# Synthesis, Structure, Strain Energy, and Excess Strain of a Phospha[3]triangulane 

Koop Lammertsma, ${ }^{*},{ }^{\dagger}, \ddagger$ Bing Wang, ${ }^{\dagger}$ Jui-Te Hung, ${ }^{\dagger}$ Andreas W. Ehlers, ${ }^{\ddagger}$ and Gary M. Gray ${ }^{\dagger}$<br>Contribution from the Faculty of Chemistry, Vrije Universiteit, De Boelelaan 1083, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Department of Chemistry, University of Alabama at Birmingham, UAB Station, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-1240

Received February 24, 1999. Revised Manuscript Received September 23, 1999


#### Abstract

Phenyl-7-phosphadispiro[2.0.2.1]heptane)pentacarbonyltungsten (8), a phospha[3]triangulane, was synthesized from bicyclopropylidene. Its single-crystal X-ray structure determination is reported. Comparison of the crystal structure data with those of the related phosphaspiropentane 7 and phosphirane $\mathbf{6}$ complexes suggests that the phosphirane ring tightens when the number of spiro atoms is increased. This is supported by the B3LYP and MP2/6-31G* computed geometries of the uncomplexed parent systems. Ab initio calculated heats of formation and strain energies (SE) are reported for the parent phosphirane 11, phosphaspiropentane 12, and phospha[3]triangulane $\mathbf{1 3}$ using both G2MP2 theory and ring separation reactions. Our best estimates for the $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ of $\mathbf{1 1}, \mathbf{1 2}$, and $\mathbf{1 3}$ are $18.3,48.4$, and $78.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, respectively, with corresponding SE values of $21.3,54.7$, and $87.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. For comparison, the slightly modified G2MP2 method was also applied to cyclopropane 1, spiropentane 2, and [3]triangulane 3 to give respective $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values of $12.6,44.3$, and 75.3 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, with corresponding SEs of $28.0,64.6$, and $100.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, all of which are in excellent agreement with reported experimental data. These strain energies suggest that the excess strain per spiro atom is 5.3 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for phospha[ $n]$ triangulanes, which is smaller than the $8.6 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ determined from the heat of combustion measurements for the $[n]$ triangulanes.


Three-membered ring structures are of broad interest and have been subject to intense study. ${ }^{1}$ Spiro compounds that connect such rings by joint carbons are even more intriguing, but much less is known about them. Several groups have excelled in the studies on hydrocarbons and have reported an array of exotic polyspiro condensed rings, such as the linear [ $n$ ]triangulanes and the cyclic [ $n$ ]rotanes, where $n$ indicates the number of cyclopropane (1) rings. ${ }^{2}$ Hetero[ $\left.n\right]$ triangulanes have received only modest attention. Whereas spiropentane, the parent [2]triangulane $2,{ }^{3}$ has been known for nearly a century, the

[^0]oxaspiropentanes, ${ }^{4}$ dioxaspiropentanes, ${ }^{5}$ and azaspiropentanes ${ }^{6}$ were reported some three decades ago. Also, dispirocyclohep-

tane, the parent [3]triangulane $3,{ }^{7}$ was synthesized in that period, while the substituted oxa- ${ }^{8}$ and sila[3]triangulanes ${ }^{9}$ are of more recent vintage. Building on the recently reported di- and tetraphosphaspiropentanes $\mathbf{4}^{10}$ and $\mathbf{5}^{11}$ and our earlier work on

[^1]the complexed phosphirane $\mathbf{6}^{12}$ and phospha[2]triangulane 7, ${ }^{12}$ we here report the first synthesis of the remarkably stable phospha[3]triangulane complex 8 by employing the carbenelike reactivity of the in situ generated terminal phosphinidene complex $\mathrm{PhPW}(\mathrm{CO})_{5} \cdot{ }^{13}$ As olefin we chose the well-character-




6


7

ized bicyclopropylidene $9,{ }^{14}$ which has also been used for the synthesis of [3]triangulanes, their oxa derivatives, and Ti and Co complexes. ${ }^{15}$ Because of the importance of strain energies (SE) for small rings and catenated rings, we also report computed SE values for the parent phosphirane 11, phospha[2]triangulane 12, and phospha[3]triangulane 13.


12

## Results and Discussion

Catalyzed by CuCl , the addition reaction of the complexed phosphinidene precursor $\mathbf{1 0}$ with an excess of 9 in toluene at $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2 h in a pressure chamber gives the desired product $\mathbf{8}$ in $70 \%$ yield as colorless, air-stable crystals after workup.


