

Table V, equations of best least-squares planes; Table VI, positional parameters for nonhydrogen atoms; Table VII, anisotropic thermal parameters; and Table VIII, hydrogen atom positions (5 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

### References and Notes

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## Phosphoric Amides. 1. Phosphorus–Nitrogen vs. Nitrogen–Carbon Bond Cleavage in Acidic Solvolysis of *N*-Alkyl Phosphoramidates and Phosphinamidates

Tomasz A. Modro,\* Mary A. Lawry, and Elaine Murphy

Department of Chemistry, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A1

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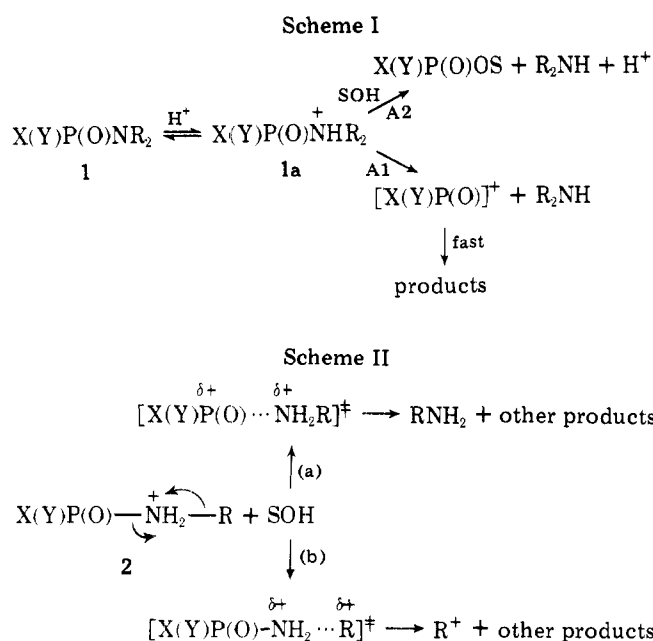
*N*-*tert*-Butyl phosphinamidates and phosphoramidates,  $X_2P(O)NH-t-Bu$  ( $X = \text{alkyl, aryl, } O\text{-alkyl, } O\text{-aryl}$ ), solvolyze in acidic media with both P–N and N–C bond cleavage. The relative contribution of these two pathways depends upon the substrate structure and the proton-donating and nucleophilic properties of the reaction medium. Rates of P–N and N–C bond fission were measured in solutions of  $HClO_4$ , TFA, and  $HCO_2H$ . Rate profiles and KSIE are interpreted in terms of an  $A_2$  mechanism for substitution at phosphorus, and a mechanism involving solvent electrophilic assistance for the de-*tert*-butylation pathway. For other *N*-alkyl-substituted phosphoramidates the competition between the P–N and N–R bond cleavage is a function of the ability of the *N*-alkyl group to generate the corresponding carbonium ion. N–C bond fission predominates for  $R = CH(CH_3)Ph$  and  $CH_2C_6H_4OCH_3$ -*p*, but for  $R = i-Pr$ ,  $CH_2Ph$ ,  $CH_2C_6H_4CH_3$ -*p*, or  $CH_2-c-C_3H_5$  only the substitution at phosphorus was observed.

The remarkably facile cleavage of the P–N bond under acidic conditions is receiving much attention in terms of mechanistic<sup>1</sup> and stereochemical<sup>2</sup> studies as well as synthetic application.<sup>3</sup> For the phosphacyl<sup>4</sup> derivatives  $X(Y)P(O)NR_2$  (**1**), the principal mechanistic problems involve the structure of substrate conjugate acid (N vs. O protonation) and the nature of the rate-determining step (bimolecular displacement vs. unimolecular collapse of the protonated substrate). Although the direct evidence for the N protonation is still lacking, the N-protonated **1** is presently considered as the most probable reactive form of the substrate in solvolysis reaction.<sup>6</sup> The excellent leaving group (amine molecule or ammonia) is then in most cases displaced by the nucleophile in the bimolecular,  $S_N2$ -like process; the participation of the

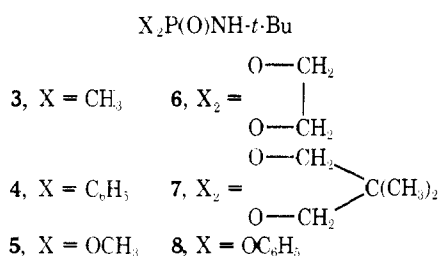
unimolecular mechanism can be a function of the leaving group nucleophilicity<sup>7</sup> and perhaps the acidity of the medium<sup>2</sup> (Scheme I).

The postulated structure of the conjugate acid (**1a**) has some additional implications. In the N-substituted system the full charge localized on nitrogen can in principle facilitate both P–N and N–C bond fission (Scheme II), and the reaction pathway should depend upon the relative stability of the intermediates formed and the nucleophilic (and possibly electrophilic) participation of the medium. It is reasonable to expect that these two cleavage patterns should be a function of the properties of the reaction medium and the detailed structure of the organophosphorus amide.

In order to gain some insight into the structure–reactivity

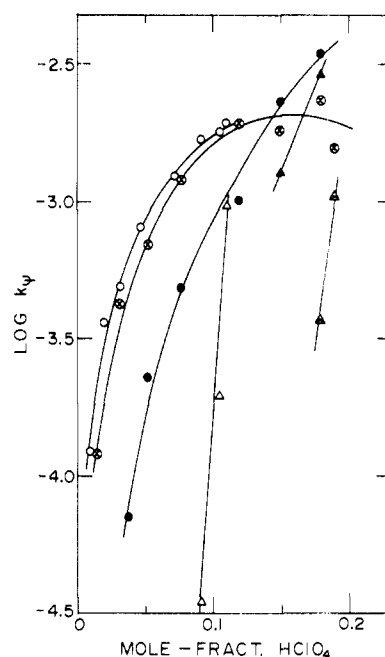
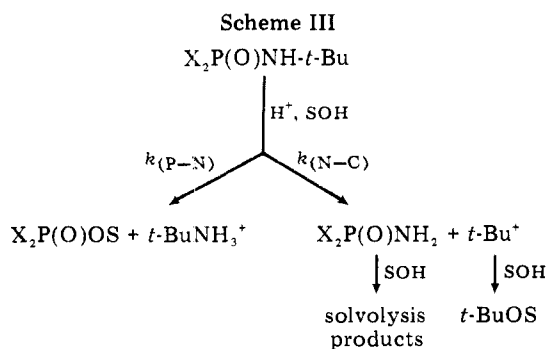


and medium-reactivity relationship in system 2, we have studied the acidic solvolysis of some *N-tert*-butyl phosphoramidates and phosphinamidates (3–8) and related compounds.



