

## The Synthesis and Characterization by Infrared and Raman Spectroscopy of some Ammine, Methylamine, Di- and Tri-methylamine and Aniline Complexes of Group VB (As, Sb and Bi) Trihalides

A. K. BISWAS

*Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld., 4067 Australia*

J. R. HALL\*

*Department of Chemistry, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld., 4067 Australia*

and D. P. SCHWEINSBERG

*Department of Chemistry, Queensland Institute of Technology, Brisbane, Qld., 4000 Australia*

Received April 5, 1983

*The preparation of ammines of formula  $MX_3 \cdot NH_3$  (where  $M = As, Sb$  and  $Bi$ ;  $X = Br$  and  $I$ ) and  $SbCl_3 \cdot 2NH_3$  are described. 1:1 complexes of mono-, di-, trimethylamine and aniline with some antimony and bismuth trihalides have also been isolated. Infrared and Raman spectra are reported for the compounds in the solid state and the spectra are interpreted to indicate that the complexes are mononuclear. The configuration of the monoammine and amine compounds is most probably based on a trigonal bipyramidal structure with the N donor ligand occupying an axial position and the lone pair of electrons occupying an equatorial site.*

### Introduction

As part of an investigation into the reactions of metal oxides with ammonium halides at elevated temperatures, we have found that in the case of the trivalent oxides of the Group VB elements (As, Sb and Bi), ammine adducts of the trihalides are formed. Ammine complexes of this type are reported in the literature as early as 1830 [1] but there appears to be considerable doubt as to their stoichiometry. No work has been published characterizing these compounds although a number of spectral and X-ray crystal structure investigations have been carried out on complexes of the Group VB trihalides with nitro-

gen containing donors such as butylamine [2], trimethylamine [3, 4], aniline [5], pyridine [6] and 2,2'-bipyridine [7].

We describe here the isolation and characterization of the compounds  $MX_3 \cdot NH_3$  (where  $M = As, Sb$  and  $Bi$ ;  $X = Br$  and  $I$ ) and  $SbCl_3 \cdot 2NH_3$ . A preliminary report has been published [8]. Some amine complexes of methylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine and aniline with selected antimony and bismuth trihalides have also been prepared.

### Experimental

#### Starting Materials

Commercially available reagents were used without further purification. Diethyl ether and benzene were dried over molecular sieves.

#### Synthesis

##### *Ammine complexes*

The ammine complexes (Table I) were prepared by one or more of the following methods.

(a) The metal oxide,  $M_2O_3$ , and the finely ground ammonium halide (50% excess) were intimately mixed and placed in a pyrex glass boat which was then inserted into the reaction zone of a horizontal tube furnace\*\* (633–638 K) similar to that

\*\*The windings were such that a decreasing temperature gradient was maintained from the reaction zone to the exit end of the furnace. The reaction temperature was determined by Differential Thermal Analysis of the reaction mixture.

\*To whom correspondence should be addressed; no reprints available.

TABLE I. Preparation, Properties and Analysis of Ammine Complexes.

Compound	Method of Preparation*	Colour	Decomp. Point (K)	Analysis/Found (Calc.)				
				M	X	N	H	NH <sub>3</sub>
AsBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>3</sub>	b	Yellow	499	22.4 (22.6)	72.5 (72.3)			5.4 (5.1)
AsI <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>3</sub>	a,b	Dark Red	553	15.7 (15.9)	80.5 (80.6)	2.9 (3.0)	0.9 (0.6)	
SbCl <sub>3</sub> ·2NH <sub>3</sub>	b	White	461	46.3 (46.5)	40.8 (40.6)			13.1 (13.0)
SbBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>3</sub>	a,b	Yellow	473 <sup>†</sup>	32.3 (32.2)	63.2 (63.3)			4.4 (4.5)
SbI <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>3</sub>	a,b	Dark Red	487	23.1 (23.4)	72.9 (73.3)	2.8 (2.7)	0.7 (0.6)	
BiBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>3</sub>	b	Yellow Green	479	44.5 (44.9)	51.3 (51.5)			3.5 (3.7)
BiI <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>3</sub>	a,c	Red	433	34.6 (34.5)	63.1 (62.8)	2.5 (2.3)		

\*See Experimental. <sup>†</sup>Sublimation temp.

TABLE II. Analytical Data for Amine Complexes.

