U-T **Conjugation in Benzyl Derivatives of Tin and Mercury as Probed by** ¹¹⁹Sn and ¹⁹⁹Hg Resonance

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Benzylic mercurials of the types RHgCl and $\mathrm{R_2Hg}$ incorporating a range of meta and para substituents have been synthesized and their ¹³C and ¹⁹⁹Hg spectra recorded. The ¹⁹⁹Hg chemical shifts in both series are unusual in that electron-withdrawing substituents cause shifts to higher field (of the parent benzylmercurial) but correlate reasonably well with substituent constants. o-Methylbenzylmercuric chloride resonates at a surprisingly low-field position, and an explanation is advanced which is contrary to a previous one. ¹¹⁹Sn shifts in meta- and parasubstituted **benzyltrimethylstannanes** move to lower field with electron-withdrawing substituents but *again* correlate well with substituent constants. **A** limited series of **6-** and 7-substituted **l-(trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-1,4 ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalenes,** in which the benzylic C-Sn bond is constrained to the nodal plane of the π system, have been synthesized and the 13 C and 119 Sn shifts obtained.

Introduction

The interaction of a polarized carbon-metal σ bound with an adjacent π system (carbon-metal hyperconjugation or $\sigma-\pi$ conjugation) can be manifested by impressive changes in chemical reactivity' or spectroscopic parameters,² provided the alignment of the interacting orbital systems is appropriate. We have been concerned primarily with comparisons of ¹³C chemical shifts and ¹³C-metal coupling constants in organotin and -mercury systems that may and cannot engage in such interactions; the differences can be remarkable, but fully in accord with a conjugative description. $\sigma-\pi$ carbon-metal conjugation would seem to be amenable to study by metal NMR shifts which are sensitive to general environmental changes and subtle electronic alterations.³⁻⁶ Although the paramagnetic term (σ_n) for nuclear shielding is relatively more important for heavier nuclei, deep understanding of the factors involved, and how they vary from metal to metal, has not been achieved.⁶⁻⁸ Examination of a carefully selected series of compounds, however, incorporating tactical structural and/or electronic changes, can provide data allowing general conclusions that would assist the theoretical approach. In this way, we have sought to determine the response of $^{199}\text{Hg}^{9-12}$ and $^{119}\text{Sn}^5$ resonances to substituent

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Table I. 'H Chemical Shifts and ¹⁹⁹Hg-¹H Couplings in Benzylmercurials^a

			CrigHgC			CH ₂) ₂ Hg		
$Y =$	δ CH ₂	Jb	δ CH ₃	J ^b	δ CH ₂	J ^b	δ CH ₃	.Jb
Н	3.14	248			2.37	130		
o-CH,	3.24	256	2.40	27	2.40	130	2.36	13
m -CH,	3.25	252	2.31	14	2.45	136	2.31	7
p -CH,	3.26	248	2.32	42	2.40	131	2.31	19
$m-F$	3.24	265			2.47	134		
p-F	3.24	248			2.43	129		
m -Cl	3.30	250			c			
p-Cl	3.22	254			2.44	132		
m -CF,	3.30	290			2.47	140		

^a For CDCl₃ solutions relative to Me₄Si. ^b Coupling to ¹⁹⁹Hg in hertz. ^c Small quantity was converted to the chloride.

changes in a selected series of benzylic derivatives and to rationalize any trends within the framework of ideas concerning $\sigma-\pi$ conjugation and nuclear shielding.

Results and Discussion

Benzylmercury Compounds. The benzylmercuric chlorides were prepared in a standard way by cleaving the corresponding dibenzylmercurials with mercuric chloride in tetrahydrofuran. The dibenzylmercurials, in turn, were obtained from reaction of excess Grignard reagent with mercuric chloride. This approach ensured that only

Y

chloride ligand was present, **as** contamination with bromide, for example (from starting benzyl bromide), could have a very large effect on 199 Hg shifts. Both series of compounds were characterized by their melting points, analyses, and initially by their **IH** NMR spectra. **For** the dibenzylmercurials, the CH₂ resonance is at ca. δ 2.40 flanked by ¹⁹⁹Hg satellites with $J = 130$ Hz for the parent and 140 Hz for the m -CF₃ derivative. ¹⁹⁹Hg coupling to methyl groups (for ortho, meta, and para derivatives) is also ob-

⁽¹⁾ See, for example, W. Hanstein, H. J. Berwin, and T. G. Traylor, *J. Am. Chem.* SOC., **92,** 829 (1970), and references therein. (2) See, for example, (a) W. Adcock, B. D. Gupta, W. Kitching, and

Table II. ¹³C NMR Chemical Shifts and Couplings of Bis(substituted benzyl) Mercury Compounds^a

$\mathbf R$	$C-1$	$C-2$	$C-3$	$C-4$	$C-5$	$C-6$	$C-7$	$C-8$
н p -Me	46.0(633.4) 46.2 (627.4)	144.2 (72.6) 141.1 (73.2)	127,5(54,1) 127.7(54.9)	128.1(23.6) 129.0(24.4)	124.5(29.2) 132.4 (30.5)	128.1(23.6) 129.0(24.4)	127.5(54.1) 127.7 (54.9)	20.7 (9.8)
$m-F$	$45.7(647.0)$, nr	147.1, nr [7.3]	109.6(54.9) [20.8]	$162.7.$ nr [244.1]	114.0 (34.0) [20.8]	129.3(25.4) [8.5]	123.2(53.7) $\lceil 2.4 \rceil$	
$p-F$	$45.8(637.2)$, nr	139.7 (75.7) [2.4]	128.8 (50.0) 17.31	114.8(24.4) [20.8]	159.7, nr [241.7]	114.8(24.4) [20.8]	128.8(50.0) 17.31	
p -Cl m -CF,	46.6 (635.9) $45.6(650.6)$, nr	139.6(73.9) 145.4 (75.7). nr	128.1(53.4) 123.9 (54.9) [3.7]	129.6 (24.8) 130.0, nr [30.5]	131.4 (31.1) 119.6 (31.7) [3, 7]	129.6(24.8) 128.4 (26.9). nr	128.1(53.4) $130.8(54.9)$, nr	124.2 , nr [272.2]

 a Recorded in 60% CDCl₃ and 40% CH₂Cl₂ solvent. Chemical shifts in parts per million referenced to center of CDCl₃ triplet as 77.0 ppm. ¹³C-¹⁹⁹Hg couplings (hertz) in parentheses and ¹³C-¹⁹F couplings in brackets. nr = couplings not resolved.

