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# REDISTRIBUTION REACTIONS OF $\beta$ -CARBOALKOXYETHYLTIN COMPOUNDS

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#### Summary

Carboalkoxyethyltin compounds undergo redistribution reactions at faster rates than similar unsubstituted alkyltin compounds. In redistribution reactions between SnCl<sub>4</sub> and carboalkoxyethyltin compounds stable intermolecular complexes are formed. Rate enhancement is explained in terms of intra- and intermolecular coordination effects. Where strong intermolecular coordination effects are observed, specific electrophilic cleavage of the carboalkoxyethyl group can occur in preference to alkyl cleavage in mixed carboalkoxyethyl-alkyltin compounds. The presence of a  $\beta$ -ester function can catalyse both alkyl/chlorine and alkyl/alkyl' exchange reactions.

#### Introduction

The redistribution (disproportionation) reactions discovered by Kozeschkow [1] have long been utilised for the synthesis of alkyl- and phenyltin halides. Reactions 1, 3 and 5 proceed essentially as described by Kozeschkow, except for reaction 1 which does not proceed to completion since the final step (2) does not proceed at a reasonable rate if the reaction is uncatalysed [2]. Indeed, only few examples exist of successful "catalysis" of reaction 2, and then only

$3 \operatorname{SnCl}_4 + \operatorname{R}_4 \operatorname{Sn} \rightarrow 4 \operatorname{RSnCl}_3$	(1)
$R_2SnCl_2 + SnCl_4 \rightarrow 2 RSnCl_3$	(2)
$SnCl_4 + R_4Sn \rightarrow 2 R_2SnCl_2$	(3)
$R_{3}SnCl + RSnCl_{3} \rightarrow 2 R_{2}SnCl_{2}$	(4)
$SnCl_4 + 3 R_4Sn \rightarrow 4 R_3SnCl$	(5)
$R_2SnCl_2 + R_4Sn \rightarrow 2 R_3SnCl$	(6)
$(\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{Me}, \mathbf{Bu}, \mathbf{Oct}, \mathbf{Ph})$	

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in polar solvent media such as dimethyl sulphoxide (R = Me) [3] and  $P_2O_5/PCl_3$  (R = Et) [2]. Reactions 4 and 6 represent the final steps in the overall reactions described by equations 3 and 5, respectively.

In spite of the fact that reactions 1-6 have attained significant commercial importance for the synthesis of intermediates to PVC stabilisers (RSnCl<sub>3</sub> and  $R_2SnCl_2$ ; R = Me, Bu, Oct) and biocides and fungicides ( $R_3SnCl$ ; R = Bu, Ph) and also aroused considerable academic interest, there appears to have been no systematic study of the mechanisms of many of them. Reactions 2, 4 and 6 proceed at the slowest rates (very slow in the case of 2) and, therefore, present the greatest scope for kinetic modification by functional substitution. It is these reactions which form the basis of the present study of the redistribution reactions of "estertin" ( $\beta$ -carboalkoxyethyltin) compounds. Studies of the redistribution equilibria of functionally substituted organotin compounds are extremely rare. Omae [4] has described one example of this type of reaction with ester-substituted alkyltin halides and Kuivila has compared the rates of the redistribution reactions of  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -keto-substituted compounds with the corresponding unsubstituted butyltin derivative [5]. Kuivila observed considerable kinetic and thermodynamic enhancement for the keto-substituted compounds, which he interpreted in terms of intramolecular catalysis of the redistribution reaction.

### Experimental

#### Compounds

 $Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2R$  (R = Me, Bu) and  $Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2R)_2$  (R = Me, Bu) were prepared by published methods [6–8].  $ClSn(CH_2CH_2CO_2R)_3$  (R = Me, Bu) were prepared from the corresponding carboalkoxyethyltin trichlorides by reaction with metallic zinc and  $Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2R)_4$  (R = Me, Bu) were prepared from the corresponding bis( $\beta$ -carboalkoxyethyl)tin dichlorides, also by reaction with metallic zinc [9].  $Cl_2SnBu(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)$  was prepared according to eq. 7.

