$\mathrm{mp} 137^{\circ}$. Comparison of the mass spectrum of $\mathbf{1 a}$, $m / e 608\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}\right), 402(\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{x}), 312(\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{y}), 296(\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{z})$, and 206 (x, base), with that of $1 \mathrm{~b}, m / e 636\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}\right), 430$ $(M-x), 340(M-y), 324(M-z)$, and $206(x$, base), established that 1a possessed a diphenolic aporphine moiety bonded through a diphenyl ether linkage to an armepavine-like residue.

The nmr spectrum of pakistanine $\mathbf{1 a}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ exhibits a high-field methoxyl singlet absorption at $\delta 3.61$ ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}-7$ ' $\mathrm{OCH}_{3}$ ), two methoxyl singlets at 3.83 and $3.88(6 \mathrm{H})$, two $N$-methyl singlets at 2.51 and $2.56(6 \mathrm{H})$, a singlet at $6.06\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}-8^{\prime} H\right)$, three aromatic proton singlets at $6.54,6.56$, and $6.71(3 \mathrm{H})$, an $\mathrm{A}_{2} \mathrm{~B}_{2}$ quartet $(4 \mathrm{H})$ at $7.00(J=8.5$ and 10 Hz$)\left(\mathrm{C}-2^{\prime \prime},-3^{\prime \prime},-5^{\prime \prime}\right.$, and $-6^{\prime \prime} H$ ), and a one-proton singlet at $8.11(\mathrm{C}-11 H)$. The nmr spectrum of $\mathrm{O}, \mathrm{O}$-dimethylpakistanine (1b) shows two additional methoxy resonances, one at $\delta 3.72$ and the other at 3.90, the former being characteristic of a $\mathrm{C}-1$ methoxyl. ${ }^{3}$ The remainder of the spectrum of 1 b is very similar to that of $1 \mathbf{a}$. The phloroglucinol test for an 0 -diphenol function ${ }^{4}$ was negative for pakistanine 1a, so that a methoxyl group could be assigned to the C-2 position.

Sodium in liquid ammonia cleavage of $O, O$-dimethylpakistanine (1b) yielded (-)-2,10-dimethoxyaporphine (2) ${ }^{1}$ and $L-(+)$-armepavine (3).

The uv spectrum of pakistanine $1 \mathrm{a}\left(\lambda_{\max }^{\mathrm{EtOH}} 218,270\right.$ sh, 277 , and $307 \mathrm{~nm}(\log \epsilon 4.61,4.13,4.21$, and 4.07 )) resembles that of 9 -phenylboldine (4), ${ }^{5} \mathrm{C}_{25}$ -
 4

$\mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{~N}, \mathrm{mp} 155-157^{\circ}\left(\lambda_{\max }^{\mathrm{EtOH}} 218,270 \mathrm{sh}, 276\right.$, and $303 \mathrm{~nm}(\log \epsilon 4.30,4.23,4.25$, and 3.82)).

From the same plant source we have also obtained the first known proaporphine benzylisoquinoline alkaloid, pakistanamine (5): $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{42} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{~N}_{2} ; \mathrm{mp} 158-162^{\circ}$ dec (picrate); $\operatorname{mp} 215^{\circ}$ (hydrochloride); amorphous free base; $[\alpha]^{25} \mathrm{D}+20^{\circ}(\mathrm{MeOH})$.

The ir spectrum, $\nu^{\mathrm{CHCl}_{5}} 1640(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C})$ and $1670 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (conjugated $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ ), and the uv spectrum, $\lambda_{\max }^{\mathrm{EtoH}} 225 \mathrm{sh}$, 280 , and $310 \mathrm{sh} \mathrm{nm}(\log \in 4.63,4.12$, and 3.61 ), of pakistanamine (5) were suggestive of the presence of a dienone moiety. ${ }^{6}$ The nmr spectrum of pakistan-