Compound	Colour	Analysis/Found (Calc.)				
		M	X	N	H	C
SbCl <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	White	47.1 (47.0)	41.0 (41.1)	5.2 (5.4)	2.1 (1.9)	4.6 (4.6)
SbCl <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	White	37.9 (37.7)	33.1 (33.2)	4.4 (4.2)	2.2 (2.6)	22.4 (21.9)
SbBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	Yellow	31.0 (31.0)	61.4 (61.1)	3.6 (3.6)	1.5 (1.3)	3.2 (3.1)
SbBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Pale Yellow	30.2 (30.0)	59.0 (59.0)	3.3 (3.4)	1.8 (1.7)	5.8 (5.9)
SbBr <sub>3</sub> ·N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	Pale Yellow	29.1 (29.0)	57.2 (57.0)	3.1 (3.3)	2.3 (2.1)	8.2 (8.6)
SbBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	Yellow	26.8 (26.5)	52.8 (52.8)	3.1 (3.5)	1.5 (2.2)	15.8 (18.5)
BiBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	Yellow	43.4 (43.6)	49.9 (50.0)	2.5 (2.9)	1.0 (1.0)	2.3 (2.5)
BiBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Yellow	42.0 (42.3)	48.8 (48.6)	2.5 (2.8)	1.1 (1.4)	3.5 (4.9)
BiBr <sub>3</sub> ·N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	Pale Yellow	41.3 (41.2)	47.0 (42.2)	2.3 (2.8)	1.7 (1.8)	6.0 (7.1)
BiBr <sub>3</sub> ·NH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	Yellow	38.6 (37.8)	44.3 (43.7)	2.6 (3.2)	1.3 (1.5)	13.3 (12.3)

described by Berg and Hartlage [9]. Dry nitrogen was passed over the reaction mixture and under the influences of the temperature gradient and the carrier gas the solid reaction product, MX<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub>X were deposited in fairly well-resolved bands along the glass liner tube. After cooling, the liner tube was removed from the furnace and the portion containing the ammine complex cut out. The product was scraped

out, washed free from MX<sub>3</sub> with benzene and dried *in vacuo*.

(b) Dry NH<sub>3</sub> was bubbled through molten MX<sub>3</sub> or, in the case of SbCl<sub>3</sub>·2NH<sub>3</sub>, through a solution of SbCl<sub>3</sub> in ether. A precipitate was formed immediately on entry of NH<sub>3</sub>\*. The solid product was washed free

\*If the ammonia is passed for a prolonged period, NH<sub>4</sub>X is observed in the solid product indicating ammonolysis.

from unreacted  $\text{MX}_3$  or  $\text{SbCl}_3$  with either benzene or ether and dried *in vacuo*.

(c) Dry  $\text{NH}_3$  was passed over heated  $\text{BiI}_3$  (373 K) until a red product formed. The product was ground to a fine powder which was then heated and subjected to further reaction with  $\text{NH}_3$ . The processes were repeated until all the  $\text{BiI}_3$  had reacted (as indicated by X-ray powder diffractometry).

#### Amine complexes

The general procedure adopted for the preparation of methylamine, dimethylamine and trimethylamine complexes was to add a benzene solution of the appropriate amine to a benzene or ether solution of the trihalide which was in slight excess. The precipitate was washed with benzene and dried *in vacuo*. Wade and Willey [10] have reported the preparation of trimethylamine complexes of some Group VB trihalides.

The aniline complexes were prepared by the method of Hulme and Scruton [11]. A warm solution of aniline in benzene was added to a stirred solution of  $\text{MX}_3$  in warm benzene ( $\text{MX}_3:\text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 = 1:1.5$ ). The solid product was washed with benzene and dried *in vacuo*. In the case of  $\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ , ether was used as solvent and the reactants were mixed in a 1:1 mol ratio. The preparation of aniline complexes of  $\text{SbX}_3$  ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$ ) has been described by Sumarokova and Kuidina [12] and Bowen *et al.* [13] using stoichiometric proportions of the reagents.

To the authors' knowledge the isolation of  $\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ,  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ,  $\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3$  and  $\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$  has not been reported.

The isolated compounds and their analytical data are listed in Table II.

#### Deuterated Ammine Complexes

$\text{ND}_4\text{Br}$  and  $\text{ND}_4\text{I}$  were prepared by repeated dissolution of the ammonium halide in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  and evaporation of the solution to dryness *in vacuo*. About 80% conversion was obtained. Only those compounds requiring solid  $\text{ND}_4\text{X}$  for their preparation (method (a)) were produced.