$$2 \operatorname{Cl}_{3}\operatorname{SnCH}_{2}\operatorname{CH}_{2}\operatorname{CO}_{2}\operatorname{Bu} + \operatorname{Bu}_{4}\operatorname{Sn} \frac{165°}{8 \text{ h/N}_{2}} 2 \operatorname{Cl}_{2}\operatorname{SnBu}(\operatorname{CH}_{2}\operatorname{CH}_{2}\operatorname{CO}_{2}\operatorname{Bu}) + \operatorname{Bu}_{2}\operatorname{SnCl}_{2}$$

(7)

 $Cl_2SnBu(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)$  was separated from the reaction mixture by fractional distillation. The yield was 76%.

ClSnBu<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Me) was prepared by the hydrostannation of methyl acrylate with Bu<sub>2</sub>SnHCl at 40°C, according to the method of Pedain [10]. Bu<sub>2</sub>SnHCl [11] was easily prepared from equimolar quantities of Bu<sub>2</sub>SnCl<sub>2</sub> and Bu<sub>2</sub>SnH<sub>2</sub> which was prepared by reduction of Bu<sub>2</sub>SnCl<sub>2</sub> with LiAlH<sub>4</sub> [12].

 $SnCl_4$  (B.D.H.),  $BuSnCl_3$  (Aldrich),  $Bu_2SnCl_2$  (B.D.H.),  $Bu_3SnCl$  (Aldrich) and  $Bu_4Sn$  (Scheering – distilled grade) were commercially available and were used without further purification.  $Oct_2SnCl_2$  was prepared by reaction between dioctyltin oxide (Scheering) and excess hydrochloric acid.

#### Reactions

All redistribution reactions were performed under dry nitrogen. Equimolar

quantities of the appropriate reagents were mixed and heated quickly to the required reaction temperature. All reactions involving the consumption or formation of alkyltin halides or SnCl<sub>4</sub> were followed by GLC where these compounds were quantitatively converted to the corresponding alkyl methyltin compounds and SnMe<sub>4</sub>, respectively, by reaction with MeMgI in Et<sub>2</sub>O. A Perkin Elmer F11 hot wire-detector GC system was utilised in conjunction with a Sigma 10 Data Station. The methylated tin compounds were separated on a  $24'' \times 1/4''$  stainless steel column packed with 15% Dexsil 300 on Chromosorb WAW DMCS 80–100 mesh. The injection temperature was 275°C and temperature profile was  $60 \rightarrow 300^{\circ}$ C at  $15^{\circ}$ /min. The carrier gas was helium (flow rate  $60 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$ ) and the detector temperature was  $300^{\circ}$ C.

Reactions involving only carbomethoxyethyltin halides were monitored by NMR spectroscopy. Several reactions involving carboalkoxyethyltin halides were also monitored by IR spectroscopy. NMR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer R12B 60 MHz spectrometer and IR spectra were recorded largely as neat liquids on a Perkin-Elmer 577 grating spectrophotometer.

#### **Results and discussion**

#### Reactions leading to alkyltin trihalides

In contrast to simple dialkyltin dihalides,  $Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)_2$  undergoes redistribution with  $SnCl_4$  at a reasonable rate at 100°C. The conversion/time curve for this reaction 8 is presented in Fig. 1 (a) along with the rate curve

$$Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)_2 + SnCl_4 \rightarrow 2 Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Bu$$
 (8)