### Results and Discussion

All amidates studied show the ability to react with both P–N and N–C bond cleavage (Scheme III). The orientation and the rate of solvolysis were found to be very sensitive functions of the substrate structure and reaction medium composition. Both orientation and rates of the solvolysis could be easily followed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy. Compounds 3–8, comprising the most typical phosphinic and phosphoric structures, provide therefore convenient models for the investigation of the relative reactivity in the acid-catalyzed carbonium ion formation and the acid-catalyzed displacement at phosphorus within the same molecular framework. Table I lists product distribution and rate data for 4 and 5 in aqueous (or aqueous–acetone) solutions of perchloric acid; the corresponding rate profiles are presented in Figure 1. For the P–N bond cleavage, the rate–acidity dependence shows the be-



**Figure 1.** Rates of solvolysis as a function of mole fraction of  $\text{HClO}_4$ . 4 in aqueous  $\text{HClO}_4$ /acetone: (●) P–N cleavage; (▲) N–C cleavage. 5 in aqueous  $\text{HClO}_4$ /acetone: (●) P–N cleavage; (▲) N–C cleavage. 5 in aqueous  $\text{HClO}_4$ : (○) P–N cleavage; (△) N–C cleavage.

havior typical for the A2 reaction mechanism, observed also in acidic hydrolysis of carboxylic amides.<sup>8</sup> The initial increase in rate, followed by the region of leveling off, results most likely from the opposite effects of increasing protonation of the substrate and decreasing availability of the effective nucleophile (water) in the reaction medium. Phosphinate 4, being more basic than the phosphoramidate 5,<sup>9</sup> reaches the maximum in rate at lower acidities (rate profiles in aqueous–acetone). For 5, in aqueous solution, due to a higher acidity of the medium relative to the aqueous–organic solvent,<sup>10</sup> the rates are higher and the leveling off effect is more pronounced at lower content of perchloric acid.<sup>11</sup> The rate profiles for the N–C bond fission show quite different behavior; the rates increase dramatically with acidity over the narrow range of acid concentration. This of course demonstrates the absence of the nucleophilic solvent participation in the rate-determining formation of the *tert*-butyl carbonium ion. Such striking rate–acidity dependence suggests however that the reaction mechanism is more complex than the simple unimolecular collapse of substrate conjugate acid.

Solvolysis of substrates 3–8 was studied next in trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and TFA–water mixtures. Product and rate data obtained in anhydrous TFA are listed in Table II. The predominance of one of two concurrent reactions is clearly a function of groups X; the almost exclusive P–N bond cleavage (3), comparable contribution from both pathways (4), and the exclusive *de-tert*-butylation (7, 8) were observed. The variation in product distribution is mostly a result of variations in rates of substitutions at phosphorus. The rates of the N–C bond cleavage do not change by a factor greater than 10; phosphoramidates 5–8 react four to ten times faster than phosphinic derivatives 3 and 4, due to the higher electronegativity (better leaving ability) of the  $(\text{RO})_2\text{P(O)NH}_2$  moiety. The accuracy of the experimental technique employed indicates that the values of  $k_{\psi(\text{P-N})}$  for 7 and 8 are lower than  $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; this gives the factor of at least 200 for the variation in rates of the reaction involving P–N bond cleavage. The acid-catalyzed hydrolysis of phosphinamidates is known to be significantly slowed down by the increase in steric crowding at phosphorus.<sup>12</sup> We attribute the observed differences in  $k_{\psi(\text{P-N})}$  mostly to the steric effects, particularly with respect

Table I. Solvolysis in Aqueous HClO<sub>4</sub>/Acetone (1:1, v/v) (34 ± 0.5 °C)

| HClO <sub>4</sub><br>mol<br>fraction | 4               |                 |  |  | 5               |                 |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|
|                                      | P-N cleav,<br>% | N-C cleav,<br>% | 10 <sup>4</sup> k <sub>ψ(P-N)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> | 10 <sup>4</sup> k <sub>ψ(N-C)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> | P-N cleav,<br>% | N-C cleav,<br>% | 10 <sup>4</sup> k <sub>ψ(P-N)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> | 10 <sup>4</sup> k <sub>ψ(N-C)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> |
| 0.015                                | 100             |                 | 1.21   |  |                 |                 |  |  |
| 0.031                                | 100             |                 | 4.23   |  |                 |                 |  |  |
| 0.038                                |                 |                 |  |  | 100             |                 | 0.71   |  |
| 0.052                                | 100             |                 | 7.00   |  | 100             |                 | 2.29   |  |
| 0.077                                | 100             |                 | 12.2   |  | 100             |                 | 4.93   |  |
| 0.12                                 | 100             |                 | 19.7   |  | 100             |                 | 10.3   |  |
| 0.15                                 | 100             |                 | 18.4   |  | 65              | 35              | 24 <sup>a</sup>  | 13 <sup>a</sup>  |
| 0.18                                 | 86.5            | 13.5            | 24 <sup>a</sup>  | 4 <sup>a</sup>   | 55              | 45              | 34 <sup>a</sup>  | 29 <sup>a</sup>  |
| 0.19                                 | 60              | 40              | 16 <sup>a</sup>  | 11 <sup>a</sup>  |                 |                 |  |  |

Solvolysis of 5 in Aqueous HClO<sub>4</sub> (34 ± 0.5 °C)

| HClO <sub>4</sub><br>mol<br>fraction | P-N<br>cleav,<br>% | N-C<br>cleav,<br>% | 10 <sup>4</sup> k <sub>ψ(P-N)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> | 10 <sup>4</sup> k <sub>ψ(N-C)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> | HClO <sub>4</sub><br>mol<br>fraction | P-N<br>cleav,<br>% | N-C<br>cleav,<br>% | 10 <sup>4</sup> k <sub>ψ(P-N)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> | 10 <sup>4</sup> k <sub>ψ(N-C)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| 0.009                                | 100                |                    | 1.22   |  | 0.072                                | 100                |                    | 12.5   |  |
| 0.020                                | 100                |                    | 3.66   |  | 0.091                                | 98                 | 2                  | 16.9   | 0.34   |
| 0.032                                | 100                |                    | 4.93   |  | 0.105                                | 90.5               | 9.5                | 18.3   | 1.92   |
| 0.047                                | 100                |                    | 8.20   |  | 0.110                                | 74                 | 26                 | 20 <sup>a</sup>  | 10 <sup>a</sup>  |

<sup>a</sup> ±20%.

