

## ORGANOTIN(IV) AZIDO AND MIXED AZIDOTHIOCYANATO COMPLEX ANIONS; A MÖSSBAUER AND VIBRATIONAL SPECTROSCOPIC STUDY

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### Summary

Tetraphenylarsonium and tetramethylammonium salts of the complex anions  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2^-$ ,  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})^-$ ,  $\text{Me}_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2^-$  and  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2(\text{NCS})_2^{2-}$  have been synthesized, and the solid state configuration of the complex anions has been studied by Mössbauer and vibrational spectroscopies. Trigonal bipyramidal structures are advanced for the  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$  derivatives, with equatorial  $\text{SnC}_3$  and apical pseudohalide ligands, while the  $\text{R}_2\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$  compounds are assumed to be *trans*-octahedral species. The  $\text{NCS}^-$  ligands are observed to be N-bonded to  $\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$ . Conductance and PMR (for the  $\text{Me}_2\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$  compound) data suggest the presence of the complex anions also in solution phases.

### Introduction

The architecture and bonding of tri- and di-organotin(IV) azides [1,2] and thiocyanates [3-5] have been widely explored by  $^{119\text{m}}\text{Sn}$  Mössbauer spectroscopy. The pseudohalide groups generally bridge organotin(IV) moieties [except  $\text{N}_3^-$  in  $\text{R}_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2$ ]; the idealized configuration of  $\text{R}_3\text{SnX}$  ( $\text{X} = \text{N}_3, \text{NCS}$ ;  $T$  80 K for  $\text{N}_3$  derivatives) is trigonal bipyramidal with  $\text{R}_3\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$  located in the trigonal plane, while that of  $\text{R}_2\text{Sn}(\text{NCS})_2$  is *trans*-octahedral [1-5]. The crystal and molecular structures of  $\text{Me}_2\text{Sn}(\text{NCS})_2$  [6,7] and  $\text{R}_3\text{SnNCS}$  [8] ( $\text{R} = \text{Me}, \text{Ph}$ ) show that the inferences concerning configurations of these compounds extracted from Mössbauer spectroscopy are essentially correct.

Neutral organotin(IV) pseudohalides are likely to be further coordinated by pseudohalide ligands, forming complex anions [9]. The environment of the tin atom in species such as  $\text{R}_3\text{SnX}_2^-$  and  $\text{R}_2\text{SnX}_4^{2-}$  ( $\text{X}^- = \text{pseudohalide}$ ) is expected to correspond to that of the related polymeric neutral derivatives [10, 11], with interesting differences arising from the nature of the ionic crystal

lattice in which the organotin(IV) complex anions are electrostatically coupled through their counterions. The aim of the present research is to extend the knowledge of organotin(IV) pseudohalide complex anions of the type referred to above. Salts of  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2^-$ ,  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})^-$ ,  $\text{Me}_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2(\text{NCS})_2^{2-}$ , taken as representative members, were synthesized, and subsequently investigated by Mössbauer, infrared and Raman spectroscopies, which permitted an assessment of their probable configurations in the solid. Solution phase investigations, complementary to the above, were carried out by conductivity measurements and proton magnetic resonance studies.

## Experimental

Pure (or purified by standard procedures) chemicals were used throughout the work. The salts  $\text{Ph}_4\text{As SCN}$  [12],  $\text{Me}_4\text{NN}_3$  [13] and  $\text{Me}_4\text{N SCN}$  [14] were obtained by literature methods.

The compound  $\text{Ph}_4\text{AsN}_3$  was prepared from a concentrated aqueous solution of  $\text{Ph}_4\text{As Cl}$  and  $\text{NaN}_3$ . Needle-like crystals of  $\text{Ph}_4\text{AsN}_3$  precipitated and were collected, dried and recrystallized from ethanol/ether (m.p. 228-230°C). The general synthetic method for  $\text{Ph}_3\text{SnN}_3$  and  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Sn}(\text{NCS})_2$  consisted of refluxing, for several hours, a solution of the corresponding chloride (Fluka product) with an excess of the appropriate sodium pseudohalide (typically: organotin chloride 15 mmole, sodium pseudohalide 50 mmole). The solid residue ( $\text{NaCl}$  and the excess of  $\text{NaN}_3$ ) was filtered off the warm solutions, and the crystalline organotin(IV) pseudohalides were recovered by cooling, then purified through recrystallization. Benzene was the solvent used in the synthesis and recrystallization of  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Sn}(\text{NCS})_2$ , and 2/1 n-hexane/benzene for  $\text{Ph}_3\text{SnN}_3$  (n-hexane for recrystallization). Elemental analyses were satisfactory and the melting points corresponded to literature values (where reported).

