## Synthesis and Characterization of Binuclear Thiohalide Complexes of Tungsten(V)

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#### Abstract

Interaction of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  with HX (X = Cl, Br) in methylene chloride has been studied. Conditions have been found which lead to the formation of tetraethylammonium salts containing  $W_4S_{12}^{2-}$ ,  $W_3S_9^{2-}$ ,  $W_2S_4X_4^{2-}$ ,  $W_2S_3Br_8^{2-}$  and  $W_2S_4X_8^{2-}$ . Mutual transformations between binuclear thiohalide complexes of tungsten have been studied. Complex  $W_2S_3Br_6$ .  $2CH_3CN$  has been obtained by interacting  $Br_2$  with  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_4$  in acetonitrile. Boiling of  $(Et_4N)_2$ - $W_2S_3Br_8$  with elemental sulfur in acetonitrile produced complex  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_8$  whose structure was established by X-ray structural analysis.

#### Introduction

Interaction of solutions of salts of the mononuclear tetrathiometallate ion  $WS_4^{2-}$  with acids [1] is one of the general methods of the synthesis of polynuclear thio- and oxothiocomplexes of tungsten. The reactions are carried out both in aqueous solutions and in organic solvents. HF, HCl, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>COOH and others are used as acids. Salts containing bi-, tri- and tetranuclear anions  $W_2S_{11}^{2-}$  [2],  $HW_2S_{11}^{--}$  [3],  $W_3S_9^{2--}$  [4],  $W_3S_8^{2--}$  [5],  $W_3S_8O^{2--}$  [6],  $W_4S_{12}^{2--}$  [7] have been obtained by this method.

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The composition of the reaction products of the acidolysis of  $WS_4^{2-}$  depends on such factors as the nature of the acid, solvent and cation as well as on the concentration of the reactants and their ratio. In all of the reactions studied previously the anions of acids did not enter into the composition of the resulting thiotungstate complexes.

In the present work we have studied the interaction of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  with hydrogen chloride (Scheme 1) and hydrogen bromide (Scheme 2) in methylene chloride. The reaction produced tetraethylammonium salts of polynuclear thiocomplexes or tetraethylammonium salts of binuclear thiohalide complexes depending on the reaction conditions. First examples of the preparation of thiohalide complexes from thiocomplexes have been found.

#### Experimental

#### Chemicals

 $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  was obtained by the procedure described in ref. 8. Acetonitrile and methylene chloride were refluxed two times over  $P_4O_{10}$ .

#### Characterization Methods

IR spectra were measured in KBr on a IR-75 (Carl Zeiss) instrument in the 4000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> region and in polyethylene on a IFS-113 Fourier spectrometer (Bruker) in the 600-20 cm<sup>-1</sup> region. Raman spectra

$$(Et_4N)_2WS_4 \xrightarrow[CH_2Cl_2]{HCl} (Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12} \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2 \longrightarrow (Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Cl_4 \xrightarrow[CH_2Cl_2]{HCl} (Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12} \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2 \xrightarrow[CH_2Cl_2]{HCl} \xrightarrow[CH_2Cl_2]{HCl} (Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12} \cdot 2CH_2$$

Scheme 1. Reaction with HCl.

 $(Et_4N)_2WS_4 \xrightarrow{HBr}_{CH_2Cl_2} Ia \text{ not isolated} \longrightarrow (Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_4 \longrightarrow (Et_4N)_2W_2S_3Br_8$   $(V) \qquad (VII)$ 

Scheme 2. Reaction with HBr.

