

Reactions of Secondary Phosphine Sulfides

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Secondary phosphine sulfides have been characterized by addition to carbonyl compounds, oxidation to dithiophosphinic acids, and conversion to thiophosphinyl chlorides.

In the preceding communication,¹ the successful preparation and preliminary characterization of a new class of compounds, the secondary phosphine sulfides (I), were reported. Further study has shown that some general reactions that these sulfides undergo are addition to carbonyl groups, oxidation, and chlorination, in which they reveal an analogy to the secondary phosphine oxides (II).² A synopsis of these reactions is presented in Chart I. Dibutylphosphine sulfide (Ia) was used as a model compound in many cases.

Oxidation.—Secondary phosphine sulfides can be oxidized by elemental sulfur to the corresponding dithiophosphinic acids (III) in good to excellent yields. The reaction was found applicable to aliphatic and aromatic phosphine sulfides and when coupled with their synthesis¹ forms an efficient route from a secondary phosphine to its dithioic acid derivative. Failure of early investi-

co-workers⁶ through the use of aqueous ammonia as solvent. The present method complements the latter, gives the free acid directly, and is the method of choice for compounds sensitive to base or water. Only bis(2-cyanoethyl)dithiophosphinic acid proved too reactive to atmospheric moisture⁷ to be isolated as a free acid. One other limitation was found: The use of excess sulfur is to be avoided, since further oxidation of the acids to the corresponding bis(dithiophosphinyl) disulfides (V) is possible.

By contrast, the oxidation of dibutylphosphine sulfide (Ia) to dibutylthiophosphinic acid (VIa) could not be accomplished. Attempted oxidation by iodine or hydrogen peroxide produced both dibutylphosphinic (IVa) and dibutyl*dithiophosphinic* (IIIa) acids, instead. Appearance and subsequent disappearance of colloidal sulfur during the reaction suggested that dibutylphosphine oxide (IIa) and sulfur were formed initially, only to undergo further reaction to produce the observed products. Depending upon reaction conditions, the disulfide Va was sometimes isolated instead of the dithiophosphinic acid. The possibility that small amounts of the desired thiophosphinic acid were actually formed but not detected cannot be excluded; however, hydrolysis of the thiophosphinyl chloride (*q.v.*) affords a more practical alternative.

Conversion to Thiophosphinyl Chlorides.—Although secondary phosphine oxides can be chlorinated directly to the corresponding phosphinyl chlorides, similar treatment of dibutylphosphine sulfide did not prove practical for preparing dibutylthiophosphinyl chloride (VIIa). Chlorine itself effected conversion in rather low yields, while chlorinating agents which are also potential oxidants caused replacement of the sulfur, as noted earlier by Maier⁸ in his treatment of diphosphine disulfides with thionyl chloride.

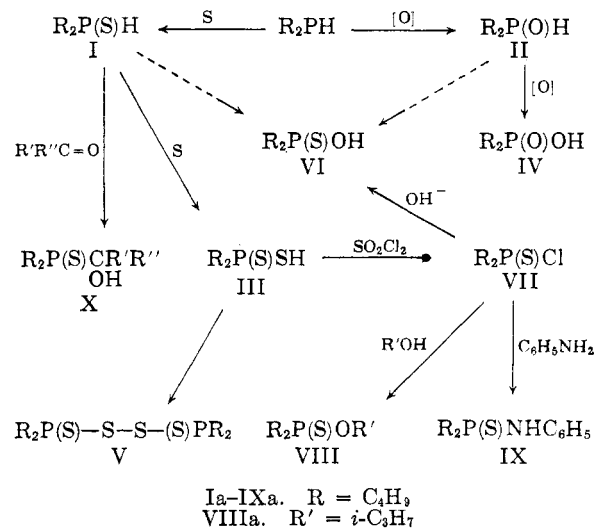
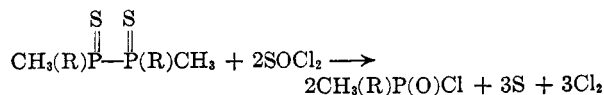