[^0]amine (5) in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ showed four methoxyl singlets at $\delta$ $3.57,3.64,3.80$, and $3.82(12 \mathrm{H})$, two $N$-methyl singlets at 2.32 and $2.35(6 \mathrm{H})$, a singlet at $6.07\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}-8^{\prime} H\right)$, a doublet at $6.16\left(1 \mathrm{H}, J_{8,12}=2.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{C}-8 H\right)$, a doublet at $6.32\left(1 \mathrm{H}, J_{11,12}=10 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{C}-11 \mathrm{H}\right)$, a doublet of doublets at $7.06(1 \mathrm{H}, J=2.5$ and $10 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{C}-12 \mathrm{H})$, singlets at 6.55 and $6.62\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}-3\right.$ and $\left.\mathrm{C}-5^{\prime} H\right)$, and finally a singlet at $7.02\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}-2^{\prime \prime},-3^{\prime \prime},-5^{\prime \prime}\right.$ and $\left.-6^{\prime \prime} H\right)$.

Dienone-phenol rearrangement of pakistanamine 5 using dilute HCl gave rise to the phenolic aporphine benzylisoquinoline dimer 1c: $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{42} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{~N}_{2}$; mp $117^{\circ}$; $[\alpha]^{25} \mathrm{D}-103^{\circ}(\mathrm{MeOH})$. The uv spectrum of 1c, $\lambda_{\max }^{\mathrm{EtOH}} 225 \mathrm{sh}, 267 \mathrm{sh}, 277$, and $304 \mathrm{~nm}(\log \epsilon 4.75$, $4.28,4.37$, and 4.16), closely resembles that of pakistanine 1 a , and indeed $O$-methylation of 1 c with diazomethane furnished the product $\mathbf{1 b}$, identical in terms of melting point, mixture melting point, uv, ir, nmr , and mass spectra, tlc $R_{\mathrm{f}}$ values, and ORD curve with a sample of $O, O$-dimethylpakistanine derived by O-methylation of pakistanine $\mathbf{1 a}$.

The fact that pakistanine and pakistanamine are found in the same plant lends substantial support to the biogenetic scheme involving the sequence: bisbenzylisoquinoline $\rightarrow$ proaporphine benzylisoquinoline dimer $\rightarrow$ aporphine benzylisoquinoline dimer. ${ }^{7}$ Noteworthy also is the observation that the required bisbenzylisoquinoline precursor in the present instance corresponds to the alkaloid ( + )-berbamunine (6) found

in B. amurensis Rupr. var. japonica, ${ }^{8}$ a close relative of B. baluchistanica.
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## Reduction of Acetylene and Nitrogen by a Cobalt-Porphyrin System

Sir:
Since the successful isolation and purification of nitrogenase, the enzyme system that fixes molecular nitrogen to ammonia in living organisms, many studies have been made to find a model for nitrogenase action. ${ }^{1-3}$ We present in this paper the description of a

[^1]model system that reduces nitrogenase substrates; all the reactions of our model system are carried out in water at room temperature and 1 atm of pressure, including the nitrogen fixation. Since strong reducing agents such as sodium borohydride have been found to reduce cobalt(III) in porphyrins to $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{I}),{ }^{4}$ and $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{I})$ complexes of vitamin $\mathrm{B}_{12}$, dimethylgloxime, and bipyridyl have been found to reduce nitrous oxide to molecular nitrogen, ${ }^{5}$ we tried a model system consisting of the water-soluble meso-tetra( $p$-sulfonatophenyl)porphinatocobalt(III) ${ }^{6}\left(\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}\right.$ TPPS, 1) and sodium

borohydride and found it to be a very effective catalyst for the reduction of the substrates of nitrogenase.

Nitrogenase reduces acetylene specifically to ethylene and this reaction has generally been used as an assay for nitrogen-fixing activity. ${ }^{7}$ Besides reducing acetylene, our system also catalytically reduces azide, cyanide, acetonitrile, propargyl alcohol, and methylacetylene; so far the system does not catalytically reduce nitrogen.

