THERMAL [2 + 2] CYCLOADDITION OF (Z)–[6]PARACYCLOPH-3-ENE WITH TETRACYANOETHYLENE

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Reaction of (Z)-[6]paracycloph-3-ene (2) with tetracyanoethylene (TCNE) gave a [2+2] cycloadduct (4), which represents the first example of thermal [2+2] cycloaddition of a benzene derivative under mild conditions. The structure of 4 was confirmed by x-ray crystallographic analysis. Semi-empirical PM3 calculations and the measurement of the He I photoelectron spectrum of 2 indicated that the ionization potential of 2 is considerably lower than that of [6]paracyclophane (1), which gave a [4+2] cycloadduct (3) with TCNE. The unusual pericyclic selectivity and regioselectivity are discussed on the basis of PM3 calculations. The regioselectivity is ascribed to the higher π bond order of the bridgehead aromatic bond of 2, which is on the same side of the bridge double bond, than that of the bond on the opposite side of the bridge double bond.

INTRODUCTION

[n]Cyclophanes continue to attract much interest from the viewpoint of strain and aromaticity relationships.¹ It has been well documented that they exhibit remarkably enhanced reactivity and sometimes undergo unusual reactions in electrophilic reactions.1 Thermal [4+2] cycloaddition to electron-deficient olefins and acetylenes is one of such reaction studied in detail. [6] Paracyclophane $(1)^2$ and [5] metacyclophane,³ the smallest representatives in the para and meta series that are stable at room temperature, and their derivatives undergo [4+2] cycloaddtion with dienophiles such as tetracvanoethylene (TCNE), dicyanoacetylene (DCNA), and dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate.4 On the other hand, Boekelheide and co-workers⁶ reported that, under extremely forcing conditions, ('superphane') $[2_{6}](1,2,3,4,5,6)$ cyclophane and $[2_2](1,4)$ cyclophane $([2 \cdot 2] paracyclophane)$ gave cycloaddition products with DCNA which were presumably derived by initial [2+2] cycloaddition. In contrast, we described in a preliminary report that

(Z)-[6]paracycloph-3-ene (2)⁷ readily underwent [2+2] cycloaddition under mild conditions.⁸ Moreover, the reaction took place in a regioselective manner, giving the adduct 4 whose cyclobutane ring is located on the same side of the unsaturated bridge. We report here the structural confirmation of 4 by means of x-ray crystallographic analysis and discuss the pericyclic and regiochemical selectivity on the basis of the semi-empirical molecular orbital calculations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When [6]paracyclophane (1) was mixed with TCNE in dichloromethane at room temperature, a blue colour (λ_{max} 590 nm) due to the charge-transfer complex developed. The colour gradually disappeared in a few hours to give the [4+2] cycloadduct **3** as a single product. In contrast, although blue colour could be discerned in the reaction of cyclophene **2** with TCNE, it disappeared immediately (within 1 s). The reaction was completed within 1 min to yield [2+2] cycloadduct **4** as a sole product. The structure of **4** was elucidated on the basis of the ¹H and ¹³C

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NMR spectra. The ¹³C NMR spectrum indicates the presence of one trisubstituted sp^2 (C-10) and five disubstituted (C-3, C-4, C-9, C-11, C-12) sp² carbons and one trisubstituted sp³ (C-8) and three tetrasubstituted (C-7, C-13, C-14) sp^3 carbons. These data are consistent with either [2+2] cycloadduct 4 or 5. The structure was first deduced to be 4 from the ¹H NMR chemical shift.⁸ Support for this assignment was obtained from the NOE experiments; on irradiation of the signals of H-8 and H-9, NOE enhancement was observed for the signals of H-4 and H-3, respectively. It should be pointed out that this reaction represents the first example of thermal [2+2]cycloaddition of a benzene derivative under such mild conditions. Moreover, the reaction took place in a regioselective manner, giving 4 whose cyclobutane ring is located on the same side of the unsaturated bridge.