Table III. ¹³C NMR Chemical Shifts and Couplings of Substituted Benzylmercury Chlorides^a

Recorded in 60% CDCl, and 40% CH,Cl, solvent. Chemical shifts in parts per million referenced to center of CDCl, triplet as 77.0 ppm. ¹³C-¹⁹⁵Hg couplings (hertz) in parentheses and ¹³C-¹⁹F couplings in brackets. ^b Recorded with 3 drops
of pyridine, due to solubility problems. ^c Not observed due to poor solubility of compo

served. The spectra of the benzylmercuric chlorides are $\operatorname{similar},$ with CH_2 at ca. δ 3.20, but in the $m\text{-CF}_3$ derivative $J_{\mathrm{CH_2\text{-}Hg}}$ is substantially increased to 290 Hz (248 Hz in the parent) and presumably associated with electron withdrawal from the C-Hg bond and increased nuclear charge at mercury. The coupling of ¹⁹⁹Hg to methyl groups is in the sequence $J_{p\text{-CH}_3} > J_{q\text{-CH}_3} > J_{m\text{-CH}_3}$, as expected for a conjugative interaction. The full assembly of 'H data is located in Table I.

Carbon-13 Spectra. The 13C chemical shifts and 13C- ^{199}Hg and ^{13}C - ^{19}F coupling constants are shown in Table I1 for the dibenzylmercurials and Table I11 for the benzylmercuric chlorides. Assignments of signals were made on the basis of chemical shfits, signal intensities, relative magnitudes of $^{13}C^{-199}Hg^{13}$ and $^{13}C^{-19}F$ couplings,¹⁴ and substituent effects.

The chemical shifts of the benzylic carbon (C_1) are relatively constant throughout a series, but in both, m -CF₃, a strong electron-withdrawing group ($\sigma = 0.42$), induces an upfield shift of C_1 . This is consistent with our previous report¹⁵ that in substituted ethylbenzenes, the $\rm CH_{2}$ shift is *inversely* dependent on σ_1 . In o-methylbenzylmercuric chloride, C_1 is shielded by 1.6 ppm, and we shall return

to this aspect later. C_1 in the disubstituted series is ca. 10 ppm to lower field than C_1 in the benzylmercuric chlorides, similar **to** the results for phenylmercuric chloride (151 ppm) and diphenylmercury (170 ppm).¹⁶

The ¹³C-¹⁹⁹Hg couplings show substantial variations in both series, and in the disubstituted series the couplings to all carbons are about one-half of those to the corresponding carbons in the benzylmercuric chlorides. (This reduction in coupling is paralleled by a large shift of the ¹⁹⁹Hg resonance to lower field). Regarding ^IJ (i.e., to C₁), this coupling does not fluctuate greatly and is largest in both series for m -CF₃. o-Methylbenzylmercuric chloride is unusual in that *'J* is the smallest (and significantly smaller than for $p\text{-}CH_3$) and implies an ortho effect.

Couplings to ring carbons are substantial, and greater to ortho and para positions than to meta, consistent with predominant π transmission, as would operate in I but not $\mathrm{\bar{I}I.}^2$

The coupling to the ortho carbon (C_7) (remote from the meta substituent at C_4) is close to 100 Hz irrespective of substituent. Normal vicinal coupling to C_7 (which operates

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Table IV. ¹⁹⁹Hg NMR Chemical Shifts of Substituted Dibenzylmercurial Compounds^a

*^a*Positive values are to lower field of dibenzylmercury. Chemical shifts in parts per million referenced to the unsubstituted parent compound. Recorded in **60%** $CDCl₃$ and 40% $CH₂Cl₂$ solvent. b Coupling constant obtained with **3** drops of pyridine.

> Table V. ¹⁹⁹Hg NMR Chemical Shifts of Substituted Benzylmercuric Chlorides^{a}

a Positive values are to lower field of benzylmercuric chloride. Chemical shifts in parts per million referenced to the unsubstituted parent compound. Recorded in **60%** CDCl₃ and 40% CH₂Cl₂ solvent. ^b Coupling constant obtained with **3** drops of pyridine.

through a saturated framework) will be favored for conformation II ,¹⁷ and such vicinal ¹⁹⁹Hg⁻¹³C coupling is strongly dihedral angle dependent and large, e.g., 200-300 Hz for the favored 180° angle as present in II." The difference in coupling to C_5 and C_7 is ca. 40 Hz for all benzylmercuric chlorides and indicates that I1 is unimportant. This agrees with vibrational spectra for benzylmercuric chloride¹⁸ and other data.¹⁹

¹⁹⁹Hg Spectra. Substituent effects on 199 Hg chemical shifts in both series of compounds are shown in Tables IV and V.

In the benzylmercuric chloride series, we confirm the report²⁰ that *m*- and *p*-CH₃ have minor effects on the ¹⁹⁹Hg shifts, but more powerful substituents do, and *electronwithdrawing* groups (e.g., m -CF₃) shift the ¹⁹⁹Hg signal *higher field.*

A linear trend $(r^2 = 0.77)$ between the ¹⁹⁹Hg shifts and σ constants is realized for the benzylmercuric chlorides and shown in Figure 1. A better correlation $(r^2 = 0.95)$ is

Figure 1. ¹⁹⁹Hg chemical shifts (in hertz, relative to the shift of benzylmercuric chloride or dibenzylmercury as the case may be) are plotted against σ constants of the substituent groups. Correlation parameters are given in the text, but it is clear that groups with more positive σ constants (e.g., m-CF₃) cause shifts to higher field of the parent. (σ constants from C. G. Swain and E. C. Lupton, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 90, 4328 (1968), and P. R. Wells, "Linear Free Energy Relationships", Academic Press, New York, 1968.

obtained for the dibenzyl series, which provides a greater range of shifts (Figure 1). Interesting comparisons follow from the recognition that in benzylmercuricals the ¹⁹⁹Hg nucleus is β to the ring as is ¹³CH₃ in ethylbenzenes and ¹⁹F in arylmethyl fluorides. Both of these nuclides display "inverse" or "abnormal" dependence on substituent
character^{15,21} (i.e., low-field shift resulting from electron donation and vice versa) and ¹⁹⁹Hg may be another example. However for $199Hg$, this result is not peculiar to the benzyl system, as Sens⁹ and others^{11,12} have reported measurements which show that the more covalent mercurials resonate at lower field and more ionic at higher field. (Some considerations⁵ could indicate this behavior is unexceptional for nuclides dominated by the paramagnetic term). However, if substituent effects are feeble, other factors, such as differential solvation, could conceivably produce different trends in ¹⁹⁹Hg shifts for the same series of compounds. In Tables IV and V values of ¹⁹⁹Hg⁻¹⁹F couplings are also listed, and for the m - and p -F derivatives, such couplings are about twice as large in the benzylmercuric chlorides. Note that ¹⁹⁹Hg⁻¹⁹F coupling is much greater for the p -F isomer (cf. 43.9 Hz with 19.5 Hz in Table IV) as anticipated for $\sigma-\pi$ transmission.