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Compound	Colour	Analyses			Vibrational spectra		
		Element	Found	Calculated	$IR (cm^{-1})$	Raman (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Assignment
$(Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12} \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2 (Ia)$	redviolet	С	13.9	13.9	529s	537s-	$\nu(W_c=S)$
		Н	2.8	2.8	500vs	507vs	$\nu(W_t=S)$
		N	1.8	1.7	460s		
		w	47.4	47.1	448m Ì		$o(w_2 S_2)$
		S	25.0	24.8	,		
(Et <sub>4</sub> N) <sub>2</sub> W <sub>4</sub> S <sub>12</sub> ·C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ( <b>b</b> )	dark red	С	18.2	18.1			
		н	3.3	3.2			
		N	1.8	1.9			
		w	48.5	50.4			
		S	26.3	26.4			
$(Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12}$ (I)	dark violet	С	14.0	13.9			
		н	2.9	2.9			
		N	2.0	2.2			
		W	53.0	53.3			
		S	29.5	28.9			
(Et <sub>4</sub> N) <sub>2</sub> W <sub>3</sub> S <sub>9</sub> (II)	dark red	С	17.5	17.5	527s	526s	$\nu(W_c = S)$
		н	3.9	3.7	499vs	507 <b>vs</b>	$\nu(W_t=S)$
		Ν	2.5	2.5	464m	495m)	
		w	49.8	50.1	448m	459m	$\delta(W_2S_2)$
		S	26.2	26.2		J	

TABLE 1. Analytical and spectroscopic data for thiocomplexes of tungsten

were obtained for powders on a DFS-24 instrument using the 632.8 nm line of a He-Ne laser for excitation. Powder diffraction data were obtained on DRON-3M (Mo K $\alpha$  radiation). Magnetic susceptibility was determined by the Faraday method. PMR spectra were recorded on a BS-567 (Tesla) instrument with TMS as internal standard. Tungsten and sulfur were determined by the weight method as WO<sub>3</sub> and BaSO<sub>4</sub>, respectively; halogen, by potentiometric titration with a 0.05 M solution of AgNO<sub>3</sub>. C, H and N were determined in the laboratory of Microanalysis of the Institute of Organic Chemistry (Novosibirsk). Analytical and spectroscopic data for thio- and thiohalide complexes are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

#### Syntheses

# Preparation of $(Et_4N)_2 W_4 S_{12} \cdot 2CH_2 Cl_2$ (Ia) and $(Et_4N)_2 W_3 S_9$ (II)

Dry hydrogen chloride was passed through a suspension of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2.00 g in 150



Scheme 3. Reactions of tetranuclear complexes.

ml) until the yellow precipitate of the starting complex disappeared (here and in other cases the flow rate of HX was approximately 100 ml/min). The newly formed crystals were immediately filtered off, washed with alcohol and ether, and vacuum dried. Yield: 0.95 g of Ia, 70%. After 4 h 0.15 g of complex II, 12%, was obtained from the mother solution at -5 °C.

Boiling of Ia in benzene produced the  $(Et_4N)_2$ - $W_4S_{12}$ · $C_6H_6$  (Ib) solvate in quantitative yield. Heating of Ia or Ib under vacuum at 80 °C produced complex  $(Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12}$  (I) in quantitative yield (Scheme 3).

# Preparation of $(Et_4N)_2 W_2 S_4 Cl_4$ (III) and $(Et_4N)_2 W_2 S_4 Cl_8$ (IV)

HCl was passed through a suspension of  $(Et_4N)_2$ -WS<sub>4</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2.00 g in 150 ml) until the yellow precipitate of the starting complex disappeared and for another 20 min until **Ia** dissolved. The reaction mixture was then kept for 24 h in a closed vessel. The