Chart I

gators³⁻⁵ (who conducted the oxidation in one step) to obtain high yields stems from their isolation of the acids in the form of salts. Recently, improvements have been made in the preparation of ammonium dithiophosphinates by Rauhut and

- (1) G. Peters, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **82**, 4751 (1960).
- (2) For a review on secondary phosphine oxides, see K. D. Berlin and G. B. Butler, *Chem. Rev.*, 243 (1960).
- (3) A. W. Hofmann and F. Mahla, *Ber.*, **25**, 2436 (1892).
- (4) L. Malatesta and R. Pizzotti, *Gazz. chim. ital.*, **76**, 167 (1946).
- (5) L. Malatesta, *ibid.*, **77**, 509, 518 (1947).



An alternate method described by Schrader and

- (6) M. M. Rauhut, H. A. Currier, and V. P. Wystrach, *J. Org. Chem.*, **26**, 5133 (1961).
- (7) M. M. Rauhut, H. A. Currier, G. A. Peters, F. C. Schaefer, and V. P. Wystrach, *J. Org. Chem.*, **26**, 5135 (1961).
- (8) L. Maier, *Angew. Chem.*, **71**, 575 (1959).

Diisobutyldithiophosphinic Acid.—Diisobutylphosphine sulfide was oxidized *in situ* by stirring a mixture of 2.5 g. (0.017 mole) of diisobutylphosphine and 1.3 g. (0.04 g.-atom) of sulfur in 30 cc. of acetone overnight. After removal of excess sulfur and the solvent, 3.0 g. (84%) of product melting at 39° was isolated. Recrystallization from heptane gave needles, m.p. 39–40°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₈H₁₈PS₂: C, 45.68; H, 9.11; P, 14.73. Found: C, 45.85; H, 9.30; P, 14.47.

Diphenyldithiophosphinic Acid.—A mixture of 5.6 g. (0.03 mole) of diphenylphosphine and 1.9 g. (0.06 g.-atom) of sulfur in 50 cc. of benzene was heated at reflux for 6.5 hr. After filtration and stripping under reduced pressure, 6.8 g. (91%) of green oil was obtained, identical in infrared spectrum with a sample prepared by the method of Higgins.¹⁴ In one run where an excess of sulfur was used, further oxidation occurred upon attempted crystallization of the oil from isopropyl alcohol, giving bis(diphenyldithiophosphinyl)-disulfide quantitatively. The disulfide melted at 146–147° after recrystallization from isopropyl alcohol-acetonitrile. No SH absorption at 2400 cm.⁻¹ characteristic of the acid remained in the infrared spectrum.

Anal. Calcd. for C₂₄H₂₀P₂S₄: P, 12.42; S, 25.72. Found: P, 12.70; S, 25.29.

Bis(2-cyanoethyl)dithiophosphinic Acid, Ammonium Salt.—Excess ammonia (50 cc.) was introduced at 10–20° into a mixture of 3.8 g. (0.12 g.-atom) of sulfur and 8.4 g. (0.06 mole) of bis(2-cyanoethyl)phosphine in 50 cc. of acetonitrile. The mixture was maintained at room temperature overnight. After the excess ammonia and solvent had been removed, 6.2 g. of product (47%), m.p. 147–150°, was obtained. Recrystallization from acetonitrile gave crystals, m.p. 163–165°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₆H₁₂N₃PS₂: C, 32.56; H, 5.47; S, 29.98. Found: C, 32.52; H, 5.41; S, 29.86.

In a similar reaction, the cyclohexylamine salt (4.3 g. = 47%) was isolated from the reaction of 1.9 g. (0.06 g.-atom) of sulfur and 4.2 g. (0.03 mole) of bis(2-cyanoethyl)phosphine in 5 cc. of cyclohexylamine, moderated in an ice bath. The melting point of the material crystallized from benzene was 123–124°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₂₂PS₂N₃: N, 13.85; P, 10.20; S, 21.14. Found: N, 13.88; P, 10.07; S, 21.59.