#### Analytical Procedures

Carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen were estimated by microanalysis carried out by Mr J. Kent and Mr P. Nobbs, Department of Chemistry, University of Queensland. In some cases total  $\text{NH}_3$  was determined by heating the sample with a solution of sodium hydroxide and absorbing the evolved ammonia in excess standard hydrochloric acid. Standard methods of analysis were used to determine other elements.

#### Physical Measurements

Room temperature infrared spectra (4000–400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 225 spectrophotometer from samples pressed into KBr discs or as Nujol and hexachlorobutadiene mulls supported between potassium bromide plates. There was no evidence for bromide exchange in the preparation of KBr discs. Low temperature ( $\sim 100$  K) spectra of Nujol mulls and KBr discs were recorded using an evacuable glass cryostat fitted with KBr windows.

Far-infrared spectra (400–50  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of samples as Nujol mulls between high density polythene plates were obtained at room temperature using a Beckman-RIIC IR-720 Fourier spectrophotometer. Low temperature spectra of Nujol mulls were also recorded using the Beckman-RIIC variable temperature unit.

A Cary model 82 laser spectrometer was used to record the Raman spectra of compounds. The solid samples were sealed in 1 mm diameter glass capillary tubes and low temperature spectra ( $\sim 100$  K) were obtained using an Oxford Instruments CF100 continuous flow cryostat cooled with liquid nitrogen. Either 515 nm ( $\text{Ar}^+$ ) or 647 nm ( $\text{Kr}^+$ ) were used as excitation wavelengths with a power of 50–100 mW at the sample.

Wavenumber values are considered accurate to  $\pm 5$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  due to the generally broad nature of the bands in the spectra.

#### Results and Discussion

$\text{AsCl}_3$  and  $\text{BiCl}_3$  appear to be particularly susceptible to ammonolysis ( $\text{MCl}_3 + 6\text{NH}_3 \rightleftharpoons \text{M}(\text{NH}_2)_3 + 3\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ ) and although other workers [1, 14, 15] have described the preparation of ammine adducts of As and Bi, we were unable to isolate compounds of this type.

The ammine complexes are, in general, stable in air, practically insoluble in common solvents but hydrolysed by water. Only solid state spectra could be measured and no molecular weights could be determined. Mass spectra did not yield a parent molecular ion but rather the fragmentation pattern for  $\text{MX}_3$ . All compounds decomposed without melting except for  $\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$  which sublimed unchanged at atmospheric pressure and *in vacuo*.

Infrared and Raman spectra were recorded at room temperature and at  $\sim 100$  K. In general, bands were sharper in the low temperature spectra and consequently more features appeared. Only the low temperature spectra are listed in Table III. Wavenumber values at room temperature are not significantly different. Proposed assignments are indicated. In Table IV, selected frequencies for the solid state spectra of the amine complexes at room temperature are listed for comparison purposes.

TABLE III. Vibrational Spectra ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and Assignments for  $\text{MX}_3 \cdot n\text{NH}_3$ .<sup>a</sup>

$\text{AsBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$		$\text{AsI}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$		$\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot 2\text{NH}_3$		$\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$		$\text{SbI}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$		$\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$		$\text{BiI}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$		Approx. Assign.
R	IR	R	IR	R	IR	R	IR	R	IR	R	IR	R	IR	
18w		15m				12w		11w						Lattice Modes $\delta\text{XMN}$ and $\rho\text{MX}_3$
26m		20sh				20w		18m						
31s		22m				29w		24w				27m		
34s		25sh				35m		29s				38w		
54sh		31s				47sh		40m						
58sh		37sh		38s		51sh		46s						
64m		46m				57s		49s						
67m		52m		53m		60sh		51s		51w		53s		
73m		58m				66m		53m		61sh		65m		
82mw		60sh		67m		74m		57m		65m		80w		
		69m		77w		89w		70w						
		78w		96w		95w				104w				
107w	110sh					104w								
128w				122m		122m								
144w				157w		157w								
161w	157sbr	96m	91m	178w	178s	120m	120m	86m	86m	115w	113s	90s	102vw	$\delta\text{MX}_3$
		110w	109w					124sh	124sh	92m	124sh	102m		
		133w								124sh		115m		
		149vw				141w	155m							
217s	205sh	162vw		245w	227m					148m				
		179vs	164s	267w	274s	182s	187s	149s	149s	170s		127m	128w	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{X})$
		186sh								165m				
246s		195s		287ms	293sh	216s	204sh	169sh	169sh	192s	192sh	139s	142w	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{X})$
				308sh								154m		
682vw														
1406vw	1397s	1396vw	1380s	1405vw	1400s	1402vw	1395s	1396vw	1396vw	1400vw	1396s	1389w	1390s	$\tau(\text{NH}_3)$
3020vw	3022sh												3000w	$\delta(\text{NSbN})$
	3102s												3110m	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{N})$
														$\rho\text{NH}_3$
														$\rho\text{NH}_3$
														$\delta\text{NH}_3$
														$\nu(\text{N}-\text{H})$
														$\nu(\text{N}-\text{H})$

