Stereochemistry and Mechanism of Chlorotelluration of Olefins

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Received April 21, 1983

The stereochemistry of the addition of TeCl₄ and 2-naphthyltellurium trichloride, respectively, to (E)-2-butene, (Z)-2-butene, 1-(E)-deuterio-1-decene, cyclopentene, cyclohexene, and cyclooctene was studied by means of ¹H nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. The addition of 2-naphthyltellurium trichloride was completely anti stereospecific, whereas TeCl₄ usually gave mixtures arising from syn and anti addition. *p*-Benzoquinone was highly effective in promoting syn addition to all olefins investigated when present in a catalytic amount (15–20%). An ionic mechanism involving a telluronium ion intermediate is suggested for the addition of 2-naphthyltellurium trichloride. A more or less concerted, stereospecific syn addition and a competing radical chain reaction are proposed as the major pathways for the addition of TeCl₄ to olefins.

Introduction

Tellurium tetrachloride, TeCl₄, and alkyl- or aryltellurium trichlorides, RTeCl₃, undergo addition reactions with olefins to give the corresponding β -chloroalkyltellurium species 1-3 according to Scheme I.¹⁻⁶ When TeCl₄ is used as the reagent, 2 mol of olefin may add to give the 2:1 adduct 2.

The stereochemistry as well as the regiochemistry of these reactions are virtually unknown.^{1,2} Petragnani and co-workers have postulated an anti stereospecific addition in their pioneering work in this area,^{3,4} but no experimental evidence has been presented to support this view.

The regiochemistry is generally believed to be Markovnikov. However, the data supporting this statement are based solely on the 2:1 adduct of propene and TeCl₄, which has been submitted to a structural investigation.⁵

We have recently communicated a method for olefin inversion, involving a postulated syn chlorotelluration-anti dechlorotelluration sequence.⁶ The purpose of the present paper is to cast some light on the first part of the sequence, the chlorotelluration reaction. A number of adducts 1 and 3 have been prepared, using olefins, where the stereochemistry of the addition can be determined. We have confined our study to cyclic olefins, symmetrical 1,2-disubstituted olefins, or terminal olefins where the regiochemistry of the addition should cause no further complications.

Determination of Product Stereochemistry. The stereochemical outcome of the chlorotelluration reaction is conveniently determined by using ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The syn and anti adducts usually give distinctly different ¹H NMR signals for the methine protons, which appear in the region 4.5–5.5 ppm. The assignment of the syn and anti addition products is based on the magnitude of the vicinal coupling constants J_{AB} (Scheme II). However, the assumption has to be made that the TeCl₂R' molety is always gauche to the chlorine atom but anti to the alkyl group R to minimize steric compression. The tellurium atom is electron deficient in the compounds studied, and it is therefore reasonable to expect a weak interaction in solution between tellurium and the electron-rich β -chlorine atom. This phenomenon has previ-



erythro R'= Cl, 2 - naphthyl

ously been observed in the solid state for the 2:1 adduct of propene and TeCl_4 (4)⁵ and for (8-ethoxy-4-cyclo-

three



octenyl)tellurium trichloride (5).⁷ Furthermore, similar stabilizing gauche interactions between other metals and a β -heteroatom have been reported.⁸

The conformational restrictions outlined above leave only one favored conformation each for the three and the erythro isomers, respectively, as shown in Scheme II. According to the Karplus equation,⁹ the three form is expected to have a large vicinal coupling constant, J_{AB} , whereas the erythro form should give a small value for J_{AB} .

The second step of the aforementioned olefin inversion procedure,⁶ the Na₂S induced anti elimination to regenerate the olefin, offers a possibility to check the validity of the NMR analyses. This was done in great detail for the adduct of (E)-1-deuterio-1-decene (6) and TeCl₄.⁶ The



observed values of the coupling constants for the three and the erythro forms, 10.4 and 4.9 Hz, respectively, were in good agreement with the proposed conformation.