Having established the nature of the connection between electron-density changes in the benzylic C-Hg bond and the ¹⁹⁹Hg chemical shifts, we can discuss the low-field resonance for o-methylbenzylmercuric chloride (+26.9) ppm) and the greater shift for 2,4,6-trimethylbenzylmercuric chloride (+50 ppm). Strelenko²⁰ interpreted these low-field shifts in terms of o-CH₃ groups increasingly displacing (by steric interaction) the HgCl group from the aromatic ring plane (A) , thus increasing the population of the out-of-plane rotamer (B) in which σ - π interaction is promoted. This analysis requires that in benzylmercuric chloride itself a quite significant population of the in-plane rotamer (A) must be present, a requirement not supported

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by vibrational spectroscopic data¹⁸ and crystal structure determinations,¹⁹ as well as our analysis of the C₇-l⁹⁹Hg couplings. The assumption was made that "displacement of the mercury atom from the aromatic ring plane should facilitate $\sigma-\pi$ conjugation, thus *increasing the positive charge* on the mercury atom and *deshielding* the 199 Hg nuclei''2o (our emphasis). We have shown above that reduction in electron density in the C-Hg bond is associated with a high-field shift of the 199Hg resonance, and, hence, had this conformational analysis been correct, shifts to higher field would have resulted, but did not.

A more appealing explanation is based on the operation of the familiar steric compression (γ) effect involving the $o\text{-}CH_3$ and CH_2Hg groups.²² This compressional polarization of C-H electron density toward carbon and into the C-Hg bond would be predicted to cause (a) mutual shielding of CH₃ and CH₂Hg, (b) reduction in $J_{\rm ^{13}CH_2-Hg}$ by reducing nuclear charge at mercury, and (c) a low-field shift of the ¹⁹⁹Hg nucleus by increased electron density at mercury. The observations are in accord with the above, but note the low value (1369 Hz) for $J_{\text{CH}_2\text{-Hg}}$ (the lowest in Table III) and the shielded nature of CH_2Hg (34.3 $ppm)$ and o -CH₃ (20.0 ppm, Table III). The conclusion regarding the response of ¹⁹⁹Hg shifts to varying levels of $\sigma-\pi$ interaction in benzylmercurials is supported by our studies²³ of α -chloromercuri ketones, and in arrangements permitting σ ⁻ π interaction (with π _{C=0}), the ¹⁹⁹Hg resonance is to higher field.

We have obtained also the ¹³C and ¹¹⁹Sn spectra of a wide range of benzyltrimethylstannanes which are relatively stable liquids. **A** problem in the study of benzyl derivatives concerns the preferred conformation of the $CH₂M$ group with respect to the ring, and we reported^{2a} that for the parent benzyltrimethylstannane, the average dihedral angle (defined by the $Sn-C_1-C_2$ and ring planes) was approximately **60".** This was based on the close agreement between $5J_{119Sn^{-13}C}$ in benzyltrimethylstannane **(14.8** Hz) and the conformationally rigid indanyltrimethylstannane (15.4 Hz) in which $\theta \approx 60^{\circ}$. Conformational mobility is indicated by some variable-temperature studies of the ¹³C, ¹¹⁹Sn, and ¹⁹F of benzyltrimethylstannane and the p-fluoro derivative which are described in Table **VI.**

The salient features of the data are (i) increased shielding²⁴ of the para carbon (C_5) and ortho carbon (C_3) at lower temperature, with the shift of the meta carbon (and internal benzene) being essentially constant, (ii) an increase in $^{5}J_{118}$ _{Sn}-1₃^c at lower temperature (from 14.6 to 15.3 Hz), such coupling established^{2a} as being heavily dependent on π transmission (the slight decreases in ${}^{3}J_{198n}$ -1³C (to C_{3.7}) are almost certainly associated with the angular requirements for vicinal coupling²⁵ being lower in out-of-plane conformers), (iii) a substantial low-field shift of the $119Sn$ resonance at lower temperature, and (iv) increased

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^{a 13}C shifts are relative to internal Me₄Si, ¹¹⁹Sn shifts are relative to internal (CH₃), Sn, and ¹⁹F shifts are relative to internal fluorobenzene. Quantities in parentheses are ¹³C-¹⁹Sn couplings and in br $-8.64 [24.4]$ -8.57 [24.7] $8.28 [24.4]$ δ 19 F 4.12 [25.0] $3.50 [24.4]$ 6 119_{Sn} $+3.52$
 $+4.24$ $-10.21(328.4)$ $-10.39(328.4)$
 $-10.58(331.0)$ $-10.16(329.0)$ 日 $\begin{array}{c} 1.22.86\ (14.6)\\ 1.22.37\ (15.3)\\ 159.80\ (14.7)\\ 1239.9] \end{array}$ ъp. 59.18 $CH₂Sn(CH₃)₃$ $\begin{array}{c} 128.10\ (13.4) \\ 127.88\ (12.8) \\ 115.03\ (13.2) \end{array}$ shift, δ , for carbon no. $\frac{114.95}{[20.8]}(13.4)$ $\overline{ }$ $[21.4]$ 127.88 \bigcirc $\begin{array}{c} 126.59\,(22.6)\\ 126.18\,(22.0)\\ 127.90\,(22.0)\\ [7.9] \\ 127.57\,(21.4)\\ [7.3] \end{array}$ chemical က $\frac{142.99}{138.91}$
138.91 (40.3)
[3.1]
138.91 (38.5) 143.06 $\begin{array}{c} 19.95\,(290.5)\\ 19.27\,(282.0)\\ 19.18\,(293.1) \end{array}$ 18.67 (285.0) 183 × 303 303 201 $\overline{5}$ $5-F$ $5-F$ ្អ
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NMR Shifts of Benzyltrimethylstannanes^a

Table VI.