Bis(dibutyldithiophosphinyl) Disulfide (Va).—Iodine (1.7 g. = 0.0075 mole) was added to 3.4 g. (0.015 mole) of ammonium dibutyldithiophosphinate⁶ in 15 cc. of methanol, adapting the procedure of Malatesta and Pizzotti.⁴ A total of 2.95 g. (94%) of product precipitated, m.p. 62–63° from methanol.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₃₆P₂S₄: C, 45.80; H, 8.67; P, 14.79; S, 30.74. Found: C, 46.13; H, 8.60; P, 15.17; S, 30.15.

This product was identical with one isolated in the treatment of 5.9 g. (0.032 mole) of Ia in 25 cc. of 1.4 *N* sodium hydroxide by 3.6 g. (0.016 mole) of iodine. Acidification of the aqueous layer after heating 6 hr. at 60° precipitated 0.9 g. of the disulfide. The organic layer did not solidify but decomposed upon attempted distillation.

Oxidation of Ia by Iodine.—Iodine (1.2 g. = 0.011 mole) was added with discharge of color to a solution of 2 g. (0.011 mole) of Ia in 5 cc. of ethanol containing a small amount of KI. The solution was filtered and stripped, leaving a brown liquid, from which the aniline salt of dibutyldithiophosphinic acid was obtained by treatment with a methanol solution of aniline. Yield of product, m.p. 110–111° from acetonitrile: 1.0 g. (67%) based on the equation:



Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₂₆PNS₂: P, 10.21; N, 4.62. Found: P, 10.43; N, 4.59.

(14) W. A. Higgins, P. W. Vogel, and W. G. Craig, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **77**, 1864 (1955).

Oxidation of Ia by Hydrogen Peroxide.—A mixture of 4 cc. (0.01 mole) of 8.5% hydrogen peroxide and a few drops of acetic acid was added to 2 g. (0.011 mole) of Ia at 25°. An emulsion of sulfur formed. After 1.5 hr. at 90° (starch iodide test negative) the reaction mixture was filtered and diluted with ice water. Extraction with ether gave 1.4 g. of oily residue upon concentration. Infrared examination suggested a mixture of the three possible acids, phosphinic, thiophosphinic, and dithiophosphinic, but only the aniline salt of dibutyldithiophosphinic acid, *v.a.*, was isolable upon treatment of the residue with aniline in methanol.

Dibutyldithiophosphinyl Chloride (VIIa).—Method A. A benzene solution of crude dibutyldithiophosphinic acid prepared as above from 8.2 g. (0.046 mole) of Ia and 1.5 g. (0.046 g.-atom) of sulfur was concentrated to 15 g. To this was added dropwise at 40–45° a solution of 4 cc. (0.048 mole) of sulfur chloride in 10 cc. of benzene. After 3 hr., 1.7 g. of sulfur (113%) was filtered and the filtrate was distilled to obtain a total of 5.2 g. (53%) of VIIa, b.p. 110–112°/1 mm., lit. 116°/1 mm.⁹

Anal. Calcd. for C₈H₁₈PSCl: Cl, 16.67; S, 15.07. Found: Cl, 16.39; S, 15.34.

Method B. Chlorine (23.4 g. = 0.165 mole) was distilled into a solution of 5.4 g. (0.03 mole) of Ia in 50 cc. of carbon tetrachloride at 15–20°. After 2 hours, distillation of the solution provided 1.1 g. (17%) of product, b.p. 130°/2 mm., identical with the material obtained by method A.

***N*-Phenyldibutylthiophosphinamide (IXa).**—A solution of 0.5 g. (0.0024 mole) of VIIa in methanol was treated with excess aniline. Removal of the solvent after the exothermic reaction subsided left a solid, which was filtered and washed with water and 10% hydrochloric acid. Two recrystallizations from hexane gave 0.2 g. (35%) of needles, m.p. 66–67°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₂₄PNS: P, 11.50; S, 11.90; N, 5.20. Found: P, 11.57; S, 12.10; N, 5.21.

