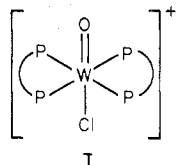


a single  $\nu(\text{WCl})$  at  $\sim 280 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , both fairly insensitive to changes in L-L suggesting a trans structure. This was confirmed by the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra which showed only a single strong absorption, flanked by weak satellites due to  $^{183}\text{W}-^{31}\text{P}$  coupling ( $^{183}\text{W} = 14\%$  abundance). The magnitude of  $J_{\text{W-P}} \sim 315 \text{ Hz}$  is comparable with other complexes containing trans phosphines<sup>12</sup> (V).



Comparison between the oxomolybdenum(V) and oxotungsten(V) complexes shows considerable similarities in properties, as would be expected, but also surprising differences. The latter complexes are considerably more difficult to obtain and less stable to moisture and generally less stable in solution. The different behavior of the weaker donor phenyl-substituted diarsines toward W(V) is also unexpected.

**Acknowledgment.** We are grateful to Ciba-Geigy Ltd. for obtaining the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra and wish to thank Dr. M. J. Parrott for assistance in obtaining the EPR spectra.

**Registry No.**  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{VPP})]$ , 63848-28-2;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{dpe})]$ , 63848-27-1;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{pp})]$ , 63848-26-0;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{VAA})]$ , 63848-25-9;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{dmp})]$ , 63848-24-8;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{dma})]$ , 63848-23-7;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{dmpa})]$ , 63848-22-6;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{das})]$ , 63848-21-5;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{stars})]$ , 63848-20-4;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{mpp})]$ , 63848-19-1;  $[\text{WO}(\text{dpm})_2\text{Cl}_2][\text{WOCl}_4]$ , 63848-18-0;  $[\text{MoO}(\text{dpm})_2\text{Cl}_2][\text{MoOCl}_4]$ , 63848-16-8;  $[\text{WOCl}(\text{dpe})_2]\text{BPh}_4$ , 63848-14-6;  $[\text{WOCl}(\text{VPP})_2]\text{BPh}_4$ , 63833-70-5;  $[\text{WOCl}(\text{pp})_2]\text{BPh}_4$ , 63865-76-9;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$ , 63833-68-1;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{MePh}_2\text{P})_2]$ , 63833-67-0;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{PCy}_3)(\text{THF})]$ ,

63833-66-9;  $[\text{WOCl}_3(\text{THF})_2]$ , 18131-65-2;  $[\text{MoOCl}_3(\text{THF})_2]$ , 20529-42-4;  $\text{WCl}_6$ , 13283-01-7.

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## $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR Studies on Molybdic and Tungstic Heteropolyanions. Correlation between Structure and Chemical Shift

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$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR has been carried out on 24 tungstic and molybdic heteropolyanions, the structures of which are derived from  $(\text{PM}_{12}\text{O}_{40})^{3-}$  and  $(\text{P}_2\text{M}_{18}\text{O}_{62})^{6-}$  by the removal or the partial substitution of metallic atoms. The chemical shift value is correlated with the  $\text{PO}_A$  bond strength,  $\text{O}_A$  being the oxygen atom of the central  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedron. For those compounds containing several P atoms, the existence of one or several peaks allows one to suggest a structure. From considerations of  $\delta$  values, the positions of holes or substituting elements are determined.

### Introduction

The accurate determination of the structures of heteropolyanions by x-ray diffraction is generally difficult and has been undertaken for compounds containing one kind of heavy atom. Thus some physical techniques, namely IR and Raman spectroscopy, UV and visible spectroscopy, EPR, NMR, etc., have been lately used to explain the properties related to the Keggin structure.<sup>1</sup> For compounds with phosphorus as the central atom,  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR studies have been recently carried out.<sup>2-6</sup> However, only a few compounds were concerned, and no satisfactory correlation between chemical shift and structure had been proposed until now. In the present work, which deals with 24 compounds, we intend to correlate more exactly chemical shift and structure and to shed more light on the

properties of the different series of heteropolyanions. The complexes are related to the  $(\text{PM}_{12}\text{O}_{40})^{3-}$  series (noted as  $\text{PM}_{12}$ ) and the  $(\text{P}_2\text{M}_{18}\text{O}_{62})^{6-}$  series (noted as  $\text{P}_2\text{M}_{18}$ ),  $\text{M} = \text{W}$  or  $\text{Mo}$ .

The structure of  $\text{PM}_{12}$  consists of a central  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedron sharing its oxygen atoms (called  $\text{O}_A$ ) with four  $\text{M}_3\text{O}_{13}$  groups (noted as  $(\text{M}_3)$ ). These  $\text{M}_3\text{O}_{13}$  groups, made of three edge-sharing octahedra, are linked together by corners. The  $\alpha$  isomer has the well-known Keggin structure ( $T_d$  symmetry)<sup>1,7-9</sup> shown in Figures 1a and 2a. The  $\beta$  isomer<sup>10</sup> is derived from the  $\alpha$  by rotating one  $(\text{M}_3)$  group by  $\pi/3$  about a threefold axis ( $C_{3v}$  symmetry). "Unsaturated" compounds, i.e., compounds with a "defect-Keggin structure", are derived from  $\alpha\text{-PM}_{12}$  by removing one  $\text{MO}_6$  octahedron ( $\alpha\text{-PM}_{11}$ ,

