

prompted to reinvestigate the reaction of 2 with Mg in THF. We find that this is not a straightforward reaction. ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ peaks are detectable at +494 and -64 ppm. In proton-coupled experiments the +494-ppm peak remained a singlet, while the one at -64 ppm became a six-line AA'XX' pattern. The -64-ppm peak, therefore, cannot correspond to the P-P bonded compound, 3. Confirmation that the ³¹P chemical shift of 3 is, in fact, +494 ppm was provided by dissolving crystals with properties identical with those of 3 in CH₂Cl₂ and recording both ³¹P{¹H} and ³¹P NMR spectra.

We turn next to the identity of the material responsible for the -64-ppm peak (-59 ppm as reported by Yoshifuji et al.³). Reduction of 2 with $LiAlH_4$ in Et_2O solution affords high yields of the primary phosphine 4, mp 144 °C. NMR data for 4 are as follows: ³¹P NMR (36.43 MHz) δ -132 (t, J_{PH} = 209 Hz); ¹H NMR (90 MHz) *p-t*-Bu (s, 9 H, δ 1.32), *o-t*-Bu (s, 18 H, δ 1.60), P-H (d, 2 H, δ 4.22 J_{PH} = 209 Hz), C-H (d, 2 H, δ 7.52, J_{PCCCH} = 2.3 Hz). Treatment of 4 with n-BuLi results in the monolithio species^{11,12} 5, which is responsible for a solvent-dependent doublet in ³¹P NMR spectra: THF (d, δ -110, $J_{PH} = 171.8$ Hz), Et₂O (d, δ -125, $J_{PH} = 189.0$ Hz). The reaction of 5 with CCl₄ affords 1,2-bis(2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenyl)diphosphine (6) in virtually quantitative yield.¹³ The ³¹P and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra of 6 are identical with those recorded for reaction mixtures of 2 and Mg in THF. ¹H NMR data (90 MHz) for 6 are as follows: *p-t-Bu* (s, 18 H, δ 1.3), o-t-Bu (s, 36 H, δ 1.4), P-H (AA'XX' pattern, 2 H, δ 4.7, J_{PH} = 221.0, J_{PP} = 192.4, J_{PPH} = 16.0, J_{HPPH} = 1.0 Hz). In summary, the reaction of 2 with Mg in THF results inter alia in 3 and 6. The 31 P chemical shift of the diphosphene 3 should be +494 ppm and not -59 ppm as reported by Yoshifuji et al.³ The compound responsible for the -59-ppm ³¹P NMR peak is, in fact, the diphosphine 6, which can be regarded as the product of oxidative addition of H_2 to the P=P bond.

(12) Further proof that 4 undergoes only monolithiation was provided by D₂O quenching of 5, which results in 5': ³¹P NMR (Et₂O) (d of t, δ -133, J_{PH} = 189.0, J_{PD} = 32.2 Hz).



(13) A variety of other chlorinated compounds will convert 5 to 6, e.g., 2, t-BuPCl₂, and PCl₃. Presumably, the mechanism involves lithium-chlorine exchange.

The reactivity of 1^{14} and theoretical aspects¹⁵ of the phosphorus-phosphorus double bond are under active investigation.

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Registry No. 1, 83115-11-1; 2, 79074-00-3; 3, 79073-99-7; 4, 83115-12-2; 5, 83115-13-3; 6, 83115-14-4; (Me₃Si)₃CPCl₂, 75235-85-7; (Me₄Si)₃Cli, 28830-22-0; sodium naphthelenide, 3481-12-7.

(15) The model diphosphene HP-PH has been investigated by ab initio molecular orbital calculations. Boggs, J. E.; Cowley, A. H.; Lee, J.-G., to be submitted for publication.

Cis Selectivity of "Salt-Free" Wittig Reactions: A "Leeward Approach" of the Aldehyde at the Origin?

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Despite its great practical importance, the cis selectivity¹ encountered in Wittig olefin syntheses with "salt-free" triphenylphosphonio ylides and aldehydes has not yet found a conclusive explanation. The conformational analysis presented in this communication provides a new and successful approach to solve this question.