Dibutyldithiophosphinic Acid (VIa).—The method of Schrader⁹ was followed. From 2.3 g. of VIIa was obtained 1.8 g. of (85%) of yellow oil, from which an *aniline salt* was prepared by the addition of aniline in methanol. Recrystallized from heptane, the salt melted at 70–71°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₂₆NPOS: C, 58.50; H, 9.12; N, 4.87; S, 11.16; P, 10.78. Found: C, 58.73; H, 9.02; N, 4.80; S, 11.28; P, 10.83.

***O*-Isopropyl Dibutylthiophosphinate (VIIIa).**—Three grams (0.03 mole) of triethylamine was added dropwise to a mixture of 5.3 g. (0.03 mole) of Ia and 4.6 g. (0.03 mole) of carbon tetrachloride in 10 cc. of isopropyl alcohol, while maintaining the exothermic reaction below 50°. The mixture was heated at reflux for 1 hr., cooled, and filtered to remove triethylamine hydrochloride. The residue upon removal of solvent from the filtrate under reduced pressure was extracted with benzene to remove any remaining salt. The crude product (2.4 g. = 34%) was distilled to obtain 0.5 g. (7%), b.p. 84°/0.1 mm. Decomposition was evident during the distillation.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₂₆POS: C, 55.90; H, 10.66; S, 13.57. Found: C, 55.79; H, 10.62; S, 13.69.

Dibutyl-2,4-dichlorobenzylphosphine Sulfide.—A solution of 1.0 g. (0.026 mole) of sodium hydroxide in 20 cc. of methanol was added dropwise to 4.7 g. of Ia and 5.2 g. of 2,4-dichlorobenzyl chloride (0.026 mole each) in 10 cc. of methanol. The mixture was maintained below 35° during the addition, but was heated at reflux for 2.5 hr. thereafter. After filtration of the sodium chloride, concentration of the filtrate left 3.7 g. (42%) of product, m.p. 60–62° from heptane.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₂₃PSCl₂: C, 53.41; H, 6.87; P, 9.18; S, 9.51. Found: C, 53.13; H, 6.96; P, 8.97; S, 9.61.

Diphenyl-1-hydroxy-1-methylethylphosphine Sulfide.—A mixture of 8.0 g. (0.04 mole) of diphenylphosphine and 3.6 g. (0.11 g.-atom) of sulfur in 40 cc. of acetone was allowed to react overnight at ambient temperature. Unchanged sulfur (1.6 g.) and excess solvent were removed to obtain 9 g. (75%) of product. Recrystallization from benzene gave purified

material, m.p. 118–120°, which could not be dried *in vacuo* without decomposition.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{16}H_{17}POS$: C, 65.19; H, 6.20; S, 11.60. Found: C, 65.11; H, 6.99; S, 11.25.

Bis(2-cyanoethyl)-1-hydroxy-1-methylethylphosphine Sulfide.—Following the procedure above, 14.0 g. (0.1 mole) of bis(2-cyanoethyl)phosphine and 3.2 g. (0.1 g.-atom) of sulfur interacted in 60 cc. of acetone to produce 16.1 g. (70%) of crude product. Recovery of material melting at 113–115° from benzene was 40%.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_8H_{16}N_2OPS$: C, 46.94; H, 6.57; N, 12.17; P, 13.45; S, 13.93. Found: C, 46.92; H, 6.51; N, 12.27; P, 13.39; S, 13.88.

Dibutyl- α -hydroxybenzylphosphine Sulfide.—A mixture of 2.0 g. (0.11 mole) of Ia, 1.2 g. (0.11 mole) of benzaldehyde, and 5 drops of triethylamine was allowed to react exothermically before adding 2 cc. of benzene and heating at reflux 3 hr. Removal of solvent left 2.5 g. (83%) of product, melting at 54–55° on recrystallization from heptane. A similar uncatalyzed reaction produced 2.9 g. (95%) of product in 2 days.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{16}H_{26}POS$: C, 63.35; H, 8.86; S, 11.27. Found: C, 63.56; H, 8.98; S, 11.49.