While we concentrate on the structural properties and strain energies, it is of interest to note that the ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR resonance of 8 at $\delta-129.4 \mathrm{ppm}$ is at surprisingly low field as compared to the $\delta-154.8 \mathrm{ppm}$ for phospha[2]triangulane complex 7 and the $\delta-187.6 \mathrm{ppm}$ for phosphirane complex 6 .

X-ray and Ab Initio Structures. The results of the singlecrystal X-ray structure analysis are shown in Figure 1, with selected bond lengths and angles summarized in Table 1. Table 2 compares the bond lengths and angles of the phosphirane ring of $\mathbf{8}$ with those of $\mathbf{6}$ and 7 . The $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(1)$ and $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(2)$ bonds of 8 are equal to each other within experimental error limits, which is in line with the orthogonality of the phosphirane ring with both cyclopropyl rings (angles of $89.5(6)^{\circ}$ and $89.7(7)^{\circ}$ ) and with the WPC(7) plane. The intercept of $72.0(7)^{\circ}$ between the

[^2]

Figure 1. ORTEP presentation scaled to $50 \%$ probability ellipsoids of 8 .
planes containing the two cyclopropyl rings is normal and illustrates the absence of any distortion. The P-phenyl is orthogonal $\left(86.4(5)^{\circ}\right)$ to the phosphirane ring but slightly rotated $\left(9.5^{\circ}\right)$ from bisecting it. Likewise, the $\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CO})_{5}$ group is rotated by $9.0^{\circ}$ from eclipsing the P-phenyl group. The phosphirane ring of $\mathbf{8}$ is very similar to that of $\mathbf{6}$ and derivatives thereof. Only 7 shows $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}$ bonds of quite different lengths. This differentiation in bond lengths is common in hetero[2]triangulanes, which are also thermally more labile and sensitive to acidic rearrangements. ${ }^{8,9,15 a, b}$ We note that $\mathbf{8}$ is stable in toluene for 48 h at $60^{\circ}$.

Do cyclopropyl ring substituents increase the strain in the phosphirane ring? Comparison of the X-ray structure of $\mathbf{8}$ with those of $\mathbf{7}$ and $\mathbf{6}$ does not provide a clear answer. We therefore resorted to ab initio theory to compute their structures and strain energies. Parent structures 11, 12, and $\mathbf{1 3}$ were computed without the $\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CO})_{5}$ group and without P substituents (i.e., only $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{H}$ ) to maintain the calculations within manageable proportions. Their B3LYP and MP2(full)/6-31G* geometries are shown in Figure 2, which also contains the geometries of the hydrocarbons 1, 2, and 3. B3LYP/6-31G* structural parameters of the phosphirane rings are summarized in Table 3, together with those determined by microwave spectroscopy for 11. These data illustrate that the stabilizing $\mathrm{Ph}-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CO})_{5}$ substituents (Table 1) shorten the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{P}$ bonds by $\sim 0.05 \AA$, lengthen the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bond by $\sim 0.01-0.03 \AA$, and widen the CPC bond angle by $\sim 2^{\circ}$. Comparison between the B3LYP structures (Table 3) shows a decrease both in $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{P}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bond lengths and in the CPC angle with each cyclopropyl increment (an average CP bond length is used for 12). Thus, the cyclopropyl groups appear to

[^3]Table 1. Selected Crystallographic Bond Distances (in Angstroms), Angles (in Degrees), and Dihedral Angles (in Degrees) with ESDs of 8

| atoms | distance/angle | atoms | distance/angle | atoms | distance/angle |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{W}-\mathrm{P}$ | $2.495(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1.48(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $1.50(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1.807(8)$ | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $1.48(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1.820(8)$ | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $1.49(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | $1.833(8)$ | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $1.51(1)$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{WPC}(7)$ | $122.3(3)$ | $\mathrm{WPC}(1) \mathrm{C}(2)$ | $107.9(4)$ | $\mathrm{C}(7) \mathrm{PC}(2) \mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1.53(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1) \mathrm{PC}(2)$ | $48.1(4)$ | $\mathrm{WPC}(2) \mathrm{C}(1)$ | $-109.4(4)$ | $\mathrm{C}(3) \mathrm{C}(1) \mathrm{C}(2) \mathrm{C}(5)$ | $97.5(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3) \mathrm{C}(1) \mathrm{C}(4)$ | $61.2(7)$ | $\mathrm{C}(7) \mathrm{PC}(1) \mathrm{C}(2)$ | $-97.6(5)$ | $\mathrm{C}(4) \mathrm{C}(1) \mathrm{C}(2) \mathrm{C}(6)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(5) \mathrm{C}(2) \mathrm{C}(6)$ | $61.4(6)$ |  |  | $3.6(1.7)$ |  |