for the reaction between Cl<sub>2</sub>SnBu(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Bu) and SnCl<sub>4</sub>, which proceeds at a much slower rate. However, the rate of the latter reactions is still significantly faster than that of the corresponding reaction between Bu<sub>2</sub>SnCl<sub>2</sub> and SnCl<sub>4</sub>. where the formation of  $BuSnCl_3$  could not be detected within the time scale of the reactions described by Fig. 1. Infrared spectroscopy has been used to complement the chromatographic study of these reactions. This technique is particularly useful for the study of reactions involving estertin compounds since the carbonyl stretching frequency ( $\nu$ (C=O)) of the ester carbonyl group is sensitive to molecular environment [13]. This effect is caused by carbonyl coordination to tin, which may be intra- or intermolecular in origin, and which results in lower carbonyl-stretching frequencies than those expected for simple alkyl esters. The  $\nu$ (C=O) values for Cl<sub>3</sub>SnCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Me, Cl<sub>2</sub>Sn(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>2</sub>,  $ClSn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_3$  and  $Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_4$  are presented in Table 1 and illustrate the coordination phenomenon. The data for  $CH_3CH_2CO_2Me$ , a good model for the carboalkoxyethyl groups, is also included in Table 1. This IR data is consistent with the structures illustrated in Fig. 2 (a-d) for the four carbomethoxyethyltin compounds. Structures a and b have also been verified by X-ray crystallography [14]. Structure c, with one coordinated carbonyl group and two uncoordinated carbonyl groups, is consistent with the pentacoordinate geometry of coordination complexes of trialkyltin halides [15]. Finally, the IR spectrum of  $Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_4$  shows again a single peak in the same position as  $CH_3CH_2CO_2Me$ , consistent with the total absence of coordination to

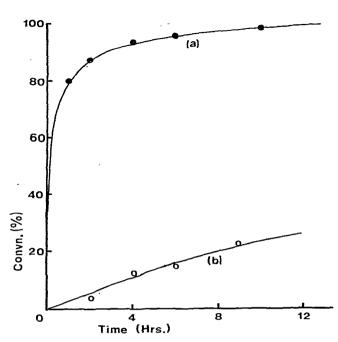


Fig. 1. Conversion/time curves for the reactions between (a)  $SnCl_4$  and  $Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)_2$ , and (b)  $SnCl_4$  and  $Cl_2SnBu(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)$ .

tin in this compound. IR data for a number of other carboalkoxyethyltin compounds are also contained in Table 1.

The IR spectrum of  $Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)_2$  shows a single peak at 1674 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Addition of an equimolar quantity of SnCl<sub>4</sub> to this compound at ambient temperature results in the formation of a new carbonyl frequency at 1602 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Such a low carbonyl stretching frequency suggests coordination to SnCl<sub>4</sub> [16]

#### TABLE 1

CARBONYL STRETCHING FREQUENCIES FOR CARBOALKOXYETHYLTIN COMPOUNDS

Compound .	$\nu$ (C=O) (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) (±2 cm <sup>-1</sup> )			
Cl <sub>3</sub> SnCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me		1660 <sup>a</sup>		
Cl <sub>2</sub> Sn(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me) <sub>2</sub>		1677 <sup>a</sup>		
ClSn(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me) <sub>3</sub>		1680	1735	
Sn(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me) <sub>4</sub>			1735	
CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me			1735	
$Cl_3Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2)Bu$		1652		
		1638 <sup>a</sup>		
$Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)_2$		1674		
$Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)_2 + SnCl_4$	1602	1674		
Cl <sub>2</sub> SnBu(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Bu)		1673		
$Cl_2SnBu(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu) + SnCl_4$	1620	1673		
ClSnBu <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me)		1686		
$CISnBu_2(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me) + SnCl_4$	1637	1680		
$Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Me + Bu_2SnCl_2$		1655		

<sup>a</sup> Spectra recorded as Nujol mulls: all other spectra recorded as neat liquids.

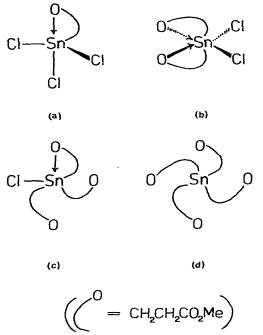
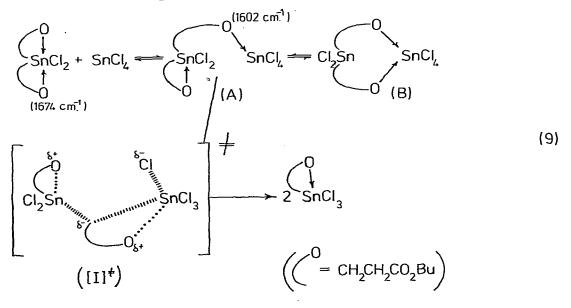


