# Synthesis and Crystal Structure of 2- Phosphonoalkyl-1, 2-benzisoselenazol-3(2H)ones and Their Antitumor Activities

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ABSTRACT: *The title compounds were synthesized in good yields by the condensation reaction of diphenyl* <sup>a</sup>*-aminoalkylphosphonates with 2-(chloroseleno) benzoyl chloride. Their structures were confirmed by spectroscopic methods and microanalyses. The X-ray analyses showed that the selenium-containing fused ring has a planar structure and that, by the molecular packing of the unit cells, two adjacent molecules are symmetrically linked to each other through Se(1c) . . .*  $O = P(1)$  bonding interactions with an intermolecular *Se(1c) . . . O distance of 2.797 A˚ . The results of bioassay indicated that some of these compounds possess potent antitumor activities against some human carcinoma cells in vitro.* q 1999 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Heteroatom Chem 10:247–254, 1999

# *INTRODUCTION*

Various selenium-containing compounds are widely used as reagents and intermediates in organic synthesis [1]. In recent years, biologically active organoselenium compounds have begun to attract considerable interest due to their unique and diverse

potential of pharmacological importance, such as broad spectrum antitumor and antiviral activities, and some of them are even many times more active than their oxygen or thio analogues [2–4]. It was found that benzisoselenazolones [e.g., Ebselen, 2 phenyl-1,2-benzisoselenazol-3(2*H*)-one], are effective for the treatment of diseases caused by cell damage owing to increased formation of active oxygen metabolites [5], and these pharmacological effects are mainly attributed to the glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px)-like properties [6]. Many organo-selenium compounds have been synthesized that exhibit some striking biological activities but cannot be developed into useful pharmaceuticals because of their high toxicity [5a]. Ebselen is the only seleno-organic compound whose vast range of biological actions is quite well known. These actions are characterized by efficacy, low toxicity  $(LD_{50} 6.8 \text{ g/Kg})$ , and lack of undesired side effects [5a,7].

On the other hand, N-substituted  $\alpha$ -aminoalkanephosphonate derivatives represent a class of compounds that tend to exhibit superior biological activities, such as antibacterial, herbicidal, antitumor, and inhibitory activity to enzymes [8]. In continuation of our work [9], aimed at searching for novel antitumor and antiviral agents with high activity and low toxicity, a series of 1-aminoalkanephosphonate derivatives of benzisoselenazolone were designed and synthesized. The results of bioassay showed that some of them possess potent antitumor activities against some human carcinoma cells *in vitro.*

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# *RESULTS AND DISCUSSION*

# *Synthesis of 2-Phosphonoalkyl-1,2 benzisoselenazol-3(2H)-ones*

The title compounds **6** were synthesized by a multistep route outlined in Scheme 1.

Preparation of the hydrobromides of  $\alpha$ -aminoalkanephosphonates **2** was readily accomplished in a two-step sequence (41–78% overall yield) starting from aldehydes, benzyl carbamate, and triphenyl phosphite [10]. Santaniello et al. [11] have reported that the reducing power of sodium borohydride in polyethylene glycols (PEG) is enhanced and able to reduce carbonyl compounds. Similarly, we found that, under the  $PEG - KBH_4$  reaction system, 1 mol of selenium was efficiently reduced to Se<sup>2-</sup> anion 3 by only 1/8 mol of  $KBH_4$  catalyzed by PEG-400 in aqueous NaOH (Scheme 2). Thus,  $Se_2^2$  anion was allowed to react with 2-carboxybenzenediazonium chloride, and the reaction mixture was then acidified to give 2,2'-diselenobis[benzoic acid] 4 in a yield of 93%. **4** was treated with excess thionyl chloride to provide the intermediate 2-(chloroseleno)benzoyl chloride **5** in a yield of 81%. The reaction of **5** with each <sup>a</sup>-aminoalkanephosphonate hydrobromide **2** was carried out under the ether–water–KHCO<sub>3</sub> reaction system in the presence of phase transfer catalyst Bu4NI to give products **6a–g** in a yield of 85– 96%.