Table 2. Comparison of Selected Bond Lengths (in Angstroms) and Angles (in Degrees) for the X-ray Crystal Structures of 8, 7, and 6

| bond/angle | $\mathbf{8}$ | $\boldsymbol{7}^{a}$ | $\mathbf{6}^{a}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1.48(1)$ | $1.508(9)$ | $1.50(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}$ | $1.820(8)$ | $1.855(7)$ | $1.83(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{P}$ | $1.807(8)$ | $1.794(6)$ | $1.80(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{W}$ | $2.495(2)$ | $2.500(2)$ | $2.504(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $48.1(4)$ | $48.6(3)$ | $48.6(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{W}-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Ph}$ | $122.3(3)$ | $123.2(2)$ | $122.9(3)$ |

${ }^{a}$ Reference 10.


Figure 2. B3LYP and MP2/6-31G* optimized structures for $\mathbf{1}-\mathbf{3}$ and 11-13. Upper values are the B3LYP bond lengths (in angstroms) and angles (in degrees), while the lower italic values are those at MP2.
tighten the phosphirane ring. The X-ray structures suggest a similar effect, but those differences are well within experimental error limits.

Boese and de Meijere showed by low-temperature X-ray structure determinations the distal $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bonds (the bonds away from the spiro carbon) of [ $n$ ]triangulanes to be slightly longer than their proximal bonds (the bonds connected to the spiro carbon). ${ }^{17}$ For example, for [3]triangulane $\mathbf{3}$ these are 1.531(1) and $1.485(1) \AA$, respectively, and the ab initio bond lengths show the same effect. The calculated phosphirane geometry of 13 (but also of 12) displays the same behavior for the

[^4] Soc. 1969, 91, 17.

Table 3. Selected B3LYP/6-31G* Bond Lengths (in Angstroms) and Angles (in Degrees) for 13, 12, and 11

| bond/angle | 13 | 12 | $\mathbf{1 1}^{a}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | 1.461 | 1.475 | $1.493(1.502)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}$ | 1.866 | 1.905 | $1.886(1.867)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{P}$ | 1.866 | 1.849 | $1.886(1.867)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | 46.1 | 46.3 | $46.6(47.48)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 66.9 | $68.9 / 64.9$ | $66.7(66.26)$ |

${ }^{a}$ Experimental values from ref 16 are given in parentheses.
cyclopropyl rings. X-ray structure $\mathbf{8}$ only suggests this effect, with a distal $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ bond length of $1.51(1) \AA$ and $\mathrm{C}(1)-$ $\mathrm{C}(3)$ and $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ proximal bonds of $1.48(1)$ and $1.49(1) \AA$, respectively, because the differences are within experimental uncertainties; the $\mathrm{C}(2) \mathrm{C}(5) \mathrm{C}(6)$ cyclopropyl ring has a distal bond of $1.53(1) \AA$, with proximal bonds of $1.50(1)$ and $1.51(1)$ Å.

Heats of Formation. With decreasing phosphirane bond lengths on cyclopropyl substitution, an increase in strain energy (SE) may be expected, i.e., tighter rings are more strained. For the parent phosphirane 11, we report its heat of formation $\left(\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}\right)$ and SE at the G2MP2 level of theory. After validation of this methodology on the hydrocarbons $\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}$, and $\mathbf{3}, \Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ and SEs are given for the larger systems $\mathbf{1 2}$ and 13. Throughout, we employ homodesmotic reactions (eqs 1, 2, 7-10) to calculate the SEs. Ring separation reactions (eqs 3-6) are also used as a simple means to estimate $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values for the spiro compounds.
(i) Phosphirane. It is informative to review first available SE values of various three-ring structures. The established (experimental) SE for cyclopropane of $27.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ is based on its heats of formation of $12.74 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}^{18}$-in the present work we use eq 1. Similar SEs have been reported for aziridine $(27.1 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol})$ and oxirane ( $27.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ). ${ }^{19}$ Bachrach ${ }^{20}$ reported earlier a SE for phosphirane of $20.1 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ computed at the HF/6-31G* level of theory ( + ZPE at $3-21 \mathrm{G}^{*}$ ) using the homodesmotic reaction shown in eq 2 . The reported SE of 19.8 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for thiirane is of a similar magnitude, ${ }^{21}$ while the ab

[^5]initio estimate for silirane is much higher ( $43.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ). ${ }^{22}$
\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{1}+3 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{3} \rightarrow 3 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

$$
\begin{align*}
& 11+2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{PH}_{2}+\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{3} \rightarrow \\
& \qquad \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{PHCH}_{3}+2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{PH}_{2} \tag{2}
\end{align*}
$$