Table II. Solvolysis in Anhydrous TFA (34 ± 0.5 °C)

| compd | registry<br>no. | P-N<br>cleav,<br>% | N-C<br>cleav,<br>% | 10 <sup>4</sup><br>k <sub>ψ(P-N)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> | 10 <sup>4</sup><br>k <sub>ψ(N-C)</sub> ,<br>s <sup>-1</sup> |
|-------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| 3     | 68036-30-6      | 96                 | 4                  | ≥160 <sup>a</sup>   | 6 <sup>a</sup>  |
| 4     | 68036-31-7      | 45                 | 55                 | 3.67  | 4.70  |
| 5     | 68036-32-8      | 8                  | 92                 | 2.60  | 30 <sup>a</sup>   |
| 6     | 64067-51-2      | 20                 | 80                 | 5.47  | 22 <sup>a</sup>   |
| 7     | 944-23-0        |                    | 100                |   | 51 <sup>a</sup>   |
| 8     | 3335-12-4       |                    | 100                |   | 23 <sup>a</sup>   |

<sup>a</sup> ±20%.

to such a weak nucleophile as the TFA molecule. Compound 3 represents the system with the least hindrance at phosphorus and it undergoes displacement reaction at least 30 times faster than the next most reactive substrate. In phosphoramidates 5-7, the polar effects should be to a first approximation the same. The steric hindrance for the nucleophilic attack at phosphorus increases in the order 6 < 5 < 7,<sup>13</sup> which corresponds to the order of decreasing rate constants (5.5, 2.6, <1).

Four of the substrates were studied in aqueous solutions of TFA over a wide range of medium composition. The pertinent data are collected in Table III and rate profiles presented in Figures 2 and 3. All systems are capable of reacting according to pathway (a) or (b) (Scheme II); the proportion of products depends entirely upon the composition of the medium. In the case of 8, it is even possible to produce at two extremes of acid concentration range the exclusive expulsion of the amine or exclusive formation of the *tert*-butyl carbonium ion. For all compounds the solvolysis of the P-N bond shows very low sensitivity to changes in medium composition (except in the very dilute acid region where the initial protonation of the substrate is necessary for the reaction to proceed with measurable rate). This behavior remains in full agreement with the A2 mechanism for the P-N bond cleavage. The increase in concentration of substrate conjugate acid with the increase of acidity is counterbalanced by the effect of replacement of good nucleophile (water) by the poor one (TFA). The values of *k*<sub>ψ</sub> vary with concentration of TFA in a monotonic fashion; this indicates no change in reaction mechanism (e.g., for the

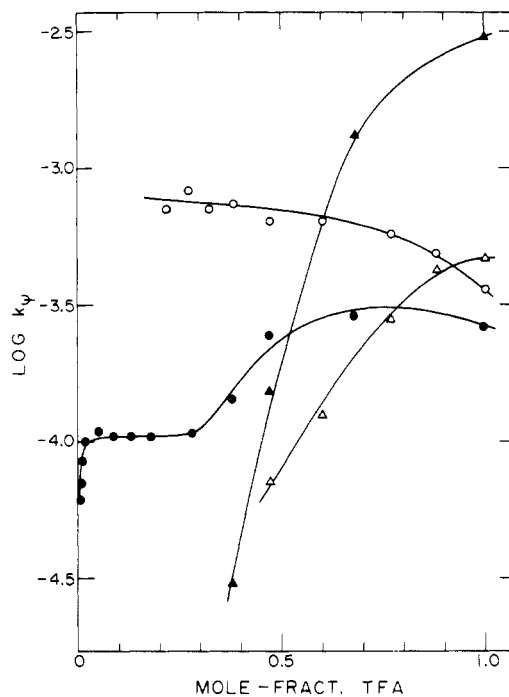


Figure 2. Rates of solvolysis as a function of mole fraction of TFA. 4: (O) P-N cleavage; (Δ) N-C cleavage. 5: (●) P-N cleavage; (▲) N-C cleavage.

A2 to A1 model), even in the region of low water content (or in anhydrous acid), i.e., the nucleophilic assistance of the solvent is necessary in the rate-determining transition state. It seems hard to accept that the leveling off of the rate profiles observed at ca. 0.1 mol fraction TFA results solely from the protonation of a substrate. This would require the amidates studied to be fairly strongly basic (*pK*<sub>a</sub> ≥ 0.4). Haake demonstrated<sup>1</sup> that the *pK*<sub>a</sub> values for some *N*-alkyl phosphoramidates are of the order of -2 to -3; the phosphoramidates (RO)<sub>2</sub>P(O)NHR have to be still considerably less basic.<sup>9</sup>

As in perchloric acid, the dealkylation reaction shows rapid acceleration within a relatively narrow range of acidity. The change in the medium composition from 0.4 to 1.0 mol fraction TFA results in ca. 100-fold rate increase, an effect greater than that expected solely on the basis of the increased concentra-