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(1967); D. K. Dalling and D. M. Grant, *ibid.*, 89, 6612 (1967); D. K. Dalling

and D. M. Grant, *ibid.*, 94, 5318 (1972). See also, N. K. Wilson and J.

shielding of the p-19F with lower temperature in *(p***fluorobenzy1)trimethylstannane.** Each of the above features requires a greater population at lower temperatures of that conformer able to engage in conjugative $(\sigma-\pi)$ electron donation, i.e., the out-of-plane rotamer. (That decreased electron density in the benzyl-tin bond causes a low-field shift of the 119 Sn signal is established later.)

We sought additional evidence that the average dihedral angle in benzyltrimethylstannane was $\sim 60^{\circ}$ by examining variations in ${}^6J_1{}^{19}S_{n-1}{}^{19}F$ and using the relationship, $J(\theta) =$ J_{90} (sin² θ).²⁶ The rigid (5-fluoroindanyl)trimethylstannane has $^{6}J_{^{119}\text{Sn-}^{19}\text{F}}$ of 23.2 Hz, allowing an estimate of ^{6}J for the out-of-plane rotamer $(\theta = 90^{\circ})$ of 30.9 Hz. In the p-fluorobenzyl derivative ${}^6J_{118}S_{n-19}F$ of ca. 25 Hz is observed and corresponds to an average θ of 62° . The above data suggest a free energy difference between the in-plane and out-of-plane rotamers of ca. $400 \text{ cal/mol.}^{27}$

Previously we had reported 24 continuous wave ^{13}C shifts for a few substituted benzyltrimethylstannanes and noted no substantial variation in the $CH₂$ shifts. Some shifts, and ¹³C-¹¹⁹Sn couplings obtained under FT conditions are listed in Table VII.

The 13 C chemical shifts of Sn-CH₃ are essentially independent of substituent; a greater variation in the values might have been expected. The variations in CH_2-Sn (C₁ in Table VII) are minor (except for the special 2-CH_3 case and perhaps p -OCH₃). The trend is that substituents with negative σ constants cause slight shielding at C_1 , but this shift has a lower sensitivity toward substituents with positive σ constants. These results resemble those reported¹⁵ for substituted ethylbenzenes, and the analysis given there is probably appropriate.

The slight variation in the three bond coupling (~ 22.5) Hz) to C_7 is indicative of similar averaged conformations for all benzyl derivatives. Coupling increases with resonance donors, e.g., for p -OCH₃, $J = 23.4$, and decreases with electron withdrawers (e.g., m -CF₃, 21.2 Hz) in line with a greater population of the out-of-plane rotamer for the latter. However, the changes are small and other substituent effects may cloud this picture. **As** in the case of the mercury systems, coupling to C_{para} (C_5 in Table VII) is greater than to C_{meta} , as appropriate for substantial π transmission. The one-bond ${}^{13}C-{}^{119}Sn$ couplings show significant variations in the sense that $J_{^{13}CH_2-Sn}$ are larger for donor groups (e.g., p-OCH,, **304.8** Hz) and smaller for electron-withdrawing substituents (e.g., m-CF₃, 273.3 Hz). $J_{\text{12}H_3-Sn}$ is not as sensitive but varies in the opposite sense, i.e., 325.3 Hz for p-OCH₃ but 334 Hz for m-CF₃. $\Sigma^1 J$ about tin is approximately constant [i.e., J_{CH_2-Sn} + $(3 \times J_{\text{CH}_3-Sn})$] with a mean of **1276.1** Hz (standard error of mean **0.9).**

The ¹¹⁹Sn shifts of these (arylmethyl)trimethylstannanes are all to lower field of $(CH_3)_4\text{Sn}$ (as anticipated⁵ for introduction of the phenyl group) and the total range of shifts is ca. **6.00** ppm which is similar to that reported for a group of meta- and para-substituted phenyltrimethylstannes.⁵ The SCS values and σ constants are listed in Table VIII, and more positive ¹¹⁹Sn SCS are associated with the substituents with more positive σ constants (Figure 2). (Linear regression analysis yields $r^2 = 0.95$ with the exclusion of o -CH₃ which will be discussed separately.) Thus electron withdrawal from the C-Sn bond results in a low-field shift of the ¹¹⁹Sn resonance, a result opposite to that found for the benzylic mercurials. The negative

Table VII. ¹³C NMR Data for Benzyltrimethylstamanes

⁽²⁶⁾ For leading references and an application to the fluoromethyl group see W. Adcock and A. N. **Abeywickrema,** *Aust. J. Chem., 33,* **181 (1980).**

⁽²⁷⁾ The out-of-plane rotamer is predicted to be more favored (by 400 cal/mol) than the in-plane rotamer for benzyl fluoride. See R. T. **C. Brownlee and D.** J. **Craik,** *Tetrahedron Lett.,* **1681 (1980).**

Table VIII. ¹¹⁹Sn Chemical Shifts of Benzyl- and (Naphthylmethyl)stannanes, X-ArCH₂Sn(CH₃)₃

Ar	X	¹¹⁹ Sn chemical shift ^a	119Sn SCS ^b	σ^c
benzvl	н	3.57^{d}	0.00	0.00
benzyl	p -OCH,	1.51	-2.06	-0.27
benzyl	p -CH ₂	1.77	-1.80	-0.17
benzyl	p-F	3.47 ^e	-0.1	$+0.06$
	m-OCH,	3.99	$+0.42$	$+0.12$
benzyl	$p\text{-}C_6H_5$	4.04	$+0.47$	-0.01
benzyl	p-Cl	4.81	$+1.24$	$+0.23$
benzyl	m-F	6.00^{f}	$+2.43$	$+0.34$
benzyl	m-Cl	6.49	$+2.92$	$+0.37$
benzyl	m -CF,	7.44^{s}	$+3.87$	$+0.43$
benzyl	o -CH $\sqrt{2}$	3.80	$+0.23$	
2-naphthyl	н	4.88	0.00	
2-naphthyl	6 -CH,	4.30	-0.58	
1-naphthyl	н	9.97	0.00	

 α For CDCl₃ solutions (~0.25 M) relative to internal $(CH_3)_4$ Sn. Positive shifts to lower field. ^b The difference in chemical shifts of the substituted and parent stannanes. From the compilations in C. *G.* Swain and E. C. Lupton, *J.* Am. Chem. *SOC.,* **90,** 4328 (1968), and P. R. Wells, "Linear Free Energy Relationships", Academic Press, New York, 1968. deported (ref 5) as $+4.00$ ppm.
 $e^{i\theta} J_{119Sn-19F} = 24.4$ Hz. $\frac{1}{2}$
 $\frac{1}{2} J_{119Sn-19F} = 3.7$ Hz. J_{119} _{Sn-19}_F = 10.4 Hz.