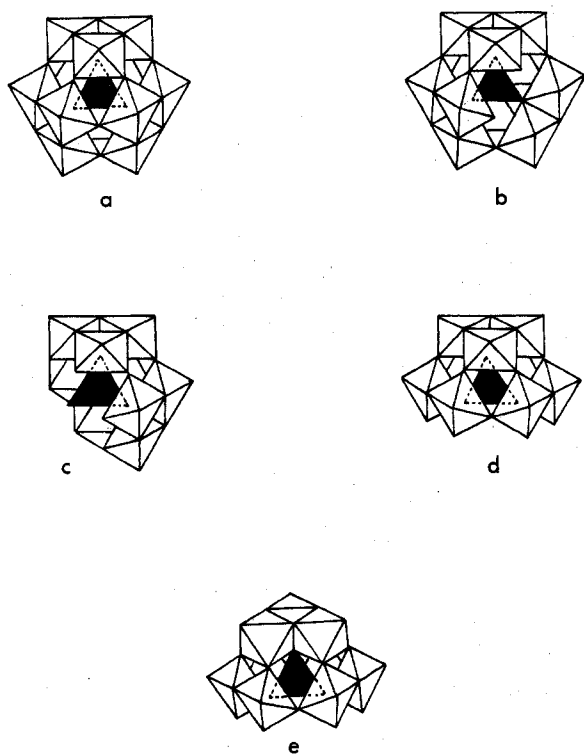


Figure 1. (a)  $\alpha$ - $\text{PM}_{12}$ , (b)  $\alpha$ - $\text{PM}_{11}$ , (c) B-type  $\alpha$ - $\text{PM}_9$ , (d) A-type  $\alpha$ - $\text{PM}_9$ , (e) A-type  $\beta$ - $\text{PM}_9$ .

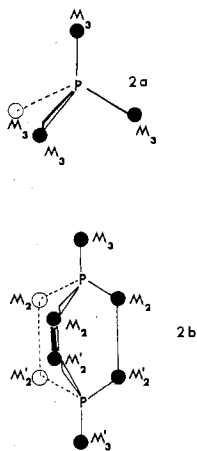
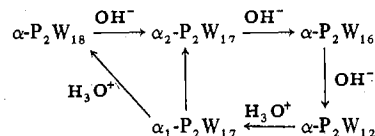


Figure 2. Schematic drawings of (a)  $\text{PM}_{12}$  and (b)  $\text{P}_2\text{M}_{18}$ .

Figure 1b) or three  $\text{MO}_6$  octahedra of a same ( $\text{M}_3$ ) set (B-type  $\alpha$ - $\text{PM}_9$ , Figure 1c).<sup>11-14</sup> Metal atoms, different from M, can partly or wholly fill these holes, giving rise to compounds such as  $\text{PW}_9\text{Mo}_2$  ( $\text{PW}_9 + 2 \text{ Mo}$ ),  $\text{PW}_9\text{Mo}_3$  ( $\text{PW}_9 + 3 \text{ Mo}$ ), or  $\text{PW}_{11}\text{Mo}$  ( $\text{PW}_{11} + \text{ Mo}$ ). As opposed to saturated compounds, the structures of the "unsaturated" heteropolyanions have not been established by direct means. However, structures have been proposed from considerations on chemical and spectrophotometrical properties.<sup>13,14</sup>

An 18-metallo-2-phosphate anion,  $\text{P}_2\text{M}_{18}$ , consists of two  $\text{PM}_9$  half-anions. These  $\text{PM}_9$  half-anions differ from the former defined above (B-type  $\alpha$ - $\text{PM}_9$ ) and are called A-type  $\text{PM}_9$ .<sup>15</sup> The A-type  $\text{PM}_9$  is obtained by removing one M atom from three different ( $\text{M}_3$ ) sets (Figure 1d). Thus, the A-type  $\text{PM}_9$  structure is built with an ( $\text{M}_3$ ) group and three ( $\text{M}_2$ ) groups. Two forms of  $\text{P}_2\text{M}_{18}$  have been described. The  $\alpha$  isomer,<sup>16</sup> also called B isomer,<sup>17</sup> has a  $D_{3h}$  symmetry with one equatorial mirror plane, perpendicular to the axis linking the two phosphorus atoms (Figure 2b).<sup>18-20</sup> Sasaki<sup>21</sup> postulates that the  $\beta$  isomer is derived from the former by rotating a  $\text{PM}_9$

half-anion by  $\pi/3$  about the P-P axis. Contant et al.<sup>22</sup> have recently isolated and characterized in solution several compounds related to  $\alpha$ - $\text{P}_2\text{W}_{18}$  according to the following experimental path



The 1 and 2 indices are chosen according to the irreversible isomerization  $\alpha_1\text{-P}_2\text{W}_{17} \rightarrow \alpha_2\text{-P}_2\text{W}_{17}$ , the latter compound being obtained by alkaline degradation of  $\alpha\text{-P}_2\text{W}_{18}$ .

The holes in the structures of "unsaturated" compounds  $\text{P}_2\text{W}_{17}$ ,  $\text{P}_2\text{W}_{16}$ , and  $\text{P}_2\text{W}_{12}$  can be filled by other metals than tungsten, e.g., molybdenum and zinc.

### Experimental Section

**Spectroscopy.** NMR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer spectrophotograph, Model R 10, operating at 24.29 MHz for  $^{31}\text{P}$  and at room temperature. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million with respect to 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  as an external standard and are counted positively toward strong fields. All samples have been studied in solution. The slightly soluble potassium salts are dissolved in aqueous lithium perchlorate; the insoluble potassium perchlorate is filtered off.

**Preparations and Characterizations.** The preparations of the following compounds are well-known:  $\alpha\text{-H}_3\text{PW}_{12}\text{O}_{40}$ ,<sup>23a</sup>  $\text{Na}_7\text{PV}_{12}\text{O}_{36}$ ,<sup>23b</sup>  $\alpha\text{-K}_7\text{PW}_{11}\text{O}_{39}$ ,<sup>23c</sup>  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta\text{-H}_6\text{P}_2\text{W}_{18}\text{O}_{62}$ ,<sup>23d</sup>  $\alpha\text{-H}_3\text{PMo}_{12}\text{O}_{40}$ .<sup>24</sup> With the exception of  $\text{PV}_{12}$ , a review of their polarographic properties has been published.<sup>25</sup>

