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Preparation and Structure of $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$, a New Tricobalt Enneacarbonyl Carbon Cluster

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Crystals of triethylamine-(tricobalt enneacarbonyl carbon)oxyborane, $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$, have been prepared by the reaction of triethylamine-borane with dicobalt octacarbonyl in benzene. The molecular and crystal structures of this compound have been determined from three-dimensional X-ray counter data. Crystals of the dark red, air-stable compound are monoclinic with cell dimensions of $a = 11.75 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 11.29 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 8.81 \pm 0.01 \text{ \AA}$, and $\beta = 93.31 \pm 0.05^\circ$. The space group is $P2_1/m$ with two formula species per cell imposing C_3 point symmetry on the individual molecules. The structure has been refined by least squares to a conventional R of 0.087. The basic structural feature consists of a triangular cluster of cobalt atoms each coordinated to three carbonyl groups and an apical triply bridging CO group with a C-O bond distance of 1.28 \AA . The infrared and mass spectral data are given for this material, and the structure is compared with the related $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCH}_3$ and $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{S}$ molecular complexes.

Introduction

Many complexes of the type $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CY}$ ($Y = \text{H}, \text{CH}_3, \text{Cl}, \text{etc.}$) have been described² which are universally distinguished by high air stability and striking ease of formation. The salient structural features of this class of compounds have been elucidated by Sutton and Dahl² from an X-ray structure investigation on the C-methyl-substituted compound, $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCH}_3$. They consist of a tetrahedral Co_3C cluster arrangement with a triangular array of three basal cobalt atoms and an apical carbon atom. A very similar geometrical arrangement was found in $\text{SCo}_3(\text{CO})_9$, structurally characterized by Wei and Dahl.³ Presumably, heteroatoms other than carbon and sulfur might also interact with a $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9$ entity to give an $\text{XCo}_3(\text{CO})_9$ cluster. Some preliminary reports in the literature claiming examples for $\text{X} = \text{Si}^4$ and $\text{X} = \text{Sn}^6$ ostensibly support this assumption.⁶ The authenticity of the reported compound $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9\text{SnCo}_3(\text{CO})_9$ has already been disputed.⁷

While exploring the possibilities of incorporating a boron atom (or a BH group) into a metal cluster fragment such as $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9$, we synthesized the compound $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$. This article describes the properties and structural characterization of this compound.

Synthesis and Properties

Trialkylamine-boranes react with dicobalt octacarbonyl in hydrocarbon solvents to give compounds of composition $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{NR}_3$ ($\text{R} = \text{CH}_3, \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$).

These complexes are crystalline solids, black in reflected light and dark red in transmitted light, which are stable to air at room temperature and can be heated to about 80° *in vacuo* without gross decomposition. Having established the composition from analytical and molecular weight data, we expected the presumed molecular asymmetry arising from a cobalt to carbonyl ratio of 3:10 to be reflected in the CO stretching region of the infrared spectra. This, however, was not the case. The observed spectra under high resolution were virtually identical with those of $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCl}$. In particular, no evidence indicating a bridging CO group in $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{NR}_3$ was found in the 2000–1500- cm^{-1} region of the spectrum. There were two bands of moderate intensity at 2415 and 2365 cm^{-1} suggestive of a BH_2 group. Evidence for the presence of a BH_2 group in the molecule was also obtained from a broadened triplet in the B^{11} nmr spectrum.

Before the X-ray investigation was begun, we made an effort to derive structural information from the mass spectrometric fragmentation pattern of $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3$. Not surprisingly, the observed spectra are highly complex, quite unlike those obtained for $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCl}$.⁸ While we were reasonably certain about the consecutive loss of nine CO groups from the parent ion, the spectra did not permit definitive conclusions about the mode of attachment of the tenth carbonyl group. However, it was apparent from a consideration of all of the spectroscopic data that the structure of $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{NR}_3$ had to be highly symmetrical and that a structural fragment $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9$, analogous to the one established for $\text{SCo}_3(\text{CO})_9$ ³ and $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCH}_3$,² was likely. A necessary corollary of this assumption was to postulate one unique CO group triply bridging three cobalt atoms. There exists sufficient precedence in metal cluster chemistry to render such a hypothesis justifiable (*vide infra*). Furthermore, it is well known that triply bridging CO groups do not always lead to easily identifiable infrared absorptions.⁹

(1) To whom inquiries should be addressed.

(2) For a complete listing of references, see P. W. Sutton and L. F. Dahl, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **89**, 261 (1967).

(3) C. H. Wei and L. F. Dahl, *Inorg. Chem.*, **6**, 1229 (1967).

(4) S. F. A. Kettle and I. Khan, *Proc. Chem. Soc.*, **82** (1962); *J. Organometal. Chem. (Amsterdam)*, **5**, 588 (1966).

(5) S. D. Ibeuke and M. F. Newland, *Chem. Commun.*, 114 (1965).

(6) We have been unable to reproduce the synthesis of $[\text{SiCo}_3(\text{CO})_9]_2$ reported by Kettle and Khan.⁴ Under the reaction conditions described by these authors, *i.e.*, elution of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$ with CCl_4 from an alumina column, the known cluster $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCl}$ is invariably formed. The incomplete analytical data cited by Kettle and Khan as supporting $[\text{SiCo}_3(\text{CO})_9]_2$ are in approximate agreement with the ones required for $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCl}$, and the published ir spectrum is in explicit agreement with that of authentic $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCl}$. We therefore suggest that these authors have misidentified their reaction product.

(7) D. F. Patmore and W. A. G. Graham, *Inorg. Chem.*, **5**, 2222 (1966).

(8) R. B. King, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **88**, 2075 (1966).

(9) An example for this is the $\text{Fe}_4(\text{CO})_{12}^{2-}$ anion; see R. F. Doedens and L. F. Dahl, *ibid.*, **88**, 4847 (1966).