A typical experiment for the acetylene reduction is as follows. In a $50-\mathrm{ml}$ erlenmeyer flask were placed 0.5 ml of CoTPPS stock solution ( $8 \times 10^{-3} M$ ), 2 ml of pH 10 buffer (borax- NaOH ), and 6.5 ml of distilled water. Then the sealed flask was flushed with water-washed acetylene. Freshly prepared $1 M$ sodium borohydride ( 1 ml ) was injected to initiate the reaction and after 10 $\min$ a $10 \%$ conversion of the acetylene to ethylene had taken place; some ethane was also produced. ${ }^{8}$ The ratio of ethylene/ethane was dependent on pH ; at a pH of 10 this ratio was $>10$. The introduction of carbon monoxide in the system (3 parts acetylene-1 part carbon monoxide) was found to completely inhibit the catalysis just as the nitrogenase action is inhibited by carbon monoxide. The catalytic properties of this system can be regenerated again and again by a new injection of fresh borohydride without loss of activity. ${ }^{9}$

The reduction of molecular nitrogen was carried out by passing pure dry air (pure nitrogen also works) through a solution containing 2 ml of the CoTPPS stock solution, 6 ml of pH 10 buffer, and 20 ml of distilled water in a filter flask. The effluent gas was
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(9) The initial turnover number (first 10 min ) for the catalysis with respect to acetylene reduction is 60 mol of acetylene $\mathrm{min}^{-1} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ of catalyst.
bubbled through 20 ml of 0.1 M HCl in another flask. To initiate the reaction, 2 ml of freshly prepared 0.25 M sodium borohydride was injected with further $1-\mathrm{ml}$ injections of borohydride every day for a week. The ammonia produced was determined by distilling a few milliliters of the solution in the reaction flask (after addition of NaOH ) into the HCl solution in the second receiver flask. The ammonia was then determined employing Nessler's reagent. ${ }^{10.11}$ This system produced between 0.8 and 1.0 mol of ammonia per mol of porphyrin catalyst. We are now searching for conditions to make the $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ fixation catalytic. ${ }^{12,13}$

Scheme I outlines a possible mechanism for our catalytic system. ${ }^{14}$ The reduction of the Co (III) to

Scheme I

$\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{I})$ (species II) has previously been confirmed. ${ }^{4}$ IV only portrays a method of counting electrons and does not imply an actual species in the reaction. When the reaction is carried out in $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ only cis- $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{2}$ is produced with no trans isomer present in the acetylene reduction.

The catalytic acetylene reduction does not take place when either the $\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{III}}$ TPPS or $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}$ TPPS is employed in place of the $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}} \mathrm{TPPS}$; on the other hand the acet-

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(11) To ascertain that the $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ did not come from the porphyrin catalyst, a total N by Kjeldahl digestion was carried out on samples both before and after catalysis. At least duplicate runs were made on the total nitrogen determination. In an experiment in which $1.46 \times$ $10^{-5} \mathrm{~mol}$ of cobalt porphyrin was used in preparing the catalyst and in which $1.5 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{~mol}$ of ammonia (as determined from Nessler's reagent) was produced by the nitrogen fixation, the total nitrogen in the catalyst system before fixation was $5.84 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{~mol}$ and the total nitrogen in the catalyst after the nitrogen fixation and distillation of the ammonia from the catalyst system is $5.90 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{~mol}$ (this is equivalent to 7 ml of base in the titration). If our error in titration is 0.05 ml , this could result in an error of $0.04 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{~mol}$ in the nitrogen determination. We have also qualitatively detected hydrazine in the system after the nitrogen fixation, and we are now carrying out quantitative determinations of the hydrazine present. Several other types of blanks were carried out; all these runs yielded either no or a low blank amount of ammonia as determined by Nessler's reagent. Since the level of ammonia production is so low, we are planning a ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}_{2}$ experiment that will definitely prove the origin of the ammonia.
(12) Some other cobalt porphyrins were found to be catalytically active with respect to acetylene reduction; the cobaloxime system, on the other hand, did not show any activity.
(13) The nitrogen fixation has now been shown to take place in less than 12 hr if the temperature is elevated to $70^{\circ}$; the ammonia has also been produced in a closed system without the necessity of continually passing $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ through the solution. We have also confirmed the presence of hydrazine in the nitrogen experiments.
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## Cleavage of Silicon-Silicon and GermaniumGermanium Bonds with 1,2-Dibromoethane by a Free-Radical Mechanism. Evidence for Bimolecular Homolytic Substitution at Silicon and Germanium ${ }^{1}$