Figure 2. ¹¹⁹Sn chemical shifts (in hertz, relative to the shift of benzyltrimethylstannane) are plotted against the σ constants of the substituent groups $(r^2 = 0.95)$. Groups with more positive σ constants cause shifts to lower field of the parent, the reverse trend to that for the ¹⁹⁹Hg data in Figure 1.

SCS observed (Table VIII) for the 6-methyl group in the 2-naphthyl system is therefore consistent, and the value of -0.58 ppm (cf. with -1.80 ppm for p -CH₃ in the benzyl 2-naphthyl system is therefore consistent, and the value of -0.58 ppm (cf. with -1.80 ppm for $p\text{-}CH_3$ in the benzyl system) is roughly what is expected for the benzyl $\rightarrow 2$ -naphthyl change, if conjugation is domin further insight into the nature of the dependence of ^{119}Sn shifts on substituent characteristics, we have conducted dual substituent parameter (DSP) analysis²⁹ of the data and the results are shown in eq 1 for p-benzyltrimethylstannanes and in eq 2 for m-benzyltrimethylstannanes. This dissection must be regarded **as** semiquantitative only, in view of the nonideal basis set of substituents.

$$
^{119}\text{Sn} \, \text{SCS} = 6.11\sigma_{\text{I}} + 9.14\sigma_{\text{R}^0} \tag{1}
$$
\n
$$
\text{SD} = 0.36; f = 0.24
$$

$$
^{119}\text{Sn SCS} = 8.09\sigma_{\text{I}} + 4.32\sigma_{\text{R}^0} \tag{2}
$$

$$
SD = 0.25; f = 0.09
$$

¹¹⁹Sn SCS exhibit positive dependences on both σ_1 and $\sigma_{\mathbf{R}^0}$, with the greater resonance susceptibility $(\rho_{\mathbf{R}})$ in the para series. These correlations strongly support the concept of C-Sn-aryl $\sigma-\pi$ interactions as being an important determinant of '19Sn shifts in arylmethyl systems. In the ethylbenzenes, ${}^{13}CH_3$ SCS are negatively dependent¹⁵ on both σ_I and σ_{R^0} . The above results may be contrasted with those reported for m - (eq 3) and p -phenyltrimethylstannes⁵ (eq 4), in which resonance susceptibility is quite low. These correlations confirm a very low level of π -interaction between the trimethyltin group and an aryl ring, but pronounced susceptibility to polar effects.

$$
^{119}\text{Sn} \, \text{SCS} = 11.9\sigma_{\text{I}} + 2.95\sigma_{\text{R}^0} \tag{3}
$$

$$
^{119}\text{Sn} \, \text{SCS} = 10.2\sigma_{\text{I}} + 2.93\sigma_{\text{R}^0} \tag{4}
$$

We had anticipated a systematic relationship between $\delta_{\rm Sn}$ and the one-bond couplings ${}^{1}J_{^{13}CH_{2}^{-119}Sn}$ and ${}^{1}J_{^{13}CH_{8}^{-119}Sn}$, and linear regression analysis provided eq 5-7. ${}^{1}J_{\text{CH-Sn}}$

$$
{}^{1}J_{\text{CH}_{2}-\text{Sn}} = (-5.2 \pm 0.4)\delta_{\text{Sn}} + (291 \pm 1) \quad (r^{2} = 0.96) \tag{5}
$$

$$
{}^{1}J_{\text{CH}_{3}-\text{Sn}} = (+1.5 \pm 0.1)\delta_{\text{Sn}} + (329 \pm 0.3) \qquad (r^{2} = 0.94)
$$
\n(6)

$$
\sum^{1} J = 1276.1 \pm 2.8 \tag{7}
$$

is inversely dependent on δ_{Sn} whereas ${}^{1}J_{\text{CH}_3-Sn}$ is directly proportional, but with a slope of +1.5 compared with -5.2 for ${}^{1}J_{\text{CH}_2\text{-Sn}}$. This slope ratio of ca. 3 is responsible for ΣJ being relatively constant for all compounds. The trends in the 'J values are consistent with redistribution of **5s** character in the (binding) hybrid tin orbitals directed **to**ward $CH₂$ or $CH₃$, in response to electron-density changes (primarily at $CH₂$) as the substituent is changed. Thus, for p -OCH₃ with presumed (and supported by the ¹³CH₂ chemical shift) increased electron density at C1, **5s** character in the tin bonding orbital to C_1 will be increased, with an increased 'J, and a consequential reduction in $^1J_{Sn-CH_3}$, if **5s** character (Fermi contact) is the dominant determinant of the one-bond coupling. Analogous arguments apply to electron-withdrawing substituents such as p-C1 or m -CF₃, for example.

A positive SCS (+0.23 ppm, Table VIII) is observed for **(0-methylbenzy1)trimethylstannane** which is significant when compared with the negative SCS (-1.80 ppm) for the p-methylbenzyl compound. Had the explanation advanced for the mercury case been completely applicable here, a negative SCS would have been observed, as ¹¹⁹Sn responds oppositely to ¹⁹⁹Hg to increases in electron density in the benzylic carbon-metal bond. Although steric shielding (γ -gauche effect) between the o-CH₃ and CH₂ is in evidence (13C shifts, Table VII) a complication not present in the mercuric chloride is interaction between the o -CH₃ and Sn(CH₃)₃ groups. $\Sigma^1 J$ about tin is 1265 Hz, significantly lower than for the meta- and para-substituted derivatives ($\Sigma^{1}J = 1276.1 \pm 2.8$) and δ_{CH_3-Sn} is -9.65 ppm, also the lowest of all. These variations indicate the operation of effects at $Sn(CH_3)_3$ associated with the proximity of the o-CH₃ group, and formally the tin atom is δ to the methyl group.³⁰

⁽²⁸⁾ See W. Kitching, W. Adcock, S. Q. A. Rizvi, and A. J. Smith, J. Organomet. Chem., 42, 373 (1972); M. Bullpitt, W. Kitching, D. Doddrell, and W. Adcock, J. Org. Chem., 41, 760 (1976).
and W. Adcock, J. Org. Chem., 41,

⁽³⁰⁾ S. H. Grover, J. P. Guthrie, J. B. Stothers, and C. T. Tan, *J. Magn. Reson.,* **10, 227 (1973).**

⁽³¹⁾ A. W. Nesmeyanov and K. A. Kocheshkov, Eds., "Methods of Elemento-organic Chemistry", North-Holland Publishing., Amsterdam, 1967, Vol. 4, p 27.

