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Calculated Properties of CuCl and Na Clusters

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Semiempirical molecular orbital calculations for small $(CuCl)_n$ and Na_n clusters (n = 1, ..., 15) have been performed. The bond energy, ionization potential, geometry, and excitation energy are in good agreement with experimental values. These properties are quite different from bulk properties. Small clusters exhibit higher ionization potential and excitation energy but lower bond energy. The most stable geometries calculated do not have the largest average coordination number.

I. Introduction

Recently there has been increasing interest in the calculation of electronic properties of clusters containing transition elements. Semiempirical techniques, such as complete neglect of differential overlap¹ (CNDO) and extended Huckel² (EH) are generally available and have been employed for this purpose. The reasons for this interest are based upon the possibility of metallic bonding in small clusters, which is amenable to experimental study by a variety of physicalchemical techniques. Practical use of such information is important, for example, in the field of catalysis, where small clusters of supported transition metals show unusual catalytic properties.^{3,4} In addition, the electronic properties⁴ of clusters of atoms are important in nucleation where bonding energies determine stable configurations.⁵

The semiempirical molecular orbital procedure has been applied to the metal cluster problem. Other less approximate calculational procedures involve so many complex integrals that they are generally not feasible on present computers. Recent calculations have treated Li and Be clusters,⁵ C particles,⁶ Fe chains,⁷ and Ni clusters.⁸ In all cases the electronic properties of the small cluster are somewhat different from bulk properties. We found in the case of $Ag^{9,10}$ a significant gap between highest occupied and lowest unoccupied energy levels unlike the spacing $\sim kT$ found in the bulk. The gap decreases with size, approaching 0.5 eV for linear 20-atom silver particles. In addition, the geometry of small particles may be quite unexpected. Calculations have shown the low-energy form of small clusters of Ag, Li, and Cd to be linear chains. The ionization potential of Ag clusters decreases from its single-atom value toward the bulk work function as cluster size increases. Palladium clusters9 were calculated to possess vacant d molecular orbitals increasing in number with cluster size. Clusters of other atoms, such as Cd and Ni,¹⁰ have been investigated using these methods and possess electronic properties intermediate between single-atom and bulk-metal properties. In addition to these calculations, the methods have been applied to treat adsorption of species on metal substrates such as Ni^{11,12} and Pb.¹³

The question arises as to the reliability of the foregoing MO techniques for predicting properties of clusters containing metal atoms. The general paucity of experimental data for such small clusters makes comparisons of experiment and calculation difficult. Calculations of transition energies in heavy metal complexes,¹⁴ such as VO²⁺, have indicated that the MO methods are generally useful. Recently, experimental information on geometry, bond energy, ionization potential, and bond length for (CuCl)_n for the series n = 1, ..., 5 has become available.^{15,16} In addition, ionization potentials for Na_n, n = 1, ..., 8, have been measured.¹⁷ The newer data in both of these systems are measured by a mass spectrometric technique for the vapor-phase species. The availability of these data offers the possibility of testing the MO techniques on metal atom systems for several electronic parameters. We believe this type

Atom	Orbital	1/2 (IP + EA), eV	β°	Slater exponent	
Cu	4s	4.445	-2	0.84	-
	4p	-2.555	-2	1.46	
	3d	-5.955	-2	2.35	
Cl	4 s	-2.530	-5	1.36	
	3р	-8.320	-5	1.36	
Na	38	-2.610	-1	0.84	
	3р	-1.560	-1	0.84	

of test is important in gauging the reliability of the MO techniques for such systems.

II. Calculational Procedure

A. CNDO. The CNDO procedure developed by Pople, et $al.,^1$ and applied to transition metal atoms by us¹⁸ has been employed in these calculations. Since the standard procedure is well known, it will not be repeated except for the expression used for diagonal F matrix elements given in eq 1.

