

## Structure Determination of the 2:1 Derivatives of Copper(I) Bromide and Iodide with Bis(diphenylphosphino)methane. A Simple Structural Scheme for the Formation of $(CuX)_nL_m$ Species

A. CAMUS, G. NARDIN and L. RANDACCIO\*

Institute of Chemistry, University of Trieste, 34127 Trieste, Italy

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The structures of the complexes  $(CuX)_2DPM$  ( $X = Br, I$ ;  $DPM = bis(diphenylphosphino)methane$ ) were determined from three dimensional X-ray data collected by counter methods. The iodine derivative crystallizes in the space group  $Pbca$  with eight units in a cell defined by  $a = 17.128(9)$ ,  $b = 18.306(9)$ ,  $c = 16.508(8)$  Å. The structure was refined by the least-squares method to a final R factor of 0.054 for 1336 non-zero independent reflections. The bromine derivative crystallizes in the space group  $P2_1/c$  with eight units in a cell defined by  $a = 23.707(10)$ ,  $b = 17.805(9)$ ,  $c = 16.991(8)$  Å,  $\beta = 136.10(5)^\circ$ . The final least-squares refinement, based on 2489 non-zero independent reflections, gave an R factor of 0.074.

Both the compounds have similar structures with a centrosymmetric  $(CuX)_4$  core, in which two copper atoms have a tetrahedral geometry, while the other two are trigonal.

The above structures are compared with those already reported for other compounds  $(CuX)_nL_m$  and a simple

scheme is proposed to rationalize the different geometries of the  $(CuX)_n$  core on the basis of steric and electronic effects.

### Introduction

Many complexes between copper halides and neutral ligands, of general formula  $(CuX)_nL_m$ , are known. Often, as in the case of the series  $(CuX)_nDPM_m^1$  ( $DPM = bis(diphenylphosphino)methane$ ), they exist in different stoichiometric ratios, for the same X and L species, and show rather intriguing structures.

We report here the structures of the two compounds  $(CuBr)_2DPM$  and  $(CuI)_2DPM$ . The preliminary results of the latter compound<sup>2</sup> and the data of the chlorine analogue<sup>3</sup> have already been published.

Our interest, considered the increasing importance of copper(I) chemistry in both the theoretical and preparative fields, is in studying the structural varieties of this element. On the basis of the present results and of the other known structures (see Table VI) we sug-

\* To whom correspondence should be addressed

TABLE I. Crystal Data.

Compound	$(CuI)_2DPM$	$(CuBr)_2DPM$
Mol wt, amu	765.3	671.3
Cell dimensions, Å	$a = 17.128 \pm 0.009$ $b = 18.306 \pm 0.009$ $c = 16.508 \pm 0.008$	$a = 23.707 \pm 0.010$ $b = 17.805 \pm 0.009$ $c = 16.991 \pm 0.008$ $\beta = 136.10 \pm 0.05^\circ$
Density, g cm <sup>-3</sup>		
obsd	$1.94 \pm 0.03^a$	$1.82 \pm 0.02^b$
calcd	1.96	1.79
Z	8	8
Space group	$Pbca$	$P2_1/c$
$\mu$ , cm <sup>-1</sup>	43.0	53.9
Crystal dimensions, mm	$0.15 \times 0.15 \times 0.20$	$0.40 \times 0.40 \times 0.60$
Independent reflections	1336	2489
Final R	0.054	0.079

<sup>a</sup> Determined by flotation in dibromomethane. <sup>b</sup> Determined by flotation in water solution of NaI.

gest a simple scheme for the rationalization of the  $(\text{CuX})_n\text{L}_m$  structures known up to date.

## Experimental

### Collection and Reduction of Data

Specific details concerning crystal characteristics and X-ray diffraction methodology are summarized in Table I. The cell constants were determined by a least-squares fit of the diffractometer  $2\theta$ ,  $\Phi$  and  $\chi$  setting angles for 15 accurately centered reflections.