The structure of 4 was further confirmed by x-ray crystallographic analysis. The molecular structure is shown in Figure 1. The non-bonded distances between the bridge and the six-membered ring $(C-3-C-9 = 3 \cdot 10 \text{ Å}, C-4-C-8 = 3 \cdot 45 \text{ Å})$ are longer than that of cyclophene 2 ($3 \cdot 03 \text{ Å}$).^{7c} The dihedral angle between the planes C-2-C-3-C-4-C-5 and C-8-C-9-C-11-C-12 is 26 \cdot 50°, which is larger than the corresponding dihedral angle of 2 ($17 \cdot 70^{\circ}$).^{7c} These geometrical differences between 2 and 4 are ascribed to the pyramidalization of C-7 due to the rehybridization from sp^2 to sp^3 . Considerably long bond distances are observed around the cyclobutane ring (C-7-C-13=1.606 Å, C-8-C-14=1.592 Å, C-13-C-14=1.596 Å), indicating that strain is concentrated around the cyclobutane ring. The torsion angle of the



Figure 1. ORTEP drawings of [2+2] cycloadduct 4. (a) Side view. (b) Top view.

cyclobutane ring, however, is normal; the dihedral angle between the planes C-7—C-8—C-14 and C-7—C-13—C-14 is 29·40°.

The ¹H NMR spectrum of 4 did not show a temperature dependence (-80 to 100 °C), nor was isomerization observed when a solution of 4 was heated in toluene-d₈ at 100 °C for 5 h. Prolonged heating or higher temperatures resulted in substantial decomposition of 4. The experimentally determined barrier for the conformational inversion of bridge in 2 is $\Delta G^{\ddagger} = 24.6 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1.7\text{b.c}}$ Intuitively, it seems unlikely that the barrier of the flipping of 4 is larger than that of 2, because one of the bridgehead sp^2 carbons of 2 rehybridized to an sp^3 centre. Although we do not fully understand the discrepancy, one possibility lies in the difference is the isomerization mechanism; cyclophane 2 is capable of isomarizing through C--C bond cleavage and subsequent recombination of the benzyl/allyl diradical intermediate in analogy with the isomerization of $[2\cdot 2]$ paracyclophane system,⁹ while such isomerization mechanism of 4 is less likely. These results indicate that the barrier for the conformational change (syn-anti isomerization) in this system is high and. therefore, the predominant formation of 4 is a result of kinetic control. Indeed, the heats of formation estimated by MM2 calculations for the model hydrocarbons 6 [62.8 kcal mol⁻¹ (1 kcal = 4.184 kJ)] and 7 $(62.6 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1})$, which correspond to the respective [2+2] adducts 4 and 5, are almost identical. [4+2]Cycloaddition, if it took place, should be thermodynamically favoured since the calculated heat of formation of the [4+2]-type hydrocarbon 8 $(51.2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1})$ is much less than those of **6** and **7**.

In order to obtain insight into the unusual reactivity of 2, i.e. the mode of cycloaddition ([2+2]) and regioselectivity (*syn* to the bridge), semi-empirical molecular orbital calculations (PM3)¹⁰ were undertaken. The geometries and energies of 2 and those of 1 previously reported^{4b} are given in Table 1. As can be seen, the calculated deformation angles (α and β) of 2 are larger than those of 1 in accord with the experimental results obtained from the x-ray analyses of their derivatives.^{1e} The calculated ionization potential of 2 is lower than that of 1 by 0.12 eV, probably owing to the larger distortion in the aromatic ring of 2. There seems to be no significant interaction between the aromatic ring and the bridge double bond. To confirm these



Table 1. PM3-calculated geometries, heats of formation and orbital energies and observed ionization potentials of cyclophanes 1 and 2



Parameter	1	2
bending angle a , (°)	23.2*	25.4
bending angle β (°)	16.8ª	19.3
ΔH_{f}° (kcal mol ⁻¹)	30.9ª	60.6
Orbital energies (eV):		
ε	8.77°	8.65
ε_2	9.57°	9.52
Ē3		9.92
Ionization potentials (eV):		
I_{n1}	8.00 ^b	7.76
$I_{\mu 2}^{\nu, \nu}$	8.80 ^b	8.58
$I_{\nu,3}^{*,2}$		9.32

^a Ref. 4b.