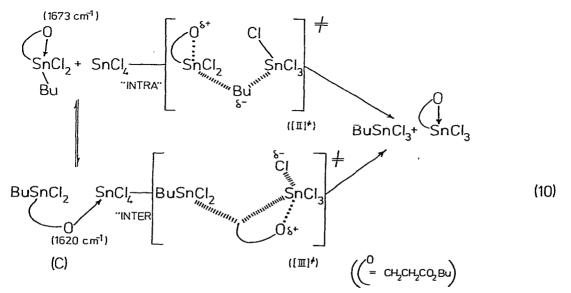
Fig. 2. Molecular structures for carbomethoxyethyltin compounds (a)  $Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Me$ , (b)  $Cl_2Sn-(CH_2CO_2Me)_2$ , (c)  $ClSn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_3$  and (d)  $Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_4$ .

and the formation of complex A, which is presumably in equilibrium with the constituent species. In the resulting spectrum the two peaks at 1674 and 1602 cm<sup>-1</sup> are of similar intensity, suggesting that complex A constitutes the majority of the reaction mixture; however, the occurrence of a small equilibrium concentration of B, where both ester groups are coordinated to the Sn atom of SnCl<sub>4</sub>, cannot be excluded. Raising the temperature of the reaction mixture to 100°C causes the disappearance of the peak at 1602 cm<sup>-1</sup> and the formation of



a new peak at 1652 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to the formation of  $Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Bu$ (eq. 9). Giving due consideration to the coordination geometries of the reactants and product species it is not unreasonable to propose that complex A is the intermediate which gives rise to the transition state to the reaction. It is possible that activation for this reaction, in comparison to the reaction between simple dialkyltin dihalides and SnCl<sub>4</sub>, stems from complex formation. If, when the reactants are held in close proximity, the correct molecular geometry for alkyl/chlorine exchange is achieved, then complex formation alone could explain the rate enhancement. However, rate enhancement may also stem from the coordination effects which are present in complex A and, therefore, present also in the transition state to the products. Firstly, intramolecular coordination by one ester group will result in the enhanced polarisation of the Sn-C bond of the other ester-substituted alkyl group in  $Cl_2Sn(CH_2CD_2Bu)_2$ , since the induced positive charge on Sn will be stabilised by delocalisation onto the coordinating ester group. This will result in increased nucleophilicity of the transferring alkyl group. Secondly, intermolecular coordination will facilitate the ionisation of a Sn-Cl bond in SnCl<sub>4</sub>, thereby increasing the activity of the Cl atom in the redistribution process.

A similar IR study has been performed on the reaction between SnCl<sub>4</sub> and Cl<sub>2</sub>SnBu(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Bu). Again, mixing the reagents at room temperature gives rise to a new carbonyl absorption, this time at 1620 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which must reflect the same phenomenon of carbonyl coordination to SnCl<sub>4</sub>. Coincidentally, a similar situation arises in the IR spectrum where the two peaks, one corresponding to intramolecular coordination in Cl<sub>2</sub>SnBu(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Bu) and one due to intermolecular coordination to SnCl<sub>4</sub>, have again similar intensities. In this case, however, this observation is consistent with approximately equal concentrations of the reacting species and the complex C. If the rate enhancement in this reaction is due to intramolecular carbonyl coordination to Sn, as in the reacting entities, it would seem most likely that butyl group transfer to SnCl<sub>4</sub> would occur since this requires the least further molecular reorientation after the alkyl transfer step (transition state [II]<sup>#</sup>). This explanation is consistent



with the electrophilic cleavage of mixed alkyl/ester-substituted alkyl tin compounds by bromine [17] where specific stepwise cleavage of alkyl groups occurs. However, if catalysis in this reaction is due to intermolecular carbonyl coordination, as in complex C, it is then more likely that transition state  $[III]^{\neq}$  is involved, which requires the transfer of the carbobutoxyethyl group to SnCl<sub>4</sub>. Again, transfer of this group would require the least further molecular reorientation after alkyl transfer, since the carbonyl group is already coordinated to the Sn atom to which the carbobutoxyethyl group is transferred. Since the same products are evolved via both possible transition states it is not easily possible to determine which alkyl group is transferred in the reaction.

