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Experimental and theoretical research towards $R_fNCl_3^+$ cations, where $R_f = CF_3, SF_5, FC(O)$ and F

Jian Sun, Joseph S. Thrasher *

Department of Chemistry, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0336, USA

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1. Introduction

Our group first proposed the synthesis of the $R_fNCl_3^+ MF_6^-$ salts ($M = As, Sb$) from the reaction of the dichloroamines R_fNCl_2 with ClF and MF_5 several years ago. While our studies were underway, Minkwitz and coworkers reported the synthesis of the salts $NCl_4^+ AsF_6^-$ [1] and $(CH_3)_nNCl_{4-n}^+ MF_6^-$ ($n = 1-3; M = As, Sb$) [2] from the chlorination of NCl_3 and $(CH_3)_nNCl_{3-n}$ with Cl_2/AsF_5 (or SbF_5). We have subsequently synthesized $CF_3NCl_3^+ AsF_6^-$ by both routes [3]. More recently, Minkwitz and coworkers have stated that the reaction between CF_3NCl_2 , Cl_2 , and AsF_5 does not yield $CF_3NCl_3^+ AsF_6^-$; however, one is led to believe that these workers used SO_2 as a solvent in their reaction, although little detail about reaction conditions was given [4].

2. Experimental details

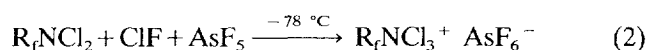
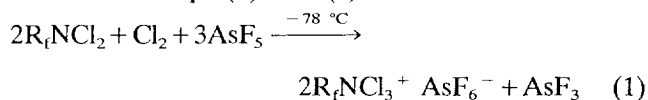
Caution! Many *N*-halo compounds are known to be powerful explosives; therefore, suitable safety precautions should be kept in mind. We advise that the preparations and reactions of these materials be undertaken on a small scale.

In a typical reaction, AsF_5 and the respective dichloroamine R_fNCl_2 were reacted stoichiometrically with either Cl_2 (0.5 mmol) or ClF (3 mmol). The starting materials were condensed in an FEP tube reactor in the order given by successively lowering the level of the reactor in a Dewar containing liquid nitrogen. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed to $-78^\circ C$ and placed in a slush bath at $-78^\circ C$ for either 24 h (Cl_2 oxidant) or 12 h (ClF oxidant). The component volatile at $-78^\circ C$ was then dynamically pumped from the

reactor to a cold trap ($-196^\circ C$) until a constant weight was achieved. Fine white solids (70%–96% yield) remained in the reactor.

3. Results and discussion

The formation of the $R_fNCl_3^+ AsF_6^-$ [$R_f = CF_3, SF_5, FC(O)$] salts occurs in high yield by reaction of the dichloroamine R_fNCl_2 with either Cl_2/AsF_5 or ClF/AsF_5 as shown in Eqs. (1) and (2).



Support for the production of the same salts via the different chlorination routes came from identical Raman and ^{19}F NMR spectra. Longer reaction times were required for the reactions with Cl_2/AsF_5 and the yields were somewhat higher. Excess Cl_2 and/or higher reaction temperatures for reaction (1) led to the impurity $AsCl_4^+ AsF_6^-$. The existence of AsF_3 as a by-product in reaction (1) was supported by infrared spectroscopy.

All of the $R_fNCl_3^+ AsF_6^-$ [$R_f = CF_3, SF_5, FC(O)$] salts are sensitive to moisture, while the $SF_5NCl_3^+ AsF_6^-$ salt is the most thermally stable. It decomposed slowly at room temperature over a few days (Raman). To date, our attempts to prepare $FNCl_3^+ AsF_6^-$ have resulted only in explosions. The ^{19}F NMR spectra of the $R_fNCl_3^+ AsF_6^-$ [$R_f = CF_3, SF_5, FC(O)$] salts were consistent with the proposed structures; CD_3CN was used as solvent and CCl_3F as external reference. A comparison of these spectra with those of the starting dichloroamines was informative. Although we were unsuccessful in obtaining a ^{13}C NMR spectrum of the $CF_3NCl_3^+ AsF_6^-$ salt, the J_{C-F} coupling constant was determined as 264 Hz from ^{13}C satellites in the ^{19}F

* Corresponding author.

NMR spectrum. In contrast, the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $\text{FC}(\text{O})\text{NCl}_3^+ \text{AsF}_6^-$ could be recorded and the $J_{\text{C-F}}$ coupling constant measured as 300 Hz. The $\text{CF}_3\text{NCl}_3^+ \text{AsF}_6^-$ salt was also found to decompose in SO_2 , either when monitored by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy or when attempts were made to grow single crystals. The observed instability of $\text{CF}_3\text{NCl}_3^+ \text{AsF}_6^-$ in SO_2 certainly explains the inability of Minkwitz and coworkers to observe the same product in their reaction [4].

The calculated vibrational frequencies (MP2/6-31G*) of the dichloroamines R_fNCl_2 [$\text{R}_f = \text{CF}_3, \text{FC}(\text{O})$ and F] matched the infrared and Raman data very well when a scaling factor of 0.95 was used; for SF_5NCl_2 a scaling factor of 0.88 was appropriate at the HF/6-31G* level. The calculated vibrational frequencies (MP2/6-31G*) of the R_fNCl_3^+ cations [$\text{R}_f = \text{CF}_3, \text{FC}(\text{O})$] matched the infrared and Raman spectra quite well when scaled appropriately, as did the calculated vibrational fre-

quencies of the $\text{SF}_5\text{NCl}_3^+$ cation at the HF/6-31G* level.

Acknowledgment

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References

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