that it no longer appears to be sold commercially, although literature procedures describing its synthesis are readily available.^{95,173} Other main group sulfides that are commercially available and inexpensive, such as SiS_2 , Al_2S_3 , P_4S_6 , P_4S_{10} , and As_2S_3 , may presumably be substituted for B_2S_3 in many oxo-for-sulfido exchange reactions.

7.3. Hexamethyldisilathiane, Me3SiSSiMe3

The ability of hexamethyldisilathiane $(Me₃SiSSiMe₃)$, which is also commonly referred to as bis(trimethylsilyl) sulfide, to effect oxo-for-sulfido exchange in metal oxides appears to have been first noted by Lebedev et al. in 1974.174 This versatile reagent has since been used to transform terminal oxo ligands into corresponding sulfido ligands in a variety of metal complexes. Well-defined examples include VIVS,175,176 NbVS,176-¹⁸⁰ TaVS,179,180 MoVS,181 MoVIOS,182 $Mo^{VI}S₂,¹⁸² Mo^{VI}S₃,¹⁸³ W^{VI}S₁¹²⁹ W^{VI}S₂,¹⁸⁴ W^{VI}S₃,¹⁸⁵ and$ $[Re^{VII}O₃S]$ ¹⁻¹⁸⁶ (reactions 62-74). In at least one system, $Me₃SiSSiMe₃$ has been found to exchange bridging oxide for sulfide as well (reaction 75).^{187,188} Hexamethyldisilathiane has been observed to operate by initial silylation of terminal oxo ligand to form a trimethylsilyloxy species, an intermediate that in one instance has been isolated and characterized.175b Subsequent steps are less clear but may involve a second silylation with concomitant nucleophilic displacement of Me₃- $SiOSiMe₃$ by the Me₃SiS⁻ anion. In cases when the M=O group is sufficiently protected by sterically encumbering ligands, such as in [HB(3-^{*i*}Prpz)₃Mo^VOCl₂], chalcogenide exchange may not occur (reaction 54).¹⁶⁵

In general, $Me₃SiSSiMe₃$ appears to be effective in chalcogenide exchange reactions wherever B_2S_3 is useful.

Its efficacy arises from the substantially greater thermodynamic stabilization offered by the Si-O bond as compared to the Si-S bond. From estimates of relative bond strengths (∼88 kcal/mol for Si-O vs [∼]54 kcal/mol for Si-S),189 the $Me₃SiSSiMe₃(g) + O(g) \rightarrow Me₃SiOSiMe₃(g) + S(g) couple$ can be placed at \sim −61 kcal/mol. The position of this couple is consistent with the fact that $Me₃SiSiMe₃$ is the strongest of known oxygen atom acceptors in couples of the type X $+$ O \rightarrow XO and outdoes Ph₃P by a full 25 kcal/mol!¹⁹ Unfortunately, experimentally determined thermochemical data for Me₃SiSSiMe₃ are unavailable owing to the technical difficulties inherent to combustion calorimetry measurements upon compounds containing both silicon and sulfur.¹⁹⁰

An advantage to the use of $Me₃SiSSiMe₃$ as chalcogen exchange reagent is its commercial availability, although it is quite easy to synthesize on a preparative scale.¹⁹¹ The fact that it is a liquid at standard temperature and pressure and freely miscible with common organic solvents enables it to be used in homogeneous solution. Consequently, it generally reacts appreciably more rapidly and under milder conditions than B_2S_3 . Unlike B_2S_3 , its use does not appear to be accom-

panied by the formation of disulfide or tetrasulfide byproducts. Both $Me₃SiSSiMe₃$ (if used in excess) and the Me₃- $SiOSiMe₃$ resulting from chalcogenide exchange are readily removed either by applying a vacuum or by washing with an appropriate organic solvent. The principal disadvantage to the use of $Me₃SiSSiMe₃$ is its highly offensive odor. In this regard, Ph3SiSH or other, less volatile, silylthiols or thioethers may serve as convenient alternatives to $Me₃SiSSiMe₃$ in chalcogenide exchange reactions (reaction 76).¹⁸⁶