For s orbitals we employ

$$F_{\mu\mu} = -\frac{1}{2} (IP_{s} + EA_{s}) + \gamma_{ss}^{AA} (-N_{A} + 0.5 + P_{ss}^{AA} - 0.5P_{\mu\mu}) + (P_{dd}^{AA} - M_{A})\gamma_{sd}^{AA} + \sum_{\substack{B \neq A}} [(P_{ss}^{BB} - N_{B})\gamma_{sd}^{AB} + (P_{dd}^{BB} - M_{B})\gamma_{sd}^{A,B}]$$
(1)

where IP_s = ionization potential for s orbital, EA_s = electron affinity for s orbital, N_A = number of s and p electrons on atom A, M_A = number of d electrons on atom A, $P_{\mu\nu}$ = bond density element, P_{ss}^{BB} = sum of $P_{\mu\mu}$'s for s orbitals on atom B, $S_{\mu\nu}$ = overlap matrix element, and $\gamma_{\mu\nu}^{A,B}$ = repulsion integral between orbital μ on atom A and orbital ν on atom B. An analogous expression for d orbitals can be obtained by interchanging s with d, N_A with M_A , and N_B with M_B in eq 1. Values of the repulsion integrals were calculated for s and p orbitals using s-orbital exponents so that $\gamma_{ss} = \gamma_{sp} = \gamma_{pp}$ was preserved. As in all approximate calculations of this type, Slater s orbitals with proper exponents are used to calculate the repulsion integrals whether they involve s, p, or d orbitals. Experimental values for EA and IP were employed when available from atomic tables.¹⁹ Values of EA were estimated based upon IP differences for orbitals where no experimental data exist. The iterative procedure was carried out such that input and output charge for each atom differ by less than 0.01 as a criterion for convergence.

The atomic parameters used in these calculations are listed in Table I. Experimental ionization potentials and electron affinities were used, as well as Slater orbitals employing Clementi exponents²⁰ or matching overlap exponents.²¹ The resonance parameter β° used for each element in CNDO was determined by fit of calculated to experimental data for the homonuclear diatomic molecules. Table II shows the degree of fit obtained for Cl₂ and Cu₂ using the best choice of β° and gives an indication of the qualitative nature of these calculations. Calculated bond lengths are too large, but since all

Table II. Calculations vs. Experimental Data

 · · ·	Cu ₂		Cl ₂		
Quantity	Calcd	Exptl	Calcd	Exptl	
R _{en} , Å	3.0	2.22ª	2.9	2.00 ^d	
BE, eV	2.2	1.98 ^a	3.1	2.48^{d}	
IP, eV	8.4	<6.7 ^b	16.2	13.2 ^e	
$\Delta E, eV$	2.8	2.70^{c}	4.7	2.24^{d}	

^a G. Verhaegen, F. E. Stafford, P. Goldfinger, and M. Ackerman, *Trans. Faraday Soc.*, **58**, 1926 (1962). ^b P. Schissel, J. Chem. *Phys.*, **26**, 1276 (1957). ^c B. Cleman and S. Lindkvist, *Ark. Fys.*, **8**, 333 (1954). ^d G. Herzberg, "Molecular Spectra and Molecular Structure," Vol. I, 2nd ed, Van Nostrand, New York, N. Y., 1950, p 519. ^e "Handbook of Chemistry and Physics," 41st ed, Chemical Rubber Publishing Co., Cleveland, Ohio, 1959, p 2551.

Table III. Calculated Electronic Properties of $(CuCl)_n$ Clusters

		Equilib-		
		rium		
		bond	Av	
		length,	coord	BE/n,
Size	Geometry	Å	no.	eV
2	Square, alternate	3.25	2	4.67
	Square, adjacent	3.30	2	3.55
	Straight chain	3.20	1.5	4.30
	Pyramid	3.30	4	3.85
	105° rhombus ^a	3.25	2	4.60
3	120° ring (symmetric)	3.25	2	4.81
	$150^{\circ} \operatorname{ring}^{a}$	3.20	2	4.63
	Straight chain	3.20	1.67	4.40
	Octahedron	3.30	4	4.01
	Double chain	3.25	2.3	4.80
4	Cube	3.35	3	5.03
	Straight chain	3.10	1.75	4.50
	Symmetric ring	3.20	2	4.85
	Distorted cube ^a	3.35	3	4.83
5	Straight chain	3.30	1.8	4.63
	Symmetric ring	3.20	2	4.62
	Double chain	3.30	2.6	4.95
	Planar naphthalene	3.20	2.2	4.84
	structure			
	90° distorted	3.20	2.2	4.70
	naphthalene			
	Bicapped cube	3.30	4	4.36
6	Straight chain	3.30	1.83	4.68
	Bicubic	3.30	3.33	5.12
	Double chain (6×2)	3.30	2.67	4.99
	Flat surface (4×3)	3.30	2.83	4.98
	Hexagonal prism	3.30	3.0	5.11
7	Straight chain	3.20	1.86	4.71
	Double chain (7×2)	3.30	2.71	5.01
	Anthracene structure	3.30	2.30	4.75
8	Tricubic	3.30	3.5	5.17
	Zinc blende	3.56	2.3	4.51
	Double chain (2×8)	3.00	2.75	4.26
	Planar bioctagon	3.30	2.13	5.13
12	Multiple cubic	3.30	3.83	5.22
15	Multiple cubic	3.30	3.93	5.25

