Selective Preparation of Diamondoid Phosphonates

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S Supporting Information

[AB](#page-3-0)STRACT: [We present](#page-3-0) an effective sequence for the preparation of phosphonic acid derivatives of the diamondoids diamantane, triamantane, $[121]$ tetramantane, and $[1(2,3)4]$ pentamantane. The reactions of the corresponding diamondoid hydroxy derivatives with PCl_3 in sulfuric or trifluoroacetic acid give mono- as well as didichlorophosphorylated diamondoids in high preparative yields.

The family of naturally occurring diamondoids, which are nanometer-sized hydrocarbons resembling subunits of the cubic diamond lattice,^{1−3} have been shown to be highly useful nanometer-sized hydrocarbons resembling subunits of the in a variety of applications⁴⁻⁷ by mimicking many properties of natural H-terminated [d](#page-3-0)i[am](#page-3-0)ond. For example, diamondoid thiol self-assembled monolayer[s \(S](#page-3-0)AMs) on metal surfaces reproduce the negative electron affinity (NEA) of bulk diamond.⁸ While such SAMs with extraordinary monochromatic photoemission properties are useful for the construction of nov[el](#page-3-0) cathodes, their long-term stability is low as a result of the weakness of the metal−sulfur bonds. Even though cesium bromide can be added as a protective layer to increase overall device stability, 9 the weak linkage problem remains unsolved. Very recently¹⁰ we demonstrated that covalent attachment of phosphonic ac[id](#page-3-0) dichloride of diamantane (1, Figure 1) to tungsten (ox[ide](#page-3-0)) surfaces displays a characteristic monochromatic NEA peak and provides a material that e[xh](#page-1-0)ibits remarkable thermal stability (>300 °C). Considering that the photoemission efficiency increases with an increase of the diamondoid cage size, 8 it is important to note that higher diamondoids 11 are effective dispersion energy donors (DEDs), a property that also in[c](#page-3-0)reases the stability of SAMs.¹² This is crucial for th[e c](#page-3-0)onstruction of nanometer-scale devices, 13 whose properties are strongly affected by intermolecular van [de](#page-3-0)r Waals interactions.¹⁴

Preparative methods for the functionalizations of triamantane $(2),^{15}$ [121] tetramantane $(3),^{15}$ and [1(2,3)4] pentamantane $(4)^{16}$ with radical and oxidative reagents allow their selective C−[H-](#page-3-0)bond functionalizations. [H](#page-3-0)owever, direct phosphorylatio[n o](#page-3-0)f 1 and 2 ,¹⁷ in contrast to parent adamantane, $18,19$ gives mixtures and is low-yielding; the monophosphorylation of 1 in the AlCl₃/PCl₃[/C](#page-3-0)H₂Cl₂ system²⁰ was difficult to re[prod](#page-3-0)uce¹

as didiamantane-phosphinic acid chloride derivatives form as the main products. Ditriamantane-phosphinic acid chloride was the only product of the reaction of 2 with $AICI_3/PCI_3/$ $CH₂Cl₂$. ¹⁷ Hence, this makes the selective C−H-bond phosphorylation of diamondoids problematic in the presence of stron[g L](#page-3-0)ewis acids. The phosphorylation of haloadamantanes with AlBr₃/PCl₃ is the well-known Clay–Kinnear–Perren reaction²¹ that, however, requires large amounts of reagents and strongly depends on the quality of the employed AlBr_3 .²²

Diam[on](#page-3-0)doidyl cations can easily be generated from the corresponding halogen or hydroxy derivatives in the prese[nce](#page-3-0) of strong Brønsted acids. Previously one of us discovered the dichlorophosphorylation of 1-bromoadamantane with $PCI₃$ in concentrated sulfuric acid with >95% preparative yield,²²⁻²⁴ revealing effective trapping of the 1-adamantyl cation with nucleophilic PCl_3 in *protic* solvents. Trifluoroacetic acid ([TF](#page-3-0)[A\)](#page-4-0) can also be used and provides adamantyl phosphonic dichloride in 69% preparative yield from 1-hydroxy adamantane with ${PCl_3}^{25}$ We have recently found that both methods are applicable to the preparation of diamantane 1-phosphonic dichl[ori](#page-4-0)de (5) from the 1-bromo derivative (6) .¹⁰ As we found substantial discrepancies between our and previously published spectral data, 20 the structure of 5 was additional[ly](#page-3-0) confirmed by an X-ray crystal structure analysis (Figure 2).