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The described assignment technique has now been applied for derivatives of (E)-2-butene, (Z)-2-butene, cyclopentene, cyclohexene, and cyclooctene. Except for cyclopentene (vide infra), all derivatives prepared from these olefins show a large coupling constant for the three (that is, trans in the cyclic series) form (10–12 Hz) and a small coupling constant for the erythro (that is, cis in the cyclic series) form (3-6 Hz).

Results

Addition Reactions of 2-Naphthyltellurium Trichloride. The readily available¹⁰ 2-naphthyltellurium trichloride (7) was chosen as a typical representative of an



organyltellurium trichloride. Compound 7 was heated in chloroform with a slight excess of (E)-2-butene (sealed tube), (Z)-2-butene (sealed tube), 1-decene, (E)-1deuterio-1-decene, cyclopentene, and cyclohexene, respectively, to give the crystalline adducts 8–12 (Table I) in good yield. ¹H NMR analyses of the crude reaction mixtures in all cases revealed formation of only one stereoisomer. The vicinal coupling constants for the methine protons were in each case determined by selective proton decoupling, and the values are included in Table I together with physical and analytical data.

According to our assignment technique, all products were formed via a stereospecific anti addition to the olefin. Thus, (Z)-2-butene gave only an isomer with a large coupling constant (10.2 Hz), which we have assigned as the three isomer 8b, and (E)-2-butene gave exclusively the erythro isomer 8a. 1-(E)-deuterio-1-decene gave a product, 10, with a small vicinal coupling constant (4.1 Hz). It was therefore assigned as the erythro isomer **10b**. In the NMR spectrum of the undeuterated isologue 9, the degenerate AB part of the expected ABX spectrum appears as a doublet (J = 7.8 Hz, an average value of J_{AX} and J_{BX}).¹¹

Compounds 8a, 8b, 9, and 10b were all submitted to a Na₂S treatment, which is known to regenerate the olefin together with 2,2'-dinaphthyl ditelluride (13).¹⁰ This reaction most probably occurs anti stereospecifically, in analogy with the Na₂S-induced eliminations of β -chloroalkyltellurium trichlorides.⁶ Compound 8a gave, on treatment with Na_2S , a 94:6 mixture of the E:Z isomers of 2-butene. Compound 8b yielded pure (Z)-2-butene as determined by GLC analysis. Na₂S reduction of compound 9 regenerated 1-decene in 96% yield. Similar treatment of compound 10b afforded 1-(E)-deuterio-1-decene, free of the Z isomer as determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The results of the Na₂S reductions in all cases therefore support the assignments made from the values of the vicinal coupling constants.

Compound 11 shows an intermediate value for the vicinal coupling constant (6.2 Hz) and has been assigned the threo configuration 11b, in analogy with the other results in the series. The conformational analysis does not seem to be applicable for derivatives of cyclopentane (vide infra).

Cyclooctene did not give a product with 2-naphthyltellurium trichloride under the usual reaction conditions. This is probably due to the reversibility of the addition reaction. We also tried to use a different aryltellurium trichloride, (4-methoxyphenyl)tellurium trichloride (14).



in the chlorotelluration, but this resulted in isolation problems for several adducts, which reversed to starting materials on attempted recrystallization.¹²

The stereochemical results of the addition of 2naphthyltellurium trichloride to various olefins are presented in Table II. A change of solvent in one case from $CHCl_3$ to CCl_4 did not alter the stereochemistry of the reaction.

