

# Mössbauer spectroscopic investigations of intra- and intermolecularly coordinated organotin compounds

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(Received April 18, 1990; revised August 7, 1990)

## Abstract

The Mössbauer parameters are reported on twenty-five tetra-, penta- and hexacoordinated organotin compounds of the general types  $R\text{Sn}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_3\text{N}$  ( $R = \text{Cl}, \text{Me}$ ),  $\text{RR}'\text{Sn}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{E}$  ( $R = \text{Cl}, \text{Me}$ ;  $R' = \text{Cl}, \text{Me}$ ;  $E = \text{NMe}, \text{O}$ ),  $\text{Me}_2\text{ClSnCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{E}$  ( $E = \text{NMe}_2, \text{PPhBu}^t, \text{MeNCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{Me})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SnMe}_2\text{Cl}$ ),  $\text{RR}'\text{Sn}[\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{Me})\text{CH}_2]_2$  ( $R = R' = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}, \text{SPh}$ ;  $R = \text{Me}, R' = \text{Cl}$ ),  $\{\text{SSn}[\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{Me})\text{CH}_2]_2\}_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Sn}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NMe}_2)_2$ ,  $\text{S}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SnMe}_{(3-n)}\text{Cl}_n)_2$  ( $n = 1, 2$ ),  $\text{Et}_{(3-n)}\text{X}_n\text{SnCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{E}$  ( $n = 0, E = \text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OEt})\text{Ph}, \text{P}(\text{O})\text{Bu}_2$ ;  $n = 1, X = \text{Br}, E = \text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OEt})\text{Ph}, \text{P}(\text{O})\text{Bu}_2$ ),  $\text{Me}_2\text{ClSnCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2$  and  $\text{Ph}(\text{O})\text{P}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SnClMe}_2)_2$ . Quadrupole splitting and  $\eta$  values calculated on the basis of the concept of partial quadrupole splittings are in agreement with the molecular structures concluded from X-ray measurements and NMR studies.

## Introduction

Since the discovery of the Mössbauer effect, Mössbauer spectroscopy has been widely used as a powerful tool for the elucidation of structural problems relating to organotin compounds [1, 2]. With this technique, information is readily obtained about the oxidation state and the coordination sphere of the metal atom. Through use of the concept of partial quadrupole splitting (PQS), different isomers of penta- and hexacoordinated structures have been distinguished [3–6].

In recent years, we have prepared a number of organotin compounds of the types shown in Scheme 1, which were characterized by NMR and X-ray investigations. These studies unambiguously confirmed the existence of intra- or intermolecular donor–acceptor interactions in most of the derivatives. In this paper, we present Mössbauer parameters, together with model calculations on these compounds, based on the PQS concept, in order to

compare them with structural findings concluded from X-ray and NMR studies.

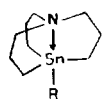
## Results and discussion

Table 1 summarizes the experimental isomer shifts,  $IS$ , the experimental and calculated quadrupole splittings,  $QS_{\text{exp}}$  and  $QS_{\text{calc}}$ , and the calculated asymmetry parameters  $\eta$ .

PQS model calculations of  $QS_{\text{calc}}$  and  $\eta$  were performed according to published procedures [1, 3]. For trigonal bipyramidal structures, the following PQS values (mm/s) were used [3, 4] the superscripts tba and the refer to trigonal bipyramidal apical and equatorial, respectively:  $\{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}} 0.00$ ,  $\{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tbe}} +0.20$ ;  $\{\text{alkyl}\}^{\text{tba}} -0.94$ ;  $\{\text{alkyl}\}^{\text{tbe}}$ ,  $\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbe}} -1.13$ ;  $\{\text{N}\}^{\text{tba}} +0.01$ ;  $\{\text{N}\}^{\text{tbe}} +0.21$  (this corresponds to the value for apical piperidine);  $\{\text{O}\}^{\text{tba}} -0.21$ ;  $\{\text{PPhBu}\}^{\text{tba}} +0.095$  (this value was calculated from compound 9);  $\frac{1}{2}\{\text{S}\}^{\text{tba}} +0.135$  (half of the value calculated for the apical donating sulfur in  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Sn}(\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{S}$  [4]);  $\{\text{RR}'\text{PO}\}^{\text{tba}} +0.12$  (the value for  $\{\text{Ph}_3\text{PO}\}^{\text{tba}}$ ).