Since the chemical and spectroscopic evidence gave only very fragmentary information about the molecular structure, an X-ray investigation was undertaken.

Crystal Data and Structure Determination

Crystals of $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$ are monoclinic with cell parameters of $a = 11.75 \pm 0.01$, $b = 11.29 \pm 0.01$, $c = 8.81 \pm 0.01$ Å, and $\beta = 93.31 \pm 0.05^\circ$. These parameters were obtained from a least-squares refinement of powder diffraction data recorded on a Hagg-Guinier camera using a KCl internal standard ($a_{25^\circ} = 6.2931$ Å). The observed (by flotation) and calculated densities for two formula units per cell are 1.63 g/cm³. The only systematic absence observed on Weissenberg and precession films was $\{0k0\}$, $k = 2n + 1$, indicating that the space group is either $\text{P2}_1/\text{m}$ or P2_1 . Our successful refinement in $\text{P2}_1/\text{m}$ indicates that this is the correct space group. The space group $\text{P2}_1/\text{m}$ with $Z = 2$ imposes C_s point symmetry on the individual molecules. Atoms were placed in the general positions¹⁰ $\pm(x, y, z; x, 1/2 - y, z)$ and the special positions $\pm(x, 1/4, z)$.

A four-circle diffractometer was used to measure intensities from a crystal of dimensions $0.08 \times 0.14 \times 0.29$ mm mounted with the b axis coincident with the φ axis of the diffractometer. The data were measured using Zr-filtered Mo radiation (λ 0.7107 Å) and the θ - 2θ scan technique with a symmetric scan range of 1.5° , a scan rate of $1^\circ/\text{min}$, and a takeoff angle of 3° . Individual backgrounds of 20 sec were recorded before and after each scan. A total of 1815 reflections was measured including $\{hk0\}$ and $\{\bar{h}k0\}$ data which were averaged. Data were measured out to 45° in 2θ ; there was only limited scattering beyond this.

The data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects in the usual way and for absorption using Prewitt's program¹¹ ACACA. For Mo $\text{K}\alpha$ the linear absorption coefficient is 22.5 cm^{-1} . The crystal was described by six plane faces for the absorption correction. The minimum and maximum calculated transmission factors were 0.69 and 0.85, respectively. The structure factor errors were assigned according to a scheme reported earlier.¹²

An unsharpened Patterson function was calculated from which the Co atom positions were located. The Co positions were used to calculate a superposition function from which all of the carbonyl atom positions were located. After refining the scale factor, the R was 0.372 based on a model containing three Co atoms and ten carbonyl groups, one of which had been misplaced. An electron density difference map showed all of the remaining atom positions. In this map the boron and ethyl group atoms appeared at one-half of their expected heights. The positions of the boron and ethyl groups were such that these atoms had to be placed in disordered positions with respect to the mirror plane in the space group $\text{P2}_1/\text{m}$. The R was 0.126 after two cy-

cles of least squares with all atoms except boron included in the structure factor calculations. The B atom position was confirmed on an electron density difference map, and, after two more cycles of least-squares including all nonhydrogen atoms, the R was 0.118. The refinement was continued by allowing all ordered atoms to assume anisotropic temperature factors keeping isotropic temperature factors for the disordered atoms (B, C₇, C₈, C₉, C₁₀, C₁₁, C₁₂). The refinement was stopped after four more cycles of least squares. The final R factors for the 1489 observed reflections were

$$R = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|} = 0.087$$

$$wR = \left[\frac{\sum w ||F_o| - |F_c||^2}{\sum w |F_o|^2} \right]^{1/2} = 0.076$$

The corresponding values for all reflections were $R = 0.095$ and $wR = 0.077$. The maximum and minimum peaks in the final electron density difference map were 0.8 and $-0.9 \text{ e}^-/\text{Å}^3$ consistent with a good refinement. The final "error of fit" was

$$\left[\frac{\sum w ||F_o| - |F_c||^2}{m - n} \right]^{1/2} = 2.00$$

The disorder was handled in the refinement by placing atoms B and C₇ through C₁₂ in general positions with atom multiplicities of 0.5. The function minimized in least-squares was $\sum w ||F_o| - |F_c||^2$. The atom form factors used were those of the neutral atoms.¹³ The anomalous scattering effects of Co were included using the values reported by Templeton.¹⁴ Various local computer programs were used including the Fourier program FOUR and Prewitt's least-squares program¹¹ SFLS5.

We did not make any serious effort to refine this structure in the noncentric, polar space group P2_1 . If the mirror plane were not present it would not be necessary for the $-\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$ portion of this structure to be disordered. A refinement of the scale factor with the molecule in one of the acentric orientations gave a wR of 0.078 and a corresponding increase in the "error of fit." We feel this, coupled with the success of our refinement, indicates that $\text{P2}_1/\text{m}$ is the correct space group. As a matter of curiosity we did attempt one cycle of refinement of positional parameters in the space group P2_1 with the result that all of the meaningful shifts were consistent within experimental error with the presence of the mirror plane. There were some meaningless shifts resulting from the usual singularity problems associated with the refinement of atoms on or in close proximity to special positions.

The final atom parameters are given in Table I where the numbering system corresponds to that shown in Figure 1. A list of observed and calculated structure factors is given in Table II. The interatomic distances

(10) "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. I, The Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1965, p 93.

(11) C. T. Prewitt, local unpublished computer program, 1968.

(12) L. J. Guggenberger, *Inorg. Chem.*, **7**, 2260 (1968).

(13) H. P. Hansen, F. Herman, J. D. Lea, and S. Skillman, *Acta Cryst.*, **17**, 1040 (1964).

(14) D. H. Templeton, "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. III, The Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1962, p 215.