The fact t[ha](#page-3-0)t 4-phosphonic dichloride (8) did not form in this reaction is somewhat surprising as th[e 1](#page-1-0)- and 4-diamantyl cations equilibrate in H_2SO_4 .²⁶ Presumably PCl₃ rapidly traps the 1-diamantyl cation, thus preventing isomerization (Figure

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Figure 1. Diamantane (1), triamantane (2), $[121]$ tetramantane (3), and $[1(2,3)4]$ pentamantane (4), with numbering of carbon atoms and their apically as well as medially substituted derivatives.

Figure 2. Phosphorylations of diamantane derivatives in sulfuric acid (yields are preparative) and the X-ray crystal structure of dichlorophosphonate 5.

2). This was confirmed by a separate experiment in the PCl_3 / $H₂SO₄$ system where 4-hydroxydiamantane (9) gave 8^{17} exclusively with a 5 equiv excess of PCl_3 (Figure 2). In contrast, with only 1 equiv [of](#page-3-0) PCl_3 already ca. 10% of isomerized dichloride 5 forms, together with 8 as the main product.

We also found that the preparative yield slightly increases for 1-hydroxydiamantane (7) when TFA is used for the phosphorylation.¹⁰ The 4-hydroxy derivative 9 gave 8 in 75% preparative yield under these conditions. Thus, for the phosphorylation[s](#page-3-0) of larger diamondoids we employed the PCl₃/TFA system, which additionally provides higher solubility of the starting material. We first tested various triamantane hydroxy derivatives 10−12 that are available through the nitroxylation/hydrolysis of 2. 15

The phosphorylation of alcohols 10 and 11 in the PCl_3/TFA system provides the phosph[ory](#page-3-0)l derivatives 13 and 14 in high preparative yields (Scheme 1). In contrast, the sterically congested alcohol 12 gave a complex mixture under these conditions, from which we were able to isolate phosphonic acid 15 in only moderate yield due to its low solubility in organic solvents. The behavior of 12 is in line with the low selectivities

Scheme 1. Phosphorylation of Triamantane Derivatives in Trifluoroacetic Acid (Yields Are Preparative)

of the functional group transformations of 2-triamantyl derivatives in electrophilic media. 27

As higher diamondoid derivatives larger than 2 demonstrate enhanced potential in the cons[tru](#page-4-0)ction of electron-emitting devices,⁸ we extended our phosphorylation protocol to the apical derivatives of $[121]$ tetramantane (16) and $[1(2,3)4]$ pentam[an](#page-3-0)tane (18). The apical dichloro phosphoryl derivatives 17 and 19 were isolated in high preparative yields, and their structures were confirmed by X-ray crystal structure analyses (Figure 3).

In contrast to other alkanes, whose already poor electron conduct[iv](#page-2-0)ity exponentially decreases with chain length, 28 diamondoids are superior semiconductors as their band gap narrows with increasing molecule size.²⁹ As we have shown t[hat](#page-4-0) the POCl₂ group provides strong attachment to metal-oxide surfaces,¹⁰ double-phosphorylated dia[mo](#page-4-0)ndoids are potentially useful as saturated spacers in molecule/metal oxide molecular electron[ic](#page-3-0) junctions.^{30−33} Previous attempts to attach two phosphoryl groups to 1,3-adamantane derivatives in sulfuric acid gave mixtures o[f mon](#page-4-0)ophosphorylated products only. This is due to the presence of the highly electron-withdrawing trichlorophosphonium group in the positively charged intermediates.³⁴ More distant substituents in the diamantane cage allow for double phosphorylation. The readily available dihydrox[y d](#page-4-0)iamantanes 20^{35} and 21^{36} that are typically poorly soluble in polar media are highly soluble in the $TFA/PCl₃$ system and give the desir[ed](#page-4-0) dichlor[o p](#page-4-0)hosphonates 22 and 23

Figure 3. Phosphorylations of the apical $[121]$ tetramantane (16) and $[1(2,3)4]$ pentamantane (18) derivatives (yields are preparative) and the X-ray crystal structures of dichlorophosphonates 17 and 19.

in high preparative yields (Scheme 2). These compounds are characterized by exceptionally high thermal stabilities and high

Scheme 2. Double Phosphorylations of Diamantane Derivatives in Trifluoroacetic Acid (Yields Are Preparative)

melting points. For instance, dichloro phosphonate 23 melts without decomposition at 360 °C and may be useful for hightemperature deposition on metal oxide surfaces.