First efforts² of rationalization invoked an anti-periplanar alignment of the combining PC and CO dipoles. The threo intermediate (1B) should then suffer from the gauche interaction



of two organic groups ($\mathbf{R} = alkyl$ or aryl, $\mathbf{R}' = alkyl$) and consequently the erythro stereoisomer (1A) would be produced preferentially. But not only did the basic assumption, the antiperiplanar orientation, remain unsubstantiated, also the magnitude of cis selectivity could hardly be understood on the basis of such conformational effects.³

The next attempts⁴ to deal with the problem postulated an unprecedented geometry of the adduct-generating transition state. The aldehyde was thought to approach the ylide in a plane perpendicular to that occupied by the ylide center to minimize steric repulsions. The formyl hydrogen would, of course, point toward the ylide (2A). In the moment of carbon-carbon linking, it would turn away from the bulky alkyl group R', thus imposing a cis relationship on the groups R and R'. The concept of the perpendicular approach became popular when oxaphosphetanes were recognized to be generally the only metastable intermediates in Wittig reactions.⁵ This orientation (transition state 2B or 2C)

⁽⁹⁾ For a summary of ³¹P NMR data on phosphaalkenes, see: Appel, R.; Knoll, F.; Ruppert, I. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1981, 20, 731-744 and references therein.

⁽¹⁰⁾ The only phosphaalkene with a negative ³¹P chemical shift is HP= $CF_{2,9}^{(1)}$ (11) Compound 4 undergoes monolithiation even if excess *n*-BuLi, *n*-

BuLi/TMEDA, MeLi (-60 °C), or KH is employed. Presumably this is due to the steric bulk of the 2,4,6-tri-tert-butylphenyl group. Interestingly, however, the sterically congested phosphine⁴ (Me₃Si)₃CPH₂ will undergo dilithiation with n-BuLi.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Preliminary NMR studies reveal that 1 exhibits short-term stability with respect to water and oxygen. Solutions of 1 in organic solvents degrade over a number of hours as evidence by the appearance of new ³¹P NMR peaks between +20 and +40 ppm.

^{(1) (}a) Schlosser, M.; Christmann, K. F. Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem. 1967, 708, 1. (b) Schlosser, M. Top. Stereochem. 1970, 5, 1.

^{(2) (}a) Bergelson, L. D.; Shervechern, 1970, 9, 1.
(2) (a) Bergelson, L. D.; Shemyakin, M. M. Angew. Chem. 1964, 76, 113;
Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1964, 3, 250. (b) Rüchardt, C.; Panse, P.;
Eichler, S. Chem. Ber. 1967, 100, 1144.
(3) Reference 1a, pp 17–18.
(4) (a) Schneider, W. P. Chem. Commun. 1969, 785. (b) Schlosser, M.;

Heinz, G. Angew. Chem. 1968, 80, 849; Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1968, 7, 820.

^{(5) (}a) Vedejs, E.; Snoble, K. A. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 95, 5778. (b) Vedejs, E.; Meier, G. P.; Snoble, K. A. J. Ibid. 1981, 103, 2823. (c) As specified in ref 5b, these authors, however, favor a tilted over a plane-parallel transition state mainly for stereochemical (i.e., geometrical) rather than for orbital symmetry reasons.



would allow an aldehyde, but not a ketone, to perform with an ylide a $[_{\tau}2_{s} + _{\tau}2_{a}]$ cycloaddition leading immediately to the oxaphosphetane, without need for a zwitterionic precursor and without violation of orbital symmetry rules.⁵

Finally, in a kind of emergency solution, Van der Waals attractive forces were suggested to bring about the mysterious cis selectivity.^{1b,6} This hypothesis also attained the sanctification of orbital symmetry considerations. Hyperconjugative $\sigma(\sigma^*)/p$ mixing may induce matching symmetries at the groups R and R', giving rise to a secondary stabilizing interaction (3).⁷



Such a steric attraction,⁷ whatever its true nature may be, should accelerate the reaction. When we studied the relative rates with which ylides and aldehydes combine, we found, however, that cis-oxaphosphetane was generated at an ordinary rate, whereas formation of the trans isomer turned out to be seriously hindered.^{8,9} We argued that this must be a result of steric crowding and, upon

Table I. Yields and, in Parentheses, Cis/Trans Ratios of Olefins Obtained from Wittig Reactions between Aldehydes and (Triphenylphosphonio)- or (Triethylphosphonio)ethylide (in Tetrahydrofuran at 25 °C)

R---CH==0 + R"3P+---CH---CH3 (25 °C)--(R"2P0)