Dibutyl-1-hydroxy-2,2,2-trichloroethylphosphine Sulfide (XI).—A third method of preparation is illustrated by the dropwise addition of 8.0 g. (0.055 mole) of dibutylphosphine at 25–30° to a slurry of 2.0 g. (0.06 g.-atom) of sulfur and 10.5 g. (0.07 mole) of chloral in 90 cc. of benzene. The mixture was heated briefly to 40° after the exotherm subsided. Unchanged sulfur (0.2 g.) was filtered, and the filtrate was stripped under reduced pressure to 21 g. (85% solution, maximum) of yeasty-smelling liquid to be used in the rearrangement below.

Rearrangement of XI. Method A. Base-Catalyzed.—The crude residue above, containing a maximum of 17.9 g. (0.055 mole) of XI, was dissolved in 20 cc. of methanol containing a trace of hydroquinone. A solution of 3 g. (0.055 mole) of sodium hydroxide in 16% aqueous methanol was added

dropwise at 10°. After overnight stirring, 1.2 g. of sodium chloride was filtered and the neutral filtrate was stripped to 1/3 volume, diluted with 75 cc. of ice water, and extracted with 125 cc. of methylene chloride. After drying over sodium sulfate, the extract was distilled to obtain a main fraction, 4.1 g., b.p. 145–152°/1 mm., containing by infrared and elemental analysis approximately 80% *O*-1,1-dichlorovinyl dibutylthiophosphinate and 20% *O*-chloroethynyl dibutylthiophosphinate.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{10}H_{18}PSOCl_2$: C, 41.53; H, 6.62; Cl, 24.52; P, 10.71. Found: C, 42.66; H, 7.61; Cl, 22.14; P, 11.03.

Separation by vapor phase chromatography gave a major fraction of mass 260 (theory 289) with two chlorine atoms. (Infrared analysis indicated some decomposition during the chromatographic separation.) NMR proton analysis of the original distillate showed the presence of a singlet H, in addition to the butyl grouping. Use of 2 moles of base per mole of XI produced material of approximately the same composition.

Method B. Thermal.—Distillation of 3.3 g. of XI gave a fraction, 0.3 g. b.p. 145–150°/0.25 mm., richer in the chloroethynyl ester. NMR analysis did not detect any H singlet, but elemental analysis suggested about 16% of the dichlorovinyl ester was present.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{10}H_{18}PSOCl$: C, 47.52; H, 7.18; Cl, 14.03; S, 12.69. Found: C, 46.73; H, 8.18; Cl, 15.49; S, 12.22.

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Reactions of Diethyl Phosphorochloridite with Alkali Salts of Nitroparaffins

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Reactions of alkali salts of primary nitroparaffins with diethyl phosphorochloridite gave nitriles and diethyl hydrogen phosphate as the main products. On the other hand, when the sodium salt of 2-nitropropane was treated with diethyl phosphorochloridite, diethyl isopropylideneaminophosphate was obtained. Further, benzanilide was formed by the Beckmann rearrangement of the product from the reaction of the potassium salt of diphenylnitromethane and diethyl phosphorochloridite.

It was confirmed that the trivalent phosphorus of the initially formed condensation product, nitronic ester, was readily converted into the pentavalent phosphorus of the iminophosphate.

The preceding papers have described intramolecular dehydrations of primary nitroparaffins into nitrile oxides by means of isocyanates,¹ carbodiimides, and acetylenic ethers.²

In the present study, dehydrations of primary nitroparaffins with diethyl phosphorochloridite

were tried first on the assumption that such compounds, reacting violently with water, were effective dehydrating reagents. It was expected that nitrile oxides and diethyl phosphate would be formed *via* condensation compounds of *aci*-nitroparaffins and diethyl phosphorochloridite.

Contrary to our expectation, dehydrated products could not be obtained when diethyl phosphorochloridite was treated with the potassium salt of phenylnitromethane in boiling ether. Instead,

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(2) T. Mukaiyama and T. Hata, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Japan*, **33**, 1382 (1960).