TABLE I
 POSITIONAL AND THERMAL PARAMETERS^a

Atom	x	y	z	β_{11} or B	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Co ₁	0.1330 (1)	0.1394 (1)	0.2521 (1)	0.0077 (1)	0.0082 (1)	0.0133 (2)	-0.0007 (1)	0.0012 (1)	0.0005 (1)
Co ₂	0.2034 (1)	0.25	0.0314 (2)	0.0078 (2)	0.0097 (2)	0.0114 (3)	0.0	0.0021 (2)	0.0
C ₁	0.1326 (11)	0.1186 (10)	0.4518 (15)	0.0194 (15)	0.0110 (13)	0.0205 (22)	-0.0002 (11)	0.0045 (15)	0.0020 (14)
O ₁	0.1338 (12)	0.1016 (9)	0.5786 (10)	0.0448 (22)	0.0213 (14)	0.0139 (14)	-0.0032 (14)	0.0074 (15)	0.0018 (12)
C ₂	-0.0134 (10)	0.1096 (9)	0.1789 (12)	0.0109 (11)	0.0097 (11)	0.0203 (20)	-0.0006 (9)	0.0018 (12)	-0.0013 (12)
O ₂	-0.1031 (7)	0.0915 (8)	0.1349 (11)	0.0089 (7)	0.0177 (11)	0.0397 (22)	-0.0033 (8)	-0.0027 (10)	-0.0000 (12)
C ₃	0.2014 (9)	0.0082 (11)	0.2140 (12)	0.0106 (11)	0.0104 (12)	0.0179 (18)	0.0001 (9)	0.0008 (11)	0.0039 (13)
O ₃	0.2503 (7)	-0.0788 (8)	0.1944 (9)	0.0171 (10)	0.0127 (9)	0.0248 (16)	0.0034 (8)	0.0004 (10)	0.0029 (10)
C ₄	0.0718 (15)	0.25	-0.0912 (17)	0.0128 (18)	0.0200 (25)	0.0115 (24)	0.0	0.0008 (17)	0.0
O ₄	-0.0080 (12)	0.25	-0.1674 (14)	0.0146 (15)	0.0398 (29)	0.0172 (22)	0.0	-0.0031 (14)	0.0
C ₅	0.2875 (10)	0.1344 (10)	-0.0436 (12)	0.0130 (12)	0.0112 (12)	0.0179 (18)	-0.0021 (10)	0.0056 (12)	-0.0005 (13)
O ₅	0.3427 (8)	0.0638 (8)	-0.0933 (10)	0.0207 (11)	0.0152 (11)	0.0311 (18)	0.0036 (9)	0.0123 (11)	-0.0050 (12)
C ₆	0.2560 (11)	0.25	0.2414 (14)	0.0069 (12)	0.0074 (13)	0.0146 (21)	0.0	0.0008 (13)	0.0
O ₆	0.3547 (8)	0.25	0.3106 (12)	0.0072 (8)	0.0143 (12)	0.0238 (19)	0.0	-0.0017 (11)	0.0
N	0.5563 (8)	0.25	0.3786 (11)	3.88 (21)					
B	0.4412 (18)	0.1697 (20)	0.3317 (24)	4.25 (45)					
C ₇	0.5421 (14)	0.3293 (16)	0.5126 (20)	4.69 (40)					
C ₈	0.5120 (14)	0.2815 (17)	0.6571 (19)	5.53 (49)					
C ₉	0.5849 (15)	0.3207 (17)	0.2453 (21)	4.88 (40)					
C ₁₀	0.6150 (13)	0.2645 (42)	0.1015 (18)	6.45 (55)					
C ₁₁	0.6485 (15)	0.1543 (17)	0.4153 (21)	5.05 (41)					
C ₁₂	0.7711 (13)	0.2106 (14)	0.4619 (18)	4.71 (43)					

^a The anisotropic thermal ellipsoid is of the form $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)]$. The standard deviations of the least significant digits are given in parentheses.

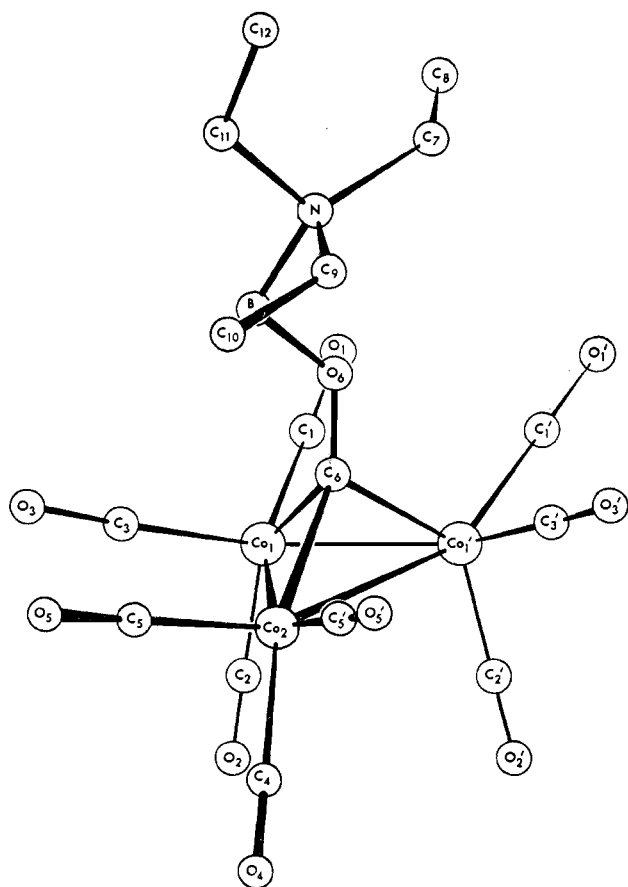


Figure 1.—Molecular configuration of $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$.

and angles are given in Tables III and IV, respectively. The errors in the distances were calculated using the variances, but not the covariances, in the positional and cell parameters. The distances were not corrected for thermal motion.