The salts of the complex anions  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2^-$ ,  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})^-$  and  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2(\text{NCS})_2^{2-}$  were recovered as white crystalline solids by cooling solutions of  $\text{Ph}_3\text{SnN}_3$  and  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Sn}(\text{NCS})_2$  containing the stoichiometric amount of the appropriate tetraorgano-ammonium or -arsonium salt, followed by recrystallization (typically: for  $[\text{Me}_4\text{N}][\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})]$  2.3 mmole of  $\text{Ph}_3\text{SnN}_3$  and  $\text{Me}_4\text{N SCN}$  dissolved in 15 ml of warm solvent, and the same solvent volume employed for recrystallization). The solvents used for solution and recrystallization were absolute ethanol for  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$  derivatives, and acetonitrile for the salt of  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$ . The complex  $[\text{Ph}_4\text{As}]_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_4]$  was prepared by refluxing for several hours 2.3 mmole of  $\text{Me}_2\text{SnCl}_2$  and 4.6 mmole of  $\text{Ph}_4\text{AsN}_3$  in 30 ml of acetonitrile, in the presence of an excess of  $\text{NaN}_3$ . After filtering off the warm solution and cooling the filtrate, a white crystalline solid precipitated. This was recrystallized from 20 ml of acetonitrile. Table 1 reports m.p. and analytical data for these compounds.

The  $^{119\text{m}}\text{Sn}$  Mössbauer spectra were obtained at liquid nitrogen temperature, using the BTL type constant acceleration spectrometer described earlier [15]. Temperature measurements were effected by use of a pre-calibrated thermocouple and the reported values are uncertain by  $\pm 1^\circ$  over the time interval of the Mössbauer data accumulation (10 to 20 h). Spectrometer

TABLE 1. ANALYTICAL DATA AND MOLAR CONDUCTANCES IN METHANOL

Compound	Emp. formula	M.p. (°C)	Analysis found (calcd.) (%)				N	S	Molar conductances $\Lambda_m$	
			C	H	N	S			Concn. (mM)	(ohm <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> mole <sup>-1</sup> )
I	C <sub>50</sub> H <sub>46</sub> As <sub>2</sub> N <sub>12</sub> Sn	205-208	55.19 (55.43)	4.37 (4.28)	15.71 (15.51)			4.13	155	
II	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>7</sub> N <sub>7</sub> Sn	184-185	51.74 (51.99)	5.48 (5.30)	19.04 (19.29)			0.41	181	
III	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>35</sub> As <sub>4</sub> N <sub>6</sub> Sn	173-174	61.83 (61.71)	4.56 (4.32)	10.20 (10.28)			3.89	79	
IV	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>5</sub> SSn	148-149	52.45 (52.69)	5.37 (5.19)	13.21 (13.36)	6.05 (6.12)		0.39	91	
V	C <sub>43</sub> H <sub>35</sub> As <sub>4</sub> N <sub>4</sub> SSn	157-158	61.83 (61.97)	4.31 (4.23)	6.58 (6.72)	4.00 (3.85)		3.84	86	
VI	C <sub>62</sub> H <sub>50</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> Sn	237-239	59.92 (60.07)	3.91 (4.07)	9.21 (9.04)	5.25 (5.17)		0.38	103	
								0.33	208	

TABLE 2. MÖSSBAUER PARAMETERS<sup>a</sup> (mm/sec; T = 81 ± 1 K), RELEVANT VIBRATIONAL BANDS<sup>b</sup> (cm<sup>-1</sup>) AND ASSIGNMENTS