In an attempt to gain some insight into this type of redistribution reaction it was decided to react  $SnCl_4$  with the trialkyltin compound  $ClSnBu_2$ - $(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)$ , since, if butyl group transfer to  $SnCl_4$  occurs (resulting from intramolecular catalysis), BuSnCl<sub>3</sub> and  $Cl_2SnBu(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)$  will be produced and if carbomethoxyethyl group-transfer occurs (originating from intermolecular catalysis)  $Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Me$  and  $Bu_2SnCl_2$  will be produced (eq. 11).  $ClSn(Bu)_2(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)$  was prepared as described in the experi-

$$Bu_{2}SnCl(CH_{2}CH_{2}CO_{2}Me) + SnCl_{4} (b)$$

$$BuSnCl_{3} + Cl_{2}SnBu(CH_{2}CH_{2}CO_{2}Me)$$

$$(11)$$

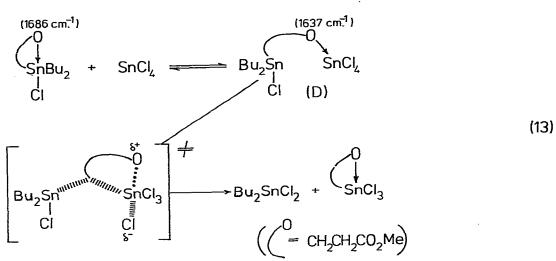
mental section.

When  $SnCl_4$  was mixed with an equimolar quantity of  $ClSnBu_2(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)$ at room temperature (~20°C) a very exothermic process ensued. The reaction temperature reached 100°C within a few minutes and, upon cooling, the mixture quickly crystallised. GLC analysis of the products revealed the presence of 46%  $Bu_2SnCl_2$  and 3.5%  $BuSnCl_3$  with no  $SnCl_4$  detectable. This reaction was, therefore, complete after a few minutes at 100°C, again suggesting that significant rate enhancement had occurred due to the presence of a carbomethoxyethyl group. (The reaction between  $SnCl_4$  and  $Bu_3SnCl$  (eq. 12) proceeds to completion at 100°C, but within a few hours [18]). Supportive evidence for the GLC data on the products was obtained from an infrared study of the reaction.

 $Bu_3SnCl + SnCl_4 \rightarrow Bu_2SnCl_2 + BuSnCl_3$ 

In this case the reagents,  $SnCl_4$  and  $ClSnBu_2(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)$ , were both cooled to 0°C and mixed quickly at this temperature. When the IR spectrum of this mixture was recorded immediately the carbonyl region showed two peaks; one at 1680 cm<sup>-1</sup> which is presumably due largely to unreacted  $ClSnBu_2(CH_2CH_2 CO_2Me)$ , and one at 1637 cm<sup>-1</sup> which quickly disappeared, and is probably due to the intermolecular coordination complex D. After a few minutes in the beam of the spectrophotometer the spectrum of the mixture had collapsed to a single peak at 1655 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is identical to the spectrum of an authentic mixture of  $Bu_2SnCl_2$  and  $Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Me$  (see Table 1). The quantities of  $BuSnCl_3$  and  $Bu_2SnCl_2$  produced in the initial reaction are consistent with approximately 93% selectivity in terms of reaction 11(a) vs. 11(b). Hence it would appear that where strong intermolecular complex formation is possible

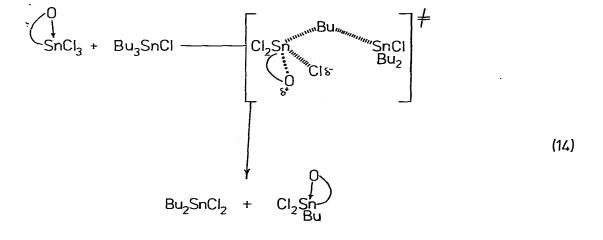
(12)



almost specific cleavage of the carboalkoxyethyl group in mixed alkyl/carboalkoxyethyl-tin compounds by  $SnCl_4$  can occur. Here, therefore, is the first example of intermolecular nucleophilic catalysis of an electrophilic displacement reaction. Kuivila has, however, previously described an example of intramolecular nucleophilic catalysis of a similar type of electrophilic displacement reaction [5].