7.4. COS, CS_2 , and $R_2NC(S)$ CI

The only documented instance in which COS or CS_2 has been observed to act as chalcogenide exchange agent is in reaction with Me₄taaTi^{IV}=O (Scheme 8).¹⁹² These reactions proceed through η^2 -monothio- or η^2 -dithiocarbonate intermediates, which, although not isolated, are consistent with the products isolated in reactions of Me₄taaTi^{IV}=O with a variety of other electrophiles. The reaction with COS illustrated in Scheme 8 produces $CO₂$, as detected spectroscopically. These reactions derive their thermodynamic impetus from the superior strength of the $C=O$ bond versus Scheme 8. Exchange of Oxo Ligand for Sulfido Ligand in Me₄taaTi^{IV=O*a*}

^a See ref 192.

Scheme 9. Newman-Kwart Rearrangement Reaction ($R =$ **Me or Et)***^a*

^a See ref 193.

the $C=$ S bond and identify an upper limit of 54.5 kcal/mol (Table 5) for the difference in strength between the $Ti=O$ bond versus the Ti=S bond in Me₄taaTi^{IV}=E (E = O or S). Other transition metal oxo complexes of sufficient nucleophilicity to react with \cos or \cos_2 might very well undergo similar chalcogenide exchange reactions.

A reaction protocol that is generally useful for transforming aromatic alcohols into the corresponding thiols bears a conceptual similarity to the reactions of COS and $CS₂$ with $Me₄taaTi^{IV}=O$ in that it is driven (at least in part) by the formation of a strong $C=O$ bond. Reported independently by Newman and Kwart^{193a,b} and commonly referred to as the Newman-Kwart rearrangement,¹⁹⁴ this reaction involves treatment of a phenolate anion with *N*,*N*-dialkylthiocarbamoyl chloride (alkyl $=$ Me, Et) to form a phenyl dialkylthionocarbamoyl species (Scheme 9). A thermally induced rearrangement exchanges oxygen and sulfur, and subsequent base hydrolysis liberates the thiophenolate anion. This reaction type is particularly useful for the design of elaborated thiolate ligands for transition metal cations.195 One limitation, however, of this reaction type is that it does not appear to work with alkyl-substituted alcohols, probably because the transition state through which it proceeds derives appreciable stabilization from the adjacent arene ring.

8. Ligand-Centered Sulfur Atom Transfer Reactions

In contrast to atom transfer reactions of the types illustrated in reactions 5 and 6, which interconvert sulfido, disulfido, and tetrasulfide ligands without change in the oxidation state of the metal center, another distinctly different class of ligand-centered sulfur atom transfer reaction may be identified and defined by multielectron change induced at the metal center. The term "ligand-centered" is applicable because at all times the sulfur atom does not have a direct bond to the metal atom. These ligand-centered transfers are reactions of the type in which a multiply bonded terminal nitrido, phosphido, or carbido ligand is transformed into the corresponding thionitrosyl, thiophosphoryl, or thiocarbonyl ligand (reaction 77). This reaction type is noteworthy in several

respects. From a historical viewpoint, it is significant in that it was by this method that thionitrosyl complexes were first prepared by Chatt and Dilworth^{196,197} (reactions 78-80). It

remains a synthetic approach to thionitrosyl complexes with some general usefulness. These reactions are also unusual