Addition Reactions of Tellurium Tetrachloride. Tellurium tetrachloride, freshly sublimed and finely crushed, was stirred at 0 $^{\rm o}{\rm C}$ in dry, ethanol-free chloroform or dry acetonitrile with a slight excess of (E)-2-butene, (Z)-2-butene, 1-decene, (E)-1-deuterio-1-decene, cyclopentene, cyclohexene, or cyclooctene, respectively, to give selectively the 1:1 adducts 15-20 (Table I). The stereochemistry of the adducts was determined from the magnitude of the vicinal coupling constants as outlined above, using crude reaction mixtures. Vicinal coupling constants together with physical and analytical data of the purified compounds are given in Table I. The stereochemical results of the chlorotelluration are summarized in Table II. In most of the cases there is a predominance for syn chlorotelluration when $TeCl_4$ is used as the reagent. When the appropriate reaction conditions were chosen, (E)-2butene, (E)-1-deuterio-1-decene, cyclopentene, and cyclooctene could be made to undergo a highly stereospecific syn chlorotelluration (>97% syn). The best syn:anti ratio for (Z)-2-butene and cyclohexene was 78:22 and 30:70, respectively. The adducts of (E)-2-butene and (Z)-2butene were previously prepared as intermediates in an olefin inversion reaction⁶ and treated without isolation with Na_2S to regenerate the olefin as a mixture of isomers. The percentage of inverted products nicely parallels the percentage of syn addition obtained in the present study, except for the reaction of (E)-2-butene in chloroform (inversion: retention = 80:20 compared with syn:anti = 42:58). This problem of reproducibility led us to investigate the possibility of a competing radical pathway in the addition of TeCl₄. Various radical inhibitors that could be expected to be inert toward TeCl_4 were therefore added. Neither *p*-dinitrobenzene nor nitromethane had any effect on the stereochemical outcome. Nitrosobenzene was rapidly consumed by TeCl₄. Finally, *p*-benzoquinone was tried and found to be highly effective in promoting syn addition to (E)-2-butene. The percentage of syn addition could be increased to 88% in the presence of a catalytic amount of benzoquinone (15-20%). All the other experiments were thereafter repeated in the presence of *p*-benzoquinone. The syn:anti ratio was usually considerably increased, as can be seen from Table II. The addition to cyclohexene, which was completely anti stereospecific in the absence of p-benzoquinone, now gave 30% of the syn addition product 19a. The cis and trans isomers 19a and 19b obtained from cyclohexene had vicinal coupling constants of 3.3 and 11.3 Hz, respectively, which are typical values for

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⁽¹²⁾ The reversibility of these reactions was demonstrated in a spectacular way during the preparation of the 1:1 adduct of (Z)-2-butene and (4-methoxyphenyl)tellurium trichloride. When the reactants had been heated for a while in a sealed tube containing chloroform, almost all of the insoluble arvitellurium trichloride had reacted and gone into solution. At this point the sealed tube started to leak gas due to a small crack in This resulted in immediate precipitation of (4-methoxythe glass. phenyl)tellurium trichloride.

			'H NMR data of methine protons		
compd, Ar = 2-naphthyl	stereoisomer	mp, °C	chemical shift, δ	coupling constant, Hz	
Сн ₃ Сн—СРСКа С! ;eC:2 År	erythro (8a) ^d threo (8b) ^d	106-108 114-115	$\begin{array}{c} 4.28, 5.12\\ 4.41, 4.83\end{array}$	5.7 10.2	
8 C ₉ H-7CH-CH2 CI TeC12 	d	65-66			
Ar 9 C _e H ₁₇ CH ── CHD i i i C ⁱ T _e Ci ₂ i	erythro (10a)	63-64	4.13, 4.90	4.1	
	threo (11b) ^d	84-85	4.48, 4.91	6.2	
	threo (12b) ^d	149-150 (.it. 136-138)⁴	4.31, 4.71	11.3	
12 $CH_{3}CH - CHCH_{3}$ $ CH_{2}CH_{3}$ $ CH_{2}CH_{3}$ $ CHCH_{3}$	erythro (15a) threo (15b) ^d	a 106-107	4.62, 5.53 4.86, 4.96	4.7 11.2	
10 Ce ⁻¹ :7CH — CH2 CI TeCi3		oil			
CollingCh - CHD	erythro (17a)	oil	4.42, 5.08	4.9	
17		011	4.02, 5.00	10.4	
	erythro (18a) threo (18b)	b b	5.12, 5.43 4.80, 5.38	6.5 3.3	
	erythro (19a) threo (19b)	a 122-124 (dec) (lit. 112-113) ^e	4.49, 5.68 4.72, 4.91	3.3 11.3	
	erythro (20a)	С	4.71, 5.55	4.9	

