# Synthesis and structural characterization of some new triorganoantimony oxides. Molecular and crystal structure of tris(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)antimony dihydroxide

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#### Abstract

The triorganoantimony oxides prepared by oxidation of  $R_3Sb$  ( $R = 4-ClC_6H_4$ , 4-FC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, 2-CH<sub>3</sub>OC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, 2,5-(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>) and of 9-phenyl-9-stibafluoren, (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)(2,2'-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)Sb, with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in acetone, shown by IR data to be dimeric in the solid state, and a structure with a four-membered Sb-O-Sb-O ring is proposed. The analogous oxidation of tris(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)antimony produced a dihydroxide, the structure of which has been determined by X-ray diffraction. In this compound Sb has only a slightly distorted trigonal bipyramidal environment with OH groups in apical positions. The Sb-O(H) bond distance of 202.7(3) pm is in the normal range of covalent SbO bond distances. Intermolecular hydrogen bonding is excluded by the IR and diffraction data.

# Introduction

During our investigations on triorganoantimony(V) sulphonates and carboxylates [1-3], neutralization of the appropriate triorganoantimony oxides or dihydroxides by acids proved to be the best method for synthesizing such compounds. We thus had to prepare such oxides as starting materials, and, in view of the confusion in the literature [4] on the structure of Ph<sub>3</sub>SbO and of other triorganoantimony(V) oxides which existed when we started these studies we were faced with the question of what structure the newly prepared triorganoantimony(V) oxides would have. This problem gained further in interest when one of us [5] and others independently [6,7], found by X-ray diffraction that Ph<sub>3</sub>SbO exists in a dimeric form and when we were able to isolate Mes<sub>3</sub>Sb(OH)<sub>2</sub> [8] (Mes = 2,4,6(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), the first triarylantimony(V) dihydroxide. We were able to obtain good single crystals of the latter compound, and we report now on its structure as determined by X-ray diffraction, and present proposals on the structures of a series of new triarylantimony(V) oxides on the basis of IR data.

# Experimental

IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin-Elmer PE 580B spectrophotometer fitted with KBr windows. C and H were determined microanalytically, melting points were measured in a Büchi apparatus SMP-20 (temperatures uncorrected), and molecular weights were determined osmometrically.

 $Mes_3Sb(OH)_2$  was synthesized as described in ref. 8.  $H_2O_2$  was used as supplied. 9-Phenyl-9-stibafluorene,  $(C_6H_5)(2,2'-C_6H_4C_6H_4)Sb$  was synthezised according to ref. 9. The product was purified by column chromatography.

### **Preparation** of triarylantimony(V) oxides

For the preparation of the compounds listed in Table 1 a solution of  $H_2O_2$  (35% in water) in acetone (1/5 by volume) was added slowly to a suspension of  $Ar_3Sb$  in acetone with cooling in an icebath, the  $H_2O_2$  was used in about 10% excess. When the addition was complete the ice bath was removed and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The precipitate was filtered off and dried. The oxidation of (2-MeOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Sb had to be performed under reflux and needed 5 h. The yields were generally about 70 to 80%.

### Determination of the structure of $Mes_3Sb(OH)_2$

Mes<sub>3</sub>Sb(OH)<sub>2</sub> was crystallized from CHCl<sub>3</sub> by addition of petroleum ether (b.p. 50–60°C). Crystal data: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>35</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Sb, M = 513.3, monoclinic, space group C2/c, a 1043.6(8), b 1280.0(12), c 1869.2(9) pm,  $\beta$  103.5(6)°, V 2428.1 × 10<sup>6</sup> pm<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4, D<sub>c</sub> 1.404 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>, F(000) = 1056,  $\mu$ (Mo- $K_{\alpha}$ ) 1.2 mm<sup>-1</sup> graphite-monochromated Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation,  $\lambda$  71.07 pm, crystal size ~ 0.21 × 0.16 × 0.13 mm, temperature 291(1) K, lattice parameters from least-squares fit with 25 reflexions up to 2 $\theta$  32.5°, CAD-4 diffractometer,  $\omega/2\theta$  scan, scan speed 2.2–6.7° min<sup>-1</sup>, six standard reflexions recorded every 2.5 h, only random deviations, 4555 reflexions measured in the range  $1.5 \le \theta \le 25^{\circ}$ ,  $-12 \le h \le 12$ ,  $0 \le k \le 15$ ,  $-22 \le l \le 22$ ; after averaging ( $R_{int.} = 0.018$ ) 2130 unique reflexions, 1981 with  $F \ge 3.0 \sigma(F)$ . The following corrections were applied: Lorentz polarization correction and absorption correction via  $\Psi$ 