^a Experimental cluster.

of these data are evaluated at the minima of potential energy curves, we chose not to attempt to improve this fit. Bond energies (BE), ionization potentials (IP), and energy of first excitation (ΔE) are calculated by energy difference of the appropriate initial and final systems for these CNDO calculations.

Table IV. Calculated vs. Experimental Quantities for $(CuCl)_n$



Figure 1. Potential energy νs , bond distance curve for various configurations of $(CuCl)_4$: Δ , straight chain; \Box , distorted cube; \circ , regular cube; \bullet , ring. The energy of all the separated atoms in this system totals -6383.00 eV, making the bond energy of the regular cube 20 eV.

B. Extended Huckel. The extended Huckel procedure employed originally by Hoffmann² was used for Na cluster calculations. We employed a noniterative procedure in which either the Cusachs²² formula or Wolfsberg-Helmholz²³ formula was used to calculate the off-diagonal Hamiltonian matrix elements.

III. Results

A. (CuCl)_nClusters. 1. Bond Energy. Potential energy curves have been calculated for various (CuCl)n geometries, keeping all bond lengths constant in order to determine the equilibrium properties of these systems. Curves shown for (CuCl)4 in Figure 1 are typical of the data that we obtained. The order of stability here is cube > symmetric ring > straight chain, but this order is not always found for other size clusters. Table III lists calculated bond energies per CuCl unit for various cluster sizes and geometries that we examined. The bond energy per CuCl unit is a gradually increasing function of size for the most stable clusters, indicating a trend to cohesion. For the clusters $n \leq 5$, all orbitals listed in Table I were included, but for larger clusters the Cu 4d orbitals were omitted. While symmetric rings are more stable for n = 2 or 3, the three-dimensional structures have increased stability at larger sizes. There does not seem to be a correlation between average coordination number and bond energy for the data in Table III, contradicting usual intuitive concepts, such as the pairwise additive principles embodied in classical bond potential descriptions of small clusters.²⁴ Structures with smaller than the maximum coordination number have the greatest stability for the small clusters, although we note that average coordination number of the most stable structure increases as cluster size increases.

2. Comparison with Experiment. The calculated data for the low-energy $(CuCl)_n$ cluster are compared to experimental data in Table IV. The CNDO procedure parameterized to fit Cu₂ and Cl₂ experimental data gives good agreement for CuCl data. Geometries are predicted with general accuracy, but the finer details, such as distortions from symmetric structures, are incorrect. Bond lengths are consistently 50% too large. Bond energies, ionization potentials, and energies

	Equilibriu	m geometry	Re	q, A	BE//	n, eV	IP,	eV	ΔE	, eV
n	Calcd	Exptl	Calcd	Exptl	Calcd	Exptl	Calcd	Exptl	Calcd	Exptl
1	Linear	Linear	3.00	2.05	4.15	3.94	10.90	10.7	4.70	3.12
2	Square	75-105 rhombus	3.25	2.11	4.67	4.91	10.30	9.6	4.70	
3	120° ring	90-150° ring	3.25	2.16	4.81	5.62	10.30	9.9	5.31	5.54
4	Cube	Distorted cube	3.35	2.19	5.03	5.74	10.34	9.9	6.72	5.67
5	Double chain		3.30		4.95	5.75	9.74	9.7	5.31	
5	Planar bihexagon		3.20		4.85	5.75	11.97	9.7		