^{*a*} This compound could not be obtained isomerically pure and was characterized only by its ¹H NMR spectrum. ^{*b*} This compound was an unstable oil that rapidly decomposed on attempted isolation. Chloroform solutions of the compound could be kept for some time before they started to deposit elemental tellurium. ^{*c*} This compound could be precipitated as a solid from a chloroform solution by the addition of hexane, but the white material rapidly turned black and gummy after isolation. ^{*d*} Satisfactory analytical data ($\pm 0.4\%$ for C, H) were obtained for this compound. ^{*e*} Reference 3b.

cis- and trans-1,2-disubstituted cyclohexanes.¹³ Cyclooctene gave only one isomer, whether the quinone was

20

present or not. The small coupling constant (4.9 Hz) led us to assign it as the syn adduct 20a.¹⁴

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⁽¹⁴⁾ The corresponding oxymercuration adduct, (2-methoxycyclooctyl)mercuric chloride, which is known to be of trans configuration, has a vicinal coupling constant ($J_{\rm HH}$ for -CH(HgCl)CHOMe-) of 8.0 Hz: Waters, W. L. Tetrahedron Lett. 1969, 3769.

entry	olefin	tellurium reagent (Ar = 2-naphthyl)	solvent	product	syn:anti ratio in the addition
1	(Z)-2-butene	TeCl₄	CHCl ₃	15	20:80
2	· · ·	TeCl	CH ₃ CN	15	78:22
3		TeCl₄	CHCl ₃ (benzoquinone)	15	74:26
4	(E)-2-butene	\mathbf{TeCl}_{4}	CHCl	15	42:58
5		TeCl₄	CH ₃ CN	15	>97% syn
6		TeCl	CHCl ₃ (benzoquinone)	15	88:12
7	(E)-1-deuterio-1-decene	\mathbf{TeCl}_{4}	CHCl	17	85:15
8		TeCl	CH ₃ CN	17	74:26
9		TeCl₄	CHCl, (benzoquinone)	17	>97% syn
10	Cyclopentene	TeCl	CHCI	18	50:50
11		TeCl	CHCl, (benzoquinone)	18	>97% syn
12	Cyclohexene	TeCl₄	CHCl	19	>97% anti
13	-	TeCl	CHCl ₃ (benzoquinone)	19	30:70
14	Cyclooctene	TeCl	CHCl	20	>97% syn
15	-	TeCl	CHCl, (benzoquinone)	20	>97% syn
16	(Z)-2-butene	ArTeCl,	CHCI	8	>97% anti
17	(E)-2-butene	ArTeCl	CHCl	8	>97% anti
18	. ,	ArTeCl	CHCl ₃ (benzoquinone)	8	>97% anti
19	(E)-1-deuterio-1-decene	ArTeCl	CHCl	10	>97% anti
20	. ,	ArTeCl	CCl	10	>97% anti
21	Cyclopentene	ArTeCl	CHCl,	11	>97% anti
22	Cyclohexene	ArTeCl ₃	CHCl,	12	>97% anti

Table II. Stereochemistry of the Chlorotelluration of Olefins

Scheme III



Cyclopentene yielded two isomers in the absence of benzoquinone, the vicinal constants being 3.3 and 6.5 Hz, respectively. In the presence of the inhibitor only the isomer with the larger coupling constant (J = 6.5 Hz) was formed. In analogy with the previous experiments, we have assigned this isomer as (cis-2-chlorocyclopentyl)tellurium trichloride (18a). It is generally recognized that the information obtained from coupling constants between vicinal ring protons in five-membered rings are of limited value for the assignment of the configuration.¹⁵ Great care must be taken in such assignments since the relative magnitude of J_{cis} and J_{trans} changes with different types of compounds. In many substrates, however, J_{cis} is larger than J_{trans} ,^{16,17} though the opposite is also known.¹⁶ Because of limited NMR data from analogous compounds, our assignment technique fails in this case. The assignment that we have made, however, conforms with the vicinal coupling constant $(J_{HH} \text{ for } -CH(HgCl)CHOMe-)$ observed in (trans-2-methoxycyclopentyl)mercuric chloride, which is 4.1 Hz.14