Table III. Solvolysis in Aqueous TFA ( $34 \pm 0.5$  °C)

| TFA<br>mol<br>fraction | P-N cleavage, % |     |      |      | N-C cleavage, % |    |      |     | $10^4 k_{(P-N)}, s^{-1}$ |      |      |      | $10^4 k_{(N-C)}, s^{-1}$ |                 |                 |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----|------|------|-----------------|----|------|-----|--------------------------|------|------|------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                        | 4               | 5   | 6    | 8    | 4               | 5  | 6    | 8   | 4                        | 5    | 6    | 8    | 4                        | 5               | 6               | 8               |
| 0.005                  | a               | 100 |      | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        | 0.61 |      | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.010                  | a               | 100 | 100  | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        | 0.71 | 9.25 | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.012                  | a               | 100 |      | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        | 0.84 |      | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.013                  | a               |     | 100  | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        |      | 11.4 | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.017                  | a               | 100 |      | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        | 1.00 |      | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.052                  | a               | 100 | 1100 | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        | 1.09 | 17.8 | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.085                  | a               | 100 |      | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        | 1.04 |      | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.086                  | a               |     | 100  | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        |      | 15.0 | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.13                   | a               | 100 |      | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        | 1.04 |      | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.18                   | a               | 100 | 100  | a    | a               |    |      | a   | a                        | 1.05 | 8.25 | a    | a                        |                 |                 | a               |
| 0.20                   |                 |     |      | 100  |                 |    |      |     |                          |      |      | 0.37 |                          |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.22                   | 100             |     |      |      |                 |    |      |     | 7.07                     |      |      |      |                          |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.27                   | 100             |     |      |      |                 |    |      |     | 8.40                     |      |      |      |                          |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.28                   |                 | 100 |      |      |                 |    |      |     |                          | 1.06 |      |      |                          |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.30                   |                 |     |      | 100  |                 |    |      |     |                          |      |      | 0.44 |                          |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.32                   | 100             |     |      |      |                 |    |      |     | 7.03                     |      |      |      |                          |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.38                   | 100             | 91  | 100  |      |                 | 9  |      |     | 7.38                     | 1.44 | 4.55 |      | 0.30                     |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.40                   |                 |     |      | 85   |                 |    | 15   |     |                          |      |      | 0.59 |                          |                 |                 | 0.10            |
| 0.47                   | 94              | 62  |      |      | 6               | 38 |      |     | 6.49                     | 2.48 |      |      | 0.72                     | 1.52            |                 |                 |
| 0.50                   |                 |     |      | 54.5 |                 |    | 45.5 |     |                          |      |      | 1.24 |                          |                 |                 | 1.03            |
| 0.51                   |                 |     | 93   |      |                 | 7  |      |     |                          |      | 3.61 |      |                          | 0.27            |                 |                 |
| 0.60                   | 89              |     |      | 29   | 11              |    | 71   |     | 6.51                     |      |      | 1.32 | 1.26                     |                 |                 | 3.23            |
| 0.68                   |                 | 22  |      |      |                 | 78 |      |     |                          | 2.88 |      |      |                          | 13.1            |                 |                 |
| 0.70                   |                 |     |      | 17   |                 |    | 83   |     |                          |      |      | 1.73 |                          |                 |                 | 8.44            |
| 0.75                   |                 |     | 66   | 12   |                 | 34 | 88   |     |                          |      | 6.21 | 1.89 |                          |                 | 12.1            | 13.8            |
| 0.77                   | 73              |     |      |      | 27              |    |      |     | 5.72                     |      |      |      | 2.80                     |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.80                   |                 |     |      | 8    |                 |    | 92   |     |                          |      |      |      | 1.74                     |                 |                 | 20 <sup>b</sup> |
| 0.88                   | 57              |     |      |      | 43              |    |      |     | 4.87                     |      |      |      | 4.24                     |                 |                 |                 |
| 0.90                   |                 |     |      | 7    |                 |    | 93   |     |                          |      |      | 2.03 |                          |                 |                 | 27 <sup>b</sup> |
| 1.00                   | 45              | 8   | 20   |      | 55              | 92 | 80   | 100 | 3.67                     | 2.60 | 5.47 |      | 4.70                     | 30 <sup>b</sup> | 22 <sup>b</sup> | 23 <sup>b</sup> |

<sup>a</sup> Measurements not possible due to solubility limitations. <sup>b</sup>  $\pm 20\%$ .

tion of protonated substrate in the pre-equilibrium step.<sup>14</sup> Such high sensitivity to the medium composition suggests the possibility of the additional involvement of the acid in the de-*tert*-butylation reaction. Kinetic solvent isotope effect measurements are usually employed to provide information

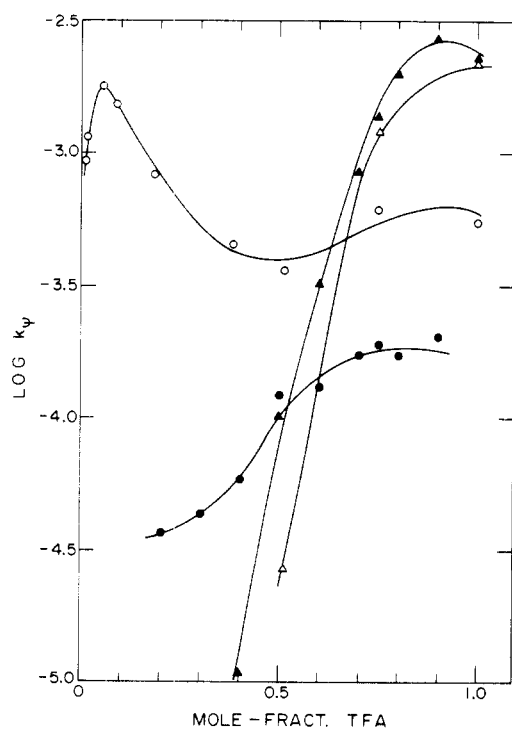


Figure 3. Rates of solvolysis as a function of mole fraction of TFA. 6: (O) P-N cleavage; ( $\Delta$ ) N-C cleavage. 8: ( $\bullet$ ) P-N cleavage; ( $\blacktriangle$ ) N-C cleavage.

about the role of the proton transfer in the acid-catalyzed process. KSIE has been determined for the solvolysis of amides 3-8 in TFA; the pertinent data are listed in Table IV. The KSIE results demonstrate the obvious mechanistic difference between the P-N and N-C bond cleavage pathways. For the substitution at phosphorus, the  $k_H/k_D$  values are typical for