Table V.	Calculated	Electronic	Properties	of
Na Cluster	rsCNDO			

Size	Geometry	R _{eq} , A	BE/n, eV	IP, eV	-
2	Linear	3.4	1.09	4.94	•
3	Linear		Unstable		
	Triangle	3.6	0.65	3.82	
4	Square	3.8	0.76		
	Pyramid	4.2	0.79		
	Linear	3.8	0.97	5.35	
5	Linear	4.0	0.76	3.54	
6	Bipyramid	4.4	0.70	5.00	
	Linear	4.0	0.93	5.03	
7	Linear	4.0	0.79	3.39	
8	Linear	4.0	0.91	4.84	
	Cube	4.2	0.79	4.70	

of excitation are predicted with good accuracy for the $(CuCl)_n$ clusters, falling within 10–20% of the experimental values. The general trends of these experimental properties *vs.* size are correctly followed by the calculated properties. Since we feel some reservation toward the double chain as the most stable structure for (CuCl)₅, data for a planar bihexagon are also included in Table IV.

3. Comparison with Bulk Properties. The calculated data for $(CuCl)_n$ clusters are considerably different from experimental data for bulk CuCl. The bulk structure is the zinc blende type having an average coordination number of 4, which is larger than the values of coordination number found for the most stable small clusters. The calculations for a (CuCl)7 cluster in the zinc blende geometry determine an equilibrium distance 50% greater than bulk experimental, as found for the other clusters. The calculated BE/n is 4.65 eV compared with 9.63 eV for bulk experimental.²⁵ The band gap reported²⁶ for bulk CuCl is 3.3 eV, which is considerably less than the excitation energy 5.59 eV calculated for the zinc blende model. The trends in BE/n in Tables III and IV indicated an increase with increasing size, but apparently the small clusters are much less stable per CuCl unit than the bulk. The larger energy gap calculated for the small clusters may indicate a considerable difference in bonding between small CuCl clusters and bulk. Using the present approach for small clusters, we find that the Cu 4d orbitals are lower in energy than the 3p of Cl as opposed to recent ESCA experiments²⁷ on bulk CuCl showing the reverse.

Electrons are transferred from 4s orbitals of Cu to 3p orbitals of Cl. The average charge per ion calculated by a Mulliken-type analysis increases from 0.60 for n = 1 and 0.70 for n = 2 to 0.85 for n = 3. This indicates a considerably ionic bond for the small CuCl clusters much unlike the bulk CuCl, which is thought to be more covalent. Undoubtedly, the value of the charge is strongly related to the parameters chosen as input. These findings may be compared with those of Ros and Schuit,²⁸ who performed iterative Wolfsberg-Helmholz calculations for various geometries of CuCl42- and the CuCl2 crystal. Their population analysis of the molecular orbitals led to very low charge transfer between cation and anion in these systems. With the recognition that 4s and 4p orbitals of Cu had their greatest density in the region of the Cl nucleus, a modified electron-counting procedure led to anion and cation charges in accord with Cl- and Cu2+.

B. Sodium Clusters. Sodium clusters have been examined by CNDO and EH techniques to determine potential energy curves and thereby the most stable geometry. Both procedures generally predict straight chains to be more stable than planar or three-dimensional structures. There is a general increase in BE/n with size, which indicates that aggregation to a larger cluster is energetically favorable. The calculated electronic properties are listed in Tables V and VI.

Experimental values of the sodium-cluster ionization potential are compared with calculated values for linear clusters

Table VI. Calculated Electronic Properties of Na Clusters-EH

Size	Geometry	Req, A	$\frac{\mathrm{BE}/n}{\mathrm{eV}}$	IP(HOMO), eV
2	Linear	3.60	0.90	6.04
3	Linear	3.90	0.81	5.28
	Triangle	4.00	0.70	4.48
4	Linear	3.90	0.94	5.76
	Pyramid	4.25	0.63	4.72
5	Linear	4.00	0.91	5.28
	Bipyramid	4.50	0.70	4.85
6	Linear	3.75	0.96	5.62
	Bipyramid	4.50	0.76	5.32
7	Linear	3.75	0.95	5.29
8	Linear	3.80	0.98	5.56
	Cube	4.25	1.02	5.56



Figure 2. Ionization potential vs. size for linear Na clusters: U, CNDO calculation; a, extended Hückel calculation; o, experiment.