Compounds		М.р. (°С)	Analysis (found (calcd.) (%))	
			C	Н
$[(2,5-(CH_3)_2C_6H_3)_3SbO]_2$	(1)	238	63.9	6.3
			(63.60)	(6.00)
$[(2-CH_3OC_6H_4)_3SbO]_2$	(2)	247	54.8	4.5
			(54.93)	(4.61)
$[(4-FC_6H_4)_3SbO]_2$	(3)	175	<b>49</b> .0	2.6
			(51.11)	(2.86)
$[(4-\mathrm{ClC}_6\mathrm{H}_4)_3\mathrm{SbO}]_2$	(4)	165-167	46.2	2.8
			(45.76)	(2.56)
$[(C_6H_5)(2,2'-C_6H_4C_6H_4)SbO]_2$	(5)	224	58.9	3.9
			(58.90)	(3.57)

Analytical data for triarylantimony oxides

Table 1

	<i>x</i>	y	Z	U <sub>eq</sub>	
Sb(1)	0.0	0.09564(2)	0.25	29	
<b>O</b> (1)	0.1973(2)	0.0911(2)	0.2589(1)	43	
C(11)	0.0266(3)	0.1816(2)	0.3506(2)	33	
C(12)	-0.0307(3)	0.1469(2)	0.4072(2)	37	
C(13)	-0.0152(3)	0.2063(3)	0.4709(2)	47	
C(14)	0.0560(4)	0.2986(3)	0.4809(2)	48	
C(15)	0.1104(3)	0.3316(3)	0.4246(2)	47	
C(16)	0.0995(3)	0.2757(2)	0.3606(2)	38	
C(17)	-0.1103(4)	0.0468(3)	0.4033(2)	49	
C(18)	0.0706(6)	0.3607(4)	0.5510(3)	77	
C(19)	0.1672(4)	0.3207(3)	0.3034(2)	52	
C(21)	0.0	-0.0717(3)	0.25	34	
C(22)	0.0887(3)	-0.1275(3)	0.3051(2)	38	
C(23)	0.0861(3)	-0.2357(2)	0.3039(2)	46	
C(24)	0.0	-0.2918(4)	0.25	48	
C(25)	0.1909(4)	-0.0766(3)	0.3666(2)	49	
C(26)	0.0	-0.4091(3)	0.25	64	

Atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters ( $\mathring{A}^2 \times 10^3$ ).  $U_{eq} = (1/3)(U_{11} + U_{22} + U_{33})$ 

Table 2

scans; max./min. transmission 1.00/0.95; systematic absences: (hkl) h + k = 2n + 1, (h0l) l = 2n + 1. Space group: C2/c (No. 15) and Cc (No. 9). The structure was solved via Patterson synthesis,  $\Delta F$  syntheses, and full-matrix least-squares refinement with anisotropic temperature factors for all non H-atoms and a common

Table 3 Bond lengths (pm) and bond angles (°) in Mes<sub>3</sub>Sb(OH)<sub>2</sub> with e.s.d.'s. in parentheses <sup>4</sup>