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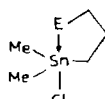
\*\*Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.



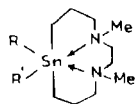
1, R = Cl  
2, R = Me



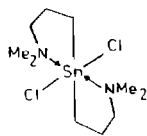
3, R = R' = Cl, E = NMe  
4, R = R' = Cl, E = 0  
5, R = Cl, R' = Me, E = NMe  
6, R = R' = Me, E = NMe  
7, R = R' = Me, E = 0



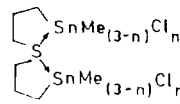
8, E = NMe<sub>2</sub>  
9, E = P(Ph)Bu<sup>t</sup>  
10, E = MeNCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N(Me)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SnMe<sub>2</sub>C



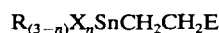
11, R = R' = Cl  
12, R = R' = Br  
13, R = R' = I  
14, R = R' = SPh  
15\*, R = R' = S  
16, R = Me, R' = Cl



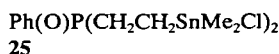
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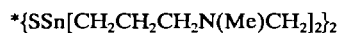
18, n = 1  
19, n = 2



20, n = 0, R = Et, E = P(O)(OEt)Ph  
21, n = 0, R = Et, E = P(O)Bu<sub>2</sub>  
22, n = 1, R = Et, E = P(O)(OEt)Ph, X = Br  
23, n = 1, R = Et, E = P(O)Bu<sub>2</sub>, X = Br  
24, n = 1, R = Me, E = PPh<sub>2</sub>, X = Cl



25



Scheme 1.

The PQS model equations for the principal components of the EFG tensor in regular trigonal bipyramidal structures (Fig. 1) are as follows:

(A)

$$V_{zz} = 2\{N\}^{tba} + 2\{R\}^{tba} - 3\{CH_2\}^{tbe}$$

$$\eta = 0$$

(B)

$$V_{kk} = 2\{E\}^{tba} + 2\{R\}^{tba} - \{R'\}^{tbe} - 2\{CH_2\}^{tbe}$$

$$V_{jj} = -\{E\}^{tba} - \{R\}^{tba} + 2\{R'\}^{tbe} - 0.5\{CH_2\}^{tbe}$$

$$V_{ii} = -\{E\}^{tba} - \{R\}^{tba} - \{R'\}^{tbe} + 2.5\{CH_2\}^{tbe}$$

$$\eta = (3\{R'\}^{tbe} - 3\{CH_2\}^{tbe})/V_{zz}$$

(For 3 and 4,  $V_{ii}$  was chosen as  $V_{zz}$ , while for 5 to 7,  $V_{kk} = V_{zz}$ ).

Thus for 3 and 4

$$\eta = (3\{E\}^{tba} + 3\{R\}^{tba} - 3\{R'\}^{tbe} - 1.5\{CH_2\}^{tbe})/V_{ii}$$

and for 5-7

$$\eta = (3\{R'\}^{tbe} - 3\{CH_2\}^{tbe})/V_{kk}$$

(C), (F)

$$V_{zz} = 2\{E\}^{tba} + 2\{Cl\}^{tba} - 2\{Me\}^{tbe} - \{CH_2\}^{tbe}$$

$$V_{jj} = V_{xx} = -\{E\}^{tba} - \{Cl\}^{tba} + 2\{CH_2\}^{tbe} - 0.5\{Me\}^{tbe}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{yy} = -\{E\}^{tba} - \{Cl\}^{tba} - \{CH_2\}^{tbe} + 2.5\{Me\}^{tbe}$$

$$\eta = (3\{CH_2\}^{tbe} - 3\{Me\}^{tbe})/V_{zz}$$

(G)

$$V_{zz} = 2\{RR'PO\}^{tba} + 2\{Br\}^{tba} - 2\{Et\}^{tbe} - \{CH_2\}^{tbe}$$

$$V_{jj} = V_{xx} = -\{RR'PO\}^{tba} - \{Br\}^{tba} + 2\{CH_2\}^{tbe} - 0.5\{Et\}^{tbe}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{yy} = -\{RR'PO\}^{tba} - \{Br\}^{tba} - \{CH_2\}^{tbe} + 2.5\{Et\}^{tbe}$$

$$\eta = (3\{CH_2\}^{tbe} - 3\{Et\}^{tbe})/V_{zz}$$

Subsequently, the values  $QS_{calc} = \frac{1}{2}eQV_{zz} (1 + \frac{1}{3}\eta^2)^{1/2}$  were obtained [1].