TABLE 2. Analytical and spectroscopic data for thiohalide complexes of tungsten

Compound	Colour	Analyses			Vibrational spectra		
		Element	Found	Calculated	IR (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Raman (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Assignment
$(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Cl_4$ (III)	green	С	21.0	21.3	527 vs	534w)	(W_S)
		н	4.5	4.4	513w	524m	$\nu(w=3)$
		N	3.4	3.1	458vs	455m	$\delta (W_2S_2)$
		w	40.9	40.9	310s )		
		S	14.4	14.2	297vs }		$\nu$ (W–Cl)
		Cl	15.8	15.8	269vs )		
(Et <sub>4</sub> N) <sub>2</sub> W <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub> Cl <sub>8</sub> ( <b>I</b> V)	dark red	С	17.2	18.5	600w	607 m	ν( <b>S</b> - <b>S</b> )
		н	3.8	4.0	535w		
		N	2.4	2.7	465w	432m	δ (W <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub> )
		W	35.5	35.4	330vs	330vs )	
		S	11.7	12.3		320vs	$\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{C})$
		Cl	27.1	27.3		192s	ν(W–W)
(Et <sub>4</sub> N) <sub>2</sub> W <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub> Br <sub>4</sub> (V)	green	С	17.5	17.8	528s	529vs)	·· (W5)
		н	3.7	3.7	518m	519s ∫	$\nu(w=3)$
		N	2.6	2.6	457s	448s	C (11/ C )
		W	34.0	34.0	360m	352s	$o(w_2 S_2)$
		S	11.9	11.9	210s )	,	(W D-)
		Br	29.6	29.7	200m Ì		$\nu(\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{r})$
					165m	186w	ν(W−W)
(Et <sub>4</sub> N) <sub>2</sub> W <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub> Br <sub>8</sub> (VI)	dark red	С	13.2	13.8	584w	598s	$\nu(S-S)$
		н	2.8	2.9		335m )	
		N	1.6	2.0		325s }	δ (W <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub> )
		w	26.8	26.4		310m )	
		S	8.8	9.2	200vs	234m	ν(W-Br)
		Br	45.9	45.8		153s	ν(W-W)
W <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub> Br <sub>6</sub> •2CH <sub>3</sub> CN (VIII)	golden	с	5.2	4.7	600w		$\nu(S-S)$
		н	0.7	0.6	445w		$\delta (W_2S_3)$
		N	2.7	2.7			
		W	35.9	35.9			
		S	9.4	9.4			
		Br	46.4	46.8			

precipitated solid was filtered off, washed with  $CH_2Cl_2$  and vacuum dried. Yield: 0.62 g of III, 39%.

The mother liquor was saturated with HCl for 10 min and the solution was allowed to stay for a week in a closed vessel. The crystals were filtered off and washed with acetonitrile, alcohol and pentane. Yield: 0.15 g of IV, 8%.

# Preparation of $(Et_4N)_2 W_2 S_4 Br_4 (V)$ and $(Et_4N)_2 W_2 S_4 Br_8 (VI)$

HBr was passed through a suspension of  $(Et_4N)_2$ -WS<sub>4</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3.00 g in 150 ml) until the yellow precipitate of the starting complex disappeared and for another 5 min. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with methylene chloride and dried under vacuum. Yield: 1.51 g of V, 54%. The mother solution was allowed to stay for a week in a closed vessel. The crystals were treated as in the synthesis of **IV**. Yield: 1.17 g of VI, 32%.

# Preparation of $(Et_4N)_2 W_2 S_3 Br_8$ (VII) and $(Et_4N)_2 W_2 S_4 Br_8$ (VI)

HBr was passed through a suspension of  $(Et_4N)_2$ -WS<sub>4</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.00 g in 150 ml). After 15 min the dark red solution was separated from the precipitate and left to stay at room temperature in a closed vessel. The precipitated crystals were filtered off, washed with chloroform and dried under vacuum at 70 °C. Obtained 0.65 g of VII, 56%. The mother solution was kept closed for another week. The precipitated crystals were filtered off, washed with acetonitrile, alcohol and pentane. Yield: 0.71 g of VI, 19%.

### Preparation of W<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>Br<sub>6</sub>·2CH<sub>3</sub>CN (VIII) from VII

HBr was passed through a solution of VII in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.50 g in 30 ml). The precipitated crystals having the form of plates were filtered off, washed with acetonitrile, ether and dried under vacuum. Yield 0.31 g of VIII, 82%.

Complex VIII was obtained in 89% yield also in the reaction of Br<sub>2</sub> with a CH<sub>3</sub>CN solution of VII.

#### Preparation of $(Et_4N)_2 W_2 S_3 Br_8$ (VII) from VIII

Complex VIII (0.15 g) and Et<sub>4</sub>NBr (0.20 g) were boiled in 20 ml of acetonitrile for 15 min. Then 30 ml of ether was added to the dark brown solution; the precipitated solid was filtered off, washed with alcohol, ether and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.08 g, 40%.