In the absence of experimental data, such as its heat of formation, a more rigorous theoretical treatment seemed desirable to ascertain the SE of phosphirane. We estimate a $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ value of $20.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ on the basis of the G2MP2 calculated heat of atomization. An SE of $21.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ is obtained using G2MP2 calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values for all the fragments ${ }^{23}$ of eq 2 . Using experimental $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ data instead gives a larger SE of 25.5 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, but uncertainties in the experimental data render this a less reliable estimate. The accuracy of the G2MP2 method was verified for cyclopropane, giving calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ and SE values (eq 1) of 14.5 and $28.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, respectively. These are in good agreement with the corresponding experimental values of 12.7 and $27.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. The SE value of $21.3 \mathrm{kcal} /$ mol for the low-coordinate phosphirane is similar in magnitude to that of thiirane and expectedly smaller than those of the three rings of the first row of the periodic table. Bachrach ${ }^{20}$ explained this to result from the small CPC angle, which reduces the degree of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bending and thereby creates a stronger $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bond. The rather large SE for silirane has been traced to the preference of silicon for angles near $90^{\circ} .22$
(ii) Phospha[ $n$ ]triangulanes. The total ring strain of $[n]$ triangulanes is not a simple addition of the SEs of the number of cyclopropane rings. For example, based on experimental heats of formation, the SEs are estimated to be $65 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for [2]triangulane $\mathbf{2}$ and $99 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for [3]triangulane $\mathbf{3},{ }^{25}$ which are more than twice and three times, respectively, that of cyclopropane 1. De Meijere showed for a series of $[n]$ triangulanes ( $n \leq 5$ ) that the excess SE per cyclopropane increment is 8.6 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol} .{ }^{25}$ Whether the same effect applies to phospha[n]triangulanes is not easily established due to the noted lack of experimental heats of formation. We therefore resort to two computational approaches, i.e., ring separation reactions and G2MP2 theory, to obtain estimated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values. The methods are also applied to the related hydrocarbons for reference.
(a) Ring Separation Reactions. This approach to obtain $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values for saturated spiro hydrocarbons, including 2 and $\mathbf{3}$, was successfully employed earlier by Radom ${ }^{26}$ and by Rüchard and de Meijere. ${ }^{25}$ Thus, using eqs 3 and 4 and the experimental heats

[^6]of formation for cyclopropane ( $12.74 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ) and methane ( $-17.89 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ) results in estimated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values of $43.37 \mathrm{kcal} /$ mol for 2 and $74.00 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{3}$, which are in excellent agreement with the corresponding experimental values of 44.23 and $72.27 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol} .{ }^{27}$
\[

$$
\begin{gather*}
\mathbf{2}+\mathrm{CH}_{4} \rightarrow 2 \mathbf{1}  \tag{3}\\
\mathbf{3}+2 \mathrm{CH}_{4} \rightarrow 3 \mathbf{1} \tag{4}
\end{gather*}
$$
\]

Applying the same approach to the phospha[n]triangulanes, by using eqs 5 and 6 and the G2MP2 calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ value of $20.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for phosphirane 11, gives estimated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values of $50.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 2}$ and of $81.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 3}$.

$$
\begin{gather*}
\mathbf{1 2}+\mathrm{CH}_{4} \rightarrow \mathbf{1 1}+\mathbf{1}  \tag{5}\\
\mathbf{1 3}+2 \mathrm{CH}_{4} \rightarrow \mathbf{1 1}+2 \mathbf{1} \tag{6}
\end{gather*}
$$

(b) G2MP2 Heats of Formation. To alleviate concerns about the accuracy of the heats of formation of the organophosphorus compounds, we computed them from atomization energies using the G2MP2 method. At this level of theory, the $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values are $51.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 2}$ and $82.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 3}$, both of which compare remarkably well with those resulting from the abovediscussed ring separation method.