<sup>a</sup>s = strong; m = medium; w = weak; br = broad; sh = shoulder; v = very.

TABLE IV. Selected Frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for Amine Complexes (ambient temp.).

Complex	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{X})$		$\delta(\text{MX}_3)$		$\nu(\text{M}-\text{N})$ Infrared
	Raman	Infrared	Raman	Infrared	
$\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$	274mbr	275mbr 309sh		158sbr	542wbr
	322s				
$\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$		269s 291s 320s		138sh 156sbr	388m
$\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$	189s	187sbr	113vw 162m	112sbr 147w	543mbr
$\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$		183sbr	110vw	113mbr	542wbr
	196m 217m	230m			
$\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3$	173sh 181m 209m	173sh 188m 200s	112wbr	113w 127w	534mwbr
$\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$		190vw 205m		96m 120s 143m	374m
$\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$	189m 214m	170s		116sbr	508m
$\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$	164w 179sh 187m 199s	170s 188s 198sh	111w 136w	128m	505w
$\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3$		146w	112m	108m	507w
	161m 184s	152w 172s		119sh	
$\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$		141brsh 177s		113s	372m

Because the aniline complexes were easily decomposed by laser radiation, even in an unfocussed beam of low intensity, only infrared spectra were measured.

#### Vibrations Associated with the $\text{NH}_3$ Moiety

##### *N-H stretching bands*

A broad band, or bands, mainly appearing in the infrared spectra about  $3100\text{--}3000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may be attributed to N-H stretching. Hydrogen bonding may contribute to the broadening and together with coordination, to the shift to lower frequencies compared with  $\text{NH}_3$  [16]. On deuteration, the band shifted to  $\sim 2300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_{\text{N-H}}/\nu_{\text{N-D}} = 1.35$ ).

##### *$\text{NH}_3$ deformation and rocking bands*

A study of the spectra of known ammine complexes [16] shows that degenerate bending and symmetric bending modes occur approximately in the  $1650\text{--}1550$  and  $1400\text{--}1100\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ranges respectively, and that  $\text{NH}_3$  rocking modes occur in the range  $950\text{--}600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In the spectra of all of the

ammines, bands were observed at about  $1400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which are attributed to the symmetric  $\text{NH}_3$  deformations. These bands are shifted on deuteration and several bands corresponding to deformations of  $\text{NH}_2\text{D}$ ,  $\text{NHD}_2$  and  $\text{ND}_3$  species were observed in the region  $1400\text{--}1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . No bands were observed in any of the spectra in the  $1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region and it can only be assumed that the asymmetric deformation vibrations give rise to extremely weak signals.

With the exception of  $\text{BiI}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$ , the compounds displayed broad, weak bands in the range  $820\text{--}620\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which are assigned to  $\text{NH}_3$  rocking.

##### *$\text{NH}_3$ torsional bands*

Infrared spectra of the ammine complexes of  $\text{AsBr}_3$ ,  $\text{AsI}_3$ ,  $\text{BiBr}_3$  and  $\text{BiI}_3$ , exhibited strong to medium bands in the range  $325\text{--}265\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In the infrared spectra of  $\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{SbI}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$  weak, broad bands occurred at  $318$  and  $278\text{ cm}^{-1}$  respectively. These bands have been assigned to the  $\text{NH}_3$  torsional mode (*cf.*,  $\text{CH}_3$  torsions in organic com-

pounds have been assigned to bands in the range 280–222  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  [17]). On deuteration, the bands at 278  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{SbI}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$ ), 295  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$ ) and 265  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{BiI}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$ ) move to 230, 225 and 222  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  respectively ( $\tau_{\text{NH}_3}/\tau_{\text{ND}_3} = 1.20, 1.30$  and 1.20 respectively). In  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot 2\text{NH}_3$ , the  $\text{NH}_3$  torsional modes occur close to the region of the intense Sb–Cl stretching modes. The infrared band at 343  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is tentatively assigned to a torsional mode.