The above data, showing a "normal" response of $\delta_{\rm Sn}$ to substituent changes in **benzyltrimethylstannanes,** suggested that examination of a benzylic tin system in which the C-Sn bond was constrained to the aromatic π nodal plane, (no $\sigma-\pi$ interaction) would be useful. Synthetic procedures recently developed^{21a} permitted the synthesis of a few **6-** and 7-substituted l-(trimethylstannyl)-4 **methyl-1,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalenes,** The available methodology, based on electrophilic aromatic substitution of the appropriate bridgehead-substituted precursors, provides the 6- and 7-fluoro and -dimethylamino derivatives which on reaction with $(CH₃)₃SnLi$ yield the stannanes. Careful nitration of the parent stannane yielded a mixture of the 6- and 7-NO₂ isomers, and isomer identification is established by 13C NMR. The **7** isomer dominates and is ca. **2:l** for the fluoro and nitro mixtures and ca. 3:1 for the $N(CH_3)_2$ system. The ¹³C and ¹¹⁹Sn NMR data are located in Table IX.

$X = 6-F$, $6-N(CH_3)_2$, $6-NO_2$, $7-F$, $7-N(CH_3)_2$, $7-NO_2$, H

That carbon-tin hyperconjugative electron donation is essentially completely suppressed in the ethanotetrahydronaphthyl compound is confirmed by the C_6 and C_7 chemical shifts in the parent hydrocarbon compared with those in the 1-trimethylstannyl compound (Table IX). The shifts are identical. In contrast, the change neopentyl $benzene \rightarrow benzyltrimethylstannane leads to increased$ shielding of C_{para} by ca. 2.5-3.0 $ppm.²⁴$ The above results agree with the diminution of $J_{119Sn^{-19}F}$ in the bridgehead series (Table IX) compared with *m-* and (p-fluoro**benzy1)trimethylstannanes.** 13C data in Table IX and the 'H data are unexceptional and the normal values of substituent α , β , and γ effects of Sn(CH₃)₃ and ¹¹⁹Sn⁻¹³C coupling are found, which greatly facilitate certain assignments.

The l19Sn chemical shift **(-3.89** ppm relative to $(CH₃)₄Sn$ of the parent benzobicyclooctenylstannane (Table IX) is consistent with other data,⁵ and the substituent chemical shifts for the **6-** and T-flUOrO, -nitro, -dimethylamino, and -dimethylammonium (Table IX) derivatives confirm that polar influences are important in determining the ¹¹⁹Sn shifts. Moreover, the negative SCS values for the dimethylamino isomers indicate that the polar field causing differential polarization of the bonds about tin **has** two components-a primary field (due to the dipole (or pole) associated with the substituent) and a secondary field (due to polar and resonance-induced charges in the benzene ring). Electric field calculations suggest that the former is slightly greater in the 7 than the **6** position, and the same order **seems** to apply for the latter component as well. The observed trends can be rationalized qualitatively along these lines. While it may not be surprising that the C-Sn bond does respond relatively sensitively to remote polar influences, we are currently examining simpler series of bicyclic bridgehead stannanes

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⁽³⁵⁾ R. J. Ouellette, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of California, 1962 (University Microfilms Inc., No. **63-5442).**

Table X. Melting Points **and** Analyses **of** Benzylmercurialsb

a Uncorrected. m-Methylbenzylmercuric chloride (mp **112)** was obtained in very low yield and characterized by its 'H, Some contamina-¹³C, and ¹⁹⁹Hg spectra, as was the bis compound. Bis(o-methylbenzy1)mercury showed the following: 'H NMR δ 2.36 (6 H, s, CH_3) , **2.40 (4 H, s, CH₂), 6.98-7.28 (8 H, m, aromatics),** $J_{\text{CH}_2\text{-Hg}} = 130 \text{ Hz}, J_{\text{CH}_3\text{-Hg}} = 13 \text{ Hz}.$ tion with the mercuric bromide.

to establish more precisely the nature of this response. In a series of the corresponding (benzobicyclooctenyl) fluorides, encompassing a wide variety of **6** and **7** substituents, the 19 F SCS were confined^{21a} to a very narrow range (in contrast to the situation in meta- and para-substituted benzyl fluorides), consistent with almost complete suppression of benzylic C-F aryl conjugation.

Summary

The present investigations confirm that the chemical shifts of the metal nuclides ¹⁹⁹Hg and ¹¹⁹Sn respond in a regular fashion to substituent changes in benzyl compounds, albeit in different directions. **A** priori, it is difficult to predict what response will be elicited in various benzyl metal compounds with substituent changes, and examination of the 207Pb resonances of benzyllead compounds would be of interest in this regard. The range of shifts associated with remote substituent changes (where proximity-induced shifts are not a problem) in the benzyltin and -mercury systems is not large, and a number of influences, with some acting in opposition, may compete. The data herein suggest that understanding of heavy-metal NMR chemical shifts is limited and provision of data from further model series is required to formulate patterns of chemical shift behavior and empirical relationships.