^b Ref. 12.

predictions, we recorded the He I photoelectron (PE) spectrum of 2. The PE spectrum of 2 (Figure 2) shows three bands in the low-energy region. To assign these bands to individual transitions, we compared them with related species and made use of Koopman's theorem, which allows one to correlate the measured vertical ionization energies, $I_{v,j}$, with the calculated orbital energies. The proper PE data for comparison are those of cyclohexene (9·12 eV)¹¹ for the olefinic double bond and [6]paracyclophane (1) (8·00, 8·80 eV) for the aromatic bonds.¹² This comparison suggests the assignment of the first two bands to ionization from the benzene unit and the third band to the ionization from the results of SCF calculations using the PM3 method (Table 1).

It has been well documented that thermal [2+2] cycloaddition of olefins with electron-deficient olefins takes place through zwitterion intermediates which are formed by coupling of radical ion pairs generated by initial one-electron transfer.¹³ In view of the low ionization potential of 2, we assume first that the [2+2] cycloaddition of 2 with TCNE proceeds through a zwitterion intermediate 9. If this were the case, it might be possible to explain the regioselectivity of the cycloaddition in terms of the charge distribution in 9. In this context, we estimated by PM3 calculations the net charge distribution of 1 and 2, respectively (Table 2). In the cation 11, the net charge of C-8 and C-9, which are



Figure 2. Photoelectron spectrum of 2.

on the same side of the bridge, is same as those of C-11 and C-12, which are on the opposite side of the bridge. Moreover, the charge distribution of 11 is almost the same as that of 10, indicating little interaction between the benzenonium ion part and the bridge double bond of 11. This is probably due to the unfavourable geometry for the two π systems to interact because of the pyramidalization of the bridgehead carbon (C-7), as suggested from the structure of the [2 + 2] cycloadduct 4. The above results indicate that the regioselectivity should be determined during an earlier stage of the reaction.

Table 3 lists PM3-calculated bond lengths and π bond orders of the aromatic ring of 1, 2, and [5]paracyclophane (12)¹⁴ The reported geometries of



Table 2 PM3-calculated net charge distributions of benzenonium ions 10 and 11

Compound	Net charge					
	C-7	C-8	C-9	C-10	C-11	C-12
10 11	-0.09 -0.08	0·13 0·13	-0·17 -0·17	0·28 0·28	-0·17 -0·17	0·13 0·13

 1^{15} and $12^{15b,16}$ calculated by the *ab initio* methods are also listed. Inspection of these data shows that the bond lengths of the [*n*]cyclophanes are closely related to the symmetry of the molecular framework. Namely, in the case of 2 and 12 having C_s symmetry, the bond lengths



Table 3. PM3-calculated bond distances and π bond orders of the aromatic rings of cyclophanes 1, 2, and 12

Compound	Aromatic bond					
	a	b	с	d	e	f
Bond length	(Å)		-			
1ª	1.401	1.388	1.402	1.401	1.388	1.402
1 ^b	1.398	1.392	1.399	1.398	1.392	1.399
2	1.401	1.389	1.401	1.405	1.384	1.405
12	1.404	1.390	1.404	1.409	1.383	1.409
12°	1.392	1.401	1.392	1.409	1.384	1.409
π Bond orde	r					
1ª	0.424	0.498	0.422	0.424	0.498	0.422
2	0.430	0.497	0.430	0.403	0.525	0.403
12	0.426	0.505	0.426	0.386	0.552	0.385

^a Ref. 4b.

^b Ab initio calculations using double-zeta basis set.^{15a}

⁶ Ab initio calculations using double-zeta basis set.^{16h}

of the bridgehead aromatic bonds (a and c) on the left side of the molecule are shorter than those of bonds d and f on the right side, although the difference is relatively small. On the other hand, in the case of 1 with C_2 symmetry, the bond lengths of the bridgehead aromatic bonds are almost identical. This trend is also found in the geometries of 1^{15} and $12^{15b,16}$ obtained by ab initio calculations. We noticed that the in balance between the left and right sides of the molecule is greater for the π bond orders of the bridgehead aromatic bonds of 2 and 12, i.e. the π bond orders of bonds a and c of 2 are larger than those of bonds d and f. Since the imbalance in the π bond orders of [5] paracyclophane (12) is greater than that in 2, we ascribed it to the symmetry of the molecular framework rather than the interaction between the π orbitals of the aromatic ring and the bridge double bond. Thus the formation of the charge-transfer complex between the electron-deficient olefin (TCNE) with 2 would be kinetically more favoured when TCNE approaches the bridgehead bonds with stronger double bond character. Consequently, we deduce that the regioselectivity observed in the cycloaddition of 2 with TCNE is due to the kinetically favoured geometry of the π complex formed during an early stage of the reaction.