 Sir:Recent stereochemical, kinetic, and esr studies have shown that bimolecular homolytic substitution (SH2) reactions may take place at a multivalent metallic center of the group II-V elements. ${ }^{2}$ However, no

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{X} \cdot+\mathrm{MR}_{n} \longrightarrow \mathrm{XMR}_{n-1}+\mathrm{R} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

example of this process for organosilicon and organogermanium compounds has been reported to date in spite of the fact that such compounds are very common. This is probably due to their possessing stronger element-carbon bonds than those of other organometallic compounds. For example, while benzylstannanes undergo extensive $\mathrm{Sn}-\mathrm{C}$ bond cleavage, ${ }^{2 \mathrm{~h}} \mathrm{SH} 2$ reactions will take place only at benzylic hydrogen ${ }^{3}$ when the corresponding benzylsilanes are treated with $N$-bromosuccinimide. We thought that the silicon-silicon bond, like oxygen-oxygen ${ }^{4}$ and sulfur-sulfur ${ }^{5}$ bonds, could be susceptible to the SH 2 reaction since the bond energy of $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{Si}$ is considerably lower than that of $\mathrm{Si}-\mathrm{C} .{ }^{6}$

After several unsuccessful attempts, ${ }^{7.8}$ we have now obtained clear-cut evidence for the SH 2 reaction at silicon and germanium in solution. The reaction stems from chain reactions involving attack of a bromine atom generated from 1,2-dibromoethane on an organodisilane to give a bromosilane and a silyl radical.

[^2]In a typical experiment, a mixture of 3.64 mmol of hexamethyldisilane (1a) and 6.35 mmol of 1,2 -dibromoethane was irradiated for 0.5 hr by a $450-\mathrm{W}$ high-pressure mercury arc lamp at room temperature in the presence of a catalytic amount ( 0.1 mmol ) of dibenzoyl peroxide (BPO). The course of the reaction was characterized by the evolution of almost the theoretical amount ( 70.3 ml at normal temperature and pressure, $96.6 \%$ ) of ethylene. Examination of the mixture by vpc and nmr revealed that $6.51 \mathrm{n} \mathrm{mmol}(100 \%)$ of trimethylbromosilane was the sole product, along with small amounts of unchanged 1 a ( 0.39 mmol ) and 1,2 -dibromoethane ( 3.10 mmol ). A similar result was obtained by a thermally induced reaction. Thus, 16.01 $\mathrm{mmol}(100 \%)$ of trimethylbromosilane and 7.99 mmol ( $99.8 \%$ ) of ethylene together with 2.02 mmol of unchanged 1 a and 2.10 mmol of 1,2 -dibromoethane were obtained from a mixture of 1 a ( 10.01 mmol ) and $1,2-$ dibromoethane ( 10.11 mmol ) by heating at $90^{\circ}$ for 45 min in the presence of 0.088 mmol of BPO.

$$
\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{SiSiMe}_{3}+\mathrm{BrCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Br} \xrightarrow[\text { heat. or } h_{\nu}]{\mathrm{BPO}} \mathrm{2Me}_{3} \mathrm{SiBr}+\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}
$$

A number of organodisilanes were then examined. All disilanes examined gave the corresponding bromosilanes quantitatively.