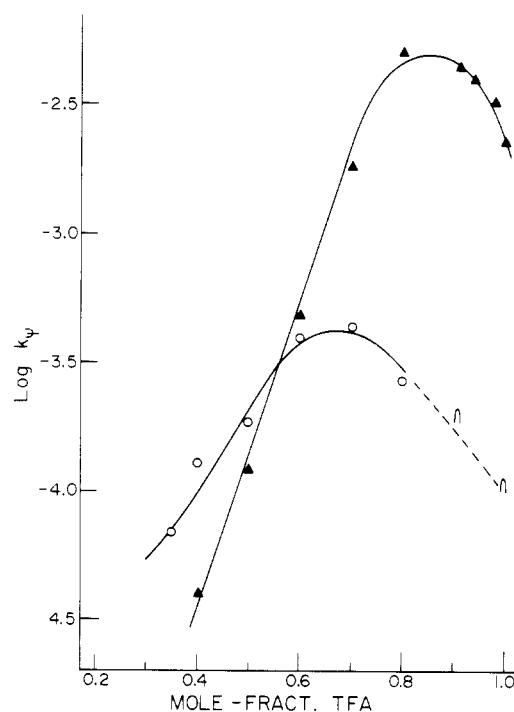


Figure 4. Rates of solvolysis of 9a as a function of mole fraction of TFA: (O) P-N cleavage; ( $\blacktriangle$ ) N-C cleavage.

**Table IV. Kinetic Solvent Isotope Effect for Solvolysis in TFA**

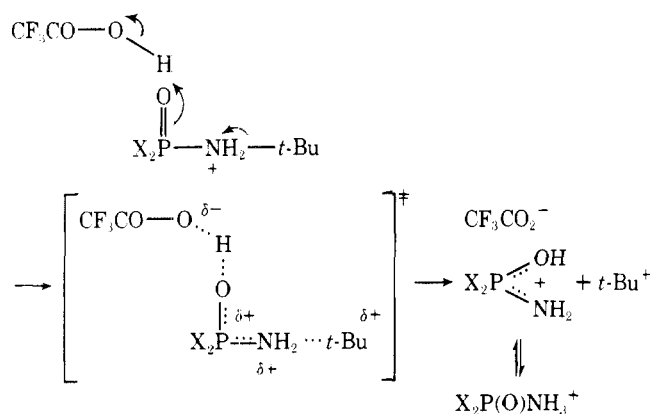
| compd | medium   | $k_H/k_D$    |              |
|-------|----------|--------------|--------------|
|       |          | P-N cleavage | N-C cleavage |
| 3     | 100% TFA | 0.56         | <i>a</i>     |
| 4     | 100% TFA | 0.58         | 1.37         |
| 5     | 100% TFA | 0.73         | 1.36         |
| 5     | 5.8% TFA | 0.64         |              |
| 6     | 100% TFA | 0.67         | 1.43         |
| 7     | 100% TFA |              | 1.72         |
| 8     | 100% TFA | <i>b</i>     | 1.64         |

<sup>a</sup> Evaluation of  $k_H/k_D$  not possible due to negligible N-C cleavage in TFA-*d*. <sup>b</sup> In TFA-*d* 5% of the P-N bond cleavage was observed.

the reaction of an A2 mechanism;<sup>16</sup> rate acceleration in the deuterated medium results from the higher concentration of substrate conjugate acid. However, for the nitrogen-carbon bond cleavage, rather unexpectedly, the inverse isotope effect was found in anhydrous TFA for all systems, despite the fact that the first protonation pre-equilibrium producing the intermediate common for both reactions is subject to the "normal" effect ( $K_H/K_D < 1$ ). Corrected to the magnitude of the KSIE upon the first protonation step, the values of  $k_H/k_D$  for the *de-tert*-butylation reaction in anhydrous trifluoroacetic acid are in the range 1.8–2.4, demonstrating unambiguously that the additional proton transfer must be involved in the transition state of the N-C bond fission. Such a transition state can be envisaged in this medium as a system in which the leaving group ability is increased by the proton transfer from the TFA to the phosphoryl oxygen, synchronous with the cleavage of the nitrogen-carbon bond (Scheme IV). The directly formed protonated (unsubstituted) amide can tautomerize to its reactive N-protonated form and the above sequence explains the high dependence of the debutylation rate on the acid concentration. Such a mechanism, involving specific, electrophilic solvation of the transition state by TFA, is reminiscent of the TFA-catalyzed ortho-Claisen rearrangement of allyl aryl ethers for which the KSIE of the value  $k_H/k_D = 1.4$  has been found.<sup>18</sup>

Solvolysis of the phosphorus-nitrogen bond depends therefore upon the acidity (because of the pre-equilibrium step) and nucleophilicity (substitution at phosphorus) of the medium; *de-tert*-butylation is entirely the function of its proton-donating properties. This can be demonstrated by comparing solvolysis of **5** in aqueous solutions of HClO<sub>4</sub> and TFA. The medium containing 0.1 mol fraction of HClO<sub>4</sub> is characterized<sup>19</sup> by the same value of the acidity function as the solution containing 0.57 mol fraction of TFA<sup>15</sup> ( $H_0 = -2.24$ ); these two solutions differ of course significantly in their nucleophilicity. The rates of the *de-tert*-butylation are in these two media approximately the same; the P-N bond

Scheme IV



cleavage proceeds in perchloric acid ca. eight times faster than in the corresponding TFA solution of the same  $H_0$  value but with a much lower content of water.

Since the two modes of the acidic solvolysis of amides studied are characterized by different requirements with respect to medium acidity and nucleophilicity, it seems possible to modify the relative contributions of these two pathways by simply changing the reaction medium. On the other hand, the behavior of the compounds of the type 3–8 can provide information about the specific properties of a given acidic solution. For example, formic acid has a proton-donating ability considerably weaker (by ca. 0.5 in  $H_0$  units) than TFA.<sup>15,19</sup> Haake and Ossip demonstrated<sup>5</sup> that HCO<sub>2</sub>H is about 40 times more nucleophilic than TFA for displacement at the P<sup>V</sup> atom. According to the mechanism proposed, the change of reaction medium from TFA to HCO<sub>2</sub>H should produce quite different effects upon the solvolysis of P-N and N-C bonds. The solvolysis in these two media has been compared for some amidates and the results are presented in Table V. The change in product composition is indeed dramatic. In formic acid the almost exclusive P-N bond cleavage is observed even for compounds which in TFA react with predominant or exclusive N-C bond fission. The changes in rates of substitution at phosphorus are rather small. The effects caused by the greater nucleophilicity of HCO<sub>2</sub>H are counterbalanced by its lower acidity. The rates of *de-tert*-butylation decrease however in formic acid enormously (for **8** by a factor of  $2.8 \times 10^3$ ) as expected for a reaction with a high demand for the proton-donating ability of the medium, both in the pre-equilibrium step and in the electrophilic assistance in the rate-determining transition state.