In summary, we have developed a Brønsted acid catalyzed protocol for the phosphorylation of diamondoids with PCl₃. Highly nucleophilic PCl₃ effectively traps the intermediate cations, thereby avoiding the rearrangements that usually complicate transformations of diamondoids. Thus, this method is superior to previously reported Lewis acid catalyzed phosphorylations. The resulting dichlorophosphoryl diamondoid derivatives have high potential not only in nanoelectronics for surface oxide modifications¹⁰ but also for the preparation of highly sterically demanding building blocks for catalysis.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTI[ON](#page-3-0)

General Information. NMR spectra were recorded on 400 and 600 MHz (^1H) spectrometers with TMS as internal standard. Highresolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded using electron impact ionization on a focusing sector-type mass spectrometer. Products were purified by chromatography on 100−160 mesh silica gel. All melting points were determined without correction. Commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification.

General Procedure for the Phosphorylation of Diamondoid Derivatives in Sulfuric Acid. The diamondoid derivative (bromo or hydroxy, 0.0024 mol) was added to a cooled mixture (ice bath) of 100 mL of 96% sulfuric acid and 30 mL of 20% oleum (0.0024 mol), followed by addition of 1.4 mL (0.017 mol) of phosphorus trichloride at 7−10 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at room temperature and 0.5 h at 45−55 °C, cooled, and then poured onto ice. The reaction mixture was filtered, and the precipitate was washed with water and dried over sodium sulfate. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether $= 5:1$).

General Procedure for the Phosphorylation of Diamondoid **Derivatives in Trifluoroacetic Acid.** To a mixture of 3 g (0.015) mol) of the corresponding hydroxy diamondoid and 50 mL of trifluoroacetic acid was added 7 mL (0.08 mol) of phosphorus trichloride, and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 3.5 h and then poured onto ice. The reaction mixture was extracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 , washed with brine, and dried over sodium sulfate. The resulting crude product was purified as above.

1-Dichlorophosphoryldiamantane (5). Obtained from 150 mg (0.73 mmol) of 1-hydroxydiamantane (7) as a colorless solid through the phosphorylation in trifluoroacetic acid, yield 186 mg $(83%)$. Mp = 98−100 °C. ¹H NMR (δ, 400 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.58 (d, J = 12 Hz, 2H), 1.70−1.80 (m, 7H), 1.92 (bs, 1H), 1.90−2.10 (m, 5H), 2.30 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (d, $J = 12$ Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (δ, 100 MHz, CDCl₃): 24.7 (CH), 26.1 (CH, d, J_{CP} = 15 Hz), 34.0 (CH₂), 36.7 (CH, d, J_{CP} = 2 Hz), 36.8 (CH₂, d, $J_{CP} = 3$ Hz), 37.0 (CH, d, $J_{CP} = 2$ Hz), 38.4 $(CH₂)$, 38.8 (CH₂, d, J_{CP} < 1 Hz), 38.9 (CH, d, J_{CP} = 16 Hz), 56.3 (C, d, J_{CP} = 73 Hz). ³¹P NMR (δ , 162 MHz, CDCl₃): 66.1. EI-HRMS (*m*/ z): found 304.0564, calcd for $C_{14}H_{19}Cl_2OP$ 304.0551. Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{19}Cl_2$ OP C 55.10, H 6.28. Found C 55.34, H 6.26.

9-Dichlorophosphoryltriamantane (13). Obtained from 150 mg (0.58 mmol) of 9-hydroxytriamantane (10) as a colorless solid through the phosphorylation in trifluoroacetic acid, yield 179 mg $(86%)$. Mp = 142−143 °C. ¹H NMR (δ, 400 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.36 (d, J $= 2.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.51 (bs, 2 H), 1.60 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2 H), 1.64–1.80 (m, 10 H), 1.86−1.96 (m, 3 H), 1.96−2.11 (m, 4 H). 13C NMR (δ, 100 MHz, CDCl₃): 27.5 (CH), 33.5 (C), 33.7 (d, J_{CP} = 2.2 Hz, CH), 34.4 (CH), 35.6 (d, J_{CP} = 3.8 Hz, CH₂), 37.2 (d, J_{CP} = 16 Hz, CH), 37.4 (d, $J_{\rm CP}$ = 2.2 Hz, CH), 37.5 (d, $J_{\rm CP}$ = 2.7 Hz, CH₂), 37.6 (CH₂), 42.1 (d, $J_{\rm CP}$ = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 44.6 (CH₂), 45.3 (d, $J_{\rm CP}$ = 2.2 Hz, CH), 48.5 (d, J_{CP} = 88 Hz, C). $3^{1}P$ NMR (δ , 162 MHz, CDCl₃): 65.1. MS (m/z): 356 (<1), 239 (100), 183 (2), 157 (4), 143 (8), 129 (5). EI-HRMS (m/z) : found 356.0846, calcd for C₁₈H₂₃Cl₂OP 356.0864.