Discussion

The complete anti stereospecificity of the additions of 2-naphthyltellurium trichloride to all olefins studied is consistent with a cyclic telluronium ion intermediate 21 in this reaction (Scheme III). A similar telluronium ion intermediate was originally suggested by Petragnani⁴ in the chlorotelluration with TeCl₄, in analogy with the mechanism for addition of arylsulphonyl halides to olefins.18

The mechanism of the TeCl₄ addition to olefins, on the other hand, is more complex. The results obtained here



rule out the mechanism previously suggested,⁴ involving a telluronium ion intermediate as the major pathway. Possible side reactions to the favored syn addition would be a radical addition and/or an ionic trans addition via a telluronium ion intermediate. Attempts to detect radicals in the chlorotelluration reaction, using an ESR spin trapping technique, were successful only for (Z)-2-octene (in CCl₄), which was used as a model for (Z)-2-butene.¹⁹ No signals were obtained, however, from 1-decene, cyclohexene, or (E)-2-octene in either CCl_4 or $CHCl_3$. The inhibiting effect of benzoquinone on the side reactions gives further support for the involvement of a radical pathway in the chlorotelluration with $TeCl_4$. A possible radical-chain reaction is outlined in Scheme IV.

A radical addition pathway could explain the poor stereospecificity in many of the additions (Table II). The anti specific addition to cyclohexene is remarkable, but may be a result of a stereospecific radical addition. In fact, many well-documented radical reactions are highly specific, and a strong preference for anti addition was observed for hetero-radical additions to cyclohexenes.²⁰

The overwhelming preference for syn addition in all cases where the radical inhibitor is present (except for cyclohexene) suggests a mechanism in which a syn addition of $TeCl_4$ is competing with a radical reaction. Scheme V

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⁽¹⁹⁾ Two different spin traps, perdeuterionitrosodurene and t-BuNO, were used. In each case a doublet of a triplet was obtained (CCl_4) . Perdeuterionitrosodurene: g = 2.0063, $a_{\rm H} = 6.4$ G, $a_{\rm N} = 13.3$ G; t-BuNO: $g = 2.0060, a_{\rm H} = 2.6$ G, $a_{\rm N} = 13.9$ G. No spectrum could be obtained when the solvent was changed from CCl₄ to CHCl₃ or CH₃CN. (20) Nonhebel, D. C.; Walton, J. C. "Free-radical Chemistry"; Cam-

bridge University Press: London, 1974; p 282.



shows a more or less concerted addition of the elements of Cl and TeCl₃ across the double bond. Such an addition can formally be regarded as a [2 + 2] cycloaddition. The observation that cyclopentene and (E)-2-butene can give >97% syn addition but cyclohexene and (Z)-2-butene at most 30% and 78% syn addition, respectively, conforms with the reactivities generally found for cycloadditions. It is well-known that in cycloadditions to olefins, E olefins are more reactive than the corresponding Z olefins and cyclopentene is considerably more reactive than cyclohexene.²¹ The relatively slower syn chlorotelluration expected for cyclohexene and (Z)-2-butene would therefore make the competing radical (or anti ionic) pathway more important for these olefins.

The ionic anti stereospecific mechanism postulated for the chlorotelluration with 2-naphthyltellurium trichloride does not seem to be operative to any large extent in the chlorotelluration with TeCl₄. Otherwise it would not be possible to obtain the highly stereospecific syn additions for (E)-1-deuterio-1-decene, cyclopentene, and cyclooctene on addition of benzoguinone, since benzoguinone should not affect the ionic pathway. A control experiment with (E)-2-butene and 2-naphthyltellurium chloride showed that the reaction was unchanged on addition of benzoquinone (Table II, entry 18).

When the solvent was changed from chloroform to acetonitrile, a high preference for syn addition of $TeCl_4$ was observed for (E)- and (Z)-2-butene, even without a radical inhibitor.²² It thus appears that the radical pathway is strongly disfavored when this solvent is used.