$\alpha\text{-K}_{12}\text{H}_6\text{P}_2\text{W}_{12}\text{O}_{50}$ ,  $\alpha_1\text{-LiK}_9\text{P}_2\text{W}_{17}\text{O}_{61}$ ,  $\alpha_2\text{-K}_6\text{P}_2\text{W}_{17}\text{MoO}_{62}$ ,  $\alpha_1\text{-K}_6\text{P}_2\text{W}_{17}\text{MoO}_{62}$ ,  $\alpha\text{-K}_6\text{P}_2\text{W}_{16}\text{Mo}_2\text{O}_{62}$ ,  $\alpha\text{-K}_6\text{P}_2\text{W}_{12}\text{Mo}_6\text{O}_{62}$ ,  $\alpha_2\text{-K}_8\text{H}_2\text{P}_2\text{W}_{17}\text{ZnO}_{62}$ ,  $\alpha_1\text{-K}_8\text{H}_2\text{P}_2\text{W}_{17}\text{ZnO}_{62}$ ,  $\alpha\text{-Na}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{P}_2\text{W}_{16}\text{Zn}_2\text{O}_{62}$ . The preparations and polarographic properties of these new compounds are described in another paper by two of us.<sup>22</sup>

$\alpha_2\text{-K}_{10}\text{P}_2\text{W}_{17}\text{O}_{61}$ ,<sup>23e</sup>  $\text{K}_8\text{HP}_3\text{W}_{18}\text{O}_{66}$ ,<sup>29</sup> and  $\text{K}_6\text{P}_2\text{W}_{21}\text{O}_{71}$ .<sup>23f</sup> These compounds have been prepared according to methods described elsewhere.

**Potassium Salts of  $\alpha$ -9-Tungsto-2-molybdophosphate and  $\alpha$ -9-Tungsto-3-molybdophosphate.** These two compounds are prepared from  $\beta\text{-PW}_9$ , which is easier to isolate than  $\alpha\text{-PW}_9$ . The addition of two molybdenum atoms to  $\beta\text{-PW}_9$  leads firstly to  $\beta\text{-PW}_9\text{Mo}_2$ , which is quickly isomerized into  $\alpha\text{-PW}_9\text{Mo}_2$ .<sup>11</sup>

$\beta\text{-Na}_8\text{HPW}_9\text{O}_{34}$ . Sodium tungstate  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (120 g) is dissolved in water (150 mL). Orthophosphoric acid,  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  (3 mL, 14.7 F), and concentrated acetic acid (22 mL, 17.4 F) are successively added to the solution. The white salt  $\text{Na}_8\text{HPW}_9\text{O}_{34} \cdot 24\text{H}_2\text{O}$  precipitates out.

$\alpha\text{-K}_7\text{PW}_9\text{Mo}_3\text{O}_{40}$ .  $\beta\text{-Na}_8\text{HPW}_9\text{O}_{34} \cdot 24\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (11 g) is dissolved in an aqueous mixture of sodium molybdate (20 mL, 1 F) and hydrochloric acid (16 mL, 1 F). Then hydrochloric acid (about 12 mL, 1 F) is added dropwise until the pH lies between 6 and 6.5. The potassium salt  $\text{K}_7\text{PW}_9\text{Mo}_3\text{O}_{40} \cdot 19\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is precipitated out by addition of solid potassium chloride.

$\alpha\text{-K}_3\text{PW}_9\text{Mo}_3\text{O}_{40}$ . Quantities of dioxane (20 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (30 mL, 5.45 F), and aqueous sodium molybdate (10 mL, 1 F) are mixed. Upon addition of  $\text{K}_7\text{PW}_9\text{Mo}_3\text{O}_{40} \cdot 19\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (10 g) to this solution, the yellow salt  $\text{K}_3\text{PW}_9\text{Mo}_3\text{O}_{40} \cdot 25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  precipitates out. This compound, unstable in aqueous solution, is stable in hydroorganic mixtures, as water-dioxane, 1/1 in volume.

$(\text{NH}_4)_6\text{HPMo}_{11}\text{ZnO}_{40} \cdot 25\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The previously described preparation<sup>28</sup> has been modified. An aqueous mixture of orthophosphoric acid (10 mL, 1 F) and monochloroacetic acid (10 mL, 4 F) is poured onto solid ammonium heptamolybdate,  $(\text{NH}_4)_6\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24} \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (19.5 g). After the solid is dissolved, and aqueous zinc chloride solution (10 mL, 1 F) is quickly added. The resulting solution is kept at 0 °C. After about 10 h, pale yellow hygroscopic crystals are obtained.

**A-type  $\alpha\text{-Na}_2\text{H}_6\text{PMo}_9\text{O}_{34} \cdot 13\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .** Sodium monohydrogen phosphate  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (18 g) is dissolved in a mixture of perchloric acid (73 mL, 11.7 F) and water (20 mL). The solution is cooled to -10 °C. Then a solution of sodium molybdate  $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (108 g) in water (200 mL) is added dropwise to the above solution kept at -10 °C. The resulting solution is pale yellow

Table I

Compd	Medium	Electrode	$E_{1/2}$ (V vs. SCE)
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>3</sub> Mo <sub>9</sub>	Dioxane/0.5 F aq perchloric acid = 1/1	Pt	+0.33 (2e <sup>-</sup> ), +0.12 (2e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.10 (2e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.26 (2e <sup>-</sup> )
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>5</sub> Mo <sub>2</sub>	1 F acetic acid/1 F sodium acetate = 1/1	Hg	-0.23 (2e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.85 (4e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.97 (8e <sup>-</sup> )
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>3</sub> Mo <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane/0.5 F aq sodium acetate/1 F aq HCH <sub>2</sub> CICOO = 2/1/1	Pt	+0.32 (1e <sup>-</sup> ), +0.06 (1e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.34 (1e <sup>-</sup> )
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>11</sub> Mo	Dioxane/0.5 F aq sodium acetate/1 F aq HCH <sub>2</sub> CICOO = 2/1/1	Pt	+0.28 (1e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.42 (1e <sup>-</sup> )
B-type $\beta$ -PW <sub>9</sub>	1 F acetic acid/1 F sodium acetate = 1/1	Hg	-0.80 (2e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.89 (2e <sup>-</sup> )
$\alpha_2$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub>	1 F acetic acid/1 F sodium acetate = 1/1	Hg	-0.44 (2e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.60 (2e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.86 (2e <sup>-</sup> )
P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>21</sub>	Dioxane/0.5 F aq hydrochloric acid = 1/1	Hg	-0.39 (2e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.66 (2e <sup>-</sup> )
P <sub>3</sub> W <sub>18</sub>	1 F acetic acid/1 F sodium acetate = 1/1	Hg	-0.58 (5e <sup>-</sup> ?), -0.84 (1e <sup>-</sup> ), -0.96 (1e <sup>-</sup> ), -1.08 (1e <sup>-</sup> )

because of the occurrence of some dodecamolybdophosphate anion (PMo<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>)<sup>3-</sup>. Sodium salt is collected after standing overnight at 0 °C.