Description of the Structure

The crystal structure of $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$ consists of the packing of discrete units such as the one shown in Figure 1. Atoms identified with a prime are related to the unprimed atoms by the molecular mirror plane. Figure 2 shows the anisotropic thermal ellipsoids¹⁵ illustrating a rather general feature that terminal carbonyl groups have relatively large temperature factors. Atoms lying on the molecular mirror plane are N, O₆, C₆, Co₂, C₄, and O₄. The crystal structure is disordered in the sense that half of the units in the crystal have the N tetrahedron inverted with respect to the mirror plane. The operation of inverting the N tetrahedron gives an energetically equivalent unit with the B and three C_2H_5 groups on the opposite side of the mirror plane. All intermolecular distances were calculated, but no abnormal contacts were found.

The basic structural feature of this molecule is the Co_3C tetrahedron where each Co atom assumes a closed-shell electronic configuration by forming two Co-Co bonds, three Co-CO bonds, and one Co-C bond. The structure of the $\text{Co}_3\text{C}(\text{CO})_9$ core is depicted in Figure 3 where it is seen that this part of the structure has the idealized C_{3v} point symmetry. This portion of the structure is virtually identical with the structures found by Dahl and coworkers for $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{CCH}_3^2$ and $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{S}^3$. Other structures with a carbonyl carbon atom bridging three metal atoms are $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{Ni}_3(\text{CO})_2$,¹⁶ $\text{Rh}_6(\text{CO})_{16}$,¹⁷ and $\text{Fe}_4(\text{CO})_{13}^{2-}$.⁹

All of the details concerning the stereochemistry of

(15) C. K. Johnson, Report No. 3794, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 1965.

(16) A. A. Hook and O. S. Mills in "Advances in the Chemistry of Coordination Compounds," S. Kirschner, Ed., The Macmillan Co., New York, N. Y., 1961, p 640.

(17) E. R. Corey, L. F. Dahl, and W. Beck, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **85**, 1702 (1963).

TABLE II: OBSERVED AND CALCULATED STRUCTURE FACTORS ($\times 10$) FOR $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$

hkl	Obs	Calc	hkl	Obs	Calc	hkl	Obs	Calc	hkl	Obs	Calc	hkl	Obs	Calc
1 0 0	0	0	1 1 1	396	394	1 2 2	116	114	1 3 3	98	98	1 4 4	213	213
1 1 0	73	58	1 2 0	198	177	1 3 0	36	33	1 4 0	94	94	1 5 0	157	157
1 2 0	31	38	1 3 0	196	198	1 4 0	11	70	1 5 0	11	70	1 6 0	3	3
1 3 0	21	21	1 4 0	221	182	1 5 0	98	77	1 6 0	239	239	1 7 0	10	10
1 4 0	98	98	1 5 0	196	198	1 6 0	11	70	1 7 0	10	10	1 8 0	3	3
1 5 0	157	157	1 6 0	36	33	1 7 0	94	94	1 8 0	157	157	1 9 0	73	58
1 6 0	31	38	1 7 0	198	177	1 8 0	11	70	1 9 0	73	58	2 0 0	0	0
1 7 0	10	10	1 8 0	221	182	1 9 0	11	70	2 0 0	0	0	2 1 0	9	9
1 8 0	3	3	1 9 0	98	77	2 0 0	239	239	2 1 0	9	9	2 2 0	10	10
1 9 0	10	10	2 0 0	11	70	2 1 0	10	10	2 2 0	10	10	2 3 0	3	3
2 0 0	3	3	2 1 0	94	94	2 2 0	157	157	2 3 0	3	3	2 4 0	11	11
2 1 0	73	58	2 2 0	11	70	2 3 0	94	94	2 4 0	11	11	2 5 0	7	7
2 2 0	58	73	2 3 0	7	7	2 4 0	7	7	2 5 0	7	7	2 6 0	12	12
2 3 0	12	12	2 4 0	12	12	2 5 0	12	12	2 6 0	12	12	2 7 0	11	11
2 4 0	11	11	2 5 0	11	11	2 6 0	11	11	2 7 0	11	11	2 8 0	8	8
2 5 0	7	7	2 6 0	12	12	2 7 0	11	11	2 8 0	8	8	2 9 0	5	5
2 6 0	12	12	2 7 0	11	11	2 8 0	8	8	2 9 0	5	5	3 0 0	4	4
2 7 0	11	11	2 8 0	8	8	2 9 0	5	5	3 0 0	4	4	3 1 0	3	3
2 8 0	8	8	2 9 0	5	5	3 0 0	4	4	3 1 0	3	3	3 2 0	2	2
2 9 0	5	5	3 0 0	4	4	3 1 0	3	3	3 2 0	2	2	3 3 0	1	1
3 0 0	4	4	3 1 0	3	3	3 2 0	2	2	3 3 0	1	1	3 4 0	0	0
3 1 0	3	3	3 2 0	2	2	3 3 0	1	1	3 4 0	0	0	3 5 0	0	0
3 2 0	2	2	3 3 0	1	1	3 4 0	0	0	3 5 0	0	0	3 6 0	0	0
3 3 0	1	1	3 4 0	0	0	3 5 0	0	0	3 6 0	0	0	3 7 0	0	0
3 4 0	0	0	3 5 0	0	0	3 6 0	0	0	3 7 0	0	0	3 8 0	0	0
3 5 0	0	0	3 6 0	0	0	3 7 0	0	0	3 8 0	0	0	3 9 0	0	0
3 6 0	0	0	3 7 0	0	0	3 8 0	0	0	3 9 0	0	0	4 0 0	0	0
3 7 0	0	0	3 8 0	0	0	3 9 0	0	0	4 0 0	0	0	4 1 0	0	0
3 8 0	0	0	3 9 0	0	0	4 0 0	0	0	4 1 0	0	0	4 2 0	0	0
3 9 0	0	0	4 0 0	0	0	4 1 0	0	0	4 2 0	0	0	4 3 0	0	0
4 0 0	0	0	4 1 0	0	0	4 2 0	0	0	4 3 0	0	0	4 4 0	0	0
4 1 0	0	0	4 2 0	0	0	4 3 0	0	0	4 4 0	0	0	4 5 0	0	0
4 2 0	0	0	4 3 0	0	0	4 4 0	0	0	4 5 0	0	0	4 6 0	0	0
4 3 0	0	0	4 4 0	0	0	4 5 0	0	0	4 6 0	0	0	4 7 0	0	0
4 4 0	0	0	4 5 0	0	0	4 6 0	0	0	4 7 0	0	0	4 8 0	0	0
4 5 0	0	0	4 6 0	0	0	4 7 0	0	0	4 8 0	0	0	4 9 0	0	0
4 6 0	0	0	4 7 0	0	0	4 8 0	0	0	4 9 0	0	0	5 0 0	0	0