For the hexacoordinated species of types (D) and (E) (Fig. 1), the following PQS values and equations were used [1]: [alkyl],  $[CH_2] = -1.03$ ; [Cl], [Br] 0.00;

TABLE 1. Isomer shifts,  $IS$ , observed quadrupole splittings,  $QS_{exp}$ , calculated quadrupole splittings,  $QS_{calc}$  (according to the idealized structures shown in Fig. 1) and  $\eta$  values for 1–24.

Compound		$IS$ (mm/s)	$QS_{exp}$ (mm/s)	$QS_{calc}$ (mm/s)	$\eta_{calc}$
(A)	1	1.47	2.74	−3.41; −3.13 <sup>a</sup>	0
	2	1.40	0.60	−1.53; −0.85 <sup>a</sup>	0
(B)	3	1.56	2.98	−3.05	0.46
	4	1.64	3.31	−2.77	0.31
	5	1.47	2.99	−3.41	0
	6	1.26	0	−1.53	0
	7	1.33	0	−1.09	0
(C)	8	1.00	3.12	−3.41	0
	9	1.36	3.20	−3.20	0
	10	1.33	3.36	−3.41	0
(D) and (D')	11	1.62	3.92	−4.10	0
	12	1.65	3.24	−4.10	0
	13	1.49	3.39	−3.84	0
	14	1.18	3.74	−3.40	0
	15	1.74	2.74	−3.43	0
	16	0.95	3.33	−3.41 <sup>b</sup> ; +3.58 <sup>c</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup> ; 0.99 <sup>c</sup>
	17	1.55	3.73	−4.14	0.014
(E) and (E')	18	0.95	3.13	−3.66; −3.37 <sup>a</sup>	0
	19	0.81	3.40	−3.37	0.58
(G)	20	1.37	0		
	21	1.34	0		
	22	1.51	3.36	−3.63	0
	23	1.48	3.39	−3.63	0
	24	1.38	3.25	−3.39 <sup>d</sup> ; −3.20 <sup>e</sup>	0

<sup>a</sup>Calculated by using the true molecular structure. <sup>b</sup>Calculated for structure (L), see Fig. 3. <sup>c</sup>Calculated for structure (M), see Fig. 3. <sup>d</sup>Calculated for structure (I), see Fig. 2. <sup>e</sup>Calculated for structure (J), see Fig. 2. Structures (D) and (D'), (E) and (E'), respectively, give practically identical  $QS$  values in the present system because of the small (or zero)  $\eta$  values for both structures. (The  $V_{zz}$  values are identical.)

[I] −0.14; [N] +0.01; [SpH] −0.37 calculated from [SPH]<sup>etr</sup> [7] by using the relation  $[L]^{etr}:[L]^{oct} = 1:0.67$ ; [S] −0.355 (calculated from [S]<sup>etr</sup> [7]).

$$\eta = -6\{N\}/V_{zz}$$

(E')

(D)

$$V_{kk} = V_{zz} = 4\{CH_2\} - 2\{R\} - 2\{N\}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{jj} = V_{xx} = V_{yy} = -2\{CH_2\} + \{R\} + \{N\}$$

$$\eta = 0$$

(D')

$$V_{kk} = V_{zz} = 4\{CH_2\} - \{R\} - \{R'\} - 2\{N\}$$

$$V_{jj} = V_{yy} = 4\{N\} - 2\{CH_2\} - \{R\} - \{R'\}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{xx} = 2\{R\} - 2\{R'\} - 2\{CH_2\} - 2\{N\}$$

$$\eta = (6\{N\} - 3\{R\} - 3\{R'\})/V_{zz}$$

(E)

$$V_{kk} = V_{zz} = 4\{CH_2\} - 2\{Cl\} - 2\{N\}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{yy} = 4\{N\} - 2\{CH_2\} - 2\{Cl\}$$

$$V_{jj} = V_{xx} = 4\{Cl\} - 2\{CH_2\} - 2\{N\}$$

$$V_{kk} = V_{zz} = 4\{CH_2\} - 2\{Cl\} - 2\{N\}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{jj} = V_{xx} = V_{yy} = -2\{CH_2\} + \{Cl\} + \{N\}$$

$$\eta = 0$$

From a structural point of view, compounds 1–25 can be divided into three classes: tetracoordinated, pentacoordinated and hexacoordinated derivatives (Scheme 1).

