

3. New Synthetic Route to Polyhedral Organylsilsesquioxanes

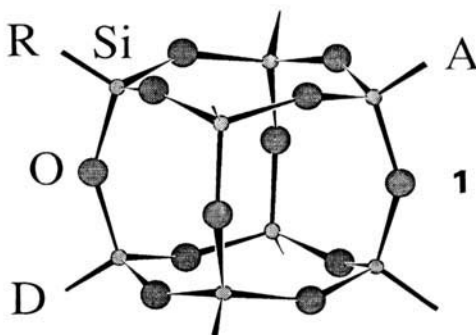
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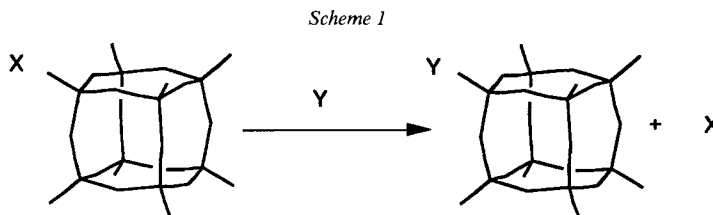
Hydrosilation of methylenecyclohexane and hex-1-ene by octa(hydridosilsesquioxane) catalysed by hexachloroplatinic acid is a new route to polyhedral organylsilsesquioxanes. Quantitative yield of octa(cyclohexylmethylsilsesquioxane) is reached. This reaction opens a vast field of yet unknown polyhedral silsesquioxanes.

Polyhedral silsesquioxanes represent a versatile group of three-dimensional oligomeric organosilicon compounds of the general formula $(\text{RSiO}_{3/2})_n$ ($n = 8, 10, 12, \dots$) [1]. The resemblance of the framework structure of octasilsesquioxanes to the double four ring in zeolites A and CoAPO-50 [2] has attracted our interest in using them as model compounds for investigating these systems [3]. They are appealing to look at as a framework for building donor/acceptor systems A/D of the type $\text{A}-\text{Si}(\text{OSiO})_n\text{Si}-\text{D}$, $n = 1, 2$. Chemically linked donor/acceptor systems are used in studies on long-range through-space and through-bond interactions in the electronic ground and excited states [4] [5]. We are aiming at a way of synthesizing chemically stable silsesquioxanes with



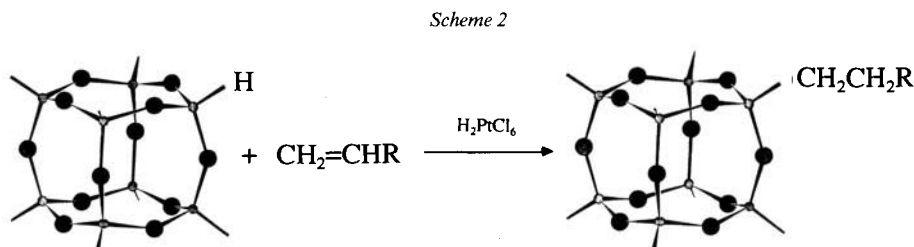
donor/acceptor groups as shown in **1**. Very stable silsesquioxanes are those carrying Si–C substituents [1]. In **1**, R is a substituent, such as an alkyl group, attached to all Si-atoms except those occupied by A or D. A and D are linked to Si *via* a Si–C bond. We report the first example of an $(-\text{O})_3\text{Si}-\text{X} + \text{Y} \rightarrow (-\text{O})_3\text{Si}-\text{Y} + \text{X}$ substitution in symmetrical octasilsesquioxanes $(\text{XSiO}_{3/2})_8$ that leads directly to an $(-\text{O})_3\text{Si}-\text{C}$ bond.

Only four examples of $(-\text{O})_3\text{Si}-\text{X} + \text{Y} \rightarrow (-\text{O})_3\text{Si}-\text{Y} + \text{X}$ substitution reactions (*Scheme 1*) have been reported for the symmetrical silsesquioxanes $(\text{XSiO}_{3/2})_8$. These



include the photochlorination of $(\text{HSiO}_{3/2})_8$ leading to $(\text{ClSiO}_{3/2})_8$ and the methoxylation of this product resulting in $(\text{CH}_3\text{OSiO}_{3/2})_8$, both described in 1985 [6]. The third example is the trimethylsilylation of various hydridosilsesquioxanes [7], and we have recently described the Pd-catalyzed deuterium exchange of $(\text{HSiO}_{3/2})_8$ to $(\text{DSiO}_{3/2})_8$ [8]. It is reasonable to assume, that these reactions proceed *via* a radical-type mechanism.