Intensity data for both structures were collected on a Siemens diffractometer with  $\text{MoK}\alpha$  filtered radiation using  $\theta-2\theta$  scan technique. At regular intervals two reference reflections were measured in order to monitor the data collection. No changes in crystal or instrument performance were detected during data recording. Only the reflections with  $I > 3\sigma(I)$  were used and corrected for background, Lorentz and polarization effects. The absorption correction was applied only for the bromine derivative. Atomic scattering factors were those given by Moore.<sup>4</sup>

TABLE II. Fractional Coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and Temperature Factors of  $(\text{CuI})_2\text{DPM}$ , with their Estimated Standard Deviations in Parentheses.

	X	Y	Z	B
I(1)	-695(2)	1463(1)	1363(1)	a
I(2)	1144(1)	186(1)	320(1)	a
Cu(1)	-101(2)	210(2)	1339(2)	a
Cu(2)	152(2)	-992(2)	35(2)	a
P(1)	94(4)	-590(4)	2326(4)	a
P(2)	160(4)	-1800(4)	1046(4)	a
CP	602(15)	-1392(14)	1958(15)	4.1(6)
C(1)	-752(16)	-900(14)	2924(15)	3.8(6)
C(2)	-1348(23)	-366(21)	2943(24)	8.4(11)
C(3)	-2053(21)	-667(21)	3500(22)	7.3(9)
C(4)	-2024(19)	-1212(20)	3847(21)	6.7(8)
C(5)	-1383(20)	-1737(10)	3842(21)	7.2(9)
C(6)	-707(19)	-1566(16)	3382(17)	5.5(7)
C(7)	730(16)	-186(15)	3081(16)	4.1(6)
C(8)	1524(19)	-351(17)	3051(20)	5.8(7)
C(9)	2072(18)	-51(17)	3609(19)	5.9(7)
C(10)	1760(18)	387(16)	4230(19)	5.7(7)
C(11)	960(20)	530(18)	4288(21)	6.7(8)
C(12)	431(15)	183(15)	3678(16)	4.3(6)
C(13)	-765(15)	-2234(13)	1378(16)	3.6(5)
C(14)	-739(18)	-2803(16)	1907(18)	5.5(7)
C(15)	-1419(18)	-3077(16)	2190(18)	5.4(7)
C(16)	-2125(20)	-2879(19)	1888(21)	6.6(8)
C(17)	-2134(18)	-2289(18)	1370(21)	6.6(7)
C(18)	-1436(20)	-1980(19)	1066(21)	6.9(8)
C(19)	778(14)	-2579(13)	842(14)	3.1(5)
C(20)	1482(19)	-2745(18)	1314(20)	6.0(8)
C(21)	1936(19)	-3303(18)	1078(20)	6.5(8)
C(22)	1729(17)	-3823(15)	443(17)	4.6(6)
C(23)	1034(22)	-3671(20)	24(22)	7.1(9)
C(24)	585(17)	-3022(15)	225(17)	4.6(6)

<sup>a</sup> Anisotropic thermal parameters ( $\times 10^4$ ) in the form:  $\exp[-(B_{11}h^2 + B_{12}hk + B_{13}hl + B_{22}k^2 + B_{23}kl + B_{33}l^2)]$ .

	B11	B12	B13	B22	B23	B33
I(1)	81(1)	36(2)	22(2)	43(1)	-8(2)	43(1)
I(2)	24(1)	2(1)	-4(1)	33(1)	15(1)	58(1)
Cu(1)	58(2)	25(3)	16(3)	38(1)	27(3)	44(1)
Cu(2)	41(1)	11(2)	4(3)	32(1)	10(2)	29(1)
P(1)	24(2)	2(5)	4(5)	31(2)	1(4)	29(3)
P(2)	27(2)	8(4)	-2(5)	23(2)	0(4)	30(3)

## Solution and Refinement of the Structures

 $(CuI)_2DPM$ 

The Patterson method was employed to locate the iodine atoms and Fourier methods to find the positions of all other non-hydrogen atoms. A full matrix isotropic refinement gave a conventional R index of 0.080. After the final least-squares refinement with anisotropic temperature factors for Cu, P and I atoms the R value was 0.056. The final weighting scheme was  $w = 1/$

$(A + B|F_o| + C|F_o|^2)$ , where  $A = 60.0$ ,  $B = 1.0$  and  $C = 0.0020$ , chosen to maintain  $w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$  essentially constant over all ranges of  $|F_o|$  and  $(\sin \Theta/\lambda)$ . Table II presents the final values of the refined atomic parameters together with their standard deviations derived from the inverse matrix of the last least-squares refinement. No attempt was made to locate the hydrogen atoms.