Among the pentacoordinated derivatives, compounds 1, 2, 4, 5 and 18 show big differences between  $QS_{calc}$  and  $QS_{exp}$ , suggesting substantial distortions from ideal geometry. Indeed, the molecular structures of 1, 2 and 18 exhibit more or less marked deviations from the ideal trigonal bipyramidal skeleton [8–10]. When these actually observed structures were used for the calculation of  $QS$  values (denoted by a in Table 1), a much better fitting between  $QS_{calc}$  and  $QS_{exp}$  was observed. Within the stannaocane family 3–7, the dichloro derivative 3 displays an acceptable

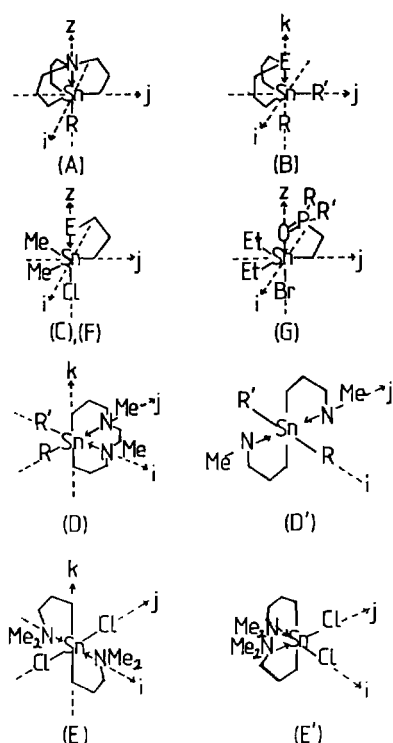


Fig. 1. Principal EFG axes for structures (A) to (G) in idealized regular trigonal bipyramidal and octahedral configurations.

agreement between  $QS_{\text{exp}}$  and  $QS_{\text{calc}}$ , which could be expected due to its solid-state structure [11].

For 6 from low-temperature  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR measurements, we concluded a tin–nitrogen interaction in solution [11]. However, the Mössbauer spectrum does not show any  $QS$ , suggesting no or only a very small deviation from tetrahedral geometry. The same holds for compound 7.

The monocyclic derivatives 8 and 9 exhibit remarkable similar  $QS$  values, although trivalent phosphorus is known to be a poor donor towards tin(IV) as compared with trivalent nitrogen [12]. Obviously, this difference in donor capacity is much more expressed in their different  $IS$  values. For the stannaocanes of the type  $\text{Ph}(\text{Cl})\text{Sn}(\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{E}$  ( $\text{E} = \text{NMe}$ ,  $IS = 1.27$ ,  $QS = 1.84$ ;  $\text{E} = \text{PPh}$ ,  $IS = 1.63$ ,  $QS = 1.81$  mm/s), similar results were observed.

The phosphorus-containing compounds 20–24 show the expected tetrahedral (20, 21) and trigonal bipyramidal (22, 23) geometries. The situation is more complicated for compound 24.  $QS_{\text{exp}}$  unambiguously suggests pentacoordination; this can not be achieved by intramolecular cyclization (formation of a four-membered cycle), but by intermolecular association via chloro or phosphorus bridges (Fig. 2). From the  $QS_{\text{calc}}$  values, these structures cannot be distinguished unambiguously. In our experience,

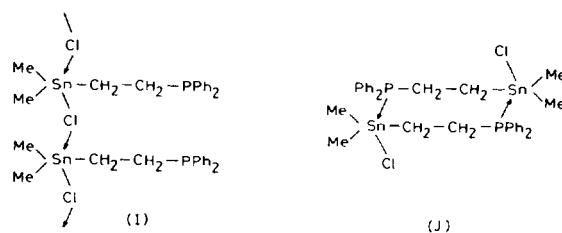


Fig. 2. Structural alternatives (I) and (J) for  $\text{Me}_2\text{ClSnCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2$ .

