Selective Preparation of Diamondoid Phosphonates

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: We present 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 diamond-oid hydroxy derivatives with PCl₃ in sulfuric or trifluoroacetic acid give mono- as well as didichlorophosphorylated diamond-oids in high preparative yields.

he 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 in a variety of applications $^{4-7}$ by mimicking many properties of natural H-terminated diamond. For example, diamondoid thiol self-assembled monolayers (SAMs) 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 novel 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 acid dichloride of diamantane (1, Figure 1) to tungsten (oxide) surfaces displays a characteristic monochromatic NEA peak and provides a material that exhibits 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 diamondoids¹¹ are effective dispersion energy donors (DEDs), a property that also increases the stability of SAMs.¹² This is crucial for the construction of nanometer-scale devices,¹³ whose properties are strongly affected by intermolecular van der 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-bond functionalizations. However, direct phosphorylation of 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/CH₂Cl₂ system²⁰ was difficult to reproduce¹⁷



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 $AlCl_3/PCl_3/$ CH_2Cl_2 .¹⁷ Hence, this makes the selective C–H-bond phosphorylation of diamondoids problematic in the presence of strong Lewis acids. The phosphorylation of haloadamantanes with $AlBr_3/PCl_3$ is the well-known Clay–Kinnear–Perren reaction²¹ that, however, requires large amounts of reagents and strongly depends on the quality of the employed $AlBr_3^{22}$.²²

Diamondoidyl cations can easily be generated from the corresponding halogen or hydroxy derivatives in the presence of strong Brønsted acids. Previously one of us discovered the dichlorophosphorylation of 1-bromoadamantane with PCl₃ in concentrated sulfuric acid with >95% preparative yield,^{22–24} revealing effective trapping of the 1-adamantyl cation with nucleophilic PCl₃ in *protic* solvents. Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) can also be used and provides adamantyl phosphonic dichloride in 69% preparative yield from 1-hydroxy adamantane with PCl₃.²⁵ We have recently found that both methods are applicable to the preparation of diamantane 1-phosphonic dichloride (**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 additionally confirmed by an X-ray crystal structure analysis (Figure 2).

The fact that 4-phosphonic dichloride (8) did not form in this reaction is somewhat surprising as the 1- 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/H_2SO_4 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 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 phosphorylations of larger diamondoids we employed the PCl_3/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 PCl₃/TFA system provides the phosphoryl 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)

Note



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 construction of electron-emitting devices,⁸ we extended our phosphorylation protocol to the apical derivatives of [121]tetramantane (16) and [1(2,3)4]pentamantane (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 conductivity exponentially decreases with chain length,²⁸ diamondoids are superior semiconductors as their band gap narrows with increasing molecule size.²⁹ As we have shown that the POCl₂ group provides strong attachment to metal-oxide surfaces,¹⁰ double-phosphorylated diamondoids are potentially useful as saturated spacers in molecule/metal oxide molecular electronic junctions.^{30–33} Previous attempts to attach two phosphoryl groups to 1,3-adamantane derivatives in sulfuric acid gave mixtures of monophosphorylated 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 dihydroxy diamantanes 20^{35} and 21^{36} that are typically poorly soluble in polar media are highly soluble in the TFA/PCl₃ system and give the desired dichloro phosphonates 22 and 23

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19, 81%

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 high-temperature 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 SECTION

General Information. NMR spectra were recorded on 400 and 600 MHz (¹H) spectrometers with TMS as internal standard. High-resolution 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 C₁₄H₁₉Cl₂OP 304.0551. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₉Cl₂OP 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*_{CP} = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 44.6 (CH₂), 45.3 (d, *J*_{CP} = 2.2 Hz, CH), 48.5 (d, *J*_{CP} = 88 Hz, C). ³¹P 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), 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, CH), 45.9 (d, *J*_{CP} = 2.3 Hz, CH), 46.2 (d, *J*_{CP} = 3 Hz, CH), 57.4 (d, *J*_{CP} = 72 Hz, C). ³¹P NMR (δ , 162 MHz, CDCl₃): 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

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(δ , 100 MHz, 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 (δ , 162 MHz, 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 C₁₈H₂₅O₃P 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), 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 C₂₂H₂₇Cl₂OP 408.1177.

7-Dichlorophosphory[**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 Hz, 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 C₂₆H₃₁Cl₂OPNa 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 (δ , 162 MHz, CDCl₃): 64.0. MS (m/z, %): 305 (70), 303 (100), 185 (38), 157 (2), 143 (4), 129 (12). Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₈Cl₄O₂P₂ 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 C₁₄H₁₈Cl₄O₂P₂ 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.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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