It is evident that both patterns of the solvolytic cleavage are characterized by energies of activation of comparable magnitudes, so small variations in substrate structure or reaction medium can essentially change the reaction pathway. We decided to investigate also the structural dependence of the N-C bond cleavage for various N-alkylated phosphoric amides **9** and **10**. Thus the solvolytic cleavage has been tested as a probe for the relative easiness of the carbonium ion formation (Scheme II, b) by various groups R.

|   | (PhO) <sub>2</sub> P(O)NHR | Ph <sub>2</sub> P(O)NHR  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>9a</b> , R = CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )Ph  |                            | <b>10a</b> , R = CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )Ph                                  |
| <b>b</b> , R = CH <sub>2</sub> Ph   |                            | <b>b</b> , R = CH <sub>2</sub> Ph  |
| <b>c</b> , R = CH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> (p)  |                            | <b>c</b> , R = CH <sub>2</sub> - <i>c</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub> |
| <b>d</b> , R = CH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub> (p) |                            |  |
| <b>e</b> , R = <i>i</i> -Pr   |                            |  |

Results of the solvolysis in anhydrous TFA are presented in Table VI. The position of the cleavage depends rigorously upon the structure of the substituent at nitrogen. Only for systems able to produce highly stabilized carbonium ions, such

**Table V. Comparison of Solvolysis in TFA and in Formic Acid**

| compd                           | TFA mol fraction | P-N cleav, % | N-C cleav, % | $10^4 k_{\text{obs}}$              |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                 |                  |              |              | $k_{\text{P-N}}$ , s <sup>-1</sup> | $k_{\text{N-C}}$ , s <sup>-1</sup> |
| 4                               | 0.88             | 57           | 43           | 4.87                               | 4.24                               |
|                                 | 1.00             | 45           | 55           | 3.67                               | 4.70                               |
|                                 | 0.68             | 22           | 78           | 2.88                               | 13.1                               |
| 8                               | 1.00             | 8            | 92           | 2.60                               | 30                                 |
|                                 | 1.00             |              | 100          |                                    | 23                                 |
| HCO <sub>2</sub> H mol fraction |                  |              |              |                                    |                                    |
| 4                               | 0.98             | 100          |              | 6.43                               |                                    |
| 5                               | 0.98             | 100          |              | 0.58                               |                                    |
| 8                               | 0.98             | 96           | 4            | 0.20                               | 0.008                              |

Table VI. Solvolysis in Anhydrous TFA ( $34 \pm 0.5$  °C)

| compd | registry no. | P-N cleav, % | N-C cleav, % | $10^4 k_{\psi(P-N)}$ , s <sup>-1</sup> | $10^4 k_{\psi(N-C)}$ , s <sup>-1</sup> |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| 9a    | 68036-33-9   |              | 100          | <1                                     | 23 <sup>a</sup>                        |
| 9b    | 33985-75-0   | 100          |              | 1.26                                   | <0.03                                  |
| 9c    | 68036-34-0   | 100          |              | 1.85                                   | <0.05                                  |
| 9d    | 68036-35-1   |              | 100          | <1.5                                   | 60 <sup>a</sup>                        |
| 9e    | 5756-04-7    | 100          |              | 0.51                                   | <0.012                                 |
| 10a   | 67764-56-1   | 78           | 22           | <i>b</i>                               | <i>b</i>                               |
| 10b   | 27127-08-8   | 100          |              | 2.66                                   | <0.07                                  |
| 10c   | 68036-36-2   | 100          |              | <i>b</i>                               | <i>b</i>                               |

<sup>a</sup>  $\pm 20\%$ . <sup>b</sup> No reliable rate constant could be determined due to the overlap of the NMR signals of the substrate and products.

as  $\alpha$ -methylbenzyl or *p*-methoxybenzyl, was the N-C cleavage observed in anhydrous TFA. Since the structural environment at phosphorus in all derivatives 9a-e is practically constant, only small variations in rates of the P-N cleavage are observed. Rates of the dealkylation vary markedly reflecting large differences in the stability of the corresponding carbonium ions. It is worthwhile to point out the virtually identical values of  $k_{\psi(N-C)}$  for compounds 9a and 8 (Table II) indicating very similar stability of the  $\alpha$ -methylbenzyl and *tert*-butyl carbonium ions. The same result has been reported in the solvolysis of the corresponding alkyl chlorides.<sup>20</sup> Data in Table VI demonstrate also sharp differences in the easiness of the formation of the tertiary vs. secondary (8 vs. 9e) or secondary vs. primary (9a vs. 9b) carbonium ions. Since among *N*-benzyl derivatives only the *p*-methoxy compound gives the dealkylation product, determination of the  $\rho^+$  constant for this reaction is not possible. However, the accuracy of the kinetic method enables one to estimate the upper limit of the  $k_{\psi(N-C)}$  values for 9b and 9c, hence the upper limit of the reaction constant. It follows that for the debenzilation reaction  $\rho^+ \leq$  ca. -4, clearly indicating the highly advanced formation of the carbonium ion in the rate-determining step, comparable to that observed in such reactions as solvolysis of cumyl chlorides, diphenylmethyl *p*-nitrobenzoates, or hydration of styrenes.<sup>21</sup>

Amidate 9a was studied in aqueous TFA solutions. The rate-acidity dependence closely parallels that observed for the *tert*-butyl derivatives; the rate profiles for the P-N and N-C cleavage are shown in Figure 4. For the cleavage at phosphorus the rate profile is again compatible with an A2 model. Low variation in rate is observed with the possible decrease in rate in the range of low water content, what is indicated by the dashed line, based upon the upper limit of the  $k_{\psi}$  values for the (not observed) P-N cleavage. The rate profile for the dealkylation shows the distinct maximum at 0.8-0.9 mol fraction of TFA, which corresponds exactly to the maximum of the acidity function in aqueous TFA.<sup>15</sup> The plot of the  $\log k_{\psi(N-C)}$  vs.  $-H_0$  is however not linear and increases rapidly at high concentrations of TFA. This indicates strongly the general acid catalysis in the region of the undissociated TFA and remains in full agreement with the rate-determining proton-transfer model for the N-C cleavage reaction (Scheme IV).