# *The Structures of the Products*

The structures of all the compounds prepared were confirmed by 1H NMR, 31P NMR, IR, MS spectros-



**SCHEME 1**

8Se + BH<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> + 10 OH 
$$
\xrightarrow{\text{PEG-400}}
$$
 +  $4 \text{ Se}^2_2$  +  $BO^3_3$  +  $7 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ 

copy, and elemental analysis (Tables 1–3). In the 1H NMR spectra of **6**, the chemical shift of the H atom in CH ( $R = \text{aryl}$ ) is in the range of  $\delta$  6.72–6.74. Owing to the deshielding effect of the  $\alpha$ -benzene ring, these chemical shifts are much bigger than those of CH (R  $=$  alkyl), which are in the range of  $\delta$  4.52–5.69. Moreover, the H atom in CH ( $R = \text{aryl}$ ) appears as a doublet due to the coupling effects of the P atom  $(^{2}J_{\text{PCH}})$  $= 21.8$ –23.0 Hz) while that when  $R =$  alkyl exhibits a dd peak due to the phosphorus coupling and C–H coupling ( ${}^{2}J_{\text{PCH}} = 19.3-22.0 \text{ Hz}$ ,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{HCCH}} = 7.2 \text{ Hz}$ ). The IR spectra of compounds **6** show normal stretching absorption bands, indicating the existence of groups  $C = O(1637-1650 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ , P = O $(1249-1263 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ , C-N (1302–1377 cm<sup>-1</sup>), and P-O-C (1198–926 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The EI-MS spectra of **6** record the existence of molecular ion peaks, indicating that the heterocycle skeletons are of some stability. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the observed molecular ions of these selenium-containing compounds are 1 unit larger than their corresponding calculated molecular weights due to the highest natural abundance of 80Se atoms.

Because the crystal structure of GSH-Px, as an important mammalian selenoenzyme, is known [12], in order to study the relationship between the structural features of the compounds and their pharmacological activities, a single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis of compound **6a** was performed. The fractional coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement coefficients are listed in Table 4. The selected bond lengths and angles are given in Tables 5 and 6. Figure 1 is a perspective view of the title compound showing the atomic numbering scheme. Table 7 presents the least-squares plane, demonstrating that the selenium-containing fused ring moiety has a nearly planar structure with a  $\text{Se}(1)$ –C(41) distance of 1.884 Å and Se(1)–N(1) distance of 1.879 Å, shorter than those of the reported ebselen analogues, respectively [13,14]. These structural features are advantageous in decreasing the toxicity of the compounds structurally related to ebselen as potential drugs [15]. Figure 2 depicts the molecular packing in the unit cell, indicating that the two adjacent molecules are symmetrically linked to each other through the Se(1c)  $\ldots$  O = P(1) bonding interactions with an intermolecular Se(1c). . . O distance of 2.797 A, which can diminish the electrostatic charge on the selenium atom and might be favorable to the pharmacological activity [16]. At this point, the good antitumor activities of compounds **6** were confirmed by the bioassay (see the next section).

## *Biological Activities*

The preliminary anticancer tests *in vitro* were carried out by the conventional method [17]. The antitumor activities given in Table 8 indicate that some

**SCHEME 2**

NO.	$\mathcal{R}$	State $Mp (^{\circ}C)$	Yieldª $(\% )$		Found/Calcd (%)		
				Molecular Formula	C	н	N
6a	$p$ -Me $C_6H_4$	$177 - 178$	88.8	$C_{27}H_{22}NO_4PSe$ (534.43)	60.80 (60.68)	4.07 (4.16)	2.53 (2.62)
6b	$C_6H_5$	168-169	93.0	$C_{26}H_{20}NO_4PSe$ (520.40)	60.08 (60.00)	4.11 (3.88)	2.63 (2.69)
6c	Me	yellowish syrup	86.1	$C_{21}H_{18}NO_4PSe$ (458.33)	54.97 (55.03)	4.02 (3.97)	2.95 (3.06)
6d	n-Bu	152-153	85.3	$C_{24}H_{24}NO_4PSe$ (500.42)	57.42 (57.60)	4.90 (4.84)	2.97 (2.80)
6e	$n-Pr$	vellowish syrup	88.7	$C_{23}H_{22}NO_{4}PSe$ (486.39)	56.80 (56.79)	4.83 (4.57)	2.61 (2.88)
6f	$2,4$ -Cl <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	163-164	96.0	$C_{26}H_{18}Cl_2NO_4PSe$ (589.28)	52.83 (52.99)	3.21 (3.09)	2.20 (2.38)
6g	$3,4$ -OCH <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	149-150	94.7	$C_{27}H_{20}NO_6PSe$ (564.41)	57.58 (57.45)	3.44 (3.58)	2.53 (2.48)

**TABLE 1** Experimental Data of Compounds **6**

<sup>a</sup>Yield determined by isolation based on **5.**

#### **TABLE 2** NMR and IR Spectral Data of Compounds **6**



of them have high inhibitory effects against human cervix carcinoma (HeLa) cells, human liver carcinoma (BEL-7402) cells, and human lung carcinoma (PG) cells. In contrast, ebselen, which is well known for its good anti-inflammatory activity and GSH-Pxlike activity, shows little antitumor activity. The evaluation for the antiviral and antioxidative activity of compounds **6** is now in progress.