TABLE III. Fractional Coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and Temperature Factors for the Two Independent Molecules of  $(CuBr)_2DPM$  with their Estimated Standard Deviations in Parentheses.

	Molecule 1				Molecule 2			
	X	Y	Z	B	X	Y	Z	B
Br(1)	674(2)	1420(2)	1875(2)	a	5669(1)	3581(2)	4466(2)	a
Br(1)	-1073(1)	221(2)	-687(2)	a	3926(1)	4781(2)	3548(2)	a
Cu(1)	9(2)	287(2)	1475(2)	a	5006(2)	4713(2)	3548(2)	a
Cu(1)	-177(2)	-946(2)	-61(2)	a	4810(2)	5948(2)	4693(2)	a
P(1)	-150(4)	-552(4)	2234(5)	a	4822(3)	5550(4)	2447(5)	a
P(2)	-201(3)	-1764(4)	891(5)	a	4784(3)	6767(4)	3686(5)	a
CP	-683(12)	-1394(14)	1344(16)	2.7(5)	4318(11)	6417(14)	2322(16)	2.3(5)
C(1)	679(12)	-875(15)	3656(18)	3.1(7)	4138(13)	5202(16)	966(18)	3.4(6)
C(2)	1394(14)	-359(18)	4331(21)	4.9(8)	3301(13)	5414(16)	173(19)	4.0(7)
C(3)	2012(18)	-674(24)	5626(26)	7.7(11)	2740(14)	5057(18)	-904(20)	4.7(7)
C(4)	1989(18)	-1292(23)	5943(25)	7.2(10)	3047(13)	4547(15)	-1176(18)	3.4(6)
C(5)	1339(14)	-1781(19)	5220(20)	5.0(8)	3866(17)	4391(21)	-383(23)	6.1(9)
C(6)	649(13)	-1534(16)	4038(18)	3.6(6)	4439(13)	4750(17)	737(19)	4.1(6)
C(7)	-877(11)	-205(14)	2236(16)	2.7(5)	5690(13)	5878(16)	2658(18)	3.4(6)
C(8)	-586(13)	282(16)	3104(18)	3.8(6)	5640(14)	6517(17)	2265(20)	4.4(7)
C(9)	-1106(16)	590(21)	3136(23)	6.0(9)	6347(16)	6737(20)	2482(23)	6.0(9)
C(10)	-1995(14)	464(17)	2196(20)	4.4(7)	7027(16)	6183(21)	3163(23)	6.3(9)
C(11)	-2248(14)	-29(18)	1421(20)	4.9(8)	7024(17)	5577(21)	3552(24)	6.6(9)
C(12)	-1750(13)	-343(15)	1319(18)	3.8(6)	6390(15)	5368(18)	3362(21)	4.6(7)
C(13)	756(11)	-2221(13)	2189(15)	2.1(5)	4175(12)	7592(14)	3312(16)	2.8(9)
C(14)	1478(15)	-1919(19)	2538(21)	5.2(8)	4403(13)	8018(17)	4188(19)	4.1(7)
C(15)	2191(15)	-2329(19)	3544(21)	4.9(8)	3905(13)	8654(17)	3894(19)	4.0(6)
C(16)	2164(13)	-2887(16)	4086(18)	3.8(6)	3248(15)	8833(18)	2828(20)	4.8(7)
C(17)	1473(14)	-3124(18)	3640(20)	4.3(7)	2984(17)	8351(22)	1936(25)	7.0(10)
C(18)	748(12)	-2799(15)	2711(17)	3.2(6)	3450(13)	7748(17)	2141(19)	4.1(7)
C(19)	-818(11)	-2574(13)	57(15)	2.1(5)	5725(12)	7224(14)	4323(16)	2.5(5)
C(20)	-1548(13)	-2757(16)	-271(19)	3.8(7)	6445(14)	6997(18)	5400(20)	4.8(7)
C(21)	-2013(14)	-3401(17)	-959(20)	4.3(7)	7249(10)	7330(20)	5930(22)	5.7(9)
C(22)	-1829(15)	-3826(19)	-1374(22)	5.4(-0)	7214(15)	7841(19)	5295(21)	5.2(8)
C(23)	-1069(13)	-3652(17)	-1017(19)	4.0(6)	6454(15)	8118(19)	4244(21)	5.4(8)
C(24)	-622(13)	-2994(16)	-365(18)	3.9(6)	5720(13)	7753(15)	3728(18)	3.4(6)