^a Hursthouse, M. B.; Motevalli, M. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1979**, 1362. *^b* Bevan, P. C.; Chatt, J.; Dilworth, J. R.; Henderson, R. A.; Leigh, G. J. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1982**, 821. *^c* Kim, J. C.; Lee, B. M.; Shin, J. I. *Polyhedron* **1995**, *14*, 2145. *^d* Kaden, L.; Lorenz, B.; Kirmse, R.; Stach, J.; Abram, U. *Z. Chem.* **1985**, *25*, 29. *^e* Kaden, L.; Lorenz, B.; Kirmse, R.; Stach, J.; Behm, H.; Beurskens, P. T.; Abram, U. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1990**, *169*, 43. *^f* Lu, J.; Clarke, M. J. *Inorg. Chem.* **1990**, *29*, 4123. *^g* Lu, J.; Clarke, M. J. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton, Trans.* **1992**, 1243. *^h* This compound was earlier misidentified as (Me₂PhP)₂TcCl₃(NS) in the reference given in footnote *d* and in Abram, U.; Kirmse, R.; Köhler, K.; Lorenz, B.; Kaden, L. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1987**, *129*, 15. *ⁱ* This Tc compound was too unstable to isolate and could only be observed spectroscopically. *j* Reinel, M.; Höcher, T.; Abram, U.; Kirmse, R. *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* 2003, 629, 853. *k* Abram, U.; Hartung, J.; Beyer, L.; Kirmse, R.; Köhler, K. *Z. Chem.* **1987**, *27*, 101. *^l* Baldas, J.; Bonnyman, J.; Mackay, M. F.; Williams, G. A. *Aust. J. Chem.* **1984**, *37*, 751. *^m* Baldas, J.; Colmanet, S. F.; Williams, G. A. *Aust. J. Chem.* **1991**, *44*, 1125. *ⁿ* Bishop, M. W.; Chatt, J.; Dilworth, J. R. *Chem. Commun.* **1975**, 780. *^o* The Re starting material in this instance was [(Me₂PhP)₂ReNCl(R₂tcb)], where R₂tcb = the anion of *N*-(*N*,*N*-dialkylthiocarbamoyl)benzamidine). *P* Abram, U.; Ritter, S. Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem. 1994, 620, 1233. ^{*a*} These rhenium thionitrosyl compounds are formed from the corresponding [(R₂R'P)₃ReBr₂(N)] complexes.
^{*r*} The dppe ligands are in a trans configuration as well the thi **1994**, *216*, 223. *^t* Ritter, S.; Abram, U. *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **1996**, *622*, 965. *^u* These [(R2R′P)2ReCl3(NS)] complexes were prepared from the corresponding six-coordinate $[(R_2R'P)_3ReCl_2(N)]$ complexes. "These $[(R_2R'P)_2ReCl_3(NS)]$ compounds were formed from five-coordinate [(R2R′P)2ReCl2(N)] precursors. *^w* 31P NMR suggests a *trans* disposition of the phosphine ligands and therefore a *mer* configuration for the chloride ligands. *x* This compound was also prepared in low yield from OsNCl₃(AsPh₃₎₂ with (Ph₄P)NCS and KNCS in aqueous acetone. *y* Wright, M. J.; Griffith, W. P. *Trans. Met. Chem.* 1982, 7, 53. ^{*z*} CS₂ and N₃⁻ react to form a 5-thio-1,2,3,4-thiatriazolato ring anion, which decomposes to generate an equivalent of sulfur atom, dinitrogen, and thiocyanate anion. *aa* Demadis, K. D.; Meyer, T. J.; White, P. S. *Inorg. Chem.* **1998**, *37*, 3610.

in that they are attended by a four-electron reduction, at least in a formal sense, at the metal center! The thionitrosyl ligand is generally formulated as a thionitrosonium cation $(NS⁺)$. Such dramatic multielectron reorganizations are quite rare for such an ostensibly simple reaction. Furthermore, the sulfur transfer is in many instances fully reversible; that is, strong sulfur atom acceptors such as trialkyl phosphines can abstract the sulfur atom to regenerate the parent nitrido compound.

Table 9 summarizes known examples of type I ligandcentered sulfur atom transfer reactions involving terminal nitrido, phosphido, and carbido ligands. Only one example of sulfur atom transfer to a terminal phosphido ligand occurs in the literature (reaction 81^{198}), principally because of the

rarity of terminal phosphido complexes in general. An example of a μ^3 -PS ligand produced by the reaction of an in situ generated μ^3 -phosphido ligand with sulfur has also been described.199 The first instance of sulfur atom transfer to a terminal carbido ligand has been recently reported by Johnson.²⁰⁰ The reverse process, desulfurization of thiocarbonyl ligand with a suitable sulfur atom acceptor, has been suggested to be a possible synthetic route of some generality for the synthesis of metal complexes bearing a terminal carbido ligand.200