#### Reactions leading to dialkyltin dihalides

Conversion/time data for the reaction between  $Bu_3SnCl$  and  $BuSnCl_3$  at 170°C is illustrated in Fig. 3 along with data for the reaction between  $Bu_3SnCl$  and  $Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Me$ . Determination of the initial rates of these reactions shows a rate enhancement of approximately 6-fold for the reaction involving the estertin compound. Catalysis of this reaction must stem from intramolecular carbonyl coordination since there is little or no tendency for intermolecular coordination between the two reagents. A suggested transition state for this reaction is represented in eq. 14. More dramatic is the rate enhancement



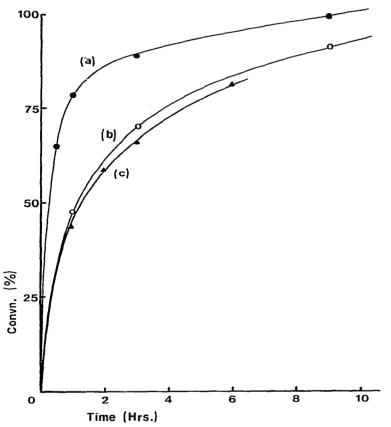
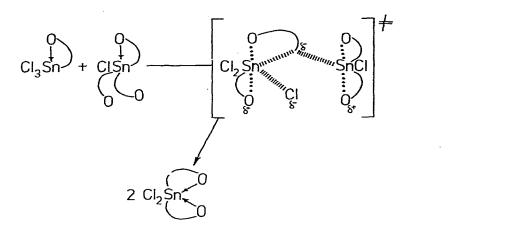


Fig. 3. Conversion/time curves for the reactions between (a) Bu<sub>3</sub>SnCl and Cl<sub>3</sub>SnCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Me (at 170°C), (b) Bu<sub>3</sub>SnCl and BuSnCl<sub>3</sub> (at 170°C) and (c) ClSn(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>3</sub> and Cl<sub>3</sub>SnCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Me (at 50°C).

observed for the reaction between  $Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Me$  and  $ClSn(CH_2CH_2CO_2-Me)_3$  in comparison to the simple butyltin compounds. The two reactions proceed at essentially similar rates at widely different temperatures; the estertin reaction at 50°C and the alkyltin reaction at 170°C. Such temperature differences suggest a factor of very approximately  $4 \times 10^3$  in initial reaction rates. The probable transition state for the estertin reaction is illustrated in eq. 15, and shows that there is a combination of 4 inter- and intramolecular carbonyl coordination effects which are likely to give rise to rate enhancement. However, intramolecular carbonyl coordination of the Sn—Cl bonds, and intramolecular coordination in  $ClSn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_3$ , giving rise to enhanced polarisation of the Sn—Cl bonds, and intramolecular coordination in  $ClSn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_3$ , giving rise to enhanced polarisation of the Sn—Cl bonds, are probably the two main rate-enhancing effects. Incoming intermolecular carbonyl coordination from  $ClSn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_3$  to  $Cl_3SnCH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_3$  are probably less significant.



Reactions leading to trialkyltin halides

Conversion/time data for reaction 16 (R = Bu,  $CH_2CH_2CO_2Me$ ) is presented in Fig. 4. From these curves it can be estimated that there is approximately a

(15)



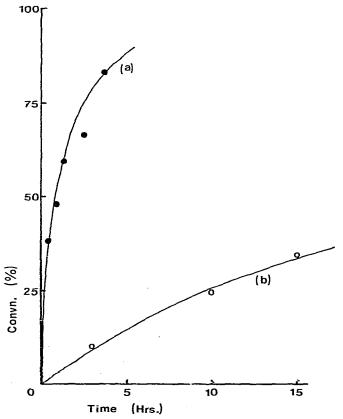


Fig. 4. Conversion/time curves for the reactions between (a)  $Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Me)_2$  and  $Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_3Me)_4$ , and  $Bu_2SnCl_2$  and  $Bu_4Sn$ .