**Na<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>18</sub>O<sub>62</sub>·11H<sub>2</sub>O.** The preparation is the same as the preceding one, except that it is performed at 20 °C. The solution is allowed to evaporate in the air. After several days, orange crystals are obtained.

**K<sub>3</sub>PMo<sub>9</sub>W<sub>3</sub>O<sub>40</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O.** A-Type  $\alpha$ -Na<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>PMo<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub> (10 g) is dissolved in an aqueous mixture of sodium tungstate (18 mL, 1 F) and hydrochloric acid (20 mL, 1 F). After 2 h, solid potassium chloride is added in order to precipitate out the yellow potassium salt. The precipitate is dissolved in the minimum of water (20 °C). Recrystallization is carried out at 0 °C.

**$\alpha$ -H<sub>3</sub>PW<sub>11</sub>MoO<sub>40</sub>.** The reduced (PW<sub>11</sub>Mo<sup>V</sup>O<sub>40</sub>)<sup>4-</sup> is prepared by the procedure described by Pope et al.<sup>26</sup> The potassium salt is isolated from the solution and then dissolved in hydrochloric acid (3 F). The molybdoundecatungstophosphoric acid is then extracted by diethyl oxide. Water is added, and crystals of the reduced complex are obtained by allowing the solution to evaporate at room temperature. The unreduced anion (PW<sub>11</sub>MoO<sub>40</sub>)<sup>3-</sup>, unstable in aqueous solution, is prepared by anodic oxidation on a platinum electrode (+0.7 V vs. SCE) of the reduced anion in hydroorganic medium (dioxane/0.5 F HCl = 1/1).

**Analyses.** Tungsten was precipitated out by cinchonin. The precipitate was ignited and weighted as tungsten oxide.

Molybdenum was determined by the polarographic method (dropping mercury electrode DME) in 5 F hydrochloric acid, after alkaline degradation.

**Tungsten-Molybdenum Mixture.** When tungsten and molybdenum were both present, the complex was destroyed in alkaline medium and the W/Mo ratio was determined by the polarographic method (DME) in pyrocatechol (0.2 F), acetic acid (0.5 F), and sodium acetate (0.5 F) aqueous solution.

**Phosphorus.** The complex was destroyed by an excess of lithium hydroxide and separated off as lithium phosphate. Phosphorus was then determined by spectrophotometry in acidic medium as dodecamolybdophosphate anion (in the 400–440-nm range).

Zinc was determined by the polarographic method (DME) in 1 F sodium hydroxide. Potassium was determined by gravimetry with tetraphenylborate. Sodium and lithium were determined by atomic absorption spectrophotometry. Ammonium was determined by direct

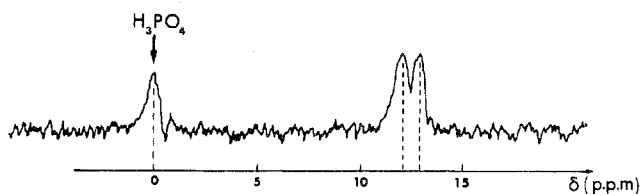
Table II

Heteropolyanion (simplified formula)	Solvent	Cation	[P], M	Chemical shift, ppm from 85% H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>12</sub>	Water	H	0.42	14.9
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>12</sub>	Water-dioxane	H	0.32	14.9
$\alpha$ -PMo <sub>12</sub>	Water	H	0.48	3.9
PV <sub>12</sub>	Water	Na	0.32	-1
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>11</sub>	Water	Li	0.70	10.4
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>2</sub>	Water	Na	0.63	9.4
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>11</sub> Mo	Water-dioxane	H	0.30	14.2
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>9</sub> Mo <sub>3</sub>	Water-dioxane	H	0.18	12.9
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>3</sub> Mo <sub>9</sub>	Water	H	0.40	6.2
$\alpha$ -PMo <sub>11</sub> Zn	Water	NH <sub>4</sub>	0.30	1.2
$\beta$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>18</sub>	Water	H	0.68	11, 11.6
$\alpha$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>18</sub>	Water	Na	0.50	12.7
$\alpha_1$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> Mo	Water	H	0.84	12.2, 13
$\alpha_2$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> Mo	Water	H	0.60	11.9, 12.6
$\alpha_1$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> Zn	Water	Li	0.44	8.6, 13.3
$\alpha_2$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> Zn	Water	Li	0.38	8.6, 13.8
$\alpha_1$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub>	Water	Li	0.34	9, 13.1
$\alpha_2$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub>	Water	Li	0.70	7.1, 13.6
$\alpha$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>16</sub> Zn <sub>2</sub>	Water	Li	0.14	4.4, 14.05
$\alpha$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>16</sub> Mo <sub>2</sub>	Water	Li	0.35	10.2, 12.7
$\alpha$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>12</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub>	Water	Li	0.36	9.75
$\alpha$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>12</sub>	Water (buffer pH 4.8)	Li	0.30	7.8
$\alpha$ -P <sub>2</sub> Mo <sub>18</sub>	Water	Na	0.96	3.4
P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>21</sub>	Water (buffer pH 2)	Na	0.64	13.3
P <sub>3</sub> W <sub>18</sub>	Water	Li	0.79	9.9

Table III<sup>a</sup>

Compd	This paper	Pope <sup>6</sup>	Kazan-skii <sup>5</sup>	Lebedeva <sup>3</sup>
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>12</sub>	14.9	14.96 ± 0.5	15.1	17.7 ± 0.5
$\alpha$ -PMo <sub>12</sub>	3.9		4.8	4.3 ± 0.5
$\alpha$ -PW <sub>11</sub>	10.4		11.3	
$\alpha_2$ -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub>	7.1, 13.6		10	

<sup>a</sup> Chemical shifts in ppm from 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. The results are in good agreement, except those for  $\alpha_2$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>. This discrepancy will be discussed below.