Also listed in Table 9 are the sulfur atom donors that were employed in the atom transfer reaction. It bears comment that, depending on the particular nitrido complex in question and its nucleophilicity, certain sulfur atom donors are effective and others not at all. For instance, whereas elemental sulfur and olefin sulfides are able to cleanly add sulfur atom to terminal nitrido ligands in $(R_2NCS_2)_3MO\equiv N$ complexes (reaction 78), these same reagents do not work with Re or Os complexes (reactions 79 and 80). Conversely, whereas S_2Cl_2 and SCl_2 are able to effect sulfur atom transfer to terminal nitrido ligands in Re and Os compounds, these same sulfur atom donor agents result in messy, ill-defined products in the Mo system. These observations emphasize the point that it is generally worthwhile to test a different sulfur atom donor if one's initial choice does not result in clean atom transfer. Also noteworthy is the variety of sulfur atom donors that are collected in Table 9 for such an apparently narrow reaction type.

9. Catalytic Sulfur Atom Transfer Systems

The first report of catalytic sulfur atom transfer was by Khan and Siddiqui using a monoprotonated EDTA ruthenium complex in a mixed aqueous ethanol system.²⁰¹ These researchers observed turnovers of ∼7/mol of catalyst/h at 80 °C with cyclohexene as substrate. Although the turnover numbers observed are quite modest and the reaction conditions fairly vigorous, the significant point about their work is that cyclohexene is a particularly sluggish substrate. Other researchers,^{3b} however, have reported an inability to reproduce these results, and subsequent publications by Siddiqui and Khan that elaborate on their initial work have not yet appeared.

The catalytic scheme proposed by Khan and Siddiqui (Scheme 10) involves a sequential cycling through $Ru^{IV}(\mu$ - S_2)Ru^{IV}, Ru^{IV}(μ -S)Ru^{IV}, and monomeric Ru^{III} species, the last of which is then reoxidized by elemental sulfur to regenerate the disulfide-bridged $Ru^{IV}(\mu-S_2)Ru^{IV}$ complex.

Scheme 10. Khan and Siddiqui's Ruthenium Catalytic System for the Sulfidation of Cyclohexene*^a*

Both the disulfide- and sulfide-bridged complexes in Scheme 10, the latter of which appears to be the active sulfur atom donor species, were isolated and characterized by elemental analysis. Further insights into the working of this interesting system must await additional structural and spectroscopic characterization of these ruthenium compounds.

A brief paper describing thiirane metathesis using Rh2(OAc)4 as catalyst and propylene sulfide as sulfur source was described by Kendall and Simpkins (reaction 83).²⁰² The

substrates they examined were norbornene and norbornadiene, which were transformed to the corresponding olefin sulfides in 39 and 40% yields, respectively. The scope of this reaction and the mechanism by which it operates remain unclear, although it is well-known that $Rh_2(OAc)_4$ behaves essentially as a Lewis acid and catalyzes a variety of organic transformations.203

The most recent and significant work in the area of catalytic sulfur atom transfer reactivity is that reported by Adam and co-workers using a molybdenum catalyst with either dithiocarbamate or dithiophosphinate supporting ligands.^{3,4} In 2001, Adam reported that $(Et_2NCS_2)_2Mo^{VI}O (\eta^2-S_2)$ is competent to catalytically transfer a sulfur atom to a variety of olefinic substrates, with elemental sulfur acting as sulfur donor to regenerate active catalyst. This system is believed to proceed through a Mo^{VI}OS intermediate, which delivers its sulfur atom to substrate in a distinct, separate step (Scheme 11). Adam extended his work to include

^a Adapted from ref 3b with permission from the American Chemical Society.

catalytic sulfuration of a range of isonitriles⁴ and allenes.^{3b,c} Optimal catalytic efficiencies were reported with diethyldithiophosphate, $(EtO)_2PS_2^{1-}$, as supporting ligand and

propylene sulfide as sulfur source, but in this case the catalysis does not appear to involve a $Mo^{VI}(\eta^2-S_2)$ species in the oxidative half of the catalytic cycle.