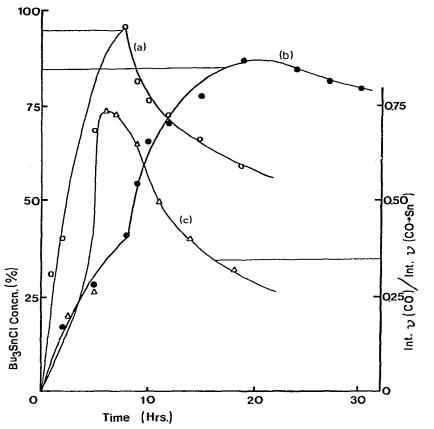


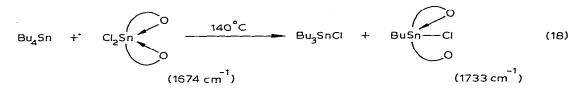
Fig. 5. Concentration of Bu<sub>3</sub>SnCl (%)/time curves for the reactions between (a)  $Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)_2$ and Bu<sub>4</sub>Sn and (b)  $Oct_2SnCl_2$  and Bu<sub>4</sub>Sn. (Maximum concentrations of Bu<sub>3</sub>SnCl were calculated according to eq. 17). Curve (c) represents the change in the ratio of the intensity of  $\nu(C=O)$  (uncoordinated) to that of  $\nu(CO \rightarrow Sn)$  (intramolecularly coordinated) with time.

40-fold difference in initial rates. Again it is not unreasonable to propose that carbonyl coordination (probably mainly intramolecular in origin, since any intermolecular interaction will be very weak) is responsible for the rate enhancement.

More interesting, perhaps, is the study of reaction 17 where R = Bu and  $R' = CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu$  and Oct. The concentration of  $Bu_3SnCl$  was monitored in these

## $R'_{2}SnCl_{2} + R_{4}Sn \rightarrow R'_{2}RSnCl + R_{3}SnCl$

reactions and the concentration/time curves are presented in Fig. 5. At  $140^{\circ}$ C the reaction between  $Cl_2Sn(CH_2CH_2CO_2Bu)_2$  and  $Bu_4Sn$  approaches completion relatively quickly and in preliminary experiments the concentration then appeared to fall slowly. In an attempt to verify this the reaction temperature was raised after  $\delta$  hours at  $140^{\circ}$ C to  $180^{\circ}$ C. As Fig. 5(a) shows, a marked decrease in the concentration of  $Bu_3SnCl$  occurs under these conditions. If eq. 17 correctly represents the principal reaction there should be an overall decrease in carbonyl coordination to Sn, since only one carbonyl group in  $ClSnBu(CH_2CH_2-CO_2Bu)_2$  will be intramolecularly bound: see eq. 18. (This assumption is based



upon the expected 5-coordinate geometry of complexed trialkyltin halides [11].) Hence a plot of int.  $\nu(C=O)/\text{int. }\nu(CO\rightarrow Sn)$  (the ratio of the intensity of the free (uncoordinated) carbonyl absorption to that of the intramolecularly coordinated carbonyl absorption) against time should also indicate the extent of reaction. This data is illustrated in Fig. 5(c) and, since a similar reaction profile is obtained from the spectroscopic study, almost certainly this and the chromatographic study relate to the same series of reactions. A decrease in the ratio  $\nu(C=O)/\nu(CO\rightarrow Sn)$  indicates a change back towards complete carbonyl coordination to Sn and reaction 19 is proposed to account for this change. This reaction also accounts for the consumption of Bu<sub>3</sub>SnCl GLC data for reaction

$$Bu_{3}SnCI + Bu SnCI - \frac{180^{\circ}C}{0} = 2 Bu_{2}Sn - CI$$
(19)

17 (R' = Oct) suggest that the same stepwise reactions occur and that the limited data available indicates that the Bu/Oct exchange is again slower than the Bu/CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Bu exchange. Hence carbonyl coordination can also catalyse alkyl/alkyl' exchanges as well as alkyl/chlorine exchanges.

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