Figure 3. NMR <sup>31</sup>P spectrum of  $\alpha_1$ -H<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>MoO<sub>62</sub>.

and back-protometric titration of the complex. The amount of water was estimated by difference.

**Polarographic Characteristics.** The half-wave potentials ( $E_{1/2}$ ) of polyanions described in this paper are shown in Table I, with the exception of (PMo<sub>11</sub>ZnO<sub>40</sub>H)<sup>6-</sup> which is unstable at polarographic concentration.

## Results

Experimental results are shown in Table II. No solvent effect on chemical shifts was observed, probably because the central atom is efficiently screened by the surrounding metal-oxygen framework. As an example, the spectrum of  $\alpha_1$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>Mo is shown in Figure 3.

For the previously studied compounds, our results and those reported by other authors are listed in Table III. The results are in good agreement, except those for  $\alpha_2$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>. This discrepancy will be discussed below.

## Discussion

**Correlation between Structures and Chemical Shifts.**  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub> and Related Compounds. Two essential features have

Table IV

	PV <sub>12</sub>	PMo <sub>12</sub>	PMo <sub>11</sub> Zn	PMo <sub>11</sub>	PW <sub>12</sub>	PW <sub>11</sub>
$\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{PO}_A)$ , cm <sup>-1</sup>	1058	1070	1065 } 1060 <sup>a</sup> 1045 }	1060 } 1047 <sup>a</sup> 1010 }	1080	1085 } 1075 <sup>a</sup> 1045 }
$\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{MO}_A)$ , cm <sup>-1</sup>		248			217	
$\delta$ , ppm from 85% H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	-1	3.9	1.2		14.9	10.4

<sup>a</sup> The symmetry decrease of the PO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron leads to a splitting of  $\nu(\text{PO}_A)$ . The reported value is a weighted mean of the two observed frequencies.

to be emphasized. Firstly, the occurrence of either one peak or two equal peaks is consistent with two phosphorus atoms equivalent or not. The number of peaks thus shows whether both half-anions are identical or not. It is worth noticing that the chemical shift of the phosphorus atom of an unperturbed PW<sub>9</sub> half-anion is practically constant; i.e., it does not practically depend upon the change (hole or substitution) which may occur in the other half-anion. The NMR spectra of  $\alpha_1$ - and  $\alpha_2$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>, P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>Zn, and P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>Mo illustrate these facts quite well. In these cases, only one half-anion is affected by the removal or substitution of a tungsten atom. The two half-anions thus become unequivalent and two peaks of equal height are observed. In each pair of chemical shift ( $\delta$ ) values, the higher value remains practically constant ( $13.2 \pm 0.6$  ppm) and equal to the value observed for  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>. This  $\delta$  value characterizes the A-type PW<sub>9</sub> half-anion. The lower  $\delta$  value is assigned to the phosphorus atom of the half-anion affected by a removal or a substitution. This will be explained below.

**P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>, P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>Zn, P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>Mo ( $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  Isomers).** The occurrence of two equal peaks in the spectra of these six compounds has been explained above. Kazanski<sup>5</sup> has recently reported that only one peak ( $\delta$  10 ppm) is observed in the NMR spectrum of the potassium salt of  $\alpha_2$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>. As explained above, this chemical shift cannot characterize a P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub> compound. It seems rather related to another anion, probably P<sub>3</sub>W<sub>18</sub> ( $\delta$  9.9 ppm, see Table II). This compound, described by Preyssler,<sup>29</sup> is always formed in the same time as  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>. It would have been necessary to separate carefully  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub> and P<sub>3</sub>W<sub>18</sub> to get pure  $\alpha_2$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub> by alkaline degradation of  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>. An incomplete separation leaves some P<sub>3</sub>W<sub>18</sub> in solution, which precipitates out since its potassium salt has a low solubility.

**$\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>16</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub> and  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>16</sub>Mo<sub>2</sub>.** The occurrence of two equal peaks shows that both half-anions are not identical. Furthermore, in both pairs of  $\delta$  values, the highest values (14.05 ppm for P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>16</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub> and 12.7 ppm for P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>16</sub>Mo<sub>2</sub>) are nearly equal to the  $\delta$  value of  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub> (12.7 ppm). These values correspond to unperturbed PW<sub>9</sub> half-anions. These two compounds are formulated (PW<sub>9</sub>-PW<sub>7</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>) and (PW<sub>9</sub>-PW<sub>7</sub>Mo<sub>2</sub>).

**$\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>12</sub> and  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>12</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>.** The occurrence of a single peak implies two equivalent phosphorus atoms. Electrochemical studies<sup>22</sup> suggest that the six missing tungsten atoms belong to the (M<sub>3</sub>) and (M'<sub>3</sub>) sets (see Figure 2b). These compounds are formulated (P(W<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-P(W<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) and (P(W<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(Mo<sub>3</sub>)-P(W<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(Mo<sub>3</sub>)).