<sup>a</sup> Anisotropic thermal parameters ( $\times 10^4$ ) in the form:  $\exp[-(B_{11}h^2 + B_{12}hk + B_{13}hl + B_{22}k^2 + B_{23}kl + B_{33}l^2)]$

	B11	B12	B13	B22	B23	B33	B11	B12	B13	B22	B23	B33
Br(1)	50(1)	-35(2)	79(2)	34(1)	-35(2)	70(2)	53(1)	33(2)	115(2)	34(1)	34(2)	98(2)
Br(1)	20(1)	2(1)	39(1)	28(1)	12(2)	63(2)	20(1)	0(2)	30(1)	27(1)	6(2)	54(2)
Cu(1)	35(1)	-3(2)	77(2)	29(1)	5(3)	78(2)	43(1)	4(2)	68(2)	26(1)	14(3)	62(2)
Cu(1)	33(1)	-1(2)	57(2)	26(1)	2(2)	56(2)	34(1)	7(2)	62(2)	27(1)	16(3)	60(2)
P(1)	19(2)	-8(4)	31(4)	22(2)	-9(5)	48(4)	25(2)	9(4)	43(4)	25(2)	7(5)	42(4)
P(2)	20(2)	1(3)	43(3)	20(2)	0(5)	44(3)	21(2)	7(3)	31(3)	21(2)	-1(5)	31(3)



TABLE V. (CuBr)<sub>2</sub>DPM - Absolute Values (× 10) of Observed and Calculated Structure Factors.

Table with columns K, L, FO, FC and multiple rows of numerical data representing structure factors. The table is organized into several groups of columns, each with its own header (K, L, FO, FC).



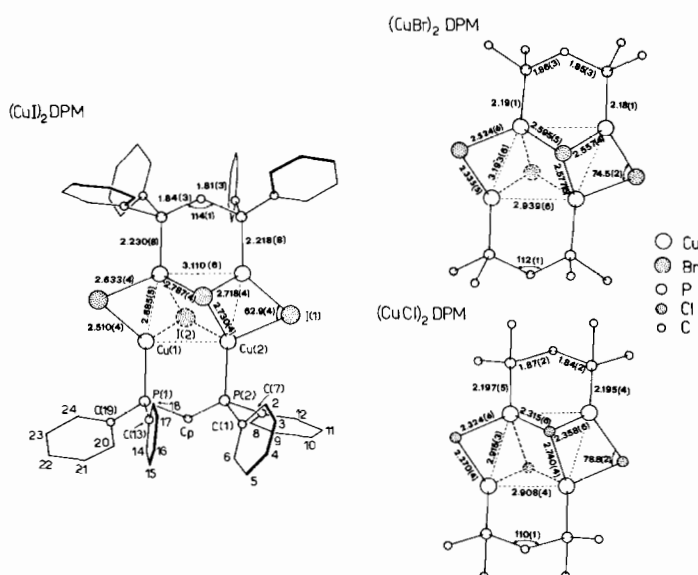


Figure 1. A comparison of the structures of the three complexes  $(\text{CuX})_2\text{DPM}$ . Some bond lengths and angles of interest are reported. The numbering scheme for the atoms is reported for the iodine compound. The same numbering scheme is applied to each of the two independent  $(\text{CuBr})_2\text{DPM}$  molecules. The mean values of bond lengths and angles are reported for the bromine derivative.