Sh(1) (0(1)	2027(3)	
Sb(1) = O(1)	202.7(3)	
SU(1)-C(11)	214.1(5)	
Sb(1)-C(21)	214.2(4)	
O(1)-Sb(1)-C(11)	91.2(1)	
O(1)-Sb(1)-C(21)	88.3(1)	
$O(1)-Sb(1)-C(11a)^{b}$	90.5(1)	
O(1a)-Sb(1)-C(11)	90.5(1)	
O(1a)-Sb(1)-C(21)	88.3(1)	
O(1a)-Sb(1)-C(11a)	91.2(1)	
Sb(1)-C(11)-C(16)	120.6(2)	
Sb(1)-C(11)-C(12)	120.6(2)	
Sb(1)-C(21)-C(22)	120.5(2)	
C(11)-Sb(1)-C(21)	120.9(1)	
C(11)-Sb(1)-C(11a)	118.2(1)	
C(21)-Sb(1)-C(11a)	120.9(1)	
O(1)-Sb(1)-O(1a)	176.7(1)	

The C-C distances and the C-C-C angles in the aromatic groups are in the range 137.4(6) to 141.4(4) pm (mean distance: 139.1(6) pm) and 117.5(4) to  $122.7(3)^{\circ}$ . (mean angle:  $119.8(4)^{\circ}$ ), and the C-C(methyl) distances and C-C-C(methyl) angles at the 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl groups are in the range 150.2(6) to 152.5(5) pm (mean distance: 151.6(6) pm) and  $117.1(3)^{\circ}$  to  $124.2(3)^{\circ}$  (mean angle:  $120.7(4)^{\circ}$ ).

"Numbering of atoms according to Fig. 1. b (a) corresponds to the symmetry operation: -x, y, 0.5 - z.



Fig. 1. General view (SHELXTL PLUS) of one molecule of Mes<sub>3</sub>Sb(OH)<sub>2</sub>, showing atom numbering.

isotropic temperature factor for all H-atoms, which were placed in calculated positions (C-H 96 pm); refinement in space group C2/c on F with 1981 reflexions and 139 refined parameters; weighting scheme  $w = 1.0/(\sigma^2(F) + (0.0005 F^2))$ , S = 1.35, R(unweighted) = 0.026, R(weighted) = 0.028, max.  $\Delta/\sigma = 0.13$ ; no extinction correction; largest peak in final  $\Delta F$  map =  $\pm 0.4(1) \ 10^{-6}$  e pm<sup>-3</sup>, complex neutral-atom scattering factors from ref. 10. Programs: Enraf-Nonius Structure Determination Package [11], SHELXTL PLUS; PARST [12].

Final fractional atomic coordinates and the equivalent values of the anisotropic temperature factors for the non H-atoms are listed in Table 2, and intramolecular bond distances and angles in Table 3). The molecule and the numbering scheme are shown in Fig. 1. The molecule resides on a twofold axis and so six H-positions (occupancy 0.5) were used for the H atoms at C(26) (disorder) in the final refinement cycle. Tables of thermal parameters and lists of structure factors are available from the authors.

#### **Results and discussion**

The new triorganoantimony(V) oxides listed in Table 1 have been prepared by the standard procedure [4] of oxidizing the appropriate triorganoantimony(III) compound with  $H_2O_2$ .

Experiments to oxidize  $Mes_3Sb$  did not give the oxide  $Mes_3SbO$  but instead the dihydroxide  $Mes_3Sb(OH)_2$  [8]. The final proof for this composition came from a single crystal structure determination, the first X-ray structure analysis of a triorganoantimony(V) dihydroxide.  $Mes_3Sb(OH)_2$  proved to be monomeric in the solid state, and from Fig. 1 it follows that Sb is pentacoordinated, two OH groups being in the apical positions and three C(Mes) atoms in the equatorial plane of a trigonal bipyramid. A consideration of the axial angle O(1)-Sb(1)-O(1a) 176.7(1)°

and of the equatorial and equatorial/axial bonding angles (Table 3) with maximum deviations of 1.8 and 1,7°, respectively, from the mean values of 120.0(1) and 90.0(1)°, respectively, shows that this polyhedron around Sb is only slightly distorted. The bond distance Sb(1)-O(1) corresponds to distances in compounds with covalent Sb-O bonds, e.g. 204.8 pm in Ph<sub>4</sub>SbOH [13], or 203.3(8) pm in Ph<sub>3</sub>Sb(OMe)<sub>2</sub> [14]. Intermolecular distances exceed the appropriate sums of Van der Waals radii. This also excludes intermolecular hydrogen bonds, indicating that the OH groups are efficiently shielded by the bulky Mes ligands. The absence of hydrogen bonds can also be deduced from the fact that there is no IR band in the range of 3000 to 3500 cm<sup>-1</sup>. One middle strong sharp band at 3650 cm<sup>-1</sup> can be safely assigned to the stretching frequency of a free OH group. The related Sb-O stretching frequency appears at 520 cm<sup>-1</sup> as a strong band.