**$\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>18</sub> and  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>.** One peak is observed for  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>18</sub> and  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>, in agreement with the solved structures (two equivalent phosphorus atoms). For  $\beta$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>, the two phosphorus atoms have slightly different chemical shifts (11 and 11.6 ppm). This is in disagreement with the structure proposed by Sasaki et al.<sup>21</sup> In this proposed structure, both PW<sub>9</sub> half-anions are considered identical. However Sasaki has not determined the positions of oxygen atoms. Therefore it is difficult to make a choice between both possibilities: (i)  $\pi/3$  rotation of a PW<sub>9</sub> group (Sasaki's structure), (ii)  $\pi/3$  rotation of one of the two (M<sub>3</sub>) groups (see Figure 1e). In both cases, there is indeed practically no difference between the projection of tungsten atoms on a plane per-

pendicular to the P-P' axis. Because of the slight splitting of the <sup>31</sup>P signal, we believe that the second possibility is more likely.<sup>30</sup> The subunit in which there is this  $\pi/3$  rotation of a (M<sub>3</sub>) group can be also considered as an A-type subunit deriving from  $\beta$ -PM<sub>12</sub> structure. Thus we propose the following notation: A-type  $\alpha$ -PM<sub>9</sub> for the A-type subunit deriving from  $\alpha$ -PM<sub>12</sub> structure (Figure 1d), A-type  $\beta$ -PM<sub>9</sub> for the A-type subunit deriving from  $\beta$ -PM<sub>12</sub> structure (Figure 1e). The  $\beta$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub> isomer is formed by the association of an A-type  $\alpha$ -PW<sub>9</sub> subunit and of an A-type  $\beta$ -PW<sub>9</sub> subunit. In contrast to the results with substituted or "defect structure" compounds in which substituting or removing of tungsten atoms in a PW<sub>9</sub> group does not influence the  $\delta$  value of the phosphorus atom of the other group, the rotation of a (M<sub>3</sub>) group inside of a PW<sub>9</sub> subunit seems to influence the other subunit, for the two  $\delta$  values are lower than those corresponding to  $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>.

**P<sub>3</sub>W<sub>18</sub> and P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>21</sub>.** These two heteropolyanions, formulated as (P<sub>3</sub>W<sub>18</sub>O<sub>66</sub>H)<sup>29</sup> and (P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>21</sub>O<sub>71</sub>)<sup>6-,31,32</sup> are not directly derived from the 1/12 or the 2/18 series. Their structures are not determined. However, the occurrence of a single <sup>31</sup>P signal suggests that the phosphorus atoms are equivalent in each compound.

**Interpretation of Chemical Shift Variations. General Features.** Chemical shift variations may be explained in terms of changes in electron density surrounding the phosphorus atom. The oxygen atoms O<sub>A</sub> of the central PO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron may be assumed to have the most important influence on this electron density. Besides, from a general discussion of IR and Raman spectra of heteropolyanions,<sup>31,32</sup> some frequencies can be assigned to well-characterized vibrations. Table IV shows the frequencies of tetrahedron  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{PO}_A)$  and  $\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{MO}_A)$  for heteropolyanions of the 1/12 series. A good correlation appears between these data and the corresponding chemical shift values. Thus the decrease of  $\delta$  values according to the sequence PW<sub>12</sub> → PMo<sub>12</sub> → PV<sub>12</sub> is closely paralleled by the frequency decrease of  $\nu(\text{PO}_A)$  vibration (1080–1070–1058 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and the frequency increase of  $\nu(\text{MO}_A)$  vibration, the last one corresponding to a strengthening of the MO<sub>A</sub> bond (217 cm<sup>-1</sup> for PW<sub>12</sub> and 248 cm<sup>-1</sup> for PMo<sub>12</sub>). In the same way, the occurrence of a hole (e.g., PM<sub>11</sub>) leads to a weakening of the PO<sub>A</sub> bond, as shown by the change of mean  $\nu(\text{PO}_A)$  frequencies, and induces a decrease of the  $\delta$  value. If the hole is filled by a cation forming with the heteropolyanion a bond with a strong ionic character, the O<sub>A</sub> oxygen of the hole is not very affected. Thus, the chemical shift is closely similar to that of the parent "defect structure" compound (compare P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub> and P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>Zn). This is the reason why the chemical shift value for a "defect structure" compound unstable in solution may be closely approximated by taking the  $\delta$  value of its Zn<sup>2+</sup> derivative. On the other hand, if the hole is filled by a metal rather covalently bonding to the heteropolyanion (e.g., Mo or W), the defect character is greatly attenuated, and the chemical shift value approaches the one of the corresponding saturated compound. Table V illustrates these observations corresponding to the adduct derivatives of  $\alpha_1$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub> and  $\alpha_2$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>.

The same correlations between vibrational and NMR results are observed when the compounds PM<sub>12</sub> and P<sub>2</sub>M<sub>18</sub> (M = Mo or W) are compared. The  $\delta$  value decreases as the  $\nu(\text{PO}_A)$

Table V<sup>a</sup>

	P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub>	P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> Zn	P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> Mo	α-P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>18</sub>
α <sub>1</sub> isomer	9 (13.1)	8.6 (13.3)	12.2 (13)	12.7
α <sub>2</sub> isomer	7.1 (13.6)	8.6 (13.8)	11.9 (12.6)	

<sup>a</sup> The first number represents the chemical shift value for the phosphorus atom of the PW<sub>9</sub> group in which the removal or the substitution of a tungsten atom has been carried out. The corresponding value for the unperturbed PW<sub>9</sub> group is shown in parentheses. These values are similar to that of α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>.

Table VI

	α-PMo <sub>12</sub>	α-P <sub>2</sub> Mo <sub>18</sub>	α-PW <sub>12</sub>	α-P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>18</sub>
ν <sub>asym</sub> (PO <sub>A</sub> ), cm <sup>-1</sup>	1070	1082 } 1063 1008 }	1080	1090 } 1073 1022 }
δ, ppm from 85% H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	3.9	3.4	14.9	12.7

Table VII

Compd	Formula of the two half-anions and δ (in ppm) of P atoms
α-P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>18</sub>	2 PW <sub>9</sub> (12.7)
α <sub>1</sub> -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> Mo	PW <sub>9</sub> (13) + PW <sub>8</sub> Mo (12.2)
α <sub>2</sub> -P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>17</sub> Mo	PW <sub>9</sub> (12.6) + PW <sub>8</sub> Mo (11.9)
α-P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>16</sub> Mo <sub>2</sub>	PW <sub>9</sub> (12.7) + PW <sub>7</sub> Mo <sub>2</sub> (10.2)
α-P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>12</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub>	2 PW <sub>6</sub> Mo <sub>3</sub> (9.75)
α-P <sub>2</sub> Mo <sub>18</sub>	2 PMo <sub>9</sub> (3.4)

frequency when going from PM<sub>12</sub> to P<sub>2</sub>M<sub>18</sub>.