tro-symmetric, held together by efficient phenyl–phenyl interactions. The same geometry was found for the analogous chlorine derivative<sup>3</sup> with differences only in the fine details. A comparison of the three structures is shown in Figure 1, where some distances of interest are also reported. The bromine and iodine derivatives are quite similar, making allowances for the different sizes of the involved halogens, whereas the chlorine compound differs because one of the Cu–Cl distances involving the trico-ordinate Cl atom is greatly increased with respect to the others. This corresponds to the

different conformation of the  $\text{Cu-X-Cu-P-Cp-P}$  ring, which has a chair-like conformation in the chlorine derivative and a boat-like conformation in the iodine and bromine compounds (Figure 1). Although the Cu–P bond lengths are uninfluenced by the different co-ordination of copper atoms in all these compounds, the Cu–X distances are significantly different. The distances involving the triple bridged Br and I atoms are systematically longer than those of the corresponding double bridged atoms. The double bridge is asymmetric, the two bond lengths being significantly different. The  $(\text{CuX})_4$  core may be described as an eight-membered ring with alternating Cu and X atoms; the third position on the copper atoms being occupied by a phosphorus atom. The ring assumes two conformations, depending on the ligand L. The centro-symmetric conformation  $\bar{1}$  of Figure 2d, which may be called “step”

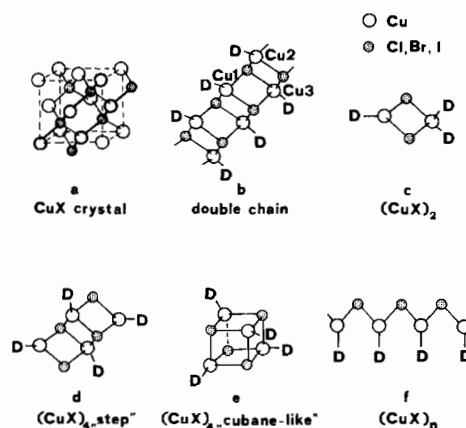


Figure 2. Comparison of all the known  $(\text{CuX})_n$  core structures.

conformation<sup>9</sup>, is stabilized by bidentate ligands such as DPM, which force pairs of copper atoms to come on closer together. The cubane-type conformation (Figure 2e), of approximately  $\bar{4}$  symmetry, on the contrary seems to be stabilized by bulky monodentate ligands. The two conformations also differ in the number of CuCl bonds, which can be formed: in the cubane structure there are three per Cu atom, whereas in the  $\bar{1}$  conformation there are 2.5.

TABLE VI. Structures of  $(\text{CuX})_n(\text{D}_x\text{-L})_m$  Compounds.

Compound	Structure	a	Cu/D ratio	ref.
$(\text{CuX})\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ (X = Cl, Br)	double stranded chain	4	1/1	7
$(\text{CuCl})\text{CH}_3\text{N}=\text{NCH}_3$	double stranded chain	4	1/2	8
$(\text{CuX})\cdot\text{PPh}_3$ (X = Cl)	$\bar{4}$ -(CuCl) <sub>4</sub> "cubane"	4	1/1	9
$(\text{CuBr})\cdot\text{PPh}_3$	$\bar{1}$ -(CuBr) <sub>4</sub> "step"	3.5	1/1	9
$(\text{CuX})_2\cdot\text{DPM}$ (X = Cl, Br, I)	$\bar{1}$ -(CuX) <sub>4</sub> "step"	3.5	1/1	3, present paper
$(\text{CuCl})\cdot\text{DPM}$	$[\text{Cu}_3\text{Cl}_2\text{DPM}_3]^+$	4	1/2	10
$(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$	dimer	3.5	2/3	11
$(\text{CuI})\cdot\text{nas}^b$	dimer	4	1/2	12
$(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{DPE})_3$	dimer	4	1/3	13
$(\text{CuCl})(\text{PPh}_3)_3$	monomer	4	1/3	14
$(\text{CuCl})(\text{dmt})_3$	monomer	4	1/3	15
$(\text{CuCl})\cdot\text{COTR}$	single chain	3	1/1	16
$(\text{CuCl})\cdot 1,6\text{-heptadiyne}$	single chain	3	1/2	17
$(\text{CuCl})\cdot\text{norbornadiene}$	$\bar{4}$ -(CuCl) <sub>4</sub>	3	1/1	18
$(\text{CuCl})\cdot 1,2\text{-butyne}$	$\bar{4}$ -(CuCl) <sub>4</sub>	3	1/1	17
$(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{COT})_3$	dimer	3.5	2/3	19
$(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{COD})_2$	dimer	4	1/2	20
$(\text{CuCl})\cdot\text{Et}_4\text{P}_2$	single chain	4	1/2	21
$(\text{CuCl})\cdot\text{Et}_4\text{S}_2$	single chain	4	1/2	22

<sup>a</sup> Mean coordination number of copper atoms. <sup>b</sup> nas = (*o*-dimethylaminophenyl)dimethylarsine-As, N).