Compound	IS <sup>c</sup>	QS <sup>d</sup>	$\Gamma_{ave}$ <sup>e</sup>	$\nu_{as}(N_3)$ and/or NCS	Other bands
[Ph <sub>4</sub> As] <sub>2</sub> [Me <sub>2</sub> Sn(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> ] (I)	1.23	3.61	0.88	2040 s	555m <sup>f</sup> 497m s <sup>g</sup>
[Me <sub>4</sub> N][Ph <sub>3</sub> Sn(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] (II)				2050 s	
[Ph <sub>4</sub> As][Ph <sub>3</sub> Sn(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] (III)	1.20	2.75	0.83	2070(sh) 2040 s	
[Me <sub>4</sub> N][Ph <sub>3</sub> Sn(N <sub>3</sub> )(NCS)] (IV)				2055 s	
[Ph <sub>4</sub> As][Ph <sub>3</sub> Sn(N <sub>3</sub> )(NCS)] (V)	1.21	2.97	0.90	2020(sh) 2060 s	472 w; 478 w 305 w
[Ph <sub>4</sub> As] <sub>2</sub> [Ph <sub>2</sub> Sn(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (NCS) <sub>2</sub> ] (VI)	1.10	3.72	0.84	2070(sh) 2050 s	302 w
				2065(sh)	

<sup>a</sup> For typical compounds; the effect of the cation is not investigated. <sup>b</sup> Infrared bands unless otherwise stated, s, strong; m, medium; w, weak; (sh), shoulder.

<sup>c</sup> Isomer shift with respect to the center of a BaSnO<sub>3</sub> spectrum at 294 K, ± 0.02 mm/sec. <sup>d</sup> Quadrupole splitting. <sup>e</sup> Average full width at half height of the absorption peaks (uncorrected for sample thickness broadening effects). <sup>f</sup> Raman inactive. <sup>g</sup> Raman band, inactive in the infrared.

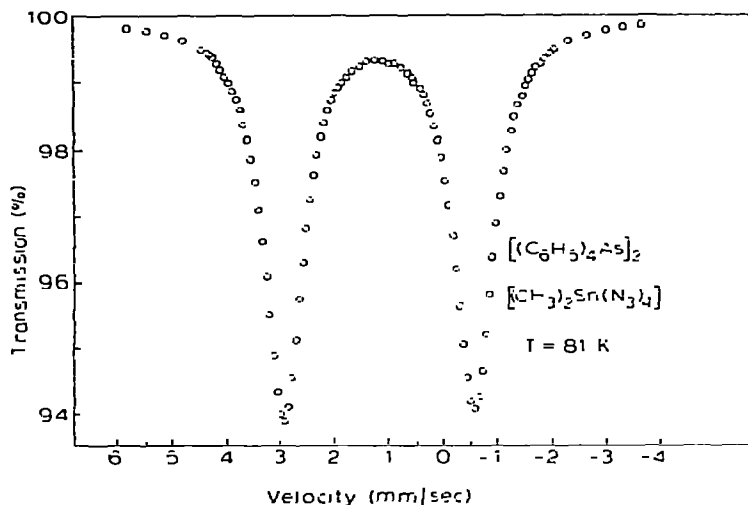


Fig. 1. Mössbauer spectrum of  $[(C_6H_5)_4As]_3[(CH_3)_2Sn(N_3)_4]$  at 81 K. The isomer shift scale is with respect to the center of a room temperature  $BaSnO_3$  absorption spectrum as discussed in the text. The statistical (counting) errors of  $\pm 0.1\%$  are indicated by the size of the circles representing the data points.

calibration was effected [15, 16], using 0.8 mil NBS SRM iron foil at room temperature. All isomer shift data reported herein with respect to a room temperature  $BaSnO_3$  absorber spectrum obtained using the same source. Data reduction was effected using the Rutgers IBM 360/67 computer and a program [17] which assumes a Lorentzian line shape, leaving the line position, effect magnitude and full width at half maximum as independent parameters for each of the  $n$  specified scattering maxima. The Mössbauer parameters are summarized in Table 2 and a representative Mössbauer spectrum (normalized by a least squares fitting program to 100% transmission for the base line) is shown in Fig. 1.

Infrared spectra were obtained for Nujol mull samples in the range  $4000$  to  $250\text{ cm}^{-1}$  on a Perkin-Elmer 457 spectrometer, using CsI plates, and on KBr pellets ( $\sim 0.8\%$  by weight) over the same wavelength range using a Perkin-Elmer 225 spectrometer. Raman spectra were obtained on a Cary 82 spectrometer employing a Kr/Ar mixed gas laser (Coherent Radiation Laboratories model 52MG) at room temperature. The vibrational data are reported in Table 2.