EXPERIMENTAL

Reaction of [6] paracyclophane (1) with TCNE. To a solution of 120 mg (0.94 mmol) of TCNE in 12 ml of dichloromethane was added a solution of 1 (50 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 0.3 ml of the same solvent under nitrogen. The solution turned blue immediately after addition of 1, and the blue colour then gradually disappeared. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 3.5 h and the solvent was evaporated. Recrystallization of the residue from diethyl ether-dichloromethane gave 54 mg of the adduct 3. An additional amount of 3 was obtained from the mother liquor by preparative TLC to furnish a total of 71 mg (80%) of 3, m.p. 196-198 °C (decomposition). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ 6.25 (d, J=6 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (dd, J = 6, 2 Hz, 2H), 2·38 (dt, J = 11, 2 Hz, 2H), 2·2–1·6 (m, 6H), 1·2–0·7 (m, 2H), 0·2–0·2 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6), δ 154.4 (s), 124.9 (d), 113.4 (s), 113.3 (s), 49.5 (d), 44.3 (s), 35.6 (t), 29.1 (t), 25.6 (t); IR (KBr) 2250, 895, 850, 685 cm⁻¹; MS, m/z (relative intensity, %) 288 (M⁺, 10), 160 (26), 104 (100). Analysis calculated for C₁₈H₁₆N₄, C 74.97, H 5.59, N 19.43; found, C 74.89, H 5.60, N 19.41%.

Reaction of [6] paracycloph-3-ene (2) with TCNE. To a solution of 77.2 mg (0.60 mmol) of TCNE in 8 ml of dichloromethane was added a solution of 2 (30.3 mg, 0.19 mmol) in 0.3 ml of the same solvent under nitrogen. A blue colour appeared, but it

immediately disappeared. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and the solvent was evaporated. Recrystallization of the residue from diethyl ether-dichloromethane gave 40 mg (73%) of the adduct 4, m.p. 183-185 °C (decomposition). Attempted chromatography resulted in partial decomposition of 4. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), $\delta 6.46$ (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (dd, J = 9.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.66-5.60 (m, 1H), $5 \cdot 17 - 5 \cdot 10$ (m, 1H), $4 \cdot 89$ (d, $J = 7 \cdot 0$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.57-2.53 (m, 1H), 2·3-2·0 (m, 6H), 1.86-1.81 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR $(CDCl_3) \delta 143.1$ (s), 136.7 (d), 133.4 (d), 128.9 (d), 124.9 (d), 112.6 (d), 110.6 (s), 109.5 (s), 109.2 (s), 108.2 (s), 51.9 (s), 48.9 (t), 45.6 (s), 39.2 (s), 37.8 (t), 346 (t), 26.5 (t), 23.6 (t); IR (KBr), 2230, 855, 780, 705 cm⁻¹; MS, m/z (relative intensity, %) 286 (M⁺, 13), 158 (22), 104 (100). Analysis calculated for C₁₈H₁₄N₄, C 75.50, H 4.93, N 19.57; found, C 75.29, H 4.94, N 19.29%.

X-ray crystal structure analysis of 4. Crystal data: $C_{18}H_{14}N_4$, $M_r = 286.34$, triclinic, space group $P\bar{1}$, a = 9.722(3) Å, b = 11.691(3) Å, c = 7.445(2) Å, $a = 95.14(2)^\circ$, $\beta = 109.99(2)^\circ$, $\gamma = 85.35(2)^\circ$, V = 790.9(4) Å³, $D_c = 1.202$ g cm⁻³, Z = 2. Diffraction intensities were measured using a collodion-coated crystal ($0.13 \times 0.13 \times 0.25$ mm) on a Rigaku AFC5R diffractometer with graphite monochromated Mo Ka radiation. A total of 2967 reflections were collected up to $2\theta = 50.00^\circ$, among which 2788 were unique. The structure was solved and refined using the program package TEXSAN¹⁷ to the R index of 0.067($R_w = 0.035$).

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Tables of bond distances, angles, fractional atomic coordinates, and anisotropic thermal parameters for nonhydrogen atoms for 4. These material will be available on request to the author.

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