TABLE III
 INTRAMOLECULAR BOND DISTANCES (Å)^a

Co ₁ -Co ₁ '	2.498 (2)	C ₁ -O ₁	1.13 (2)
Co ₁ -Co ₂	2.492 (2)	C ₂ -O ₂	1.12 (1)
	2.495	C ₃ -O ₃	1.16 (1)
		C ₄ -O ₄	1.12 (2)
Co ₁ -C ₁	1.78 (1)	C ₅ -O ₅	1.13 (1)
Co ₁ -C ₂	1.83 (1)		1.13
Co ₁ -C ₃	1.73 (1)	N-C ₇	1.50 (2)
Co ₂ -C ₄	1.84 (2)	N-C ₉	1.47 (2)
Co ₂ -C ₅	1.79 (1)	N-C ₁₁	1.55 (2)
	1.79		1.51
Co ₁ -C ₆	1.92 (1)	C ₇ -C ₈	1.44 (3)
Co ₂ -C ₆	1.92 (1)	C ₉ -C ₁₀	1.48 (3)
	1.92	C ₁₁ -C ₁₂	1.60 (3)
C ₆ -O ₆	1.28 (2)		1.51
O ₆ -B	1.37 (2)		
B-N	1.66 (2)		

^a The standard deviations of the least significant figures are given in parentheses. These calculated errors result from the errors in the positional parameters whereas more realistic values for the Co-C distances would be twice those quoted.

 TABLE IV
 BOND ANGLES (DEG)^a

Co ₁ -Co ₂ -Co ₁ '	60.2	Co ₁ -Co ₂ -C ₅ '	150.5
Co ₂ -Co ₁ -Co ₁ '	59.9	Co ₁ '-Co ₁ -C ₃	149.0
	60.0 (1)	Co ₂ -Co ₁ -C ₁	149.3
			149.6 (10)
Co ₁ -C ₆ -Co ₁ '	81.4	Co ₁ -Co ₂ -C ₅	97.9
Co ₁ -C ₆ -Co ₂	81.1	Co ₁ '-Co ₁ -C ₁	97.6
	81.3 (2)	Co ₂ -Co ₁ -C ₃	95.7
			97.1 (10)
C ₆ -Co ₁ -Co ₁ '	49.3	Co ₁ -Co ₂ -C ₄	98.8
C ₆ -Co ₁ -Co ₂	49.5	Co ₁ '-Co ₁ -C ₂	100.6
C ₆ -Co ₂ -Co ₁	49.4	Co ₂ -Co ₁ -C ₂	99.5
	49.4 (2)		99.6 (10)
C ₆ -Co ₁ -C ₁	100.4	Co ₁ -C ₆ -O ₆	130.0
C ₃ -Co ₁ -C ₃	100.9	Co ₂ -C ₆ -O ₆	133.9
C ₆ -Co ₂ -C ₅	101.7		132.0 (10)
	101.0 (5)		
C ₆ -Co ₁ -C ₂	142.9	B-N-C ₇	113.3
C ₆ -Co ₂ -C ₄	141.5	B-N-C ₉	108.4
	142.2 (6)	B-N-C ₁₁	102.8
			108.2 (30)
C ₁ -Co ₁ -C ₂	105.6	C ₇ -N-C ₉	110.2
C ₃ -Co ₁ -C ₂	102.3	C ₉ -N-C ₁₁	110.8
C ₅ -Co ₂ -C ₄	104.4	C ₁₁ -N-C ₇	111.2
	104.1 (15)		110.7 (30)
C ₁ -Co ₁ -C ₃	96.1	N-C ₇ -C ₆	121.0
C ₃ -Co ₁ -C ₅ '	93.9	N-C ₉ -C ₁₀	121.8
	95.0 (15)	N-C ₁₁ -C ₁₂	112.5
			118.4 (30)
Co ₁ -C ₁ -O ₁	177.7	C ₆ -O ₆ -B	135.4 (30)
Co ₁ -C ₃ -O ₃	176.9	O ₆ -B-N	105.2 (30)
Co ₂ -C ₅ -O ₅	177.8		
	177.5 (15)		
Co ₁ -C ₂ -O ₂	179.6		
Co ₂ -C ₄ -O ₄	179.3		
	179.5 (15)		

^a The estimated standard deviations of the average angles are given in parentheses.