The solution chemistry was investigated by conductance measurements in methanol at  $26^\circ\text{C}$ , with an LKB 5300 B instrument (cell constant  $4.9\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with NaCl), and by PMR spectroscopy in  $CD_3OD$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , TMS as internal standard, with a JEOL C60 spectrometer operating at 60 MHz. Conductance data are summarized in Table 1.

## Results and discussion

The compositional formulations of the compounds investigated are given in Table 1 and are consistent with the elemental analysis data obtained experimentally. The melting point data, as well as the constancy of the composition results on recrystallization, exclude the presence of mixtures (of reactants) having the same overall stoichiometry, as well as serving as preliminary confirmatory evidence for the formulation of these species as complexes of or-

ganotin(IV) anions, as shown. These assumptions have been further tested by Mössbauer and vibrational spectral data analysis to be discussed below.

The  $^{119\text{m}}\text{Sn}$  Mössbauer resonance results are tabulated in Table 2 for four of the subject compounds. Since the minimum observable line width in  $^{119\text{m}}\text{Sn}$  spectra ( $2\Gamma$ ) is  $\sim 0.63$  mm/sec, the data in Table 2 reflect the fact that each of these compounds contains a unique tin atom and there is no evidence for unresolved hyperfine interactions present in these absorbers. The *IS* values at liquid nitrogen temperature are consistent with a formulation of the metal atoms as being present in the oxidation state IV [15].

As will be discussed further below, the stereochemistry of the ligands around the metal atom in compounds I and VI corresponds to an octahedral configuration. This is also suggested by the *IS* [15] value of I, which, being larger than 1.20 mm/sec, indicates a *trans*- $\text{Me}_2$  octahedral structure [18]. The difference of  $\sim 0.13$  mm/sec in the two isomer shifts (being larger for the dimethyl compound than for the diphenyl compound) is comparable to the corresponding differences in the isomer shifts of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$  and  $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$  compounds reported in the literature [19]. It is clear from the *IS* data for III and V that the contribution to the total isomer shift of the  $\text{N}_3$  ligand and the SCN ligand are essentially identical since the two isomer shifts are the same within experimental error. Thus these data are in complete agreement with the earlier observation concerning the near identity of the isomer shifts in the trigonal bipyramidal compounds  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SnN}_3$  (1.43 mm/sec at  $82 \pm 4$  K) and  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Sn NCS}$  (1.40 mm/sec at  $80 \pm 2$  K) [1, 3]. Moreover, it should be noted that this situation is very different in the corresponding dimethyltin(IV) compounds [1,3] in which the *IS* values for  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2$  (1.06 mm/sec at  $82 \pm 4$  K) and for  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SCN})_2$  (1.48 mm/sec at  $82 \pm 2$  K) reflect the tetrahedral molecular structure and non-bridging ligand in the former and the octahedral molecular structure and bridging ligand in the latter.

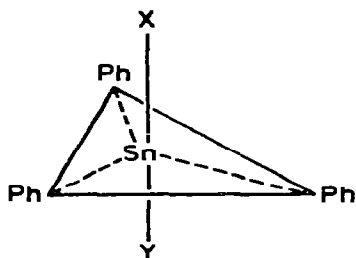
The relationship between ligand electronegativity and the  $^{119\text{m}}\text{Sn}$  isomer shift parameter has been well established, although detailed interpretations are still the subject of some controversy [20]. On the basis of extensive studies of isostructural halogen and pseudohalogen compounds by a variety of techniques it has been found that the greater the ligand electronegativity, the smaller the observed *IS* value relative to  $\text{BaSnO}_3$  or  $\text{SnO}_2$ . In a previous study [1] it has been shown that the Mulliken electronegativity of  $7.66 \pm 0.06$  can be assigned to a bridging azide moiety and  $8.54 \pm 0.10$  to a terminal azide group. The present data for III and V suggest that the Mulliken group electronegativity for a non-bridging NCS group bonded to tin must be essentially identical to that of a non-bridging  $\text{N}_3$  group, since the isomer shift difference between III and V is zero within the error limits of the present data. However, it should be borne in mind that the *IS* parameter of di- and tri-organotin(IV) is, in fact, not very sensitive to small differences in electron demand by different ligands [18], but only to the total effective *s*-electron density at the tin nucleus. This point has been discussed in detail by Huheey et al. [20] who have pointed out the dangers of overinterpretation of the isomer shift—electronegativity correlation.