## Discussion

The known structures of  $(\text{CuX})_n(\text{D}_x\text{-L})_m$  compounds (X = Cl, Br, I; D = co-ordinated atom of a L ligand, x being 1 for mono- and 2 for bi-dentate ligands) are summarized in Table VI. The backbone structures of the  $(\text{CuX})_4$  core are sketched in Figure 2.

The experimental results may be summarized as follows: i) the degree of polymerization of the  $(\text{CuX})_n$  core depends upon the nature and size of the ligand and upon the stoichiometry of the compound; ii) the building up of polynuclear species is limited by the fact that the copper atom does not assume a co-ordination number higher than four. Consequently at least one Cu-Cl bond of the parent structure must be broken for each Cu-C bond formed; iii) the highest Cu/D ratio to have been observed is 1/3; iii) most of the compounds were prepared directly starting from CuX and the ligand under suitable conditions.

On these grounds we propose a pictorial interpretation of the formation of the above structures starting from the same "basic" structure.

Brown and Dunitz<sup>8</sup> have already pointed out the resemblance of the double stranded infinite chains of Figure 2 (b)<sup>7,8</sup> with the infinite three-dimensional network of CuX itself (Figure 2(a)). We assume that the double chain is stabilized whichever L ligand is present. The copper atoms of the chain may undergo one, two or three attacks by the ligand, according to the reported stoichiometries.

When L is a monodentate ligand and three L molecules attack each copper atom of the double stranded

chain, in agreement with the highest stoichiometry, a complete breakdown of the polymeric structure occurs with formation of tetrahedral mononuclear species, such as  $\text{CuCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ <sup>14</sup> or  $\text{CuCl}(\text{dmt})_3$ <sup>15</sup> (dmt = dimethylthiourea). This is due essentially to steric interactions of L with the chain. The formation of dinuclear species with 2/3 stoichiometry (Figure 3) may be explained in the same way, assuming that the copper atoms along the chain are alternately attacked by one and two ligand molecules. Compounds having structure such as  $(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ <sup>11</sup> and  $(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{COT})_3$ <sup>19</sup> (COT = *trans*-cyclooctene) are obtained.

In 1/1 stoichiometry, bulky phosphines, such as  $\text{PPh}_3$ , break-down the double chain as indicated in Figure 4, giving  $(\text{CuX})_4$  units (inspection of models shows that the arrangement of three ligand molecules on three adjacent copper atoms is sterically not possible). These

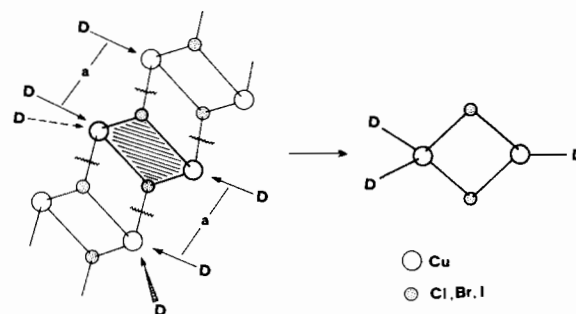


Figure 3. The steric hindrance in (a) between the ligands provokes the break-down of the Cu-X bonds as indicated.