Experimental Section

Benzylmercurials were obtained in a standard way from the appropriate Grignard reagent and mercuric chloride. Generally a large excess of Grignard reagent was employed to produce the dibenzylmercurial which was purified. Treatment of the dibenzylmercurial with 1 molar equiv of mercuric chloride in tetrahydrofuran at room temperature for several hours provided the corresponding benzylmercuric chloride. **As** in situ procedures are not useful for mercuric halide reactions, the Grignard reagent was fully formed prior to addition of the mercuric chloride. This procedure, however, frequently results in production of substantial amounts of dibenzyls (coupled product) which can be separated from mercurial product in the crystallization step from ethanol. Details of the ${}^{1}\text{H}$, ${}^{13}\text{C}$, and ${}^{199}\text{Hg}$ NMR are located in the text, and the melting point and analyses are summarized below in Table **X.**

Benzyltrimethylstannanes were available from the collection of Dr. C. J. Moore and Dr. M. Bullpitt and have been fully described and characterized previously. If required, these are distilled prior to measurements, and the ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{13}C$ and ${}^{119}Sn$ NMR spectra confirmed a high purity.

l-(Trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-6/7-substituted-1,4 ethano-l,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalenes (except for the nitro derivatives) were obtained (50% yield) by treatment of the corresponding 1-iodo compounds with (trimethy1tin)lithium in tetrahydrofuran in the standard way. **A** full description of the synthesis of the 1-iodo precursors will be presented elsewhere.³⁶ The parent **l-(trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-1,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene** was a colorless oil: bp **105-110** $^{\circ}$ C (0.05 mm); n^{25} _D 1.5580; mass spectrum *m/e* 336, 334, 332 (M⁺); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.20 (9 H, s, SnCH₃), 1.28-2.01 (8 H, m, CHzCHz), **1.37 (3** H, **s,** CCH,), **6.967.30 (4** H, m, aromatic). Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₂₄Sn: C, 57.36; H, 7.22. Found: C, 58.05; H, 7.11.

l-(Trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-6/7-(dimethylamino)- 1,4 ethano-l,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene was a pale yellow liquid bp 120-125 °C (0.05 mm); mass spectrum, m/e 379, 377, 375 (M⁺); ¹H **NMR** (CDCl₃) for major 7 isomer δ 0.31 (9 H, s, SnCH₃, $J_{1198m-1H}$ H, s, $N(CH_3)_2$, 6.5-7.2 (3 H, m, aromatics). Signals at δ 0.25 $(SnCH₃)$, 1.43 (CCH₃), and 3.02 $(N(CH₃)₂)$ are associated with the minor $6\text{-}N(CH_3)_2$ isomer in admixture. The aromatic ¹H pattern is as expected for the ca. **3:l** mixture and strongly perturbed by the $N(CH_3)_2$. $= 48$ Hz), 1.20-2.1 (8 H, CH₂CH₂), 1.41 (3 H, s, CCH₃), 3.00 (6

l-(Trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-6/7-fluoro-l,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene was a colorless liquid: bp **105-110** "C (0.05 mm); mass spectrum, m/e **354,352,350** (M'); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.38 (9 H, s, SnCH₃, $J_{119}S_{n-1}H$ = 50 Hz), **1.25-2.15 (8** H, CHzCHz), **1.50** (3 H, **s,** CCH,), **6.6-7.2 (3** H, m, aromatics). Signals at δ 0.37 (SnCH₃) and 1.48 (CCH₃) are characteristic of the minor 6-fluoro isomer.

l-(Trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-6/7-nitro-l,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene. Following the procedure of Tanida and Muneyuki,³⁷ a solution of 1-(trimethylstannyl)-4**methyl-1,4-ethano-l,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (0.336** g, **0.001** mol) in nitromethane **(15** mL) was treated at 0 "C with a nitrating agent $(1.77 g, 0.001 mol)$ prepared from nitric acid $(d^{22} 1.375)$, sulfuric acid $(d^{22} 1.835)$, and water in the weight ratio $1.05:18:16$. After being stirred (0 °C) for 2 h, the reaction mixture was poured
onto ice and extracted with dichloromethane. The extract was dried and solvent removed (reduced pressure). VPC and ¹³C NMR analyses of the crude product indicated that the required nitro derivatives were present in **20-25%** yield. Separation from higher boiling impurities was achieved by Kugelrohr distillation, and a sample (0.80 **g; 21%)** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid: bp

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130-140 °C (0.01 mm); mass spectrum, m/e 381, 379, 377 (M⁺); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.27 (9 H, s, SnCH₃, J_{119} _{Sn}-1_H = 52 Hz) and δ 1.42 (CCH₃) are associated with the major (7) isomer, while corresponding signals at $\delta~0.24$ and $\delta~1.45$ characterize the $6\text{-}\mathrm{NO}_2$ isomer. Consistent alkyl proton absorption (CH_2CH_2) (δ 1.20-2.1) and two regions of aromatic resonance (ca. 6 7.0-7.42 and 7.9-8.2) are observed. (Some impurities are revealed by the 'H and 13C NMR spectra.)

 $13C$ spectra were obtained on the JEOL FX-100 spectrometer at 25.04 MHz. The solvent employed was a mixture $(60:40)$ of deuteriochloroform and dichloromethane, and spectra were referenced to 13 CDCl₃ as 77.00 ppm. 199 Hg spectra were obtained on the same spectrometer modified for multinuclear observation. The operating frequency was 17.82 MHz (benzylmercuric chlorides) and 17.83 MHz (dibenzylmercury series). The solvent **was** again 60:40 $CDCl₃-CH₂Cl₂$ and 10-mm tubes were used. The chemical shifts are referenced to the (unsubstituted) parent compounds, so that the differences represent the substituent chemical shifts. The variation in shift between the mono- and dibenzyl mercurials is in excess of 400 ppm, and relative to $(CH₃)₂Hg$, the shifts can be calculated to be ca.-1120 and -700 ppm, respectively (i.e., upfield). Concentrations of mercurials were very close to 0.4 M, and in most cases, known mixtures of two compounds were examined, and the ¹⁹⁹Hg shifts obtained were little different from those when single compounds were examined. Usually a fluoro-substituted benzyl mercurial was a member of the mixture, as this 199 Hg resonance (with 199 Hg^{-I9}F coupling) could be easily recognized. The dibenzyl mercurials provide sharp spectra, whereas some broadening characterized the spectra of the mercuric chlorides. ¹¹⁹Sn spectra were obtained on the JEOL FX-100 spectrometer at a frequency of 37.70 MHz for solutions 0.5 M in $65:35$ CDCl₃-CH₂Cl₂ solvent. Internal tetramethyltin (CH3)4Sn was used **as** reference, and dilution studies showed very minor concentration effects.