Catalytic desulfurization of thiiranes substrates has also been reported by Espenson.²⁰⁴ Starting from MeReO₃, which undergoes a slow activation by Ph_3P that is presumably an oxygen atom abstraction reaction, a highly reactive Re^V species is generated that quickly and stereospecifically excises sulfur from olefin sulfides (Scheme 12). Phosphine

Scheme 12. Catalytic Desulfurization of Thiiranes by a Methyl Rhenium Oxo Complex*^a*

^a Adapted from ref 204 with permission from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

in turn removes sulfur from the Re^{VII} product to form phosphine sulfide and regenerate the active ReV species. Strong evidence for the involvement of terminal sulfido ligation in the catalytic cycle is found in the observation that treating a MeReO₃ solution with H_2S , which would exchange an oxo for a terminal sulfido ligand, greatly reduces the induction period. Although this catalytic system for thiirane desulfurization is not one of special synthetic value, it is certainly relevant and interesting in the context of catalytic hydrodesulfurization of petroleum feedstocks.

Another, rather different, system for metal-mediated desulfurization of thiirane and transfer of the sulfur atom to phosphine was described by Young and co-workers.171 Using $[HB(3,5-Me_2pz)_3]WS_2X$ complexes with variable X (X = Cl^- , PhO⁻, PhS⁻), they identified $X = Cl^-$ to be the optimal system. In the presence of 0.10 mol equiv of tungsten catalyst, 95% conversion of Ph3P and propylene sulfide to Ph₃PS and propylene was observed spectroscopically over a three-day period (Scheme 13). The identity of the active,

Scheme 13. Sulfur Atom Transfer from Propylene Sulfide to Ph₃P Catalyzed by $[(HB(3,5-Me_2pz)_3)W^{VI}S_2Cl]^a$

reduced WIV species was not firmly established but may plausibly be formulated as a monosolvated complex resulting from abstraction of sulfide ligand by phosphine followed by coordination of solvent molecule. Significantly, no sulfur atom abstraction was observed in this system with $C \equiv N^{-}$. This observation demonstrates that reactivity with cyanide

cannot be used as a definitive assay for terminal sulfido ligation with tungsten as it has been with the molybdoenzymes.⁷

10. Summary and Conclusions

This review is intended as a resource for persons interested in the synthesis of new, interesting molecular sulfides, both organic and inorganic. The approach to this goal has been to organize sulfur atom donor/acceptor reagents onto a reactivity scale that identifies, at least in thermodynamic terms, the relative strengths of potential donors and acceptors. This review has also attempted to call attention to sulfur atom donor agents that are potentially very useful but somewhat outside the usual repertoire of reagents that are employed. Chief among these are hexasulfur (S_6) , dialkyl dithiiranes, sulfur diimides, bis(tri-*n*-butylstannyl)sulfide, and 5-aryloxy-1,2,3,4-thiatriazoles. Similarly, oxo-for-sulfido exchange reagents such as $SiS₂$, Ph₃SiSH, or Lawesson's reagent (for inorganic synthesis) have been little used but may be cleaner, milder, more selective, or more convenient alternatives in chalcogenide exchange reactions than B_2S_3 or $Me₃SSiMe₃$.

The absence of many of these potentially useful reagents from the thermodynamic scales (Tables $1-6$) identifies areas where experimental thermochemistry can contribute useful new information. The determination of standard molar enthalpies of formation for dialkyl dithiiranes (and also for thiones and thioaldehydes), for sulfur diimides, and for 5-aryloxy-1,2,3,4-thiatriazoles would be most helpful in quantifying their sulfur atom donor activity. Other areas of sulfide chemistry also represent opportunites for research. For instance, terminal sulfido complexes of ruthenium and osmium do not appear to be known, probably in part because no determined effort has been directed toward synthesizing such compounds. Terminal sulfido complexes of manganese and chromium are also unknown but pose greater synthetic challenges owing to the lesser stability of these first-row metals in the M^{IV} oxidation state that would be minimally required to support a terminal sulfido ligand. Organic sulfides such as $C_{60}S$ and acenaphthalene sulfide have not yet been prepared and isolated but perhaps could be with the right choice of sulfur atom donor and reaction conditions. Catalytic sulfur atom transfer systems that extend and improve upon the pioneering work of Adam, for instance, by activating sluggish substrates such as cyclohexene or by performing enantioselective sulfur atom transfer to prochiral molecules, are also wide open areas for new chemical research.

11. Abbreviations

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