#### Vibrations Associated with the $\text{MX}_3$ Moiety

##### $M-X$ stretching bands

Using the vibrational frequencies for the simple metal halides [18] as a guide it is possible to tentatively assign bands in the 300–120  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region to  $M-X$  stretching vibrations. Although the stretching frequencies assigned are lower than those known for the simple halides, they are in general agreement with  $M-X$  stretching frequencies proposed for other complexes of the Group VB trihalides [19–21]. Further justification for these assignments comes from the obvious halogen dependency and metal dependency of the band positions. That is, for given  $M$ ,  $\nu(M-X)$  decreases as the mass of  $X$  increases (Cl to Br to I) and for given  $X$ ,  $\nu(M-X)$  decreases as the mass of  $M$  increases. For halides of similar structure the expected frequency ratios  $\nu(M-Cl):\nu(M-Br):\nu(M-I)$  are 1:0.70–0.75:0.55–0.60 [20]. Corresponding ratios were calculated from the frequencies assigned to  $\nu(M-X)$  in Table III and the values 1:0.68–0.75:0.55–0.60 indicate that these ammine complexes are structurally similar.

The bands assigned to  $M-X$  stretching modes in the amine complexes are listed in Table IV. Frequencies assigned to Sb–Cl stretching modes in  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$  and  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$  agree well with those assigned to the ammine complex  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot 2\text{NH}_3$ .  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$  is known to be a mononuclear species [11] and the good agreement for the  $\nu(\text{Sb-Cl})$  modes indicates the absence of bridging in  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot 2\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$ . Comparison of Tables III and IV shows that the bands assigned to  $\nu(\text{Sb-Br})$  in the ammine complex correspond, in frequency and intensity, to bands in the spectra of the amine complexes of antimony. It is therefore probable that the methylamine and ammine complexes are also mononuclear. A similar conclusion may be drawn for the Bi complexes.

##### $\text{MX}_3$ deformation bands

Assignment of frequencies to  $\text{MX}_3$  deformation modes is complicated by possible overlap with lattice modes which are likely to occur below 100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The assigned frequencies are in general agreement with frequencies proposed in other Group VB complexes [20] and, as with the  $M-X$  stretching frequencies, they exhibit halogen and metal depen-

dependency. Frequencies assigned to these modes in the amine complexes in Table IV compare well with those assigned to the amines.

##### $M-N$ Stretching Vibrations

In many ammine complexes of transition metals the  $M-N$  stretching bands have been assigned to the 500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  frequency region [16]. Schumann and Roth [22] in their studies on the reaction of phenylazide with triphenylstannyl-diphenylarsine and bis-(triphenylstannyl)-phenylarsine assigned the As–N stretching frequencies in resulting compounds to 502 and 504  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  respectively. Meinema and Noltes [23] have assigned Sb–N stretching frequencies in some mono- and bisdiethylaminostibines to the region 565–455  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . More recently Ando *et al.* [24] reported Bi–N stretches in  $\text{Bi}(\text{NEt}_2)_3$  and  $\text{Bi}(\text{NPr}_2)_3$  (where Et = ethyl and Pr = n-propyl) at 550, 270  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 408, 322  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  respectively. In the present work the ammine (and the mono, di and trimethylamine) complexes exhibit bands in the range 595–475  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which may be assigned to the  $M-N$  stretching mode. The frequencies for the amines exhibit the expected metal dependency. On deuteration a shift to lower frequencies of  $\sim 35$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  would be expected but no detectable shift was observed. This is probably due to the general broadness of the band and the possible contributions from incompletely deuterated species,  $\text{NH}_2\text{D}$  and  $\text{NHD}_2$ .