To verify proper performance of the G2MP2 method, we also computed the heats of formation for spiropentane 2 and [3]triangulane 3. Sizable deviations from experimental data were found, much to our surprise. For example, the G2MP2 calculated value of $47.08 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for 2 is already larger than the experimentally determined value by a noticeable $2.85 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. However, for $\mathbf{3}$ the difference amounts to a very significant 6.8 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, well outside the range of $<2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ established for small systems. This suggests that the G2MP2 estimated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}^{-}}$ (3) of $79.06 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ is too large, since the differences for the smaller alicyclic hydrocarbons, used in the homodesmotic reaction, are modest and within the expected range. ${ }^{23}$ It appears that the G2MP2 method works well for small molecules but that its performance is less satisfactory for the larger ones, and in particular for [3]triangulane, the system of interest. The origin of this deviation lies mainly in the empirical higher level correction (HLC) that the G2MP2 method uses. This HLC correction becomes substantial for large systems because it is related to the number of valence electron pairs, $E($ HLC $)=$ $(-0.19 n \alpha-4.81 n \beta) \times 10^{-3}$. Arbitrarily increasing $E(H L C)$ by $10 \%$, which we denote as G2MP2', ${ }^{28}$ results in the more reasonable $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values of $44.26 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for 2 and $75.30 \mathrm{kcal} /$ mol for $\mathbf{3}$, while those for the smaller hydrocarbons are less affected. We note that the similarly computed $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ of 12.57 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for cyclopropane also agrees better with the experimental value.

If the $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values of $\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}$, and $\mathbf{3}$ require an HLC adjustment in the G2MP2 approach, we must assume that the same applies for the organophophorus compounds. Indeed, the resulting G2MP2' calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values are likewise smaller, although the effect is less than that for $\mathbf{1} \mathbf{- 3}$, i.e., $18.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for phosphirane 11, $48.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 2}$, and $78.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 3}$ (see Table 4).

G2MP2 Strain Energies. First we evaluate the performance of G2MP2 theory by determining the strain energies for 2 and 3 using only calculated G2MP2 heats of formations for all the molecules of eqs 7 and 8 .

$$
\begin{equation*}
2+6 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{3} \rightarrow 4 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}+\mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{4} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
3+9 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{3} \rightarrow 5 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}+2 \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{4} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

We note that the SE values are not influenced by the discussed HLC correction because of the balance of valence electron pairs in the homodesmotic equations. The resulting SEs are $64.6 \mathrm{kcal} /$ mol for $\mathbf{2}$ and $100.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{3}$, which are 1.0 and $4.2 \mathrm{kcal} /$ mol larger than those based on experimental data. This is a remarkably good comparison considering that eq 4 (for 3) contains 17 molecules. The $4.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ difference in SE values for $\mathbf{3}$ results largely from the $3.8 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ difference between its G2MP2' and experimental $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values. It then appears that G2MP2 theory performs very satisfactorily in determining strain energies for the hydrocarbons.

For the organophosphorus compounds, using calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values only for all the molecules of eqs 9 and 10 results in SE values of $54.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 2}$ and $87.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 3}$. These are, as expected, considerably lower than those of the hydrocarbons 2 and 3.

$$
\begin{align*}
& 12+2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{PH}_{2}+4 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{3} \rightarrow \\
& \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{PHCH}_{3}+\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{PH}_{2}+2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}+ \\
&  \tag{9}\\
& \left.\quad \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{C}^{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{PH}_{2}
\end{align*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
& 13+2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{PH}_{2}+7 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{3} \rightarrow \\
& \quad \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{PHCH}_{3}+4 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}+2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{PH}_{2} \tag{10}
\end{align*}
$$

Excess Strain. From the computed SE (and $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ ) data, excess strain per cyclopropyl increment on the cyclopropane and phosphirane rings can be determined. Based on experimental heats of formation only, de Meijere showed, as already noted, that the excess SE per cyclopropyl is $8.6 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for the hydrocarbon $[n]$ triangulanes $(n \leq 5) .{ }^{25}$ Using SE values based on G2MP2 calculated heats of formations for the more limited set $\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}$, and $\mathbf{3}(n \leq 2)$, we obtain, gratifyingly, a similar excess SE per cyclopropyl group of $8.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$.

Substitution of the phosphirane ring results in a smaller excess SE per cyclopropyl increment of $5.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, which is based on the similarly determined $S E$ values for $\mathbf{1 , 1 1}, \mathbf{1 2}$, and 13. This ca. $40 \%$ reduction in excess SE reflects the lesser degree of rehybridization needed for the spiro atoms of the organophosphorus compounds, which is in line with phosphirane's 6.7 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ smaller SE than that of cyclopropane.

## Conclusions

The first phospha[3]triangulane has been synthesized as a $\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CO})_{5}$ complex. This remarkably stable compound $\mathbf{8}$, carrying only a $\mathrm{Ph}-\mathrm{P}$ substituent, has been fully characterized by its X-ray crystallographic structure. Comparison with the X-ray structures of the similarly $\mathrm{Ph}-\mathrm{P}$ substituted phosphaspiropentane (7) and phosphirane (6) complexes suggests a denser structure, but the geometrical differences are within experimental uncertainties.