the formation of an eight-membered cycle (J) is less favoured than the arrangement (I) with an infinite zig-zag  $\text{Sn}-\text{Cl}\dots\text{Sn}$  chain. The molecular structure of this particular compound is of interest. Compounds 11–17 are of special interest because they show big differences in their  $IS$  and  $QS$  values, which were not expected as a result of the variation of the substituents R alone. Thus, for 11 to 14 octahedral, *trans* C-configured structures are favoured for stereochemical reasons. The dichloro, diiodo and dithiolato derivatives 11, 13 and 14 fit in with this prediction, though the differences between  $QS_{\text{calc}}$  and  $QS_{\text{exp}}$  are relatively high for 13 and 14. However, the dibromo derivative 12 exhibits a very small value as compared with those found for 11, 13 and 14. The reason could be a strong distortion of the molecular skeleton in 12, for which we have no explanation. In the *trans* configured bipyridyl complexes  $\text{Bu}_2\text{SnX}_2 \cdot \text{bipy}$  ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$ ), the  $QS$  values amount to 3.95 mm/s and are independent of the nature of the halogen atoms [13].

The spiro compound 15 exhibits an unexpectedly small  $QS_{\text{exp}}$  with respect to  $QS_{\text{calc}}$ . The molecular structure of this particular compound shows considerable distortions from octahedral geometry. Thus, the C–Sn–C angle amounts to  $156^\circ$  and the Sn–N interactions are only weak and different (2.766 and 2.859 Å) [14]. From a stereochemical point of view, this molecule must be regarded as an intermediate between the transition trigonal bipyramid  $\leftrightarrow$  octahedron.

Among the compounds of type (D), the non-symmetric derivative 16 exhibits particular behaviour. From NMR measurements and also from the high solubility in water, we concluded an ionic pentavalent structure (K) (Fig. 3), but this could not be proved unambiguously [15]. Alternative structures are the trigonal bipyramidal arrangement (L) and the octahedral configurations (M) and (N) (Fig. 3).

The PQS model calculations for these structures were performed as follows:

(I)

$$V_{kk} = V_{zz} = 4\{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}} - 2\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - \{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}}$$

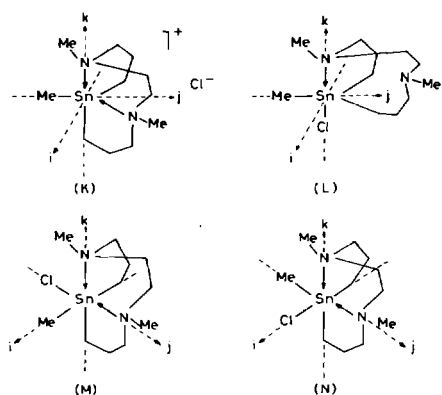


Fig. 3. Principal EFG axes for the structural alternatives (K)–(N) of  $\text{Me}(\text{Cl})\text{Sn}[\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{Me})\text{CH}_2]_2$ .

$$V_{jj} = V_{xx} = 2\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}} - 0.5\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - 2\{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{yy} = 2.5\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - \{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}} - 2\{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}}$$

$$\eta = (3\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - 3\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}})/V_{zz}$$

(J)

$$V_{kk} = V_{zz} = 2\{\text{PPh}_2\}^{\text{tba}} + 2\{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}} - 2\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} + \{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}}$$

$$V_{jj} = V_{xx} = 2\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}} - 0.5\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - \{\text{PPh}_2\}^{\text{tba}} - \{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{yy} = 2.5\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - 0.5\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}} - \{\text{PPh}_2\}^{\text{tba}} - \{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}}$$

$$\eta = (3\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - 3\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}})/V_{zz}$$

(K)

$$V_{jj} = V_{zz} = 2\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - 2\{\text{N}\}^{\text{tba}} - \{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tba}}$$

$$- 0.25\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}} - 0.25\{\text{N}\}^{\text{tbc}}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{xx} = -\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - \{\text{N}\}^{\text{tba}} - \{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tba}}$$

$$+ 1.25\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}} + 1.25\{\text{N}\}^{\text{tbc}}$$

$$V_{kk} = V_{yy} = 2\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - \{\text{N}\}^{\text{tba}} - \{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tba}}$$

$$- 0.25\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}} + 0.25\{\text{N}\}^{\text{tbc}}$$

$$\eta = (-3\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} + 1.5\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}} + 1.5\{\text{N}\}^{\text{tbc}})/V_{zz}$$