		H H CH ₃ + C=	сн =сн
	yield, $\%$ (Z/E ratio)		
	R'' = phenyl	R'' = ethyl	
R = hexyl	95 (86:14)	94 (33:67)	
R = tert-bu tyl	92 (98:2)	92 (10:90)	
R = phenyl	94 (87:13)	99 (17:83)	
R = p-chlorophenyl	88 (88:12)	89 (4:96)	

inspection of Dreiding models,¹⁰ found evidence for this assumption. At the transition state (4) of oxaphosphetane formation all three "stationary"¹ phenyl rings are nearly immobilized. The alkyl group R' (in 4, CH₃) forces the neighboring phenyl ring out of the plane given by the phosphorus trigonal basis by roughly 50°. The axial phenyl is confined to a perpendicular orientation with respect to the four-membered ring. The third phenyl substitutent is only slightly twisted out of the pyrimidal plane (by roughly 10°) and points with an o-hydrogen atom right toward one of the substituents flanking the carbonyl group. Thus, any bulky group on this face of the future oxaphosphetane ring must cause serious steric repulsions. In contrast, on the opposite side the substituent R (in 4, CH₃ again) may approach "leeward" of the ylide side-chain \mathbf{R}' , which has pushed the neighboring phenyl ring out of way.

If these conclusions are correct, ylides with sterically less demanding "stationary groups" should no longer exhibit cis but rather trans selectivity. This prediction was confirmed in a series of experiments conducted with "salt-free" (triethylphosphonio)ethylide.¹¹ Upon its tetrahydrofuran solution being mixed with aldehydes at -75 °C, the adducts were formed almost instantaneously and essentially irreversibly (i.e., without any significant subsequent stereoisomerization).⁸ After 2-4 h at 25 °C the olefins were obtained with high yields and predominant trans configuration (see Table I).

Although referring only to a transition state, model 4 suggests that also in the ground state a cis-disubstituted oxaphosphetane may be sterically less congested and hence thermodynamically more stable than its trans isomer. This appears to be the case indeed. At 0 °C, the cis adduct obtained from (triphenylphosphonio)ethylide and benzaldehyde sets free the olefin at half the rate compared with its trans isomer. On the other hand, the corresponding cis-oxaphosphetane derived from (triethylphosphonio)ethylide decomposes at 25 °C 5 times more rapidly than its trans isomer.^{8,12} In addition, model 4 can account for several unexplained features of the Wittig reaction: the decrease in cis selectivity upon branching of the ylide side chain, whereas branching of the aldehyde leads to an increase;^{1b} the puzzling Z selectivity observed with α -alkoxy ketones¹³ (the ether oxygen atom can interact with the phosphorus atom only when approaching the twisted phenyl ring); and last not least, the high trans selectivity of ylides derived from tributylvinylphosphonium bromide.¹⁴

⁽⁶⁾ Schlosser, M. Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr. 1971, 453.

⁽⁷⁾ Hoffmann, R.; Levin, C. C.; Moss, R. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 95, 629

⁽⁸⁾ Schaub, B.; Piskala, A.; Rehan, A. H.; Respondek, J.; Schlosser, M., details to be published elsewhere.

⁽⁹⁾ These relative reactivities of (triphenylphosphonio)propylide vs. -methylide were found in competition experiments: 3.1 when reacted with an insufficient amount of formaldehyde, 1.9 and 0.12 with benzaldehyde depending on whether cis- or trans-oxaphesphetane was formed. The aldehydes were added dropwise to a mixture of (triphenylphosphonio)methylide and -propylide (molar ratios 1:1:1) in tetrahydrofuran at -75 °C. The yields and isomeric composition of olefins formed after 2 h at 25 °C were measured by gas chromatography (ethylene and 1-butene being distilled into a trap filled with a solution of bromine in dichloromethane and identified as the dibromides). The amounts of nonconsumed ylides were determined by reacting them with excess p-chlorobenzaldehyde. Similarly, solutions of (triphenylphosphonio)methylide or -propylide were added to a mixture of formaldehyde and benzaldehyde (molar ratios again 1:1:1). The latter reacted 3-4 times faster.

⁽¹⁰⁾ All carbon centers equipped with the appropriate number of acryl-

 ⁽¹⁰⁾ An caroon centers equipped with the appropriate number of acryl-glass disks simulating the Van der Waals radii of hydrogen atoms.
 (11) (a) Köster, R.; Simic, D.; Grassberger, M. A. Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem. 1970, 739, 211. (b) Schmidbaur, H.; Tronich, W. Chem. Ber. 1968, 101, 595.

⁽¹²⁾ The oxaphosphetanes were prepared at -75 °C in tetrahydrofuran. After thermostatization, samples were drawn in intervals. Having determined the concentrations of cis- and trans-1-phenylpropene they contained (99% at "infinite" time), we calculated the amounts of remaining cis- and trans-oxaphosphetanes.

⁽¹³⁾ Sreekumar, C.; Darst, K. P.; Still, W. C. J. Org. Chem. 1980, 45, 4260.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Meyers, A. I.; Lawson, J. P.; Carver, D. R. J. Org. Chem. 1981, 46, 3119.