A stereospecific syn addition to a double bond is of synthetic interest since it constitutes an exception to the anti addition generally observed.²³ Syn additions have been observed for oxymercurations and DBr additions to strained olefins.^{24,25} The hydroboration reaction is known to proceed via a syn four-center addition to the double bond.²⁶ Furthermore, transition-metal-promoted nucleophilic additions to olefins sometimes occur syn.²⁷ In these reactions a coordinated nucleophile, usually a hydride or an alkyl group, and the metal add syn across the double bond (Scheme VI). Analogous chlorometalations (Scheme VI, R = Cl have also been suggested to occur syn.^{28,29} For example, syn chloropalladation of double bonds may occur under certain conditions,28 and a syn chlorometalation with a consecutive reductive elimination was suggested²⁹ to account for the observed syn dichlorination of olefins by MoCl₅³⁰ and CrO₂Cl₂.²⁹ However, no direct demonstration

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of these chlorometalations has been provided so far, and to the best of our knowledge our work constitutes the first established example of a syn chlorometalation of an olefin. A related syn chlorotelluration of phenylacetylenes has been reported.³¹

The addition of SeCl₄ to olefins yields 2:1 adducts 22.^{32,33}

Interestingly, the mechanism of this addition appears to differ from that observed with TeCl₄. From the NMR data of the bis adducts 22 and (E)- and (Z)-2-butene, it was concluded that the chloroselenation had occurred anti.³³

Experimental Section

Melting points were uncorrected. NMR spectra were obtained with a Bruker WP 200 instrument at 200 MHz. They were recorded in CDCl₃ solutions containing Me₄Si as internal standard and are reported in δ units. All olefins used were commercially available except 1-(E)-deuterio-1-decene, which was prepared by hydroalumination³⁴ of 1-decyne followed by D₂O quenching.³⁵ TeCl₄ was sublimed immediately before use (200 °C (0.1 mmHg)) and finely crushed with a glass rod. The chloroform was repeatedly washed with water to remove any trace of EtOH and dried over CaCl₂. The acetonitrile was predried over CaCl₂, distilled, and stored over 4-Å molecular sieves. 2-Naphthyltellurium trichloride was synthesized according to a literature procedure.¹⁰ p-Benzoquinone was freshly sublimed before use.

Synthesis of β -Chloroalkyl-2-naphthyltellurium Dichlorides (8-12). General Procedure. 2-Naphthyltellurium trichloride (0.83 mmol) was heated at reflux with the appropriate olefin (1.2 mmol) in dry, ethanol-free chloroform (15 mL) until the organotellurium compound had dissolved (0.5-1 h). Filtration from a small amount of elemental tellurium and evaporation gave an oil or a semisolid that was recrystallized from a large amount of light petroleum, bp 40-60 °C, to give the analytically pure sample (see Table I). The reactions with (Z)- and (E)-2-butene were carried out in a sealed tube at 80 $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ as described above. Yields of all compounds and complementary ¹H NMR data (methine protons are reported in Table I) are given in the following: 8a, yield 95%; ¹H NMR 1.77 (d, 3 H), 1.84 (d, 3 H), 7.60-7.65 (several peaks, 2 H), 7.88-7.95 (several peaks, 2 H), 8.00 (d, 1 H, J = 8.7 Hz), 8.22 (dd, 1 H, J = 1.9 Hz), 8.76 (d, 1 H, J)= 1.5 Hz).

8b: yield 95%; ¹H NMR 1.68 (d, 3 H), 1.71 (d, 3 H), 7.57–7.68 (several peaks 2 H), 7.88-7.97 (several peaks, 2 H), 8.00 (d, 1 H, J = 8.8 Hz), 8.29 (dd, 1 H, J = 1.8 Hz and 8.9 Hz), 8.83 (d, 1 H, J = 1.3 Hz).