#### Preparation of $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_8$ (VI) from VII

Complex VII (0.20 g) and sulfur (0.01 g) were boiled in acetonitrile (30 ml). The precipitate was filtered off. Then toluene was added to the filtrate and the solution was kept for 24 h at -20 °C. The crystals were filtered off, washed with toluene, ether and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.042 g, 21%.

## Preparation of W<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>Br<sub>6</sub>·2CH<sub>3</sub>CN (VIII) from V

A solution of  $Br_2$  in  $CH_3CN$  (0.15 ml in 5 ml) was slowly added dropwise to a suspension of V in  $CH_3CN$  (0.30 g in 30 ml). First dissolution of the precipitate occurred to form a dark red solution from which, upon further addition of  $Br_2$ , a golden yellow precipitate of complex VIII was formed. Yield: 0.14 g, 49%.

### **Results and Discussion**

### The Interaction of $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$ with HX(X = Cl, Br)in $CH_2Cl_2$

When dry hydrohalogens HX (X = Cl, Br) are passed into a suspension of (Et<sub>4</sub>N)<sub>2</sub>WS<sub>4</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at room temperature the colour of the solution rapidly changes from yellow to red-brown, the yellow precipitate of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  gradually dissolving. At the moment the precipitate of the starting complex disappeared completely  $(Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12} \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2$  (Ia) and  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_4$  (V) (reaction with HCl and HBr, respectively) were found in the newly formed precipitate. After separation of Ia or V (Et<sub>4</sub>N)<sub>2</sub>W<sub>3</sub>S<sub>9</sub> (II) and  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_8$  (VI) crystallized from the mother solution. According to the IR data the tetranuclear complex Ia forms also in the reaction of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  with HBr but this complex is difficult to isolate in analytically pure form since it rapidly transforms into V.

When complexes Ia and V are left in the reaction mixture then, with further passing of HX, their precipitates dissolve and  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Cl_4$  (III) and  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_3Br_8$  (VII) crystallize from the resulting solution within 24 h.

In the reaction with HCl after separation of III another binuclear chloride complex,  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Cl_8$  (IV), forms in a small yield upon prolonged standing of the mother solution. Similarly, in the reaction with

HBr after separation of complex VII,  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_8$ (VI) is formed in moderate yield.

Thus, methods have been developed which allow preparation of tetranuclear thiocomplex I and binuclear thiohalide complexes III and VI from mononuclear thiocomplex  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  in a comparatively simple way and in high yields. Attempts to obtain the thiochloride analog of VII,  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_3$ -Cl<sub>8</sub>, were unsuccessful. It should be noted that the syntheses are well reproduced if one follows the above procedures.

### The Tetranuclear $(Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12}$ (I) Complex

Complexes I, Ia and Ib (Scheme 3) are red—violet crystalline substances not soluble in hydrocarbons, benzene, methylene chloride but readily soluble in acetonitrile, acetone and DMF. The solutions of the complexes slowly decompose in air. When Ia was boiled in benzene a solvate of different composition was obtained  $-(Et_4N)_2W_4S_{12}\cdot C_6H_6$  (Ib). Heating of Ia under vacuum produced a non-solvated complex I having a deeper colour then the starting solvate. The composition of the solvates was established from elemental analysis and PMR data.

The IR spectra of complexes I, Ia and Ib coincide with that of the  $(PPh_4)_2W_4S_{12}$  complex except for the bands due to the  $PPh_4^+$  as well as to  $CH_2Cl_2$  and  $C_6H_6$ . We therefore suggest that the  $W_4S_{12}^{2-}$  anion of tetraethylammonium salts also has a *syn* configuration as in the tetraphylphosphonium salts [7].



Let us note that the IR and Raman spectra of thiocomplexes in the 600-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> range are rather characteristic and can be used for identification of these compounds. The bands at 529 (IR) and 537 (Raman) cm<sup>-1</sup> are essentially due to the  $W_{central} = S$ valence vibrations while the bands at 500 (IR) and 507 (Raman) cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to the W=S vibrations of the WS<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> fragment. The deformation vibrations of the W<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> fragments have smaller intensities and frequencies. The very strong bands at 195 and 162 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the Raman spectra of the complex may be assigned to the W-W vibrations.