in Figure 2. The CNDO procedure determined ionization potential by energy difference, and EH employed the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) in accordance with Koopmans' theorem.²⁹ The EH procedure gives an IP too large by about 1 eV across the series. The CNDO procedure gives an IP too small for odd-size clusters and too large for even-size clusters. It does better for odd-size clusters, but clearly the oscillations are a magnification of the experimental data caused by the calculation. Nevertheless, both calculations indicate no significant trends in IP from the atomic value in this size range. The work function of bulk sodium, 2.3 eV, is not approached by the IP of these small clusters, but the cohesive energy of the bulk, 1.13 eV, is approached by the BE/n data in Tables V and VI. The experimental Na₂ bond length is 3.07 Å^{17b} which is considerably less than the equilibrium distance calculated by EH in Table VI and is a definite weakness of the procedure.

IV. Conclusions

1. The CNDO procedure parameterized on Cu₂ and Cl₂ yields data in general agreement with experimental values of several electronic properties of (CuCl)_n, n = 1-5.

2. The most stable calculated $(CuCl)_n$ structure does not correlate with the largest average coordination number of these structures.

3. The electronic properties of small $(CuCl)_n$ clusters are quite different from bulk CuCl properties. The ionization potential and excitation energy are larger for the small clusters, but the bond energy is smaller.

4. Extended Huckel and CNDO calculations predict linear geometry to be generally the most stable geometry of sodium particles. The ionization potential calculated for these particles follows the experimental trends with size.

Registry No. CuCl, 7758-89-6; Cu₂Cl₂, 12258-96-7; Cu₃Cl₃, 11093-65-5; Cu₄Cl₄, 11093-67-7; Cu₅Cl₅, 11093-68-8; Cu₆Cl₆,

Notes

12622-24-1; Cu7Cl7, 53906-70-0; Cu8Cl8, 53906-71-1; Cu12Cl12, 53906-72-2; Cu15Cl15, 53906-73-3; Na2, 25681-79-2; Na3, 37279-42-8; Na4, 39297-86-4; Na5, 39297-87-5; Na6, 39297-88-6; Na7, 39297-89-7; Nas, 39297-90-0.

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Preparation of Bis(halodifluorophosphine)-Diborane(4) Complexes

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A few complexes of the bidentate Lewis acid B₂H₄ have been reported. Graybill and Ruff¹ prepared [(C₆H₅)₃P]₂·B₂H₄ from $(\hat{C}H_3)_3N\cdot B_3H_7$ through the reaction

$$(CH_3)_3 N \cdot B_3 H_7 + 3[(C_6H_5)_3 P](excess) \xrightarrow{\text{benzene}}_{50^{\circ}} [(C_6H_5)_3 P]_2 \cdot B_2 H_4 + (C_6H_5)_3 P \cdot BH_3 + N(CH_3)_3$$

Deever, Lory, and Ritter, in a series of papers, described the preparation of B₂H₄ complexes of PF₃^{2,3} and PF₂H⁴ from (CH3)2O·B3H7

$$(CH_3)_2 O \cdot B_3 H_7 + PF_3(excess) \xrightarrow{-16^{\circ}} (F_3 P)_2 \cdot B_2 H_4 + F_3 P \cdot BH_3$$
$$(CH_3)_2 O \cdot B_3 H_7 + PF_2 H(excess) \xrightarrow{-16^{\circ}} (F_2 HP)_2 \cdot B_2 H_4 + F_2 HP \cdot BH_3$$

Lory and Ritter⁴ prepared (R2NPF2)2·B2H4 and (F2HP)2· B₂H₄ using B₄H₁₀ as a B₂H₄ source instead of (CH₃)₂O·B₃H₇. In the present study the bis(ligand)-diborane(4) complexes of PF_2X where X is F, Cl, and Br have been prepared from both $(CH_3)_2O \cdot B_3H_7$ and B_4H_{10} . The appropriate equations are

$$3F_{2}XP + (CH_{3})_{2}O \cdot B_{3}H_{7} \frac{0^{\circ}}{5 \text{ hr}} (F_{2}XP)_{2} \cdot B_{2}H_{4} + F_{2}XP \cdot BH_{3} + (CH_{3})_{2}O$$
$$4F_{2}XP(\text{excess}) + B_{4}H_{10} \binom{H}{H'}B_{H'}^{H}B_{3}H_{6} \frac{0^{\circ}}{3-5 \text{ days}} (F_{2}XP)_{2} \cdot B_{2}H_{4} + 2F_{2}XP \cdot BH_{3}$$