#### *EXPERIMENTAL*

#### *Instruments*

Melting points were determined with a model YAN-ACO MP-500 apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a SHIMADZU-435 spectrometer, and band positions are reported in wave numbers ( $cm^{-1}$ ). NMR spectra were taken on JEOL-





**TABLE 4** Atomic Coordinates and Thermal Parameters ( $\AA$ <sup>2</sup>) of Compound 6a

Atoms	$\pmb{\chi}$	у	z	Ueq
Se	0.1738(1)	0.5991(1)	0.0421(1)	0.040(1)
P(1)	$-0.0299(2)$	0.8102(2)	0.1951(2)	0.039(1)
N(1)	0.2235(7)	0.7849(7)	0.1469(5)	0.040(3)
O	$-0.0912(6)$	0.6635(6)	0.1345(5)	0.048(3)
O(1)	0.0888(7)	0.8992(7)	0.1199(5)	0.051(3)
C(11)	$-0.0649(10)$	1.0480(10)	0.1620(8)	0.050(4)
C(12)	$-0.1593(11)$	1.1216(11)	0.2090(10)	0.063(5)
C(13)	$-0.1433(13)$	1.2642(12)	0.2402(10)	0.075(6)
C(14)	$-0.0347(13)$	1.3276(12)	0.2242(10)	0.072(6)
C(15)	0.0575(14)	1.2533(14)	0.1785(11)	0.080(7)
C(16)	0.0425(13)	1.1116(12)	0.1460(9)	0.066(6)
O(2)	$-0.0608(6)$	0.8908(6)	0.3092(5)	0.043(3)
C(21)	$-0.1439(9)$	0.8278(8)	0.3536(7)	0.038(4)
C(22)	$-0.0661(12)$	0.8004(12)	0.4501(9)	0.063(5)
C(23)	$-0.1465(15)$	0.7409(14)	0.4954(11)	0.083(7)
C(24)	$-0.2953(14)$	0.7137(12)	0.4498(11)	0.071(6)
C(25)	$-0.3367(12)$	0.7458(11)	0.3575(10)	0.066(5)
C(26)	$-0.2890(9)$	0.8017(10)	0.3088(8)	0.048(4)
C(30)	0.1675(9)	0.8412(8)	0.2416(6)	0.034(3)
C(31)	0.2382(9)	0.7952(9)	0.3392(7)	0.038(4)
C(32)	0.2229(10)	0.6568(9)	0.3284(7)	0.046(4)
C(33)	0.2882(12)	0.6220(10)	0.4212(8)	0.057(5)
C(34)	0.3699(10)	0.7195(10)	0.5240(7)	0.045(4)
C(35)	0.3796(10)	0.8574(10)	0.5340(7)	0.047(4)
C(36)	0.3174(9)	0.8948(9)	0.4448(7)	0.038(4)
C(37)	0.4465(12)	0.6811(12)	0.6234(8)	0.065(5)
O(3)	0.3773(8)	0.9823(7)	0.2036(5)	0.065(3)
C(41)	0.3240(8)	0.6395(9)	$-0.0073(7)$	0.036(4)
C(42)	0.3677(10)	0.5484(11)	$-0.0958(8)$	0.051(4)
C(43)	0.4789(11)	0.5999(13)	$-0.1200(8)$	0.062(5)
C(44)	0.5428(10)	0.7383(14)	$-0.0622(9)$	0.063(6)
C(45)	0.4970(11)	0.8267(12)	0.0221(8)	0.058(5)
C(46)	0.3863(9)	0.7764(10)	0.0484(7)	0.042(4)
C(47)	0.3312(10)	0.8608(10)	0.1395(7)	0.046(4)

 $Ueq = (1/3)\Sigma \sum_j U_{ij} a_i^* a_j^* a_i \cdot a_j.$ 

Bond	Dist.	Bond	Dist.	Bond	Dist.
$Se(1)-N(1)$	1.879(6)	$N(1)-C(30)$	1.463(11)	$C(41)-C(46)$	1.373(12)
$Se(1)-C(41)$	1.884(10)	$N(1)-C(47)$	1.358(14)	$C(42) - C(43)$	1.379(17)
$P(1)-O$	1.459(6)	$O(1)$ -C $(11)$	1.422(14)	$C(44)-C(45)$	1.370(15)
$P(1)-O(1)$	1.580(8)	$C(30)-C(31)$	1.519(13)	$C(45)-C(46)$	1.386(16)
$P(1)-O(2)$	1.578(7)	$O(3)$ -C(47)	1.225(10)	$C(46)-C(47)$	1.475(13)
$P(1)-C(30)$	1.824(8)	$C(41) - C(42)$	1.407(13)	Se(1c)  O	2.797

**TABLE 5** Selected Bond Lengths ( $\check{A}$ )

Symmetry operations: c:  $-x$ ,  $1 - y$ ,  $-z$ .