# The Binuclear $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Cl_4$ (III) and $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_4$ (V) Complexes

The  $W_2S_4Cl_4^{2-}$  and  $W_2S_4Br_4^{2-}$  complexes have not been described in the literature but they may be compared with the structurally well-characterized complex  $W_2S_2O_2Cl_4^{2-}$ , prepared by interaction of WOSCl<sub>2</sub> with Ph<sub>4</sub>AsCl [9], as well as with  $W_2S_4(py)_4$ -

Br<sub>2</sub> [10],  $W_2S_4(S_2CNEt_2)_2$ ,  $W_2S_4(S_2P(OEt)_2)_2$  [11] and  $W_4 S_{12}^{2-}$  [7] containing the  $[S=W(\mu_2-S)_2W=S]^{2+}$ fragments.

We believe that the  $W_2S_4X_4^{2-}$  (X = Cl, Br) anions of complexes III and V have the following structure



Thus complexes III and V react with sodium diethyldithiocarbamate producing, while retaining their central  $[S=W(\mu_2-S)_2W=S]^{2+}$  fragment, the known complex  $W_2S_4(S_2CNEt_2)_2$  [11].

The vibrational spectra of III and V in the region of valence and deformation vibrations involving tungsten and sulfur atoms coincide with each other and are identical to the vibrational spectra of the known thiocomplexes of tungsten containing the  $[S=W(\mu_2-S)_2W=S]^{2+}$  [7, 10, 11].

#### The Binuclear $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_3Br_8$ (VII) Complex

The binuclear thiobromide complex  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_3$ - $Br_8$  (VII) has the form of dark brown lustrous plates and is unstable in air. This complex may be compared with the structurally well-characterized complex  $(Ph_4P)_2W_2S_3Br_8 \cdot H_2S \cdot CH_2Cl_2$  which has been obtained by interacting WBr<sub>6</sub> with H<sub>2</sub>S in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> in the presence of Ph<sub>4</sub>PBr [12].

$$WS_{4}^{2-} \xrightarrow{HBr} Br \xrightarrow{Br} W \xrightarrow{S-S} W \xrightarrow{Br} Br \xrightarrow{Br} H_{2}^{2-} \xrightarrow{H_{2}S} WBr_{6}$$

$$VII$$

The IR spectrum of VII in the  $630-100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ range coincides with that of the tetraphenylphosphonium salt.

Passing of HBr through an acetonitrile solution of **VII** or addition of  $Br_2$  results in the formation of a golden precipitate, the  $W_2S_3Br_6 \cdot 2CH_3CN$  complex (VIII) (Scheme 4). The same complex is obtained when by interaction of  $Br_2$  with a solution of the binuclear thiobromide complex  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_4$  (V). Under the reaction conditions re-arrangement of the





Addition of a Br<sub>2</sub> molecule at the two tungsten atoms of VII induces the intramolecular transfer of electrons from the terminal sulfur atoms  $(2S^{2-} - 2e \rightarrow$  $S_2^{2^{-}}$ ) via the tungsten atoms to the bromine atoms  $(Br_2 + 2e \rightarrow 2Br^-)$  followed by insertion of  $Br_2$  at one of the W- $\mu_2$ -S bonds with subsequent elimination of SBr<sub>2</sub>.

### The Binuclear $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Cl_8$ (IV) and $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4Br_8$ (VI) Complexes

The binuclear thiohalide complexes of tungsten  $(Et_4N)_2W_2S_4X_8$  slowly crystallize from the mother solutions obtained after separation of the precipitates of complexes III, V or VII in the reactions of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  with HX in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (Schemes 1 and 2). Moderate yields of the thiobromide complex VI are also obtained when complex VII is boiled with elemental sulfur in acetonitrile (Scheme 4).