**Saturated Molybdotungstophosphates. 1/12 Series.** The PW<sub>12-x</sub>Mo<sub>x</sub> compounds studied in this work are formed from "defect structure" B-type PW<sub>9</sub> or B-type PMo<sub>9</sub>. Therefore the added metal elements are located in a same (M<sub>3</sub>) subunit of the Keggin structure and affect the same O<sub>A</sub> oxygen. As pointed out above, the "saturated" character of the heteropolyanion is kept since the MoO<sub>A</sub> and WO<sub>A</sub> bonds are covalent. The perturbation is relatively weak. In the Keggin structure, the δ values vary roughly linearly with the number of tungsten atoms replaced by molybdenum atoms, as shown on Figure 4.

**2/18 Series.** In the same way a linear variation is observed (Figure 5). The substitution of W by Mo has, of course, to be considered in each A-type α-PW<sub>9</sub> half-anion, as shown in Table VII.

**"Defect Structure" Tungstic Heteropolyanions.** For compounds with defect structure, i.e., with one or more holes, the phosphorus is much more perturbed than by the substitution of tungsten atoms by molybdenum atoms. However, a linear dependence of δ against the hole number is no longer observed. In particular, when the successive removals of tungsten atoms affect the same O<sub>A</sub> atom of the PO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron, i.e., when they are carried out in the same (M<sub>3</sub>) unit, the formation of the first hole has a larger effect on the chemical shift than the following ones. For instance, the removal of one tungsten atom of a (W<sub>3</sub>) unit in the Keggin structure (formation of PW<sub>11</sub> from PW<sub>12</sub>) leads to a decrease of the δ value equal to 4.5 ppm. On another hand, when passing from α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub> to α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>12</sub>, each phosphorus atom is affected by the removal of three atoms of (W<sub>3</sub>) groups analogous to those of the Keggin structure, and the total δ value decrease is only 4.9 ppm. Although the δ value variation vs. the number of holes in the same (W<sub>3</sub>) unit is not linear, it is monotonous. Because of this monotonous variation, the α<sub>1</sub>- and α<sub>2</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub> isomers can be characterized. Let us remember they correspond to the removal of one tungsten atom from α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>, either in a (W<sub>3</sub>) or in a (W<sub>2</sub>) group (see Figure 2b). Since the chemical shift of α<sub>2</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub> (7.1 ppm) does not lie between those of α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub> (12.7 ppm) and of α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>12</sub> (7.8 ppm), the missing tungsten atom does not belong to a (W<sub>3</sub>) group; the hole of α<sub>2</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>

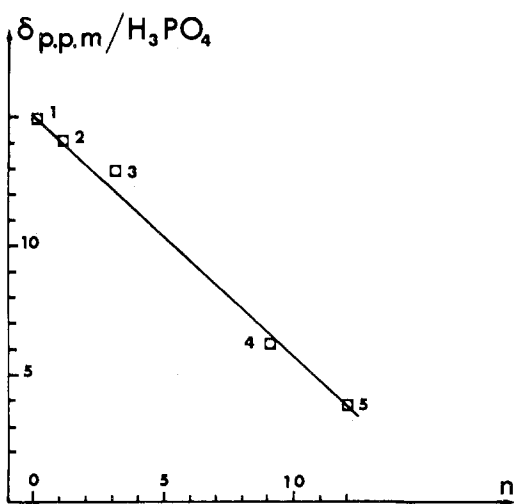


Figure 4. Variation of δ values with respect to the number, *n*, of Mo atoms replacing W atoms in the α-PW<sub>12</sub> structure: (1) PW<sub>12</sub>, (2) PW<sub>11</sub>Mo, (3) PW<sub>9</sub>Mo<sub>3</sub>, (4) PW<sub>7</sub>Mo<sub>5</sub>, (5) PMo<sub>12</sub>.

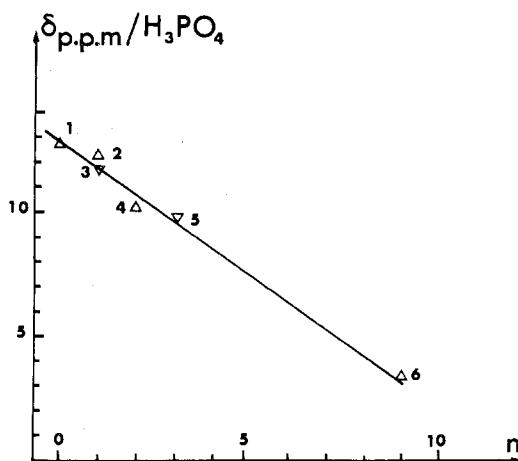


Figure 5. Variation of δ values with respect to the number, *n*, of Mo atoms replacing W atoms in an A-type α-PW<sub>9</sub> subunit: (1) PW<sub>9</sub> subunit of α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>, (2) PW<sub>8</sub>Mo subunit of α<sub>1</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>Mo, (3) PW<sub>8</sub>Mo subunit of α<sub>2</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>Mo, (4) PW<sub>7</sub>Mo<sub>2</sub> subunit of α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>16</sub>Mo<sub>2</sub>, (5) PW<sub>6</sub>Mo<sub>3</sub> subunit of α-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>12</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>, (6) PMo<sub>9</sub> subunit of α-P<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>18</sub>.

is then located in a (W<sub>2</sub>) group. On the contrary, the δ value of the other isomer α<sub>1</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub> (9 ppm) is consistent with a hole located in a (W<sub>3</sub>) group. This discussion can be extended to another example, namely, the removal of one molybdenum atom from an (Mo<sub>3</sub>) group. When going from PW<sub>9</sub>Mo<sub>3</sub> (12.9 ppm) to PW<sub>9</sub>Mo<sub>2</sub> (9.4 ppm), the δ value difference is almost the same as the difference between PMo<sub>12</sub> (3.9 ppm) and PMo<sub>11</sub>Zn (1.2 ppm). This last compound gives an approximate evaluation (by excess) of the δ value for PMo<sub>11</sub> which cannot be measured directly owing to the instability of undecamolybdophosphate anion.<sup>12</sup>

### Conclusion

NMR and vibrational spectroscopy techniques are revealing very useful information which complements that obtained from electrochemical techniques. <sup>31</sup>P NMR was proved more fruitful than <sup>1</sup>H NMR<sup>33-36</sup> for the study of the central atom behavior in heteropolyanions, first because of the number and the diversity of the compounds and above all because the chemical shift variations are more significant; while the δ value range is greater than 10 ppm for <sup>31</sup>P, it is lower than 0.5 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H.