Turning now to the *QS* [15] parameter, the value observed for I (3.61 mm/sec) confirms the octahedral nature of the anion and places the two methyl

groups *trans* with respect to each other, comparable to the structure of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{-Sn}(\text{NCS})_2$  ( $QS = 3.87$  mm/sec at  $80 \pm 2$  K) which has been elucidated both by Mössbauer [3] and X-ray diffraction techniques [6,7]. (It should be noted that the  $QS$  of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2$  is 2.61 mm/sec at  $82 \pm 4$  K and a distorted tetrahedral geometry has been assigned to this molecule [1].) A similar *trans* configuration of the two phenyl groups must obtain in VI, although the present data are insufficient in themselves to establish the relative stereochemistry of the two types of pseudohalogen ligands. It is also interesting to note that the  $QS$  parameter for VI is slightly larger than that observed for I under essentially identical conditions, although in most compounds of the type  $\text{R}_2\text{SnA}_4$  or  $\text{R}_2\text{SnA}_2\text{B}_2$  the  $QS$  for  $\text{R} = \text{alkyl}$  is normally larger than those observed when  $\text{R} = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$  [18,19]. Since the  $QS$  parameter reflects both the difference in electron demand between different ligands bonded to the central tin atom as well as the details of the ligand geometry around the metal [15,18] (eg. the  $\text{A-Sn-A}$  or  $\text{A-Sn-B}$  bond angles), it is not possible to give a quantitative interpretation to the difference in the  $QS$  parameter observed in VI compared to I. A possible resolution of the two factors may be derived from an evaluation of the  $\eta$  [ $= (V_{xx} - V_{yy})/V_{zz}$ ] parameter [15], by means of a magnetic hyperfine interaction experiment. However, such studies are beyond the scope of the present investigations.

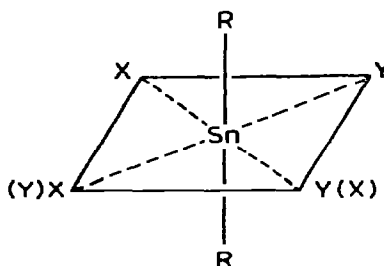
The  $QS$  values observed for III and V are somewhat smaller than those generally observed for pentacoordinated triorganotin(IV) species [18,19]. Thus, trigonal bipyramidal structures with equatorial  $\text{SnC}_3$  moieties and apical ligand groups often have quadrupole splitting values of  $\sim 3.3$  to  $3.5$  mm/sec [18,19]. On the other hand, the homologous triphenyltin (rather than trimethyltin) complexes show consistently lower  $QS$  values [19], that of  $[(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{N}][(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{SnCl}_2]$  being 3.00 mm/sec [21]. On this basis it is reasonable to postulate a trigonal bipyramidal configuration for compounds III and V of the subject series, as well.

The infrared spectra of  $[\text{Ph}_4\text{As}][\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2]$  (III) and  $[\text{Ph}_4\text{As}][\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})]$  (V) are practically identical except for a band at  $302\text{ cm}^{-1}$  observed in  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})^-$ , which may be associated with a  $\text{Sn-NCS}$  bond vibration (Table 2). The bands due to phenyl groups bound to Sn (apart from those obscured by  $\text{Ph}_4\text{As}^+$  bands) are as expected [22,23]. The envelopes of the  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{N}_3)$  and  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{NCS})$  modes (Table 2) occur at a frequency lower than  $2100\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , suggesting that  $\text{NCS}^-$  is N-bonded to Sn in  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})^-$  [24]. The nature of N- or S-bonded thiocyanato derivatives is better elucidated by the energy of bending modes,  $\delta(\text{NCS})$ , which lie around  $470$  and  $410\text{-}440\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively [24]. In  $[\text{Ph}_4\text{As}][\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})]$  (V) the  $470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region is obscured by cation vibrations, while no bands are observed between  $400$  and  $450\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The latter would exclude S-Sn bonds. On the other hand, the  $470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region is clear of cation bands in the  $\text{Me}_4\text{N}^+$  salts of  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)_2^-$  and  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sn}(\text{N}_3)(\text{NCS})^-$  (II and IV). The IR spectra of these two anions differ in the region of the band at  $302\text{ cm}^{-1}$  discussed above, as well as for two bands at  $477$  and  $472\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , all appearing in the spectrum of the mixed complex (Table 2). This is fully consistent with a N-bonded NCS group [24], in consonance with the usual isothiocyanato nature of Group IV organometal derivatives, such as those of  $\text{R}_3\text{Sn}^{\text{IV}}$  [8] and  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Pb}^{\text{IV}}$  [25].