**TABLE 6** Selected Bond Angles (°)

Angle	$(^\circ)$	Angle	$(^\circ)$
$N(1)$ -Se $(1)$ -C $(41)$	85.2(3)	$N(1)$ -C(30)-C(31)	113.9(7)
$O-P(1)-O(1)$	111.0(3)	$Se(1)-C(41)-C(42)$	126.8(7)
$O(1)-P(1)-O(2)$	104.6(4)	$Se(1)-C(41)-C(46)$	112.7(7)
$O(1)-P(1)-C(30)$	115.0(4)	$C(42)$ -C $(41)$ -C $(46)$	120.4(9)
$Se(1)-N(1)-C(30)$	123.3(6)	$C(41) - C(46) - C(45)$	121.1(8)
$Se(1)-N(1)-C(47)$	115.8(6)	$C(41)-C(46)-C(47)$	115.1(9)
$C(30)-N(1)-C(47)$	120.3(6)	$C(45)$ -C $(46)$ -C $(47)$	123.7(8)
$P(1)-O(1)-C(11)$	123.5(5)	$N(1)-C(47)-O(3)$	123.1(9)
$P(1)$ -C(30)-N(1)	111.8(4)	$N(1)-C(47)-C(46)$	112.2(7)
$P(1)-C(30)-C(31)$	112.3(7)	$O(3)-C(47)-C(46)$	125.7(10)

FX-90Q and BRUKER AC-P200 spectrometers. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as an internal standard for <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and 85%  $H_3PO_4$  was used as an external standard for <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy. The nuclei that are deshielded relative to their respective standards are assigned a positive chemical shift. Coupling constants *J* are given in Hz. Mass spectra were recorded on a Hewlett-Packard 5988 instrument. Elemental analyses were carried out on a Yana MT-3 instrument. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel H  $(10-40 \mu m)$ , Haiyang chemical Factory of Qingdao).

## *Potassium or Sodium Diselenide (Aqueous)* **(3)**

To a stirred solution of potassium borohydride (1.0 g, 0.019 mol), PEG-400 (0.6 g, 0.001 mol), and sodium hydroxide (7.5 g, 0.19 mol) in 100 mL of water was added gray selenium powder (11.9 g, 0.15 mol) at room temperature in a stream of nitrogen. Stirring was continued at RT for 0.5 hour, after which the reaction mixture was heated at  $70^{\circ}$ C for another 0.5 hour. Then the resulting mixture was cooled to ambient temperature, and a solution of sodium hydroxide (20 g, 0.5 mol) in 100 mL of water was added. The brownish red aqueous solution of  $\mathrm{Se_{2}^{2-}}$ anion was then ready for further use.

# *2,2*8*-Diselenobis[benzoic acid]* **(4)**

To a stirred solution of *o*-aminobenzoic acid (20.5 g, 0.15 mol) and sodium hydroxide (6.0 g, 0.15 mol) in 50 mL of water was added sodium nitrite (10.35 g, 0.15 mol). Stirring was continued until the dissolution was completed. Then the mixture was added dropwise to a stirred solution containing 31 mL of concd hydrochloric acid in 20 mL of water cooled with an ice bath to under  $5^{\circ}$ C. A solution of 2-carboxybenzenediazonium chloride resulted; this was added dropwise to a stirred solution of  $\mathbf{Se}_2^{2-}$  anion that was prepared in advance, in a stream of nitrogen and cooled with an ice bath. The mixture was then stirred for an additional 2 hours at  $40^{\circ}$ C. It was confirmed that the solution was basic using litmus paper. The reaction mixture was acidified with hydrochloric acid, and the precipitated solid was collected by filtration, washed with water, and dried in a desiccator to give the intermediate **4** (27.9 g, 93% yield); mp 296–297°C (Ref. [18], mp 295°C).

# *2-*(*Chloroseleno*)*benzoyl Chloride* **(5)**

A mixture of  $2,2'$ -diselenobis[benzoic acid] (20.0 g, 0.05 mol) and 75 mL of thionyl chloride was heated at reflux for 3 hours. The excess thionyl chloride was removed under reduced pressure, and the residual solid was recrystallized from petroleum ether (bp 30–60°C) to give pale-yellow crystals of pure 2-(chloroseleno)benzoyl chloride **5** (20.5 g, 80.7% yield); mp 64–65°C (Ref. [19], mp 65°C).