Acknowledgment. Financial support by the Schweizerische Nationalfonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, Bern, is gratefully acknowledged (Grant 2.885-0.80). Special thanks go to Professor R. Huisgen, München, for stimulating discussions and valuable comments while he stayed as a guest of honor at the University of Lausanne. This communication is dedicated to Professor G. Wittig, Heidelberg, who celebrated his 85th anniversary on 16 June 1982.

Registry No. (Z)-2-Nonene, 6434-77-1; (E)-2-nonene, 6434-78-2; (Z)-4,4-dimethyl-2-pentene, 762-63-0; (E)-4,4-dimethyl-2-pentene, 690-08-4; (Z)-1-phenyl-1-propene, 766-90-5; (E)-1-phenyl-1-propene, 873-66-5; (Z)-1-(p-chlorophenyl)-1-propene, 1879-52-3; (E)-1-(pchlorophenyl)-1-propene, 1879-53-4; heptanal, 111-71-7; 2,2-dimethylpropanal, 630-19-3; benzaldehyde, 100-52-7; p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 104-88-1; triphenylethylidenephosphorane, 1754-88-7; triethylethylidenephosphorane, 17847-85-7.

An Inverse Reactivity-Selectivity Relationship. Kinetic Nitrogen Isotope Effects on Methyl Transfer to Pvridines

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We report that values of the ${}^{14}N/{}^{15}N$ rate constant ratio for methyl transfer to alkyl-substituted pyridines (eq 1: R₁, R₂, R₃ = H, H, H; H, CH₃, H; CH₃, H, CH₃) decrease (become more



inverse) as CH₃X becomes more reactive and may also decrease as the pyridine becomes more reactive. Numerical values are given in Table I.

These changes in k_{14}/k_{15} demonstrate increasing selectivity for ¹⁵N in preference to ¹⁴N as reactivity increases and thus are in violation of the reactivity-selectivity principle.¹ They also are in violation of commonly accepted rules concerning the effects of substituents on transition-state structures; those rules predict that increases in reactivity that result from changes in the leaving group (or, with less certainty, in the nucleophile) will decrease the N-CH₃ bond order in the transition state.² Such a decrease in N-CH₃ bonding would make k_{14}/k_{15} less inverse.

However, these observed changes in k_{14}/k_{15} are consistent with a very recent prediction by Pross and Shaik³ that such "anti-Hammond" effects should result from changes in quantum mechanical mixing of configurations in the transition state and should, when comparisons are made within a limited family of reactions, dominate the more familiar effects of structural perturbations of the free energy surface.

The reactions were run in aqueous acetonitrile (10% acetonitrile, 0.96 mol fraction of water). The nucleophile was in excess, and the reactions were run to completion; thus the fraction of reaction for the nitrogen is given by the initial CH_3X /nucleophile ratio.⁴

Table I. Values of k_{14}/k_{15} at 25 °C^a

nucleophile ^b	CH₃X ^c			
	CH ₃ 1	CH3OT8	CH3OTt	
2,6-Me ₂ py	1.004 ± 0.002^d	1.000 ± 0.002^{e}	0.986 ± 0.002^{f}	
ру	1.001 ± 0.001^d	1.001 ± 0.002^{e}	$0.976 \pm 0.001^{f,h}$	
4-Me(py)	1.001 ± 0.001^d	0.993 ± 0.002^{e}	$0.976 \pm 0.001^{g,n}$ 0.972 ± 0.005^{f}	

^a Solvent is 10% (v/v) CH₃CN in H₂O. Temperature uncertainty is ca. ± 0.1 °C for reactions of CH₃I and CH₃OTs, ca. ±1 °C for reactions of CH₃OTf. Uncertainties are standard deviations of the listed means of ratios from two or more separate experiments. ^b 2,6-Me₂ py is 2,6-dimethylpyridine; py is pyridine; 4-Me(py) is 4-methylpyridine. ^c CH₃OTs is methyl p-toluenesulfonate, CH₃OTf is methyl trifluoromethanesulfonate. ^d [Nucleophile]₀ = 0.50 M; $[CH_3I]_0 = 0.010$ M. ^e [Nucleophile]₀ = 0.25 M; $[CH_3OTs]_0 = 0.0050$ M. f [Nucleophile]₀ = 0.010 M; [CH₃OTf]₀ = 0.0010 M. g [py]₀ = 0.0016 M; [CH₃OTf]₀ = 0.00040 M. ^h The observation that

 k_{14}/k_{15} is independent of $[py]_0$ for $py + CH_3OTf$ verifies that our mixing time was short in comparison to the half-time for this reaction; for all runs using CH₃OTf, a solution of CH₃OTf in CH₃CN was injected into a rapidly stirred solution of the nucleophile.