(II, III)  $X = Y = N_3$

(IV, V)  $X = N_3, Y = NCS$



(I)  $X = Y = N_3, R = CH_3$

(VI)  $X = N_3, Y = NCS, R = Ph$

Fig. 2. Idealized geometries of the organotin(IV) compounds discussed in the text.

The complex anions  $Ph_3Sn(N_3)_2^-$  and  $Ph_3Sn(N_3)(NCS)^-$  seem to exist also in  $CH_3OH$  solution. The respective molar conductances of  $Ph_4As^+$  salts (Table 1) closely correspond to that of  $[Me_4N][PhTiCl_3]$  ( $\Lambda_m = 98, c = 1 \times 10^{-3} M$  in  $CH_3OH$  [26]), which is a 1/1 electrolyte in this solvent [12,26,27] dissociating to give the anion  $PhTiCl_3^-$ .

The data for  $[Ph_4As]_2[Me_2Sn(N_3)_4]$  (I) strongly suggest the presence of the anion  $Me_2Sn(N_3)_4^{2-}$ , with the *trans*-octahedral configuration shown in Fig. 2. The vibrational spectra show an infrared band at  $555\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , Raman inactive, and a Raman frequency at  $497\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , infrared inactive, which are safely attributed to  $\nu_{as}(SnC_2)$  and  $\nu_s(SnC_2)$  respectively, and clearly indicate the occurrence of linear  $C-Sn-C$  moieties [11,22] (Table 2) with a center of symmetry. The PMR spectrum in  $CD_3OD$  shows a single methyl proton signal at  $\delta$  0.75 ppm, with a coupling constant  $J(^{119}SnCH_3)$  of 88.5 Hz, which corresponds to about 41% *s* character in the  $Sn-C$  bonds [28]. The molar conductance in  $CH_3OH$  (Table 1) is comparable to that of  $[Me_4N]_2[PhTiCl_4]$  ( $\Lambda_m = 183, c = 2.34 \times 10^{-3} M$  in  $CH_3OH$  [26]), which mainly ionizes in this solvent to give three particles per mole, including the anion  $PhTiCl_4^{2-}$  [12, 26, 27].

As to  $[Ph_4As]_2[Ph_2Sn(N_3)_2(NCS)_2]$  (VI), thiocyanate ligands are N-bonded to Sn, as inferred from the IR spectrum (Table 2), where the envelope of  $\nu_{as}(N_3)$  and  $\nu_{as}(NCS)$  lies below  $2100\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and no bands are observed around  $410-440\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (which would be typical for  $\delta(NCS)$  in S-bonded derivatives) [24]. The  $470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region, where the  $\delta(NCS)$  of isothiocyanates [24] is assumed to occur, is obscured by  $Ph_4As^+$  vibrations. The remaining bands of the mixed complex anion are as expected [22,29], apart from contributions by  $Ph_4As^+$ . The molar conductance in  $CH_3OH$  (Table 1) suggests the occurrence of a 2/1 electrolyte in this solvent [27].

All experimental data thus point to the presence of *trans*-octahedral anions  $Me_2Sn(N_3)_4^{2-}$  and  $Ph_2Sn(N_3)_2(NCS)_2^{2-}$  as well as of trigonal bipyramidal species  $Ph_3Sn(N_3)_2^-$  and  $Ph_3Sn(N_3)(NCS)^-$ , perhaps distorted from the idealized geometries of Fig. 2, both in the solid state and in solution.

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