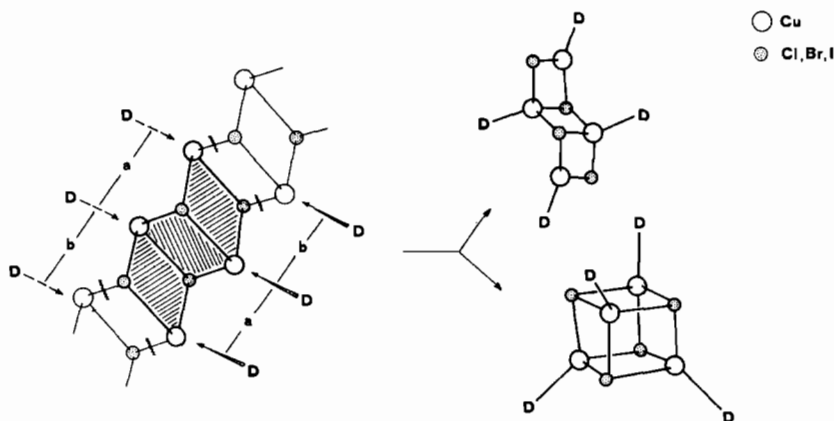
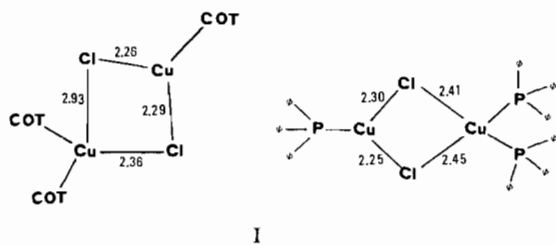


Figure 4. Ligand molecules, such as  $\text{PPh}_3$  or  $\text{DPM}$ , may arrange with good Van der Waals contacts in (a). Correspondingly steric hindrance in (b) provokes the break-down of the  $\text{Cu-X}$  bonds in the way shown.

units may assume the "step" or cubane-like structure, as shown in Figure 4, probably depending upon a delicate balance of steric and electronic factors and crystal packing.

When  $L$  is a  $\pi$ -olefinic-like ligand the electronic influence due to the strong back-donation  $\text{Cu} \rightarrow$  ligand favours the three-co-ordination of the copper atom. This suggestion appears to be confirmed by the comparison of the  $(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{COT})_3$  and  $(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$  structures. In the former structure both copper atoms can be considered trigonal since the interaction with the Cl atom involved in the long  $\text{Cu-Cl}$  bond of  $2.93 \text{ \AA}$  is very weak. The trigonal nature is also supported by the sum ( $359^\circ$ ) of the angles formed by the two COT molecules and the short-bonded Cl atom with the copper atom. On the contrary in  $(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$  one copper atom has a trigonal and the other a tetrahedral geometry.



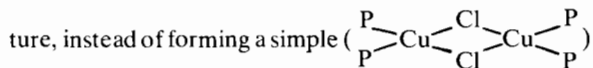
Thus, in 1/1 stoichiometry, infinite single chains  $(-\text{Cu-X-})_n^{16,17}$  or eight-membered  $(\text{CuCl})_4$  ring<sup>17,18</sup>, in which the Cu atom was found to assume a trigonal geometry, may be obtained. The preferential formation of one of these kinds of structures depends mainly upon steric effects. Furthermore, when a cycloolefin can act as a bidentate ligand, for example 1,5-cyclooctadiene (COD), steric interactions provoke mainly the forma-

tion of dimeric species<sup>20</sup> in contrast with the polymeric structure of  $[(\text{CuCl})\text{COTR}]_n^{16}$ , in which the COTR olefin acts as a monodentate ligand (COTR = cyclo-octatetraene).

The 1/1 and 1/2 stoichiometries of compounds with non-bulky ligands having N-donor atoms, do not affect the main structure, that is the double-stranded chain is maintained<sup>7,8</sup>.

As far as bidentate ligands are concerned, we wish to stress that, because of the variability of bond lengths and angles involving Cu and Cl atoms, it may be assumed that the double-stranded chain may fold or elongate such as an "accordion" along the chain direction or perpendicular to it. Looking at Figure 2, this means that the  $\text{Cu1-Cu2}$  and  $\text{Cu1-Cu3}$  distances may vary according to the bite of the ligand. It is to be noted that the former distance can vary more than the latter without altering substantially the double chain.