# *General Procedure for 2-Phosphonoalkyl-1,2 benzisoselenazol-3*(*2H*)*-ones* **(6a–g)**

To a stirred mixture of  $\alpha$ -aminoalkanephosphonate hydrobromides (0.003 mol), potassium bicarbonate (1.5 g, 0.015 mol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (catalytic amount) in  $H_2O$  (10 mL)–ether (25 mL) system cooled with an ice bath was added a solution of 2-(chloroseleno)benzoyl chloride (0.76 g, 0.003 mol) in 20 mL of ether over a 0.5 hour period. Then



**FIGURE 1** Molecular structure of compound **6a** showing the atomic numbering.

**TABLE 7** The Least-Squares Plane

<b>Plane Equation</b>	$4.719 X - 5.899 Y + 8.609 Z + 2.3257 = 0$								
Atoms	Se(1)	N(1)	C(41)	C(42)	C(43)	C(44)	C(45)	C(46)	C(47)
Dist. (Å)	$-0.0255$	0.0149	0.0194	0.0003	0.0131	$-0.0032$	$-0.0153$	$-0.0152$	0.0115

the mixture was stirred for an additional 7 hours at room temperature to give the desired compounds **6a–g**, which were purified by different methods described as follows.

For compounds  $6a-b$  and  $6f-g$   $(R = \text{aryl})$ , a white precipitate was formed, and the mixture was filtered to yield the crude product that was recrystallized from a mixture of acetone and petroleum ether (bp  $60-90^{\circ}$ C) and dried in a vacuum dryer. For compounds  $6c-e$  ( $R = alkyl$ ), the organic product was extracted with ether, and the layers were separated. Combined organic extracts were dried  $(MgSO<sub>4</sub>)$ , and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to produce the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with EtOAc/petroleum ether (bp 60– 90 $\degree$ C) (v/v, 1:4). The physical and chemical data of compounds **6a–g** are listed in Tables 1–3.

#### *X-ray Diffraction Analysis of Compound* **6a**

*Crystal Data for* **6a.**  $C_{27}H_{22}NO_4PSe$ ,  $M_w =$ 534.41, triclinic, P-1(No.2),  $a = 9.761(2)$ ,  $b =$ 10.304(2),  $c = 13.396(3)$  Å,  $\alpha = 110.97(3)$ ,  $\beta =$ 107.70(3),  $\Gamma = 90.02(3)$  °,  $V = 1190(1)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 2$ ,  $D_x$  $= 1.492$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu = 1.6596$  mm<sup>-1</sup>, and F(000) = 544. Refined cell parameters were obtained from setting angles of 25 reflections. A colorless single crystal  $(0.37 \times 0.41 \times 0.61 \text{ mm})$  was used for the analysis.

*Data Collection.* Crystallographic measurements were made at room temperature using an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer operating in the *x*-2*h* scan mode. The intensity data were collected with a  $\theta$  range 2–23° using graphite monochromated MoK $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Intensities of 3141 unique reflections were measured of which 2500 satisfied the criterion  $I \geq 3\sigma(I)$ .



**FIGURE 2** Molecular packing in unit cell.





 $^{a}$ IC<sub>50</sub> > 200  $\mu$ mol/L.

*Structure Solution and Refinement.* The structure was solved by direct methods employing SHELXS-86 [20]. Corrections were applied for Lp but not for absorption or extinction. Positional and thermal parameters were refined by full-matrix least squares minimizing the function  $\Sigma \omega$ (Fo-Fc)<sup>2</sup> with  $\omega$  $1/\sigma^2(F)$  for the observed reflections and  $\omega = 0$  for unobserved reflections. Most of the nonhydrogen atoms were located from an E-map. The others were determined with successive difference Fourier syntheses. The hydrogen atoms were added theoretically. All of them were refined with fixed position parameters and thermal factors. The final refinements by the full matrix least-squares method with anisotropic thermal parameters for nonhydrogen atoms were converged with unweighted and weighted (unit weights) agreement factors of 0.068 and 0.074, and S of 1.95. The highest peak on the final difference Fourier map had a height of 0.82 e/ $\AA$ <sup>3</sup> [( $\Delta/\sigma$ )<sub>max</sub> = 0.005].

Atomic scattering factors for the compound were taken from *International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography* [21], and all calculations were performed on a PDP 11/44 computer using the SDP-PLUS program system.

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