### Experimental Section

Melting points are uncorrected. Aqueous solutions of HClO<sub>4</sub> were prepared by diluting the concentrated acid with distilled water. The concentrations of these solutions were determined from their densities; densities were measured with a DMA 02C digital precision density meter at 25.0 °C. TFA (Eastman) was distilled from trifluoroacetic anhydride with exclusion of moisture. Aqueous solutions of TFA were prepared from the calculated amounts of the acid and distilled water. Deuteriotrifluoroacetic acid (Aldrich, 99 atom % D)

was used as supplied. Formic acid (Fischer) was distilled under reduced pressure from anhydrous cupric sulfate and its concentration was determined by standard titration against sodium hydroxide. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 60 MHz on a Varian T-60 spectrometer at a probe temperature of  $34 \pm 0.5$  °C.

**Reagents.** Dimethylphosphinic chloride was prepared from the dimethylphosphinic acid<sup>22</sup> and PCl<sub>5</sub>,<sup>23</sup> mp 68 °C (lit.<sup>23</sup> mp 67-68 °C). Diphenylphosphinic chloride was prepared from the diphenylphosphinic acid (Aldrich) and thionyl chloride,<sup>24</sup> bp 147 °C (0.3 mm) [lit.<sup>24</sup> bp 135-136 °C (0.07 mm)].

Dimethyl phosphorochloridate was prepared from methanol, PCl<sub>3</sub>, and sulfur chloride,<sup>25</sup> bp 80 °C (18 mm) [lit.<sup>25</sup> bp 65-67 °C (11 mm)].

2-Chloro-2-oxo-1,3,2-dioxaphospholane was prepared from 2-chloro-1,3,2-dioxaphospholane<sup>26</sup> by oxidation with oxygen,<sup>27</sup> bp 68-69 °C (0.15 mm) [lit.<sup>27</sup> bp 79 °C (0.4 mm)].

2-Chloro-5,5-dimethyl-2-oxo-1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinane was prepared from 2,2-dimethylpropane-1,3-diol and POCl<sub>3</sub>,<sup>28</sup> mp 100-101 °C (lit.<sup>28</sup> mp 104-106 °C).

Diphenyl phosphorochloridate (Aldrich) was distilled before use.

Amides 3-8 were prepared from *tert*-butylamine (2 equiv) and the corresponding acid chloride in anhydrous ether at 8-10 °C and purified by crystallization.

3, mp 90.5-91.5 °C (from ether). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ONP: C, 48.31; H, 10.81; N, 9.39; P, 20.76. Found: C, 47.68; H, 10.41; N, 9.82; P, 20.37.

4, mp 131-132 °C (lit.<sup>29</sup> mp 134-136 °C).

5, mp 64-65 °C (from hexane). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NP: C, 39.77; H, 8.90; N, 7.73; P, 17.09. Found: C, 38.93; H, 9.60; N, 7.46; P, 16.69.

6, mp 113-115 °C (from hexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 10:1). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NP: C, 40.22; H, 7.88; N, 7.82; P, 17.29. Found: C, 40.32; H, 8.07; N, 7.75; P, 16.91.

7, mp 159-161 °C (from cyclohexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 10:1). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NP: C, 48.86; H, 9.11; N, 6.33; P, 14.00. Found: C, 48.60; H, 9.15; N, 6.18; P, 14.95.

8, mp 115-116 °C (lit.<sup>30</sup> mp 114-115 °C).

Amides 9 and 10 were prepared in the same manner from 2 equiv of the amine and the corresponding acid chloride.

9a, mp 104-106 °C (from cyclohexane). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NP: C, 67.98; H, 5.71; N, 3.96; P, 8.77. Found: C, 67.51; H, 5.55; N, 3.80; P, 8.68.

9b, mp 92-94 °C (lit.<sup>31</sup> mp 101-102.5 °C).

9c, mp 93-94.5 °C (from cyclohexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 10:1). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NP: C, 67.98; H, 5.71; N, 3.96; P, 8.77. Found: C, 67.66; H, 5.88; N, 3.94; P, 8.75.

9d, mp 62-63 °C (from cyclohexane). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NP: C, 65.04; H, 5.46; N, 3.79; P, 8.39. Found: C, 64.75; H, 5.51; N, 3.68; P, 8.54.

9e, mp 72-74 °C (lit.<sup>30</sup> mp 75-76 °C).

10a, mp 147-149 °C (from cyclohexane). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ONP: C, 74.75; H, 6.27; N, 4.36; P, 9.64. Found: C, 74.53; H, 6.41; N, 4.23; P, 9.49.

10b, mp 110-112 °C (lit.<sup>32</sup> mp 111-112 °C).

10c, mp 73-76 °C (from ether). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ONP: C, 70.83; H, 6.69; N, 5.16; P, 11.42. Found: C, 69.80; H, 6.60; N, 4.33; P, 12.07.

**Product Determination.** The substrate was dissolved in the acidic solution and the solvolysis was followed by recording the NMR spectrum of the solution. For 3-8 the *tert*-butyl groups of substrates and both products (P-N and N-C cleavage) appear as easily identified sharp singlets. For example, chemical shifts of the *t*-Bu group (in TFA) of 4, *tert*-butylamine, and de-*tert*-butylation product are 1.43, 1.58, and 1.67 ppm, respectively.

When the reaction was complete, the cleavage products were identified by adding authentic samples of *tert*-butyl alcohol and *tert*-butylamine to the sample tube. When two solvolysis products were formed (P-N and N-C cleavage), the products ratio was determined from the intensities of the two *tert*-butyl signals.