Comparison of the B3LYP/6-31G* and MP2/6-31G* geometrical parameters of the parent compounds phosphirane (11), phosphaspiropentane (12), and phospha[3]triangulane (13) shows, indeed, a tightening of the [3]triangulane structure.

Heats of formation were computed by ring separation reactions and by G2MP2 theory for the parent organophosphorus compounds and their hydrocarbon analogues. A small modification in the HLC correction used in the G2MP2 method was needed to obtain agreement between the G2MP2 calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values and the experimental values reported in the literature for cyclopropane (1), spiropentane (2), and [3]triangulane (3). The resulting G2MP2' calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values are $12.57 \mathrm{kcal} /$ mol for $\mathbf{1}, 44.26 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{2}$, and $75.30 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{3}$. For

Table 4. Summary of $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ and SE (in $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ) from Ring Separation (RS) Reactions and G2MP2 Estimates

| $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}} /$ SE | method | $\mathbf{1 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 3}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ | RS |  | 50.69 | 81.19 |  | 43.37 | 74.00 |
|  | G2MP2 | 20.19 | 51.24 | 81.99 | 14.46 | 47.08 | 79.06 |
|  | G2MP2' | 18.31 | 48.41 | 78.22 | 12.57 | 44.26 | 75.30 |
|  | exp(g) |  |  |  | $12.74^{a}$ | $44.23^{b}$ | $72.27^{c}$ |
| SE | G2MP2 | 21.3 | 54.7 | 87.9 | 28.0 | 64.6 | 100.5 |
|  | exp |  |  |  | $27.5^{a}$ | $63.6^{d, e}$ | $96.4^{d, e}$ |
| excess SE | G2MP2 |  | 5.4 | 10.6 |  | 8.6 | 16.5 |

${ }^{a}$ Reference 18. ${ }^{b}$ Fraser, F. M.; Prosen, E. J. J. Res. Nat. Bur. Stand. 1955, 54, 143. ${ }^{c}$ Reference 27. ${ }^{d}$ Determined from eq 7 using experimental $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values. ${ }^{e}$ Reference 29.
the organophosphorus analogues, for which no experimental data are available, the G2MP2' calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values are $18.3 \mathrm{kcal} /$ mol for 11, $48.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for 12, and $78.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for 13.

Strain energies for the parent organophosphorus and hydrocarbon compounds were obtained from G2MP2 calculated $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ values. These theoretical values are $21.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for 11, 54.7 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{1 2}$, and $87.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for 13 .

The excess strain in the phospha[ $n]$ triangulanes ( $n \leq 2$ ), which is the strain for spiro carbons in excess of that of the three-membered rings, amounts to $5.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ per spiro carbon. This is ca. $40 \%$ less than the excess strain in linear [n]triangulane hydrocarbons.

## Computational Section

All electronic structure calculations were carried out using the GAUSSIAN 94 suite of programs. ${ }^{30}$ For the density functional theory (DFT) calculations, Becke's three-parameter hybrid exchange functional was used in combination with the Lee-Yang-Parr correlation functional, ${ }^{21-33}$ denoted as B3LYP. The $6-31 \mathrm{G}^{*}$ basis set was employed throughout for the geometry optimizations. The B3LYP and MP2(full) structures of 1-3 and 11-13 were characterized as minima by analysis of their Hessian matrixes.

Heats of formation $\left(\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}^{298}\right)$ of methane, ethane, propane, neopentane, 1, 2, 3, methylphosphine, dimethylphosphine, ethylphosphine, tertbutylphosphine, 11, 12, and $\mathbf{1 3}$ were estimated from their heats of atomization calculated at G2MP2. ${ }^{23}$ This method ${ }^{34}$ uses MP2/6-31G(d) geometries and obtains its energies from the QCISD(T) method, ${ }^{35}$ using the $6-311 \mathrm{G}(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{p})$ basis set, ${ }^{36}$ with basis set additivity corrections at the MP2 level of theory. The combination of basis set and correlation corrections and two empirical corrections yields where the empirical

$$
\begin{aligned}
& E(\mathrm{G} 2 \mathrm{MP} 2)=E(\mathrm{QCISD}(\mathrm{~T}) / 6-311 \mathrm{G}(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{p})+ \\
& E(\mathrm{MP} 2 / 6-311+\mathrm{G}(3 \mathrm{df}, 2 \mathrm{p})-E(\mathrm{MP} 2 / 6-311 \mathrm{G}(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{p})+ \\
& E(\mathrm{HLC})+E(\mathrm{ZPE})
\end{aligned}
$$

"higher level correction" is given by $E(\mathrm{HLC})=(-0.19 n \alpha-4.81 n \beta)$