9: yield 76%; ¹H NMR 0.88 (t, 3 H), 1.28-1.60 (several peaks, 12 H), 1.92 (m, 2 H), 4.15 (d, 2 H, J = 7.8 Hz), 4.92 (m, 1 H), 7.60-7.65 (several peaks, 2 H), 7.89-7.98 (several peaks, 2 H), 8.00 (d, 1 H, J = 9.3 Hz), 8.16 (dd, 1 H, J = 1.7 Hz and 9.0 Hz), 8.69 (s, 1 H).

10: yield 71%; ¹H NMR 0.88 (t, 3 H), 1.19-1.56 (several peaks, 12 H), 1.92 (m, 2 H), 4.13 (d, 1 H, J = 4.1 Hz), 4.90 (m, 1 H), 7.60-7.67 (several peaks, 2 H), 7.89-7.97 (several peaks, 2 H), 8.00 (d, 1 H, J = 9.2 Hz), 8.16 (dd, 1 H, J = 1.8 Hz and 8.8 Hz), 8.69 (d, 1 H, J = 1.4 Hz).

11b: yield 98%; ¹H NMR 1.85-2.05 (several peaks, 3 H), 2.25-2.42 (several peaks, 2 H), 2.52 (m, 1 H), 7.58-7.67 (several peaks, 2 H), 7.88-7.97 (several peaks, 2 H), 7.99 (d, 1 H, J = 8.9 Hz), 8.24 (dd, 1 H, J = 1.8 Hz and 8.8 Hz), 8.77 (s, 1 H).

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⁽²²⁾ Attempts to run the TeCl₄ reactions with the cyclic olefins in acetonitrile resulted in complicated reaction mixtures where the stereochemistry could not be determined with any accuracy.

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12b: yield 95%; ¹H NMR 1.31–1.43 (several peaks, 2 H), 1.74–2.00 (several peaks, 5 H), 2.48 (m, 1 H), 7.56–7.67 (several peaks, 2 H), 7.88–8.00 (several peaks, 2 H), 7.99 (d, 1 H, J = 9.0Hz), 8.31 (dd, 1 H, J = 1.8 Hz and 8.8 Hz), 8.84 (d, 1 H, J = 1.1Hz).

 Na_2S Reduction of Compounds 8a, 8b, 9, and 10a. Compounds 8a and 8b were treated with Na_2S -9 H_2O (20% aqueous) in an evacuated flask equipped with a septum and an addition funnel. The gaseous products were analyzed by GLC and compared with authentic samples.

Compound 9 (0.50 g, 1.0 mmol) was shaked thoroughly with ethyl ether (50 mL) and Na₂S-9 H₂O (20% aqueous, 50 mL). The organic phase was separated, dried (CaCl₂), and evaporated to give 0.38 g of a 1:1 mixture of 1-decene and 2,2'-dinaphthyl ditelluride: mp 117–118 °C (EtOH) [lit. 120–122 °C];³⁶ yield 96%.

Reduction of the deuterated analogue 10a similarly gave only 1-(E)-deuterio-1-decene.

Synthesis of β -Chloroalkyltellurium Trichlorides (15-20). Typical Procedure. Freshly sublimed TeCl₄ (1.67 g, 6.2 mmol) and (Z)-2-butene (0.36 g, 6.4 mmol) were stirred in an ice-bath for 3 h in dry, ethanol-free chloroform (20 mL) when almost all the TeCl₄ had disappeared. Filtration and evaporation yielded 1.35 g of product (67%) as a mixture of isomers 15a and 15b (Table II). Recrystallization from acetonitrile afforded the pure three isomer 15b as a white crystalline material (Table I).

(E)-2-Butene required 3 h at 0 °C and stirring overnight at ambient temperature to give a 94% yield of isomers 15a/15b. The cyclic and the terminal olefins reacted with TeCl₄ within 3 h at 0 °C to give the following yields of addition compounds: cyclopentene (98%), cyclohexene (99%), cyclooctene (83%), 1-decene (98%), and (E)-1-deuterio-1-decene (96%). The relative yields of isomers are shown in Table II and physical and analytical data are collected in Table I.