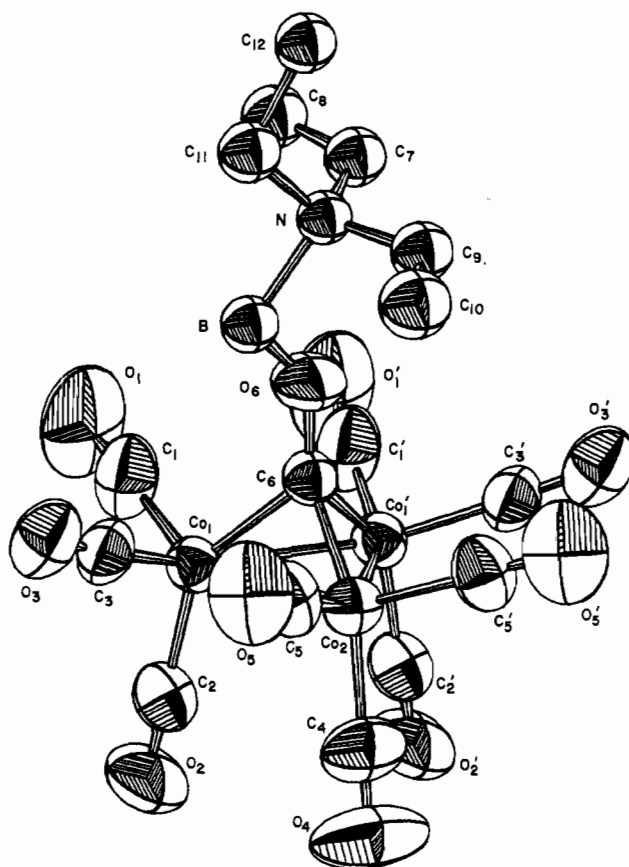


Figure 2.—The molecular configuration of $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$ depicting thermal ellipsoids.

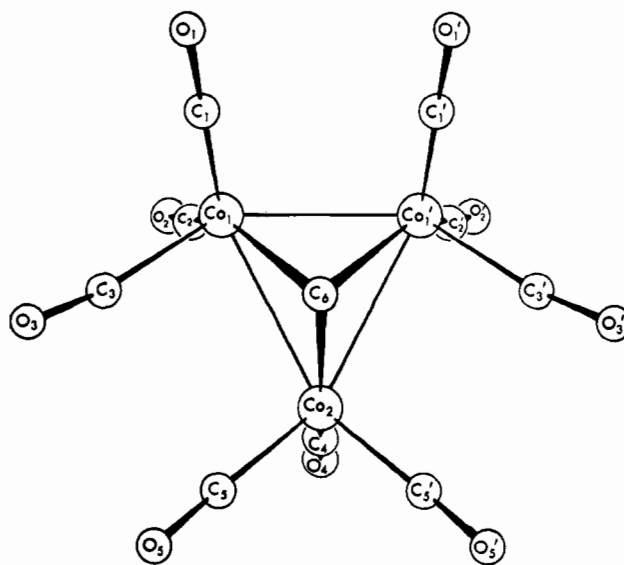


Figure 3.—The metal atom cluster portion of the $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$ structure showing C_{3v} point symmetry.

the $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{C}$ core will not be given here since Dahl and coworkers have commented^{2,3} on these at some length. The essential point here is that the carbonyl group configurations are a result of the Co orbitals hybridizing to give maximum Co_3C core overlaps consistent with the very acute angles of 60.0° for Co-Co-Co and 49.4° for $\text{C}_6\text{-Co-Co}$. To achieve very acute angles in the Co_3C core the OC-Co-CO angles increase from 90° with the result that the average equatorial-

Co-equatorial angles (C_8-Co-C_1) are 95.0° and the average equatorial-Co-axial angles ($C_1-Co_1-C_2$) are 104.1° . The corresponding angles in the $Co_3(CO)_9CCH_3$ structure² were 97.2 and 102.2° , and in the $Co_3(CO)_9S$ structure³ they were 101.1 and 100.8° . The average dihedral angles between the planes defined by the equatorial carbonyl groups and the Co atoms to which they are attached and the plane of the three Co atoms is 32° in this structure and 29° in the $Co_3(CO)_9CCH_3$ and $Co_3(CO)_9S$ structures.^{2,3}

As for bond distances, the Co-Co distance of 2.495 Å here compares well with the 2.467-Å distance in $Co_3(CO)_9CCH_3$ and with the other observed Co-Co distances as listed by Sutton and Dahl.² The Co-Co distance in $Co_3(CO)_9S$ ³ was found to be abnormally long at 2.637 Å. The Co- C_6 distance of 1.92 Å is equivalent to the 1.90-Å distance found in the $Co_3(CO)_9CCH_3$ structure. The axial Co-C carbonyl distances are longer than the equatorial Co-C distances, but, on comparison with the $Co_3(CO)_9CCH_3$ ² and $Co_3(CO)_9S$ ³ structures, one must conclude that these differences are probably not significant. The average distances for the five unique carbonyl groups in this structure are 1.79 Å for Co-C and 1.13 Å for C-O.

After coordination of the $-OBH_2N(C_2H_5)_3$ group to the $Co_3(CO)_9C$ core, the point symmetry is no longer C_{3v} , or even C_3 , because the $-OBH_2N(C_2H_5)_3$ group is not directly above the $Co_3(CO)_9C$ core but is tilted toward Co_2 maintaining the molecular mirror symmetry. This tilt of 14° (angle C_6-O_6-N is 166.0°) minimizes intramolecular repulsions in this case. The distances involving the ethyl groups attached to N are not expected to be good in view of the disorder problem. The B-N distance of 1.66 Å is essentially a normal B-N single bond and can be compared with 1.58 Å for the sum of the covalent radii,¹⁸ 1.60 Å found in H_3NBF_3 ,¹⁹ and 1.64 Å found in CH_3CNBF_3 .²⁰ The tetrahedral boron atom with the O_6-B-N angle of 105.2° has two hydrogen atoms completing the tetrahedron which are not shown in Figure 1. No attempt was made to locate the hydrogen atoms because with the disorder their peak heights on electron density maps would be less than $0.5 e^-/\text{Å}^3$.