[^7]Table 5. Crystal Data and Data Collection Procedures for $\mathbf{8}$

| formula | $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{O}_{5} \mathrm{PW}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| molecular weight | 512 |
| crystal system | orthorhombic |
| space group | $P 2_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1}$ |
| $a(\AA)$ | $6.7571(5)$ |
| $b(\AA \AA)$ | $15.6324(44)$ |
| $c\left(\AA \AA^{\circ}\right)$ | $16.8693(36)$ |
| $V\left(\AA^{3}\right)$ | $1781.9(6)$ |
| $Z$ | 4 |
| $\rho_{\text {calc }}\left(\mathrm{g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}\right)$ | 1.909 |
| crystal dimensions $(\mathrm{mm})$ | $0.14 \times 0.18 \times 0.08$ |
| abs coeff $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ | 132.329 |
| radiation $(\AA)$ | $\mathrm{Cu} \mathrm{K} \alpha(1.5418)$ |
| extinction coeff | $5.4130 \times 10^{-6}$ |
| $2 \theta$ limits $($ deg $)$ | $0.1<\theta<148$ |
| scan type | $\omega / 2 \theta$ |
| scan width $(\AA$ | 1.64 |
| no. of unique data | 2088 |
| no. of data with $I>3 \sigma$ | 2040 |
| no. of parameters | 257 |
| largest parameter shift/error | 0.01 |
| $R(\%)$ | 3.43 |
| $R_{\mathrm{w}}(\%)$ | 4.72 |
| GOF | 1.507 |
| max peak in diff Fourier $\left(\mathrm{e} / \AA^{3}\right)$ | 0.719 |
| min peak in diff Fourier $\left(\mathrm{e} / \AA^{3}\right)$ | -0.538 |
| decay | $0 \%$ |
| max abs corrn | 1.513 |
| min abs corrn | 0.707 |

$\times 10^{-3}$ au. $E(\mathrm{ZPE})$ is obtained by scaling the $\mathrm{SCF} / 6-31 \mathrm{G}(\mathrm{d})$ harmonic frequencies by 0.8929 .

## Experimental Section

NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker NT-300, wide-bore FTNMR spectrometer. Chemical shift are referenced in ppm to internal $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{4} \mathrm{Si}$ for the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra and external $85 \% \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ for the ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR spectra. Downfield shifts are reported as positive. The elemental analysis was performed by Atlantic Microlab, Inc., Norcross, GA.
(7-Phenyl-7-phosphadispiro[2.0.2.1]heptane)pentacarbonyltungsten (8). Reaction of complex $\mathbf{1 0}^{13}(0.33 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ with 10 equiv of bicyclopropylidene $\mathbf{9}^{14}(0.45 \mathrm{~g}, 5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and ca. $10 \% \mathrm{CuCl}$ ( $50 \mathrm{mg}, 0.05 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was carried out in toluene in a pressure chamber at $55{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for $0.5-1 \mathrm{~h}$ until complex $\mathbf{1 0}$ was fully converted, as
determined by ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR. The reaction mixture was filtered, evaporated to dryness, and chromatographed on silica gel with hexanes to yield $0.18 \mathrm{~g}(70 \%)$ of 8, which after fractional crystallization from hexanes gave colorless crystals: $\mathrm{mp} 80-81{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}\right) \delta-129.4$ $\left({ }^{1} J\left({ }^{31} \mathrm{P}-{ }^{183} \mathrm{~W}\right)=170.6 \mathrm{~Hz}\right) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}\right) \delta 7.96\left(\mathrm{~s}\right.$, syn $\left.-\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 9.67$ $\left(\mathrm{s}\right.$, anti- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 26.0\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{1} J(\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C})=27.7 \mathrm{~Hz}\right), 128.6-133.5(\mathrm{Ph}), 195.7$ (cis CO); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}\right) \delta=0.97\left(\mathrm{q},{ }^{3} J(\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{H})=4.5 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, syn $\left.-\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $1.18\left(\mathrm{q},{ }^{3} J(\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{H})=4.5 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, syn $\left.-\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.33\left(\mathrm{dt},{ }^{3} J(\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{H})=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, anti- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.45\left(\mathrm{dt},{ }^{3} J(\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{H})=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, anti- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 7.56(\mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{Ph}) ; \mathrm{MS}$ $\left({ }^{184} \mathrm{~W}\right) \mathrm{m} / e$ (relative intensity) $512\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}, 20\right), 428\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-3 \mathrm{CO}, 30\right)$, $404\left(\mathrm{Ph}-\mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CO})_{4}, 20\right), 376\left(\mathrm{Ph}-\mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}, 100\right), 348(\mathrm{Ph}-\right.\right.$ $\mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{W}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}, 40\right)$. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{O}_{5} \mathrm{PW}: \mathrm{C}, 39.84$; $\mathrm{H}, 2.54$. Found: C, 39.59; H, 2.57.