The new triorganoantimony oxides  $R_3SbO$  ( $R = 2,5-(CH_3)_2C_6H_3$  (1), 2-CH<sub>3</sub>OC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (2), 4-FC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (3), 4-ClC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (4)) and 9-phenyl-9-stibafluorene oxide (5) are white, microcrystalline solids, which are soluble in CHCl<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>OH, but scarcely soluble in CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub> and water; in general, the solubilities resemble those of (Ph<sub>3</sub>SbO)<sub>2</sub> [5 to 7]. Molecular weights found in benzene corresponded to values calculated for dimeric units (R<sub>3</sub>SbO)<sub>2</sub> (found (calcd.): 1: 934(906), 4: 952(944)). In CHCl<sub>3</sub> the molecular weigths of 2 and 4 were distinctly higher than calculated for monomeric species R<sub>3</sub>SbO (2: 666(459), 4: 546(472)) and only the value obtained for 1 could be taken to correspond rougly to that of the monomer (486(453)). Similar observations have been made for (Ph<sub>3</sub>SbO)<sub>2</sub> in benzene and CHCl<sub>3</sub> solutions [5 to 7]. It therefore is inferred that the new compounds are dimers in benzene as in the solid state (vide infra) but dissociate more or less when dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, probably to form an equilibrium (R<sub>3</sub>SbO)<sub>2</sub>  $\approx 2 R_3SbO$ .

In the IR spectra of the oxides 1 to 5 there are no absorptions between 3000 and  $4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  which excludes the presence of OH groups. However, there are absorptions in the range between 500 and 690 cm<sup>-1</sup> that we assign to Sb–O stretching frequencies (see Table 4).

The X-ray structure determination of  $(Ph_3SbO)_2$  has shown that the central structural unit is a planar four-membered Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ring [5 to 7]. In the IR spectrum of  $(Ph_3SbO)_2$  bands at 643 and 651 cm<sup>-1</sup> have been assigned to two  $v_{as}(Sb_2O_2)$  by comparison with data of Ph<sub>3</sub>SbF<sub>2</sub> [6]. An additional band at 664 [18] or 668 cm<sup>-1</sup> [19], respectively, which had been ascribed to  $\nu$ (Sb–O) was observed both in  $(Ph_3SbO)_2$  and  $Ph_3SbF_2$  and was therefore no longer considered in recent work [6]. However, the IR spectra of the other halides  $Ph_3SbX_2$  (X = Cl, Br, I) [20] and also of the products of the reactions of  $(Ph_3SbO)_2$  with sulfonic acids [21] show no absorptions in the range of ca. 660 to 680  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . We therefore assume that the absorption at 670 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the spectrum of (Ph<sub>3</sub>SbO)<sub>2</sub> is actually due to  $v_{as}(Sb_2O_2)$ . The two bands at 658 and 648 cm<sup>-1</sup> are also assigned to  $\nu_{as}(Sb_2O_2)$  (see above, [18,19]), the absorption probably being split by coupling. Additionally, in the IR spectrum of (Ph<sub>3</sub>SbO)<sub>2</sub> there is a band at 480 cm<sup>-1</sup> which we assign to  $\delta$ (Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>). An analogous band is also present in the spectrum of Ph<sub>3</sub>SbF<sub>2</sub>, but not in the spectra of the other halides or sulfonates. The above assignment of the band at 480  $cm^{-1}$  is supported by the appearance of such a band in all triorganoantimony oxides studied hitherto.