Complexes IV and VI, dark red crystals, are soluble in acetonitrile, DMF and insoluble in hydrocarbons, aromatic and chlorinated hydrocarbons and alcohols. The complexes are diamagnetic and isostructural with each other according to the X-ray powder diffraction data. (Complex VI: a = 7.466; b = 11.610; c = 19.456Å;  $\beta = 89.67^{\circ}$ ; Complex IV: a = 7.193; b = 11.396; c = 18.80 Å;  $\beta = 89.20^{\circ}$ ). The bands of the valence



Scheme 4. Reactions of binuclear complexes.

vibrations of the  $S_2$  ligand are weak in the IR spectra and strong in the Raman spectra.

The structure of complex VI has been established by Virovetz by X-ray structural analysis of the monocrystal [13]. The structure of the  $W_2S_4B_8^{2-}$  anion in complex VI is analogous to that described for the  $Mo_2S_4X_8^{2-}$  anions (X = Cl, Br) [14]. The anion contains eight terminal bromine atoms and two  $S_2^{2-}$ moieties (the S-S bond distance is 2.004(2) Å) which are coordinated by the acetylene type symmetrically with respect to the two tungsten atoms. The W-W distance in this 34-electron complex is equal to 2.8345(5) Å which corresponds to a single W-W bond.

### A Possible Mechanism of Reaction of $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$ with HX (X = Cl, Br) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

High lability of the systems containing tetrathiotungstate ions and an acid leads to various products when one varies the reactants concentration and reaction time, changes the cation, acid or solvent. For example,  $(PPh_4)_2WS_4$ ,  $(Bu_4N)_2WS_4$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$  and  $CHCl_3$  readily interact with HCl or HBr, but complexes analogous to I-VII have not been obtained.

In the reactions of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  with HCl and HBr in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> there are at least two factors that are noteworthy: (i) a low solubility of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  in methylene chloride which ensures a low concentration of  $WS_4^{2-}$  in the solution; the reaction may be heterogeneous. (ii) HCl and HBr practically do not dissociate in methylene chloride.

The first stage appears to involve addition of HX (X = Cl, Br) to the tetrathiotungstate ion (Scheme 5). This induces intramolecular transfer of electrons from the sulfur atom to tungsten resulting in reduction of the metal atom (W<sup>6+</sup> + 2e<sup>-</sup>  $\rightarrow$  W<sup>4+</sup>) and formation of a complex with a S<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup> ligand (2S<sup>2-</sup> - 2e<sup>-</sup>  $\rightarrow$  S<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup>). Nucleophilic substitution of S<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup> or HS<sup>-</sup> and X<sup>-</sup>

Nucleophilic substitution of  $S_2^{2^-}$  or HS<sup>-</sup> and X<sup>-</sup> in A by the tetrathiometallate ion leads to binuclear complexes B and C, respectively, which also add HX at the W=S bond. The resulting intermediates D and E may react in two ways: to form either  $W_4S_{12}^{2^-}$ (under the conditions when  $WS_4^{2^-}$  is still left) or  $W_2S_4X_4^{2^-}$  (when all the  $WS_4^{2^-}$  is used up).

Addition of H<sup>+</sup> at  $\mu_2$ -S of the intermediate D (but not of E) should lead to a weakening of the donor ability of this ligand and a rearrangement resulting in the formation of complex F with a  $\mu_2$ S<sub>2</sub> ligand. Further substitution of the terminal ligands S<sup>2-</sup>, SH<sup>-</sup>, probably through a series of addition—elimination processes, results in formation of W<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>Br<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>. It should be also noted that protonation of  $\mu_2$ -S in the binuclear complex (Ph<sub>4</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>W<sub>2</sub>S<sub>11</sub> has been recently shown to result in a change in the complex geometry and formation of a semibridging S<sub>2</sub> ligand [2, 3].

In conclusion it should be noted that the binuclear  $W_2S_4X_4^{2-}$  should not be considered as a precursor of  $W_4S_{12}^{2-}$ . Thus in the reaction of III with two



Scheme 5. Tentative scheme for generation and interconversion of the thiotungstate anions.

equivalents of  $(Et_4N)_2WS_4$  only the trinuclear thiocomplex  $(Et_4N)_2W_3S_9$  was obtained and no complex I was observed. Also, the reaction of I with HCl in methylene chloride produced no complex III.

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