An important radical-type reaction in silicon chemistry leading to the formation of a Si–C bond is the hydrosilation reaction. Provided that this reaction proceeds under retention, it would ideally suit our needs. Testing this hypothesis in the hydrosilation of hex-1-ene and of methylenecyclohexane by octa(hydridosilsesquioxane), we ended up with octa(hexylsilsesquioxane) and octa(cyclohexylmethylsilsesquioxane) being formed with a yield of at least 90%. This can be regarded as a proof that the hydrosilation does proceed under retention. It seems reasonable to assume, that the mechanism of this reaction is similar to that described for the Pd-catalyzed deuterium exchange of $(\text{HSiO}_{3/2})_8$ to $(\text{DSiO}_{3/2})_8$ [8] [9].



The reaction presented in *Scheme 2* will lead to a great number of new oligo-silsesquioxanes [10]. It appears to be suitable for designing supramolecular assemblies with silsesquioxanes as bridging components. A step-by-step route, separating unused intermediates after each reaction, is attractive [11].

Experimental. – *Synthesis of Octa(1-hexylsilsesquioxane).* Hydrosilation of hex-1-ene by octa(hydridosilsesquioxane): 0.25 ml (2 mmol) of hex-1-ene (*Fluka, p.a.*), 0.1 g (0.24 mmol) of octa(hydridosilsesquioxane) (prepared using the method by *Frye and Collins* [12], recrystallized twice from cyclohexane), 0.1 ml (1 μmol) of a 0.01M H_2PtCl_6 soln. in *i*-PrOH were put in a 10-ml round-bottom flask and heated at reflux for 5 h under N_2 . A viscous yellowish liquid remained after evaporation of the solvent. Purification using size exclusion liquid chromatography [11] yielded a clear, viscous oil, from which a white solid precipitated after a few days. Yield: 90%. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): 1.800–1.550 (*m*, 5H); 1.490 (*m*, 1H); 1.320–1.040 (*m*, 3H); 1.020–0.840 (*m*, 2H); 0.564 (*d*, 2H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): 32.354 (CH_2); 31.583 (CH_2); 22.759 (CH_2); 22.569 (CH_2); 14.111 (CH_3); 11.991 (CH_2). MS (70 eV, 200°): 1096 (0.5, M^+), 1011 (95, $[M - \text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}]^+$), 926 (4.5, $[M - 2\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}]^+$). As far as comparable, spectroscopic results agree with those reported by *Andrianov and Izmailov* [13].

Synthesis of Octa(cyclohexylmethylsilsesquioxane). Hydrosilation of methylenecyclohexane by octa(hydrido-silsesquioxane): 0.25 ml (2 mmol) of methylenecyclohexane (*Fluka, purum*), 0.1 g (0.24 mmol) of octa(hydrido-silsesquioxane), 0.1 ml (1 μ mol) of a 0.01M H_2PtCl_6 soln. in *i*-PrOH were put in a 10-ml round-bottom flask and heated at reflux for 5 h under N_2 . A white solid precipitated after evaporation of the solvent. Recrystallization was performed from hexane. Yield: 90%. 1H -NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 1.440–1.210 (*m*, 8 H); 0.833 (*t*, 3 H); 0.603 (*t*, 2 H). ^{13}C -NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 36.198 (CH_2); 33.106 (CH); 26.585 (CH_2); 26.249 (CH_2); 21.029 (CH_2). MS (70 eV, 60°): 1192 (20, M^+), 1095 (75, [$M - C_7H_{13}$] $^+$), 999 (5, [$M^+ - 2(C_7H_{13})$] $^+$). The spectroscopic data are in excellent agreement with those previously published by *Feher* and *Budzichowski* [14].

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