Comparison of the IR data of the trialkyl- and triaryl-antimony oxides in Table 4 reveals a remarkable similarity of the values of  $\nu_{as}(Sb_2O_2)$  and of  $\delta(Sb_2O_2)$ . We

		$\boldsymbol{\nu}_{as}(\mathbf{Sb}_{2}\mathbf{O}_{2})  (\mathrm{cm}^{-1})$	$\delta(\mathrm{Sb}_2\mathrm{O}_2)(\mathrm{cm}^{-1})$	Ref.
$[(C_6H_5)_3SbO]_2$		670, 658, 648	480	5, 6, 7
$[(C_6H_5)_2$ SbBrO] <sub>2</sub>		650	495	15
$[(2,5-(CH_3)_2C_6H_3)_3SbO]_2$	(1)	658, 629	<b>47</b> 5	this paper
$[(2-CH_3OC_6H_4)_3SbO]_2$	(2)	657, 642	480	this paper
$[(4-FC_6H_4)_3SbO]_2$	(3)	670	475	this paper
$[(4-ClC_6H_4)_3SbO]_2$	(4)	670	<b>4</b> 70	this paper
$[(C_6H_5)(2,2'-C_6H_4C_6H_4)SbO]_2$	(5)	640, 625	500	this paper
[(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> SbO] <sub>2</sub>		645	485	16
$[(C_2H_5)_3SbO]_2$		678	478	17
$[(n-C_3H_7)_3SbO]_2$		650	450	17
$[(n-C_4H_9)_3SbO]_2$		650	450	17
$[(n-C_5H_{11})_3SbO]_2$		650	450	17

Characteristic frequencies  $v_{as}(Sb_2O_2)$  and  $\delta(Sb_2O_2)$  (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) of compounds of the type (R<sub>3</sub>SbO)<sub>2</sub>

assume that in all these compounds there is the same structural central unit, namely a Sb–O–Sb–O ring, as was shown to be the case by X-ray structure determination for  $(Ph_3SbO)_2$  [5 to 7] and  $(Ph_2SbBrO)_2$  [15]. This implies that all these compounds will be dimers in the solid state. In this context it should be recalled that the dimeric nature of 1 and 4 has also been established in benzene solution (see above).

This inference is substantiated (i) by the <sup>121</sup>Sb Mössbauer spectra of low melting (= dimeric) triphenylantimony oxide [22] and of the appropriate methyl compound [23] which show very similar  $e^2qQ$  values of -10.6(1) and -11.4(6) mm s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively and (ii) by the mass spectra of these two compounds, which show  $R_5Sb_2O_2^+$  (R = Me [16], Ph[24]) as the fragment of highest mass in both cases. The ion  $Ph_5Sb_2O_2^+$  is also found in the mass spectrum of high melting (= polymeric) triphenylantimony oxide, but in lower abundance [25].

The appearance of  $v_{as}(Sb-O-Sb-O)$  in  $Sb_2O_2$  ring compounds at wave numbers lower than the bands due to  $v_{as}(Sb-O-Sb)$  in  $\mu$ -oxo type compounds  $(R_3SbX)_2O$  is noteworthy, and this shift should correlate with the different values of the Sb-O-Sb angles in  $(Ph_3SbO)_2$  (102.6° [5-7]) and in hexaphenyldistiboxans  $(Ph_3SbX)_2O$  (136 to 140° [26,27] or 180° [28]). It is known that the values of the stretching frequencies of M-O-M systems depend strongly on the M-O-M bond angle [28], and we recently noted a correlation between  $v_{as}(Sb-O-Sb)$  and the size of the Sb-O-Sb bond angle in such compounds [19]. From these considerations it can be inferred that the Sb-O-Sb angles in the dimer 5 must be still more acute. This would be caused by the rigid arrangement of the biphenyl group. By analogy with the structure of biphenyl-2,2'-diyltriphenylantimony [29], we assume that one of the two C atoms of the biphenyl unit bonded to Sb is in axial, and the second one, like C(phenyl), in an equatorial position, and it would follow that like in  $(Ph_3SbO)_2$ [5-7] one O atom occupies an equatorial and one an axial position.

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Table 4

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