For substrates 9 and 10 solvolysis products were identified and determined in the same way. The following signals were used to identify reaction products and to follow reaction kinetics: 9a, CH<sub>3</sub> (d, *J* = 6 Hz); products, N-C cleavage, CH<sub>3</sub> (d, *J* = 6 Hz),  $\Delta\delta$  = 9 Hz, and P-N cleavage, CH<sub>3</sub> (d, *J* = 6 Hz),  $\Delta\delta$  = 15 Hz.

9b, CH<sub>2</sub> (d, *J*<sub>H,P</sub> = 11 Hz); product, P-N cleavage, CH<sub>2</sub> (q, *J* = 6 Hz),  $\Delta\delta$  = 3 Hz.

9c, CH<sub>2</sub> (d, *J*<sub>H,P</sub> = 11 Hz); product, P-N cleavage, CH<sub>2</sub> (q, *J* = 6 Hz),  $\Delta\delta$  = 5.5 Hz.

9d, CH<sub>3</sub> (s), CH<sub>2</sub> (d, *J*<sub>H,P</sub> = 11 Hz); product, N-C cleavage, CH<sub>3</sub> (s),

$\Delta\delta = -4.5$  Hz; also the broad band,  $\Delta\delta \approx -30$  Hz (relative to the  $\text{CH}_2$  signal of **9d**), resulting from subsequent reactions of the *p*-methoxybenzyl carbonium ion in acidic medium.

**9e**,  $(\text{CH}_3)_2$  (d,  $J = 7$  Hz); product, P–N cleavage,  $(\text{CH}_3)_2$  (d,  $J = 7$  Hz),  $\Delta\delta = 13$  Hz.

**10a**,  $\text{CH}_3$  (d,  $J = 7$  Hz); products, N–C cleavage,  $\text{CH}_3$  (d,  $J = 7$  Hz),  $\Delta\delta = 6$  Hz; P–N cleavage,  $\text{CH}_3$  (d,  $J = 7$  Hz),  $\Delta\delta = 13$  Hz.

**10b**,  $\text{CH}_2$  (d,  $J_{\text{H,P}} = 7$  Hz); product, P–N cleavage,  $\text{CH}_2$  (q,  $J = 6$  Hz),  $\Delta\delta = 11$  Hz.

**10c**,  $\text{CH}_2$  (d of d),  $\delta = 2.8$  (relative to  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$ ) changed to the multiplet,  $\delta = 2.8$  (relative to  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$ ), identical with that from the authentic sample of the cyclopropylmethylamine.

**Kinetics.** The substrate (25 mg) was placed in an NMR tube which was equilibrated in a bath at the temperature of the kinetic run. The acid (0.5 mL) was pipetted from a container also kept in the bath and added to the substrate. Immediately after mixing, the tube was placed in the spectrometer probe and measurements were started. The integration curve was plotted repeatedly in the range of the *tert*-butyl groups signals (between 1 and 2 ppm) or in the appropriate range for substrates **9** and **10**, at the sweep width 100 or 50 Hz. Even for fast runs ( $t_{1/2} < 5$  min) it was possible to collect not less than five points, first of which corresponded to not more than 30% of conversion. For these runs the reported rate constants are the average of at least three measurements and are reproducible to ca.  $\pm 20\%$ . For slower runs ( $t_{1/2} > 5$  min), reaction was followed for about 3 half-lives. The pseudo-first-order rate constants  $k_d$  were determined from changes in the intensity of the signals from the selected protons in the substrate molecule. Good straight-line plots ( $r > 0.998$ ) were obtained in all cases. Identical results were obtained by following the decrease in the intensity of the signal from the substrate or by following the increase in the intensity of the signals derived from the reaction products. Rates obtained for slower runs are reproducible to within  $\pm 5\%$ .

**Acknowledgments.** The financial assistance of the National Research Council of Canada is gratefully acknowledged.

**Registry No.**—*tert*-Butylamine, 75-64-9; dimethylphosphinic chloride, 111-92-8; diphenylphosphinic chloride, 1499-21-4; dimethyl phosphorochloridate, 813-77-4; 2-chloro-1,3,2-dioxaphospholane 2-oxide, 6609-64-9; 2-chloro-5,5-dimethyl-1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinane 2-oxide, 4090-55-5; diphenyl phosphorochloridate, 2524-64-3;  $\alpha$ -methylbenzylamine, 98-84-0; benzylamine, 100-46-9; *p*-methylbenzylamine, 104-84-7; *p*-methoxybenzylamine, 2393-23-9; isopropylamine, 75-31-0; cyclopropylmethylamine, 2516-47-4.

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## Characteristics and Reactions of Cation Radicals and Quinone Imines Derived from Hydroxylated Chlorpromazine Derivatives

Marilyn Neptune and Richard L. McCreery\*

Department of Chemistry, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210

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The mechanisms of the chemical and electrochemical oxidations of two monohydroxylated and one dihydroxylated derivative of chlorpromazine, an *N*-substituted phenothiazine, are presented. In aqueous solutions at low pH, all three compounds form protonated cation radical oxidation products, and one derivative forms an uncharged radical center at neutral pH. The radicals are much more stable in aqueous solutions than radical ions derived from similar heterocyclic systems. Comparatively unstable quinone imines may be formed from the radicals, either by electrochemical oxidation or disproportionation of the radical ions. These quinone imines undergo a variety of reactions, including hydrolysis to quinones, hydroxylation, and nucleophilic substitution of chloride by hydroxide. The products and relative rates of these reactions are presented, and the overall pathways of the oxidations of the chlorpromazine derivatives are discussed.

Of the many radical ions which have been examined in recent years, the aromatic heterocyclic cation radicals have been of particular interest. The large majority of efforts in this area have been carried out in nonaqueous solvents due to the

very short aqueous lifetimes of the radicals derived from such precursors as anthracene,<sup>1–3</sup> thianthrene,<sup>4,5</sup> and phenothiazine.<sup>6,7</sup> Recently, it was reported<sup>8</sup> that the radical of an *N*-substituted phenothiazine, chlorpromazine (CPZ, **1**), has a