$$
\begin{align*}
& \mathbf{R}_{1} \mathbf{R}_{2} \mathbf{R}_{3} \mathrm{SiSiR}_{\mathbf{1}} \mathbf{R}_{5} \mathbf{R}_{6}+\mathrm{BrCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Br} \xrightarrow[\text { heat. or } h \nu]{\mathrm{BPO}} \\
& \mathrm{R}_{1} \mathrm{R}_{2} \mathrm{R}_{3} \mathrm{SiBr}+\mathrm{R}_{4} \mathrm{R}_{5} \mathrm{R}_{6} \mathrm{SiBr}+\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}  \tag{3}\\
& \mathbf{1 a}, \mathbf{R}_{1}=\mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{R}_{3}=\mathrm{R}_{4}=\mathrm{R}_{5}=\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{g}}=\mathrm{CH}_{3} \\
& \text { b, } \mathbf{R}_{1}=\mathbf{H} ; \mathbf{R}_{2}=\mathbf{R}_{3}=\mathbf{R}_{4}=\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{5}}=\mathbf{R}_{6}=\mathrm{CH}_{3} \\
& \text { c, } \mathbf{R}_{1}=\mathbf{R}_{4}=\mathbf{H} ; \mathbf{R}_{2}=\mathbf{R}_{3}=\mathbf{R}_{5}=\mathbf{R}_{6}=\mathrm{CH}_{3} \\
& \text { d, } \mathbf{R}_{1}=P h ; R_{2}=R_{3}=R_{4}=R_{5}=R_{6}=C H_{3} \\
& \text { e, } \mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{Ph} ; \mathrm{R}_{3}=\mathrm{R}_{4}=\mathrm{R}_{5}=\mathrm{R}_{8}=\mathrm{CH}_{3} \\
& \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{R}_{1}=\mathbf{R}_{4}=\mathrm{Ph} ; \mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathbf{R}_{3}=\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{5}}=\mathrm{R}_{6}=\mathrm{CH}_{3} \\
& \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{R}_{1}=\mathbf{R}_{2}=\mathbf{R}_{3}=\mathbf{P h} ; \mathbf{R}_{4}=\mathbf{R}_{5}=\mathbf{R}_{6}=\mathrm{CH}_{3} \\
& \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{R}_{1}=\mathbf{R}_{2}=\mathbf{R}_{4}=\mathbf{R}_{5}=P h ; \mathbf{R}_{3}=\mathbf{R}_{6}=\mathbf{C H}_{3} \\
& \mathrm{i}, \mathbf{R}_{1}=\mathrm{PhCH}_{2} ; \mathbf{R}_{2}=\mathbf{R}_{3}=\mathbf{R}_{4}=\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{5}}=\mathbf{R}_{8}=\mathrm{CH}_{3} \\
& \text { j, } \mathbf{R}_{1}=c-\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{5} ; \mathbf{R}_{2}=\mathbf{R}_{3}=\mathbf{R}_{4}=\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{5}}=\mathbf{R}_{6}=\mathrm{CH}_{3} \\
& \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{1}}=\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{4}}=c-\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{5} ; \mathbf{R}_{2}=\mathbf{R}_{3}=\mathbf{R}_{5}=\mathbf{R}_{6}=\mathbf{C H}_{3}
\end{align*}
$$

Hexamethyldigermane also reacts with 1,2-dibromoethane in the presence of BPO at $90^{\circ}$, or at room temperature under irradiation, to give a quantitative yield of trimethylbromogermane and ethylene.
$\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{GeGeMe}_{3}+\mathrm{BrCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Br} \longrightarrow$

$$
\begin{equation*}
2 \mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{GeBr}+\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Many bonds of group IVb elements to the transition metals are cleaved by halogens, halogen acids, and a variety of organic halides including 1,2-dibromoethane. ${ }^{9}$ Complexes having germanium bonded to $\mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{Ag}, \mathrm{Au}$, Pd , or Pt all react quantitatively with 1,2 -dibromoethane, ${ }^{10}$ the mechanism being believed to proceed through a multicenter transition state. ${ }^{11}$ Group IVb mercurials of the type $\left(\mathrm{R}_{3} \mathrm{M}\right)_{2} \mathrm{Hg}\left(\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{Me}, \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Si} ;{ }^{12}\right.$ $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{Ph}, \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Si} ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{Me}, \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Ge} ;^{14}$ and $\mathrm{R}=$ $\left.\mathrm{Ph}, \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Ge}^{15}\right)$, antimony derivatives, $\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{Si}_{3}\right)_{3} \mathrm{Sb}^{18 \mathrm{a}}$ and
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