The  $\text{DPM}$  ligand, with its  $\text{P} \cdots \text{P}$  bite of  $3.1 \text{ \AA}$  attacks the  $\text{CuX}$  chain isolating  $(\text{CuX})_4$  units, as happens for the compounds with 1/1  $\text{Cu/P}$  ratio formed by monodentate phosphine ligands (Figure 4). The bite value of  $\text{DPM}$ , however, allows only a distorted "step" geometry. On decreasing the  $\text{Cu/P}$  ratio the degree of polymerization is also compelled to decrease, because the co-ordination number of copper atoms cannot exceed four. The  $\text{CuCl} \cdot \text{DPM}$  complex<sup>10</sup> has the structure shown in Figure 5. This unusual ionic structure, instead of forming a simple



dimer, is justified by the difficulty of  $\text{DPM}$  in acting as chelating ligand. On the other hand less bulky diphosphines with a shorter  $\text{P} \cdots \text{P}$  distance originate complexes with polymeric structure, for example  $[\text{CuX}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{P}_2]_n$  ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$ )<sup>21</sup>, suggesting that the attack of the bidentate ligand occurs on the  $\text{Cu1}$  and  $\text{Cu3}$

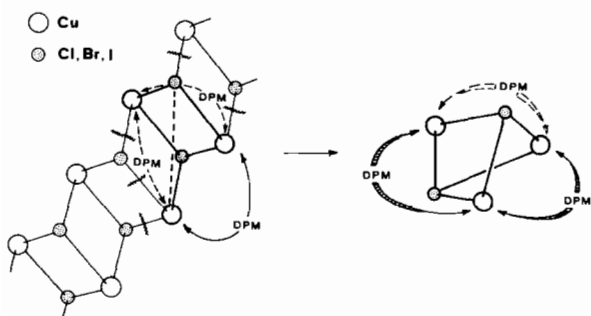


Figure 5. Formation of the  $[\text{Cu}_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{DPM})_3]^+$  ion.

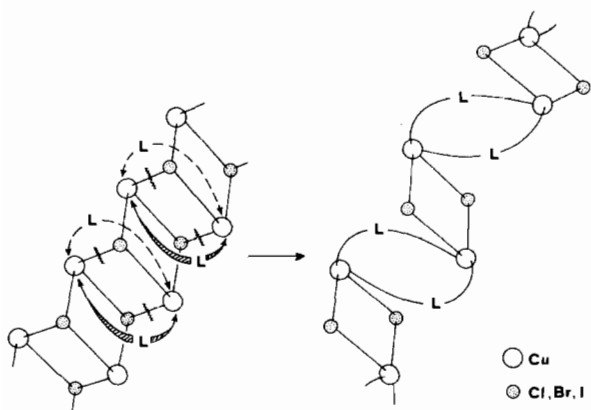


Figure 6. Formation of the polymeric double-bridged structure of  $(\text{CuX})_2\text{Et}_2\text{P}_2$ .

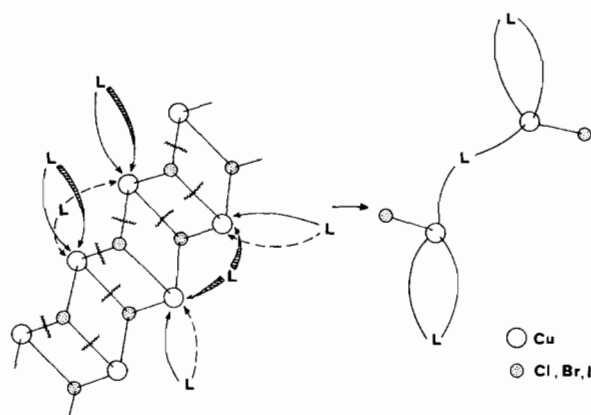


Figure 7. Formation of the  $(\text{CuCl})_2(\text{DPE})_3$  dimeric species.

atoms, giving the chain shown in Figure 6. A slightly different polymeric chain may be originated in the same way for  $\text{CuCl}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{S}_2$ <sup>22</sup>.\*

\* It is to be noted, however, that the behaviour of sulphur containing ligands cannot be rationalized in the same way, because sulphur is able to co-ordinate one or more copper atoms in the same complex, giving compounds of identical stoichiometry but with different structures<sup>23</sup>.

Finally, for a 1/3 Cu/P ratio, when the ligand may also act as chelate, as for example  $\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{PPh}_2$  (DPE), dimeric units are formed<sup>13</sup> as shown in Figure 7, in contrast with the monomeric molecules obtained with the monodentate triphenylphosphine.

The above discussion suggests a preliminary rationalization of the known structures on the basis of rough steric effects. Obviously a more quantitative examination of steric as well as electronic effects is required to confirm this hypothesis.

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