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The experiments using *p*-benzoquinone were carried out as described in the typical procedure, but in the presence of 15-20 mol % of the quinone. Longer reaction times were frequently required and the reactions were not disrupted until all or most of the TeCl₄ had disappeared.

(E)-2-Butene again required stirring at ambient temperature overnight. This was also the case with cyclohexene.

Complementary ¹H NMR data for compounds 15–20 are given in the following (methine protons are reported in Table I): 15a, 1.70 (d, 3 H), 2.30 (d, 3 H). 15b, 1.76 (d, 3 H), 2.22 (d, 3 H). 16, 0.89 (t, 3 H), 1.26–1.58 (several peaks, 12 H), 1.92 (m, 2 H), 4.42 (dd, 1 H, J = 11.1 and 4.9 Hz), 4.62 (t, 1 H, J = 11.1 Hz), 5.08 (m, 1 H). 17a and 17b, 0.89 (t, 3 H), 1.27–1.58 (several peaks, 12 H), 1.92 (m, 2 H). 18a 1.90 (m, 1 H), 2.20–2.35 (several peaks, 3 H), 2.61 (m, 1 H), 3.55 (m, 1 H). 18b 2.00–2.35 (several peaks, 4 H), 2.96 (m, 2 H). 19a Could not be accurately determined. 19b 1.43–1.68 (several peaks, 2 H), 1.79–2.00 (several peaks, 2 H), 2.09–2.29 (several peaks, 2 H), 2.51 (m, 1 H), 2.70 (m, 1 H). 20a 1.45–1.88 (several peaks, 7 H), 2.16–2.40 (several peaks, 4 H), 3.32 (m, 1 H).

Acknowledgment. We thank Dr. Sakae Uemura, Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto, Japan, and Dr. Takashi Kawamura, Department of Hydrocarbon Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, for running the ESR experiments. Financial support by the Swedish Natural Science Research Council is gratefully acknowledged.

Registry No. 6, 39106-47-3; **7**, 71578-23-9; **8a**, 87099-35-2; **8b**, 87099-36-3; **9**, 87070-60-8; **10a**, 87070-61-9; **11b**, 87070-62-0; **12b**, 87070-63-1; **15a**, 87099-37-4; **15b**, 87099-38-5; **17a**, 87099-39-6; **17b**, 87144-13-6; **18a**, 87070-64-2; **18b**, 87099-40-9; **19a**, 87099-41-0; **19b**, 87099-42-1; **20a**, 87070-65-3; (*Z*)-2-butene, 590-18-1; (*E*)-2-butene, 624-64-6; cyclopentene, 142-29-0; cyclohexene, 110-83-8; cyclooctene, 931-88-4; TeCl₄, 10026-07-0.

Computer-Assisted Mechanistic Evaluation of Organic Reactions. 7. Six-Electron Cycloadditions

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Received April 4, 1983

An interactive computer program, CAMEO, is being developed to predict the products of organic reactions through the use of mechanistic reasoning. The program has been expanded to encompass six-electron cycloadditions, including reactions of 1,3-dipoles, as the first part of a general module for pericyclic chemistry. A review of the reaction components and their regiochemistry in six-electron cycloadditions is first presented. Next, the development and implementation of algorithms used to predict the likelihood and regio- and stereoselectivity of six-electron cycloadditions are described. The analyses are based on the frontier molecular orbital method. Consequently, it was necessary to devise efficient algorithms for predicting the energies and relative coefficients of frontier molecular orbitals. General empirical relationships were developed on the basis of experimental data and the results of quantum mechanical calculations. Sample sequences are provided that illustrate typical predictions made by the program.

I. Introduction

CAMEO is a computer program designed to predict the products of organic reactions given starting materials and conditions.¹⁻⁵ Two key features of the program are that

its predictions are made via the simulation of reaction mechanisms and that it is interactive with the input and output of structures occurring at a graphics terminal. Following the input of reactants and conditions, the program enters a perception phase in which important structural features such as functional groups, rings, stereochemistry, and reactive sites are recognized. This in-

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