3-Dichlorophosphoryltriamantane (14). Obtained from 150 mg (0.58 mmol) of 3-hydroxytriamantane (11) through the phosphorylation in trifluoroacetic acid as a colorless solid, yield 150 mg (72%). Mp = 135−136 °C. ¹H NMR (δ, 600 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.26− 1.35 (m, 2 H), 1.40 (s, 2 H), 1.47−1.55 (m, 2 H), 1.65−1.81 (m, 8 H), 1.82−1.91 (m, 2 H), 1.96−2.09 (m, 4 H), 2.18−2.25 (m, 1 H), 2.67− 2.76 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (δ , 151 MHz, CDCl₃): 26.9 (CH), 27.4 (d, J_{CP} = 16 Hz, CH), 33.2 (CH), 33.9 (CH), 34.4 (d, J_{CP} = 15 Hz, C), 34.7 (CH₂), 34.74 (d, J_{CP} = 2.2 Hz, CH), 36.6 (d, J_{CP} = 3 Hz, CH₂), 37.3 (CH₂), 37.4 (CH), 37.5 (CH₂), 38.99 (d, J_{CP} = 0.9 Hz, CH₂), 39.0 (d, J_{CP} = 17 Hz, CH), 44.2 (d, J_{CP} = 3 Hz, CH₂), 45.3 (d, J_{CP} = 3 Hz, CH₂), 45.9 (d, J_{CP} = 2.3 Hz, CH), 46.2 (d, J_{CP} = 3 Hz, CH), 57.4 $(d, J_{CP} = 72 \text{ Hz}, \text{ C}).$ ³¹P NMR $(\delta, 162 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$: 65.7. MS (m/z) : 358 (<1), 356 (<1), 239 (100), 167 (16), 143 (9), 129 (7). EI-HRMS (m/z) : found 356.0851, calcd for C₁₈H₂₃Cl₂OP 356.0864.

2-Triamantane Phosphonic Acid (15). Obtained from 150 mg (0.58 mmol) of 2-hydroxytriamantane (12) through the phosphorylation in trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was filtered, and the precipitate was washed with water, ether, chloroform and dried in vacuum, yield 101 mg (54%) of white solid (mp = 342–343 °C). ¹H NMR (δ , 400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): 0.93 (d, J = 12 Hz, 2 H), 1.24 (d, J = 13 Hz, 2 H), 1.37 (bs, 1 H), 1.53−1.71 (m, 10 H), 1.77 (bs, 2 H), 1.90 (bs, 2 H), 2.35 (d, J = 12 Hz, 2 H), 3.08 (d, J = 12 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR $(\delta, 100 \text{ MHz}, \text{ DMSO-}d_6)$: 27.1 (CH), 34.1 (CH₂), 35.5 (C), 36.6 (d, J_{CP} = 11 Hz, CH), 37.5 (CH), 37.9 (CH₂), 38.4 (CH), 39.1 (CH₂), 40.4 (CH₂), 47.9 (d, J_{CP} = 129 Hz, C), 49.9 (d, J_{CP} = 12 Hz, CH). ³¹P NMR $(\delta, 162 \text{ MHz}, \text{ DMSO-}d_6)$: 30.2. MS (m/z) : 320 (2) , 239 (100) , 197 (2), 183 (1), 143(9), 129 (12). EI-HRMS (m/z): found 320.1524, calcd for $C_{18}H_{25}O_3P$ 320.1541.

6-Dichlorophosphoryl[121]tetramantane (17). Obtained from 80 mg of 9-hydroxytriamantane (0.26 mmol) (16) as a colorless solid through the phosphorylation in trifluoroacetic acid, yield 80 mg (75%). Mp = 175−176 °C. ¹H NMR (δ, 600 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.30 (d, J $= 3$ Hz, 2 H), 1.32 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 2 H), 1.34 (d, J = 3 Hz, 2 H), 1.44 $(bs, 2 H)$, 1.47 $(bs, 2 H)$, 1.64 $(d, J = 8 Hz, 2 H)$, 1.67−1.72 $(m, 6 H)$, 1.72−1.77 (m, 2 H), 1.86−1.90 (m, 1 H), 1.90−1.95 (m, 2 H), 2.00− 2.05 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (δ , 151 MHz, CDCl₃): 27.6 (CH), 30.9 (C), 31.6 (d, J_{CP} = 16 Hz, C), 35.43 (d, J_{CP} = 3.7 Hz, CH₂), 35.45 (CH), 36.6 (d, J_{CP} = 1.3 Hz, CH), 37.26 (d, J_{CP} = 16 Hz, CH), 37.6 (CH₂), 37.8 (CH), 41.3 (d, J_{CP} = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 43.9 (CH₂), 44.7 (d, J_{CP} = 2.5 Hz, CH₂), 45.0 (CH₂), 45.8 (d, J_{CP} = 2.3 Hz, CH), 46.5 (d, J_{CP} = 1.9 Hz, CH), 48.6 (d, J_{CP} = 88 Hz, C). ³¹P NMR (δ , 243 MHz, CDCl₃): 65.1. MS $(m/z, %): 408(1), 404(1), 325(1), 305(2), 292(100), 155$ (11), 141 (8). EI-HRMS (m/z) : found 408.1174, calcd for $C_{22}H_{27}Cl_2OP$ 408.1177.