In the aniline complexes, bands occurring at 388 ( $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 374 ( $\text{SbBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ) and 372 ( $\text{BiBr}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ )  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  have been assigned to the  $M-N$  stretching modes respectively. Ahuja *et al.* [25] and Jungbauer and Curran [26] measured the far-infrared spectra of aniline complexes of a number of transition and non transition metal halides and have assigned bands in the range 450–350  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to  $M-N$  modes. The shift of the Sb–N and Bi–N stretches to lower frequencies in complexes employing ligands such as aniline compared with ammonia and the methylamines, is probably due to the heavier mass of these ligands together with the electron withdrawing effect of the benzene ring which tends to decrease the strength of the  $M-N$  bond.

##### $\text{NMN}$ Deformation Vibrations

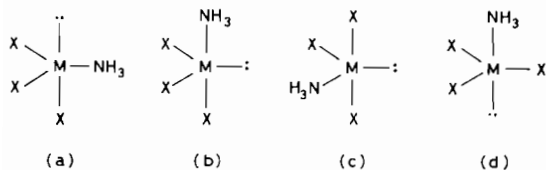
According to Nakamoto [16],  $\text{NMN}$  deformation frequencies are likely to occur in the range 550–300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The band at  $\sim 430$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  observed in the spectra of  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot 2\text{NH}_3$  has been assigned to this deformation mode.

##### $\text{XMN}$ Deformation Modes

$\text{XMN}$  deformation and  $\text{MX}_3$  rocking modes probably occur with low wavenumber values in the lattice region.

### Proposed Molecular Configurations for Ammine Complexes

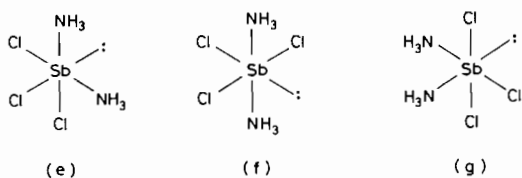
Based on trigonal bipyramidal stereochemistry for M (10 electron valence shell) the following models may be considered for



$\text{MX}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_3$ . The highest possible symmetry for configurations (a), (b), (c) and (d) is  $C_s$ ,  $C_s$ ,  $C_s$  and  $C_{3v}$  respectively.

The appearance of more than two features in the M—X stretching region in the combined infrared and Raman spectra for the ammines would preclude the  $C_{3v}$  configuration ( $A_1 + E$ ) and indicate that the molecules possess one of the configurations exhibiting  $C_s$  symmetry ( $2A' + A''$ ). With several exceptions, amine and aniline complexes also exhibit more than two bands. The M—X stretching frequencies observed are comparable to those obtained by Ahlajah and Goldstein [19] for tetra-alkylammonium salts of mixed tetrahalogeno-complexes of the type  $[\text{R}_4\text{N}][\text{MX}_3\text{Y}]$ . It is reasonable to assume that these complexes exhibit a trigonal bipyramidal configuration with  $C_s$  symmetry. Information whether (a), (b) or (c) is the correct model cannot be obtained solely from the measured infrared and Raman spectra of the solids. However, since X-ray studies on  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$  [11] and X-ray and spectral studies on  $\text{AsCl}_3 \cdot \text{NMe}_3$  [3, 4] showed the molecules to have a configuration corresponding to (b), it is probable that the configuration of the monoammine, amine and aniline complexes corresponds also to (b). The possibility that the isolated molecule may have  $C_{3v}$  symmetry (d) but undergoes symmetry lowering due to site symmetry effects cannot be discounted.

For the complex  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot 2\text{NH}_3$  there are two donor N atoms and VSEPR theory predicts the metal atom to be surrounded by six electron pairs based on an octahedral configuration. Possible configurations are (e), (f) and (g) with  $C_s$ ,  $C_{2v}$  and  $C_s$  symmetry respectively.



Three infrared and Raman active (coincident) Sb—Cl stretching modes are predicted for all con-

figurations, and at least three bands are observed in the Sb—Cl stretching region. It is not possible to obtain information on the symmetry of the molecule from vibrational data alone. Hulme *et al.* [5] and Cameron and Killean [6] have shown by single crystal X-ray studies that  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot 2\text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$  and  $\text{AsCl}_3 \cdot 2\text{NC}_5\text{H}_5$  have molecular configurations corresponding to (e). On the other hand Lipka and Wunderlich [7] report a distorted octahedral stereochemistry for Sb in  $\text{SbCl}_3 \cdot 2,2'$ -bipyridine which contains a T-shaped  $\text{SbCl}_3$  moiety (corresponding to (g)).

### Acknowledgement

D. P. Schweinsberg thanks the Queensland Institute of Technology for leave to pursue this work.

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