The B-O bond length of 1.37 Å is to be compared with the mean values²¹ of 1.37 Å found in trigonal borates and 1.48 Å found in tetrahedral borates. The B-O distance here might be expected to be closer to the value found for tetrahedral borates, but it is short here because of increased π -bond character through the O_6 p_z orbital. This interpretation is consistent with the multiple-bond character of the C_6-O_6 bond. The O_6 atom approaches trigonal hybridization with the C_6-O_6-B angle of 135.4° . This angle is determined primarily by a minimization of intramolecular repulsive

forces. The C_6-O_6 length of 1.28 Å approximates a C-O double bond in the valence-bond sense. Interestingly, the C-O bond length is equivalent to that found in metal bisacetylacetonates.²² In the molecular orbital sense there is extensive electron delocalization extending from B through to the $Co_3(CO)_9C$ core.

The elucidation of the structure of $Co_3(CO)_{10}BH_2N(C_2H_5)_3$ demonstrates the facile formation of the Co_3C tetrahedral cluster skeleton under conditions that might have been considered favorable for the incorporation of a boron atom into the cluster framework. The synthesis of the $Co_3(CO)_{10}BH_2NR_3$ complexes is unique in that the source of the carbon atom in the Co_3C tetrahedron is a carbonyl group of the $Co_2(CO)_8$ itself. In all other known syntheses of compounds of the type $Co_3(CO)_9CY$, the carbon atom is derived from an extraneous source, usually an organic halide. In a formal sense, the $Co_3(CO)_{10}BH_2NR_3$ complex might be visualized as a $Co_3(CO)_9C$ -substituted derivative of a hydroxyborane $R_3NBH_2O^-$. There is some justification for such a view in the comparatively short B-O distance (*vide supra*) and the rather long C_6-O_6 distance of 1.28 Å which is significantly longer than the C-O distances of 1.19-1.20 Å found in other triply bridging CO groups.^{9,16,17} As noted earlier, we were unable to detect an infrared absorption band between 2000 and 1500 cm^{-1} associated with the triply bridging CO group. It is possible, however, that this band lies below 1500 cm^{-1} , but a definite assignment is precluded by the abundance of other absorptions in this region.

Experimental Section

$(C_2H_5)_3NBH_2Co_3(CO)_{10}$.—Dicobalt octacarbonyl (6.0 g, 0.018 mol) and triethylamine-borane (11.4 g, 0.100 mol) in 200 ml of benzene were stirred for 3 hr at $60-65^\circ$. The black-violet mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered to remove insoluble decomposition products. Benzene was then removed from the filtrate using an aspirator pump. The resultant black sludgy residue was extracted with ca. 500 ml of petroleum ether (bp $30-60^\circ$) to give a deep violet solution from which the solvent was again evaporated using a rotating evaporator. A violet oil remained. A solid product was separated from the attendant excess of triethylamine-borane by distilling off the latter during 16 hr at room temperature and 10^{-4} mm. The resulting solid was then recrystallized from 200 ml of petroleum ether. Needle-like crystals (2.4 g) precipitated when the solution was chilled to -78° . The compound melted at $103-105^\circ$ into a black liquid and sublimed partly at 80° (0.0001 mm), substantial decomposition occurring during the sublimation.

Anal. Calcd for $(C_2H_5)_3NBH_2Co_3(CO)_{10}$: C, 33.7; H, 3.1; N, 2.5; O, 27.9; Co, 31.0; B, 1.9; mol wt, 571. Found: C, 33.4; H, 3.0; N, 2.5; O, 27.8; Co, 30.9; B, 2.2.

The cryoscopic molecular weight in benzene was 565. The electronic spectrum in cyclohexane displayed one peak at 5160 Å (ϵ 2000). The infrared spectrum in methylcyclohexane showed B-H absorption at 2415 and 2365 cm^{-1} and CO absorption at 2100 (23), 2048 (100), 2034 (100), and $2008(45)\text{ cm}^{-1}$. Numerical intensities are given in brackets. The B^{11} nmr spectrum shows a poorly resolved triplet centered at 18 ppm (from external $B(OCH_3)_3$). This may be compared with the triplet exhibited by $(C_2H_5)_3NBH_2Cl$ at 22.8 ppm ($J_{BH} = 125$ cps).

$(C_2H_5)_3NBH_2Co_3(CO)_{10}$.—The same procedure as above was followed using 13.0 g (0.038 mol) of dicobalt octacarbonyl and

(18) L. Pauling, "The Nature of the Chemical Bond," 3rd ed, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., 1960.

(19) J. L. Hoard, S. Geller, and W. M. Cashin, *Acta Cryst.*, **4**, 396 (1951).

(20) J. L. Hoard, T. B. Owen, A. Buzzell, and O. N. Salmon, *ibid.*, **3**, 130 (1950).

(21) V. F. Ross and J. O. Edwards in "The Chemistry of Boron and Its Compounds," E. L. Muetterties, Ed., John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1967, p 196.

(22) For several examples see "Tables of Interatomic Distances and Configurations in Molecules and Ions," Special Publication No. 18, The Chemical Society, London, 1965, pp M162s, M163s.

12.0 g (0.165 mol) of trimethylamine-borane in 650 ml of benzene. The crude reaction product was subjected to sublimation at 90° (0.001 mm) where most of the excess $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{NBH}_3$ sublimed off. The sublimation residue was twice extracted with 500 ml of petroleum ether. Concentration and cooling of the extract gave a total of 8.2 g of needlelike crystals, mp 124–125°, in two crops. Some additional $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{NBH}_3$ as a contaminant in the second crop was removed by sublimation as above.

Anal. Calcd for $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{NBH}_2\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}$: C, 29.5; H, 2.1; N, 2.7; O, 30.3; Co, 33.4; B, 2.1. Found: C, 29.6; H, 2.2; N, 2.7; O, 30.6; Co, 33.0; B, 1.7.