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Centre, Canberra (Director Dr. Alan Jones).

Registry No. $C_6H_5CH_2HgCl$, 2117-39-7; o-CH₃C₆H₄CH₂HgCl, 4109-87-9; m-C $\rm H_3C_6H_4CH_2HgCl$, 19224-35-2; p-C $\rm H_3C_6H_4CH_2HgCl$, 4158-22-9; m-FC₆H₄CH₂HgCl, 2357-53-1; p-FC₆H₄CH₂HgCl, 2357-55-3; m-ClC₆H₄CH₂HgCl, 4109-90-4; p-ClC₆H₄CH₂HgCl, 4109-88-0; m -CF₃C₆H₄CH₂HgCl, 76807-70-0; C₆H₂CH₂EH₃CH₂C₆H₅, 780-24-5;
 o -CH₃C₆H₂CH₂HgCH₂C₆H₂- o -CH₃, 76807-71-1; mo-CH₃C₆H₄CH₂HgCH₂C₆H₄-o-CH₃, 76807-71-1;
CH₃C₆H₄CH₂HgCH₂C₆H₄-m-CH₃, 35597-66-1; $\rm CH_3C_6H_4CH_2HgCH_2C_6H_4-P-CH_3, 10507-46-7; m-F \rm C_6H_4CH_2HgCH_2C_6H_4$ -m-F, 10507-43-4; p-F $\rm C_6H_4CH_2HgCH_2C_6H_4$ -p-F, 10507-45-6; **p-ClC6H4CH2HgCH2C6H4-p-cl,** 10507-42-3; m- $CF_3C_6H_4CH_2HgCH_2C_6H_4-m-CF_3$, $76807-72-2$; $C_6H_6CH_2Sn(CH_3)_3$, 4314-94-7; $p\text{-}\mathrm{FC}_6\mathrm{H}_4\mathrm{CH}_2\mathrm{Sn}(\mathrm{CH}_3)_3$, 706-26-3; $p\text{-}\mathrm{OCH}_3\mathrm{C}_6\mathrm{H}_4\mathrm{CH}_2\mathrm{Sn}$ - $(CH_3)_3$, 51755-57-8; \bar{p} -CH₃C₆H₄CH₂Sn(CH₃)₃, 19962-42-6; p- $C_6H_5C_6H_4CH_2Sn(CH_3)_3$, 61760-10-9; m-OC $H_3C_6H_4CH_2Sn(CH_3)_3$, 51517 -27-2; $p\text{-}\mathrm{ClC}_6\mathrm{H}_4\mathrm{CH}_2\mathrm{Sn}(\mathrm{CH}_3)_3$, 41037-63-2; $m\text{-}\mathrm{FC}_6\mathrm{H}_4\mathrm{CH}_2\mathrm{Sn}$ - $(CH_3)_3$, 30590-70-6; m-ClC₆H₄CH₂Sn(CH₃)₃, 27640-06-8; m- $CF_3C_6H_4CH_2Sn(CH_3)_{3}$, 27640-07-9; $o\text{-CH}_3C_6H_4CH_2Sn(CH_3)_{3}$, 19962-44-8; **trimethyl(2-naphthalenylmethyl)stannane,** 61760-08-5; tri**methyl(6-methyl-2-naphthalenylmethyl)stannane,** 61760-09-6; tri**methyl(1-naphthalenylmethyl)stannane,** 51220-36-1; 4-methyl-1,4 **ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 33673-05-1; l-(trimethyl**stannyl)-4-methyl-l,4-ethano-l,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807- 73-3; **4-methyl-6-fluoro-1,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-74-4; **l-(trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-6-fluoro-l,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-75-5; 4-methyl-7-fluoro-1,4 **ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-76-6; l-(trimethyl**stannyl)-4-methyl-7-fluoro-l,4-ethano-l,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-77-7; **1-(trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-6-(dimethylamino)-l,4 ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-78-8; l-(trimethyl**stannyl)-4-methyl-7-(dimethylamino)-l,4-ethano-** 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene, 76807-79-9; **1-(trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-6-nitro-l,4 ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-80-2; l-(trimethylstannyl)-4-methyl-7-nitro-1,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene, 76807-81-3; **l-iodo-4-methyl-1,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro**naphthalene, 76807-82-4; **l-iodo-4-methyl-6-fluoro-1,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-83-5; l-iodo-4-methyl-7 **fluoro-1,4-ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-84-6; 1 **iodo~4-methyl-6-(dimethylamino)-1,4-ethano-l,2,3,4-tetrahydro**naphthalene, 76807-85-7; **I-iodo-4-methyl-7-(dimethylamino)-1,4 ethano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene,** 76807-86-8.

Acylation of Multiple Anions of Poly-@-ketones by Hydroxy- and Alkoxybenzoates. Cyclization of the Resultant Tetraketones to Benzophenones and Xanthones

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The dianion **(2)** of 2,4-pentanedione and the trianion **(10)** of 2,4,6-heptanetrione were acylated by lithium salts of the unprotected hydroxybenzoates methyl **2-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methylbenzoate (lb),** methyl 2,6-dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzoate **(7b),** and methyl **2,4-dimethoxy-6-hydroxybenzoate (7c),** as well as by the alkoxybenzoates methyl **2,4,6-trimethoxybenzoate (7d)** and methyl 2,4,64ribenzoxybenzoate **(7e).** The aryl 1,3,5,7-octanetetraones **(llb-d** and **12)** resulting from acylation of **10** were cyclized in biomimetic processes to naturally occurring benzophenones and xanthones. Hydrogenolysis of **1-(2,4,6-tribenzoxyphenyl)-l,3,5,7-0~** tanetetraone **(1 le)** and cyclization gave norlichexanthone **(20).**

Acylation by benzoate esters bearing oxy substituents provides a convenient approach to several classes of secondary metabolites including coumarins,¹ coumestans,² xanthones, 3 and alternariol. 3 Examples have generally

involved O-alkylated hydroxybenzoates; for example, the synthesis of 9-O-methylalternariol **(4)** has been accomplished by a route involving acylation of the dianion **(2)** - of 2.4-pentanedione with ester **la** to give triketone **3a3** (Scheme I). After carboxylation of the trianion of 3a, a deprotection step is subsequently required to form **4.** It would be advantageous if acylations with hydroxy-sub-

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Wiley: New York, 1977; pp 273, 541-542.

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