7-Dichlorophosphoryl[1(2,3)4]pentamantane (19). Obtained from 50 mg of 7-hydroxy $[1(2,3)4]$ pentamantane (0.14 mmol) (18) as a colorless solid through the phosphorylation in trifluoroacetic acid, yield 52 mg (81%). Mp = 330−331 °C. ¹H NMR (δ, 600 MHz, CDCl3): 1.00 (s, 4 H), 1.28−1.38 (m, 12 H), 1.38−1.43 (m, 6 H), 1.63 (d, J = 8 Hz, 6 H), 1.87−1.98 (m, 3 H). 13C NMR (δ, 151 MHz, CDCl₃): 28.2 (CH), 32.8 (C), 33.4 (d, J_{CP} = 15 Hz, C), 41.7 (d, J_{CP} = 5 Hz, CH₂), 44.2 (CH₂), 44.4 (CH₂), 49.1 (d, $J_{CP} = 85$ Hz, C), 52.2 $(d, J_{CP} = 2 \text{ Hz}, \text{ CH})$, 52.9 (CH).³¹P NMR (δ , 243 MHz, CDCl₃): 64.1. MS (m/z, %): 461 (<1%), 343 (100), 230 ((2), 181 (2), 171 (5), 141 (1) ESI-HRMS $(m/z + Na)$: found 483.1378, calcd for $C_{26}H_{31}Cl_2$ OPNa 483.1387.

4,9-Bis(dichlorophosphoryl)diamantane (22). Obtained from 120 mg (0.54 mmol) of 4,9-dihydroxydiamantane (20) as a colorless solid through the phosphorylation in trifluoroacetic acid, yield 200 mg $(87%)$. Mp = 340–341 °C. ¹H NMR (δ, 400 MHz, CDCl₃): 2.05 (bs, 6 H), 2.08–2.16 (m, 12 H). ¹³C NMR (δ , 100 MHz, CDCl₃): 35.03 (CH), 35.07 (dd; $J_{CP} = 17$, 3 Hz; CH₂), 46.0 (d, $J_{CP} = 93$ Hz, C). ³¹P NMR $(\delta, 162 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$: 64.0. MS $(m/z, %)$: 305 (70), 303 (100), 185 (38), 157 (2), 143 (4), 129 (12). Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{18}Cl_4O_2P_2$ C 39.84, H 4.30. Found C 39.49, H 4.32.

1,6-Bis(dichlorophosphoryl)diamantane (23). Obtained from 110 mg (0.50 mmol) of 1,6-dihydroxydiamantane (21) as a colorless solid through the phosphorylation in trifluoroacetic acid, yield 128 mg (61%). Mp = 360–361 °C. ¹H NMR (δ, 400 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.61 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 4 H), 2.09 (bs, 4 H), 2.14−2.23 (m, 2 H), 2.47 (bs, 4 H), 2.85 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (δ , 100 MHz, CDCl₃): 24.8 (t, J_{CP} = 7 Hz, CH), 32.8 (CH₂), 38.5 (t, J_{CP} = 8 Hz, CH), 39.3 (CH₂), 55.4 (d, J_{CP} = 76 Hz, C). ³¹P NMR (δ , 162 MHz, CDCl₃): 63.5. MS $(m/z, %): 305(50), 303(62), 185(100), 143(10), 129(30).$ Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{18}Cl_4O_2P_2$ C 39.84, H 4.30. Found C 40.05, H 4.27.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

Copies of NMR spectra and selected X-ray crystallographic data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

■ [AUTHOR INF](http://pubs.acs.org)ORMATION

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Notes

The auth[ors declare no com](mailto:prs@uni-giessen.de)peting [fi](mailto:Jean-Cyrille.Hierso@u-bourgogne.fr)nancial interest.

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