

Preliminary communication

PENTABROMOPHENYLMERCURIALS

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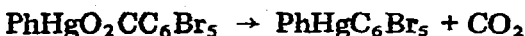
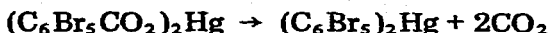
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Summary

Bis(pentabromophenyl)mercury and pentabromophenylphenylmercury have been prepared by decarboxylation of the corresponding mercury(II) pentabromobenzoates; the former mercurial is thermally stable to at least 400 °C, but the latter and pentabromophenylmercuric chloride and bromide undergo symmetrization reactions on being heated.

The chemistry of pentabromophenylorganometallics is currently restricted to derivatives of magnesium [1, 2], lithium [1, 2], silicon [2], and copper [2]. Only the silanes have been isolated. We now report preparations and properties of some pentabromophenylmercurials.

Mercuric pentabromobenzoate and phenylmercuric pentabromobenzoate, obtained in high yield** from reaction of mercuric or phenylmercuric acetate with pentabromobenzoic acid, undergo decarboxylation in boiling pyridine to give bis(pentabromophenyl)mercury and pentabromophenylphenylmercury respectively in good yield.



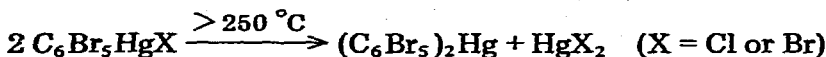
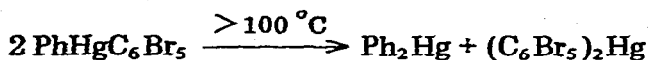
Although a significant reduction in thermal stability might be expected from bis(pentachlorophenyl)mercury to bis(pentabromophenyl)mercury, since increased halogen size might promote halogen abstraction and benzyne elimination (see e.g. thermal decomposition of bis(*o*-iodophenyl)mercury [3]), thermogravimetric analysis indicates that $(\text{C}_6\text{Br}_5)_2\text{Hg}$ is stable to at least the melting point (406 °C), as is $(\text{C}_6\text{Cl}_5)_2\text{Hg}$ (lit. [4] m.p. 383 °C). However, the mass

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**Satisfactory analyses were obtained for all new compounds.

spectrum shows that halogen abstraction giving $C_6Br_5HgBr^+$ is a prominent breakdown path for the parent ion. Similar behaviour is not observed for $(C_6Cl_5)_2Hg$ [5].

Bis(pentabromophenyl)mercury is readily cleaved by triiodide ions in *N,N*-dimethyl formamide and by mercuric chloride and bromide in xylene/nitrobenzene giving iodopentabromobenzene and pentabromophenylmercuric chloride and bromide respectively. On heating solid pentabromophenylphenylmercury and pentabromophenylmercuric chloride and bromide, thermal symmetrization is observed prior to melting, in contrast with the behaviour of the corresponding



pentachlorophenylmercurials [4, 6].

The present decarboxylation syntheses, coupled with our recent development of permercuration and bromodemercuration as a route to several polybromobenzoic acids [7], opens the way to preparation of a wide range of polybromophenylmercurials.

Acknowledgement

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References

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