The $^{15}N/^{14}N$ ratio in the *product* was measured by an adaption of a known procedure:⁵ The methylpyridinium ion was isolated as the tetraphenylborate salt and purified by recrystallization, and its nitrogen was converted to N_2 .⁶ The ¹⁵N/¹⁴N ratio in the N_2 was then measured by using a Micromass 602E isotope-ratio mass spectrometer. The $^{15}N/^{14}N$ ratio in the *reactant* was determined by a parallel procedure in which the pyridine first was converted quantitatively into the methylpyridinium ion by reaction with excess CH₃X. The k_{14}/k_{15} isotopic rate constant ratio was calculated as described by Melander and Saunders⁷ from these two $^{15}N/^{14}N$ ratios and the fraction of reaction.

Values of "bond-formation" kinetic isotope effects such as these are products of two factors: a "normal" (tending to make k_{14} > k_{15}) factor, which is equal to the isotopic ratio of imaginary frequencies for motion along the reaction coordinate, and an "inverse" (tending to make $k_{14} < k_{15}$) factor, which arises from bond formation to the isotopic atom.⁸ This inverse factor directly measures the selectivity for ¹⁵N in preference to ¹⁴N and should become more inverse as the N-CH₃ bond order in the transition state increases. The normal (frequency ratio) factor can be shown to decrease toward unity as that N-CH₃ bond order increases.^{9,10} Thus both factors which contribute to the observed k_{14}/k_{15} isotopic selectivity ratio should be simply related to the N-CH₃ bond order in the transition state: A sufficiently low N-CH₃ bond order should give $k_{14}/k_{15} > 1$, a sufficiently high N-CH₃ bond order should give $k_{14}/k_{15} \le 1$, and decreasing values of k_{14}/k_{15} (observed here as reactivity increases) should accompany increasing N-CH₃ bonding in the transition state.

The order of increasing reactivity of CH_3X is $CH_3I < CH_3O$ - $SO_2C_6H_4CH_3 \ll CH_3OSO_2CF_3$.¹¹ Table I shows that selectivity

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⁽¹⁾ For reviews of the reactivity-selectivity principle, see: (a) Pross, A. Adv. Phys. Org. Chem. 1977, 14, 69–126. (b) Johnson, C. D. Chem. Rev. 1975, 75, 755–765.

⁽²⁾ For recent discussions of the application of such arguments to $S_N 2$ reactions, see: (a) Harris, J. M.; Shafer, S. G.; Moffat, J. R.; Becker, A. R. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1979, 101, 3295-3300. (b) Lowry, T. H.; Richardson, K. S. "Mechanism and Theory in Organic Chemistry", 2nd ed.; Harper & Row: New York, 1981; Chapters 2, 4. (3) Pross, A.; Shaik, S. S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1981, 103, 3702-3709.

⁽⁴⁾ Corrections of this fraction for the effect of the competing reaction of CH₃X with water were required only for the reactions of CH₃OTf. Uncertainties in these corrections are too small to affect the observed ordering of

the k_{14}/k_{15} values. (5) Shearer, G. B.; Kohl, D. H.; Commoner, B. Soil Sci. 1974, 118, 308-316.

⁽⁶⁾ The Kjeldahl digestion in ref 5 was modified as described by Fish and Collier (Fish, U. B.; Collier, P. R. Anal. Chem. 1958, 30, 151-152) in order

<sup>Collier (Fish, U. B.; Collier, P. R. Anal. Chem. 1958, 30, 151-152) in order to achieve quantitative conversion of the pyridinium nitrogen.
(7) Melander, L.; Saunders, W. H., Jr. "Reaction Rates of Isotopic Molecules"; Wiley-Interscience: New York, 1980; p 100.
(8) Fry, A. In "Isotope Effects in Chemical Reaction"; Collins, C. J., Bowman, N. S., Eds.; Van Nostrand-Reinhold: Princeton, 1970; Chapter 6.
(9) Bigeleisen, J.; Wolfsberg, M. J. Chem. Phys. 1954, 22, 1264; Figure 1</sup>

^{1,} Curve 7 (10) Reference 7, pp 315-318.

⁽¹¹⁾ The relative reactivities are CH₃I:CH₃OTs:CH₃OTf = 1:10:~10⁵. This CH₃I:CH₃OTs ratio is from conductimetric rate measurements in dilute aqueous solution which gave 10.3 and 9.5 for pyridine and 4-picoline, respectively.¹² This CH₃OTs:CH₃OTf ratio is estimated from the corresponding hydrolysis rates in aqueous solution.^{13,14}