(L)

$$V_{kk} = V_{zz} = 2\{\text{N}\}^{\text{tba}} + 2\{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}} - \{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - 2\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{xx} = \{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - \{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}} - \{\text{N}\}^{\text{tba}} + 2.5\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}}$$

$$V_{jj} = V_{yy} = 2\{\text{Me}\}^{\text{tbc}} - \{\text{N}\}^{\text{tba}} - \{\text{Cl}\}^{\text{tba}} - 0.5\{\text{CH}_2\}^{\text{tbc}}$$

$$\eta = 0$$

(M)

$$V_{kk} = V_{yy} = \{\text{N}\} + \{\text{CH}_2\} - \{\text{Cl}\} - \{\text{Me}\}$$

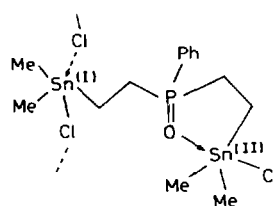


Fig. 4. Schematic representation of the molecular structure of  $\text{Ph}(\text{O})\text{P}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SnMe}_2\text{Cl})_2$ .

$$V_{ii} = V_{zz} = 2\{\text{Me}\} + \{\text{CH}_2\} - \{\text{Cl}\} - 2\{\text{N}\}$$

$$V_{jj} = V_{xx} = 2\{\text{Cl}\} + \{\text{N}\} - \{\text{Me}\} - 2\{\text{CH}_2\}$$

$$\eta = \{\text{Me}\} + 2\{\text{CH}_2\} - 3\{\text{Cl}\}/V_{zz}$$

(N)

$$V_{kk} = V_{yy} = \{\text{N}\} + \{\text{CH}_2\} - \{\text{Cl}\} - \{\text{Me}\}$$

$$V_{ii} = V_{zz} = 2\{\text{Cl}\} + \{\text{CH}_2\} - 2\{\text{N}\} - \{\text{Me}\}$$

$$V_{jj} = V_{xx} = 2\{\text{Me}\} + \{\text{N}\} - 2\{\text{CH}_2\} - \{\text{Cl}\}$$

$$\eta = 0$$

The calculations suggest the structure (L) ( $QS_{\text{calc}} = -3.41$  mm/s,  $\eta = 0$ ) or (M) ( $QS_{\text{calc}} = +3.58$  mm/s,  $\eta = 0.99$ ) for compound **16**, but unambiguously exclude the arrangements (K) ( $QS_{\text{calc}} = +1.17$  mm/s,  $\eta = 0.65$ ) and (N) ( $QS_{\text{calc}} = +0.02$  mm/s,  $\eta = 0$ ).

This is in contradiction with our interpretation of the results of temperature-dependent NMR studies [15]. Unfortunately, we were not able to establish the molecular structure of this interesting compound because the single crystals decomposed under X-ray irradiation.

Finally, a comparison of the crystal structure [16] and the Mössbauer data on compound **25**,  $(\text{Me}_2\text{ClSnCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}$ , illustrates the limitations of Mössbauer spectroscopy. The X-ray crystal determination reveals for **25** a monocyclic structure with one intramolecularly pentacoordinated tin atom and the other one intermolecularly bridged to a second molecule via a  $\text{Sn}\dots\text{Cl}$  interaction (Fig. 4). The two tin centres exhibit significantly different deviations from the ideal trigonal bipyramidal geometry. Actually, the Mössbauer data ( $IS$  1.36;  $QS$  3.30 mm/s) confirm the pentacoordination of the tin atoms, but they cannot distinguish between the two different ligand polyhedra, for which different  $QS$  values of  $-3.39$  (Sn(I)) and  $-3.63$  (Sn(II)) mm/s were calculated. A similar effect has already been observed for  $(\text{Ph}_2\text{ClSn})_2\text{CH}_2\cdot\text{HMPA}$  [17].

## Experimental

The syntheses of compounds **1**, **2** [18], **3–7** [11, 18], **8–10** [12, 15], **11–16** [12, 19], **17** [19], **18**, **19**

[10], 20–24 [20–22] and 25 [16] have been described elsewhere.

The Mössbauer spectra were recorded at liquid nitrogen temperature. The Mössbauer parameters were derived by computer evaluation of the spectra. The *IS* values are referred to that of SnO<sub>2</sub>. The reproducibility of the Mössbauer parameters was found to be better than +0.03 mm/s.

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