The compound absorbed in the visible region of the spectrum at 5150 Å (ϵ 2100). Characteristic infrared absorptions occurred at 2400 and 2370 cm^{-1} (BH stretching) and at 2092, 2040, 2025, and 2000 cm^{-1} (CO stretching).

Mass Spectra.—Mass spectra were obtained with a Consolidated Electrodynamics (CEC) 21-110B high-resolution instrument operated at a 100- μA anode current, an ionizing current of 70 eV, and a 45–80° source temperature. The spectra were recorded oscillographically with and without perfluorokerosene as mass reference. Samples were introduced directly into the ionization source using the solid injection technique. In Table V observed ion peaks with $m/e > 177$ are listed, and probable assignments are given. Where more than one formula is ascribed to a particular mass number, the first is the most likely. The loss of two hydrogen atoms (probably from the BH_2 group) first becomes evident after scission of one CO group from the parent ion. Cleavage of hydrogen atoms becomes much more prominent after the loss of two CO groups, however. Moreover, the loss of two hydrogen atoms leads to peaks of higher intensity than loss of only one H atom. There is a reversal in the relative abundance of the ions corresponding to loss of CO groups *vs.* loss of CO groups plus hydrogen atoms occurring at m/e 445 and 443. For all lower fragments hydrogen atom retainment on the BH_2 group becomes much less important.

The elemental composition of the m/e 387 ion was established as the fragment $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_5^{11}\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ with a mass of 386.8569 *vs.* the fragment $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_6^{11}\text{BH}_2\text{NCH}_3^+$ with a mass of 386.8933. The m/e 387 ion was measured using the "peak matching" technique and resolution of 14,000. A measured value of 386.8575 was obtained which is within 2 ppm of the calculated value for the $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_5^{11}\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ fragment. Owing to the thermal instability under the operating conditions, additional fragment ion masses were not measured. In addition to the ions listed in Table V for the ^{11}B and ^{12}C isotope ions, the correct abundances for the ^{10}B and ^{13}C isotope ions were present in the spectra.

Relative abundances were measured only qualitatively. Of all of the ions with a mass > 175 , the most abundant one occurs at m/e 387, corresponding to the loss of five CO groups and two hydrogen atoms from the parent (P). Other peaks at m/e 415 (P – 4CO – 2H), 501 (P – CO), 359 (P – 6CO – 2H), 331 (P – 7CO – 2H), 303 (P – 8CO – 2H), and 275 (P – 9CO – 2H) had about one-third to one-half the abundance of the peak at m/e 387. The parent ion at m/e 529 and the peaks at m/e 473 (P – 2CO) and 445 (P – 3CO) showed only

TABLE V
MASS SPECTRA OF $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^a$

m/e	Ion Species	m/e	Ion Species
<u>529</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_{10}\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	304	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{BHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$
<u>501</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	303*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$
499*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_9\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	297*	Unidentified
<u>473</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_8\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	292*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)
472	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_8\text{BHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	289	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})\text{COBH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$
471	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_8\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	277	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$
460*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_8\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)	276	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$
456*	Unidentified; B absent	<u>275</u>	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$
<u>445</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_7\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	267*	Unidentified
444	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_7\text{BHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	264*	$\text{Co}_3\text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)
<u>443</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_7\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	261	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBN}(\text{H})(\text{CH}_3)_2^+$ (r), $\text{Co}_3\text{CBH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)
432	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_7\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)	249	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBH}_2\text{N}(\text{H})_2\text{CH}_3^+$ (r), $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})\text{CON}(\text{H})_2^+$ (r)
429*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_6(\text{C})\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	248*	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBHN}(\text{H})_2\text{CH}_3^+$ (r), $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{NH}^+$ (r)
428*	Unidentified; B absent	<u>247</u>	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBN}(\text{H})_2\text{CH}_3^+$ (r), $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{N}^+$ (r)
417	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_6\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	246	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBN}(\text{H})\text{CH}_3^+$ (r), $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{BH}_2^+$
<u>416</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_6\text{BHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	<u>245</u>	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBNCH}_3^+$, $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{BH}^+$
<u>415</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_6\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	244	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{B}$
404*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_6\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)	<u>243</u>	Could contain 1B
401*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_5(\text{C})\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	<u>233</u>	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBNH}_3^+$ (r), $\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2^+$, $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3$
389	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_5\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	232*	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBNH}_2^+$ (r)
<u>388</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_5\text{BHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	231*	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBNH}^+$ (r)
<u>387</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_5\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	230*	Co_3COBN^+ , $\text{Co}_3(\text{C})\text{COBH}_2^+$
376*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_5\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)	229*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{C})\text{COBH}^+$
373	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_4(\text{C})\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	218	$\text{Co}_3\text{COBH}_2^+$
361	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_4\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	217	Co_3COBH^+
360	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_4\text{BHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	216	Co_3COB^+
<u>359</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_4\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	<u>205</u>	Co_3CO^+
348*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_4\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)	202	Co_3CBH^+ (r)
345	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_3(\text{C})\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	<u>190</u>	Co_3CH^+ (r)
335*	Unidentified	<u>189</u>	Co_3C^+
333*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_3\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$	<u>177</u>	Co_3^+
332	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_3\text{BHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$		
<u>331</u>	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_3\text{BN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$		
320*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_3\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$ (r)		
317	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2(\text{C})\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$		
316	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2(\text{C})\text{BHN}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$		
305*	$\text{Co}_3(\text{CO})_2\text{BH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$		

^a An asterisk indicates a small peak; underlined mass numbers denote the most abundant ions. A rearrangement ion is indicated by (r).

10–20% of the abundance of the m/e 387 peak. The abundance of the m/e 471 ion (P – 2CO – 2H) was in turn approximately one-third of the peak at m/e 473 (P – 2CO).

Acknowledgment.—We are indebted to Mr. F. G. Kitson for performing the accurate mass measurements.