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**Registry No.** K<sub>12</sub>H<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>12</sub>O<sub>50</sub>, 63950-53-8; LiK<sub>9</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>O<sub>61</sub>, 63950-56-1; K<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>MoO<sub>62</sub>, 63950-62-9; K<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>16</sub>Mo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>62</sub>, 63950-61-8; K<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>12</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>O<sub>62</sub>, 63950-60-7; K<sub>8</sub>H<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>ZnO<sub>62</sub>, 63950-55-0; Na<sub>10</sub>H<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>16</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>62</sub>, 63950-54-9; Na<sub>8</sub>HPW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>, 63950-57-2; K<sub>7</sub>PW<sub>9</sub>Mo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>39</sub>, 63950-58-3; K<sub>3</sub>PW<sub>9</sub>Mo<sub>3</sub>O<sub>40</sub>, 63956-77-4; (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>6</sub>HPMo<sub>11</sub>ZnO<sub>40</sub>, 11120-72-2; Na<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>PMo<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>, 51913-10-1; Na<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>18</sub>O<sub>62</sub>, 50811-90-0; K<sub>3</sub>PMo<sub>9</sub>W<sub>3</sub>O<sub>40</sub>, 63950-63-0; H<sub>3</sub>PW<sub>11</sub>MoO<sub>40</sub>, 63950-64-1; PW<sub>12</sub>, 12534-77-9; PMo<sub>12</sub>, 12379-13-4; PV<sub>12</sub>, 12632-06-3; PW<sub>11</sub>, 12412-84-9; PW<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>9</sub>, 56646-36-7; P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>18</sub>, 12269-70-4; P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>21</sub>, 63950-52-7; P<sub>3</sub>W<sub>18</sub>, 63950-51-6; Na<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>, 13472-45-2; H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 7664-38-2; Na<sub>2</sub>MoO<sub>4</sub>, 7631-95-0; (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>6</sub>Mo<sub>7</sub>O<sub>24</sub>, 12027-67-7; Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 7558-79-4; (PW<sub>11</sub>MoO<sub>40</sub>)<sup>4-</sup>, 12776-99-7; H<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>17</sub>MoO<sub>62</sub>, 63950-59-4.

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## Reaction of Fluorine and Hypofluorous Acid with Some Substitution-Inert Complex Ions in Aqueous Perchloric Acid Solutions<sup>1a</sup>

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This paper examines the reactions of F<sub>2</sub> and HOF with aqueous perchloric acid solutions containing various complexes of trivalent chromium. In no case is the chromium itself oxidized. The complex CrF<sup>2+</sup> is unreactive toward either oxidant. CrClO<sub>3</sub><sup>2+</sup>, CrNO<sup>2+</sup>, CrCl<sup>2+</sup>, and CrBr<sup>2+</sup> show increasing reactivity, with the formation of Cr<sup>3+</sup> as the principal product. In the case of CrBr<sup>2+</sup> and CrCl<sup>2+</sup> there is evidence that F<sub>2</sub> can react with the substrate directly, as well as via the intermediate formation of HOF. This direct reaction produces some CrF<sup>2+</sup> in addition to Cr<sup>3+</sup>. Azidochromium(III), CrN<sub>3</sub><sup>2+</sup>, is the most reactive of the complexes studied. It reacts directly with F<sub>2</sub> to form a mixture of Cr<sup>3+</sup> and CrF<sup>2+</sup>; it reacts with HOF to form CrNO<sup>2+</sup>. Reaction mechanisms that can account for these observations are discussed.

## Introduction

Although it has long been known that F<sub>2</sub> displays strong oxidizing power when passed into aqueous solutions,<sup>2</sup> the mechanism of its interaction with such solutions has never been elucidated. The recent isolation of hypofluorous acid, HOF,<sup>3</sup> has led to the suggestion that this molecule is the reactive intermediate that is responsible for the oxidizing properties of fluorine in aqueous media.<sup>4</sup> Support for this idea comes from the fact that the equilibrium



lies very far to the right and from the observation that HOF and F<sub>2</sub> have generally similar oxidizing properties in aqueous solution.<sup>4</sup> Thus both reagents oxidize Ag<sup>+</sup> to Ag<sup>2+</sup>, both oxidize water primarily to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in acid and primarily to O<sub>2</sub> in base, and both oxidize BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> to BrO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> in base only.<sup>2d,4</sup> It is therefore tempting to conclude that reaction 1 proceeds very

rapidly and that all of the observed chemistry stems from subsequent reaction of HOF. There is, however, some evidence that this concept is an oversimplification. It is known, for example, that F<sub>2</sub> reacts with water to produce OF<sub>2</sub>—small amounts in neutral or acid media and quite substantial amounts in base.<sup>2d</sup> The interaction of HOF with water, on the other hand, has never been observed to produce OF<sub>2</sub>.<sup>4</sup>

If fluorine can react with aqueous substrates directly as well as through the intermediate formation of HOF, it is conceivable that under some circumstances different and distinguishable products will result from the two modes of reaction. The use of substitution-inert complex ions, such as those of trivalent chromium, would seem to constitute a promising way to search for such distinguishable products. In this article we wish to describe an aqueous reaction system in which oxidation of the complex CrN<sub>3</sub><sup>2+</sup> by F<sub>2</sub> proceeds partly via HOF and partly by direct attack and in which the