The reactions involved and the products obtained can be analyzed in terms of base displacement processes which were considered in a general sense by Parry and Edwards⁵ and in a more refined sense by Deever, Lory, and Ritter³ and by Paine and Parry.6

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Experimental Section

Equipment. Standard high-vacuum techniques were used for the manipulation of the volatile compounds. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Beckman IR20 spectrometer using a 70-mm path length gas cell with KBr windows. The nmr spectra were recorded on a Varian HA/HR 100 instrument operating at 32.1 MHz (11B) and 94.1 MHz (19F).7 An external standard, (CH3)3B, was used for the ¹¹B nmr spectrum and an internal standard, CFCl₃, was used for the ¹⁹F nmr spectrum. The CFCl₃ also served as the sample solvent.

Materials. Tetraborane(10) was prepared by the "hot-cold" tube pyrolysis of diborane(6) as described by Klein, Harrison, and Solomon.8 The (CH3)2O-B3H7 samples were prepared and purified as described by Deever and Ritter.⁹ Trifluorophosphine was purchased from Ozark Mahoning Co. and was distilled through a -160° trap before using. The F2ClP and F2BrP ligands were prepared and purified by literature procedures.¹⁰

Reaction of B4H10 with F2XP. A 2.7-mmol sample of B4H10 and a 12.5-mmol sample of F₂XP, X = F, Cl, or Br, were condensed into a 5.0-ml tube and sealed off. The tube was held at 0° for 3-5 days and then opened, and the contents were vacuum distilled through traps held at -96, -126, -160, and -196°. The (F3P)2·B2H4 complex was retained at -126° and the (F2ClP)2·B2H4 and (F2BrP)2·B2H4 complexes were retained at -96° . The complexes were identified by infrared and nmr spectra. The yields of (F2XP)2-B2H4 were 50-60% based on the B₄H₁₀ consumed. When the same reactions were run in an nmr tube with a reactant ratio of $F_2XP:B_4H_{10} = 5:1$, the ¹⁹F nmr spectra of the products showed (F2XP)2·B2H4 and F2XP·BH3, but no F2XP·B3H7

Reaction of (CH₃)₂O·B₃H₇ with Excess F₂XP. A 3.1-mmol sample of (CH3)2O·B3H7 was prepared in a 10-ml reaction tube equipped with a Teflon stopcock. A 9.7-mmol sample of F_2XP , X = F, Cl, or Br, was added, the tube was closed, and then the system was held at 0° for 5 hr. After the reaction was complete, the tube was held at -78° and the volatile products were vacuum distilled as described above. The yields of $(F_2XP)_2 \cdot B_2H_4$ complexes were approximately 40% based on the (CH3)2O·B3H7 consumed. When the same reactions were run in an nmr tube with the reactant ratio F2XP:(CH3)2O·B3H7 = 3:1, the 19 F nmr spectra of the products showed large amounts of (F2XP)2·B2H4 and F2XP·BH3 and a very small amount of F2XP. B₃H₇.

Properties of (F2XP)₂**·B**₂H₄ Complexes. The infrared spectra of the (F₂XP)₂·B₂H₄ complexes were similar to that reported by Deever and Ritter² for $(F_3P)_2 \cdot B_2H_4$. The absorptions (cm^{-1}) and tentative assignments for (F2ClP)2-B2H4 are as follows: 2400 [vas(B-H)], 2350 $[\nu_{s}(B-H)], 1100 [\delta(BH_{2})], 1000 [?], 960 [\nu(P-F)], 850 [\nu(P-F)],$ 640 [ν (P–B)], 535 [ν (P–Cl)], 390 [δ (P–F)]. The spectrum of (F2BrP)2-B2H4 is identical except for [ν (P–Br)]. (The symbols used above are defined as ν = stretch and δ = deformation.) The ¹¹B and ¹⁹F nmr spectral parameters are summarized in the order X = F, Ci,