X-ray Structure Determination of 8. Diffraction data of a single crystal, mounted on a glass fiber with epoxy cement, were collected at room temperature on an Enraf-Nonius CAD4 diffractometer using Nifiltered $\mathrm{Cu} \mathrm{K} \alpha$ radiation. Standard peak search and automatic indexing routines, followed by least-squares fits of 25 centered reflections, yielded the lattice constants for the crystal. Three reflections were measured periodically to monitor decay, and linear decay corrections were applied. Intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects; linear decay and numerical absorption corrections were applied. Variances were assigned on the basis of standard counting statistics, with the addition of an instrumental uncertainty term, $0.04 F_{0}^{2}$. Lorentz, polarization, and absorption corrections (using the DIFABS program) were made to the $I_{\mathrm{s}}$ and $\sigma^{2}$ terms. The structure was solved by standard Patterson and difference Fourier techniques and refined by weighted full-matrix least squares. The final difference Fourier map contained no interpretable peaks near the W atom as extra atoms. All computations used the MolEN software. Details of the crystal data and structure solution procedures are summarized in Table 5.

Acknowledgment is made to the National Science Foundation (CHE-9500344) for support and to the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NCF/NWO) for providing a grant for supercomputer time. A.W.E. thanks the European Union for a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellowship.

Supporting Information Available: Tables of bond distances, angles, positional parameters, and displacement parameters for $\mathbf{8}$ (PDF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.
JA9905896


[^0]:    * Address correspondence to this author at the Vrije Universiteit.
    ${ }^{\ddagger}$ Vrije Universiteit.
    † University of Alabama at Birmingham.
    (1) See, for example: (a) Greenberg, A.; Liebman, J. F. Strained Organic Molecules; Academic Press: New York, 1978. (b) Wiberg, K. B. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1986, 25, 317. (c) The Chemistry of the Cyclopropyl Group; Rappoport, Z., Ed.; Wiley: Chichester, 1987; two volumes. (d) Strained Organic Compounds. Chem. Rev. 1989, 89 (5), special issue. (e) Pihlaja, K.; Taskinen, E. Physical Methods in Heterocyclic Chemistry; Academic Press: New York, 1978; Vol. 6, p 199. (f) Mathey, F. Chem. Rev. 1990, 90, 997. (g) Houben-Weyl; de Meijere, A., Ed.; Thieme: Stuttgart, 1997; Vol. E, 17a-c.
    (2) For a recent review, see: (a) de Meijere, A.; Kozhushkov, S. In Advances in Strain in Organic Chemistry; Halton, B., Ed.; JAI Press: Greenwich, CT, 1995; Vol. 4, pp 225-282. See also: (b) de Meijere, A.; Kozhushkov, S. I.; Khlebnikov, A. F. Zh. Org. Khim. 1996, 32, 1607; Russ. J. Org. Chem. (Engl. Transl.) 1996, 32, 1555. (c) Zefirov, N. S.; Kuznetsova, T. S.; Eremenko, O. V.; Kokoreva, O. V.; Zatonsky, G.; Ugrak, B. I. J. Org. Chem. 1994, 59, 4087. (d) Eaton, P. E.; Lukin, K. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1993, 115, 11370. (e) Fitjer, L.; Conia J. M. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1973, 12, 761.
    (3) Gustavson, G. J. Prakt. Chem. 1896, 54, 104.
    (4) (a) Crandall, J. K.; Paulson, D. R. J. Org. Chem. 1968, 33, 991. (b) Crandall, J. K.; Paulson, D. R. Tetrahedron Lett. 1969, 2751. (c) Trost, B. M.; Bogdanowicz, M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 95, 5311. (d) Hofland, A.; Steinberg, H.; de Boer, Th. J. Recl. Trav. Chim. Pays-Bas 1985, 104, 350.

[^1]:    (5) (a) Crandall, J. K.; Batal, D. J. J. Org. Chem. 1988, 53, 1340. (b) Crandall, J. K.; Machleder, W. H.; Thomas, M. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1968, 90, 7346.
    (6) (a) Crandall, J. K.; Conover, W. W. J. Org. Chem. 1974, 39, 63. (b) Crandall, J. K.; Conover, W. W. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1973, 33.
    (7) (a) Dolbier, W. R., Jr.; Akiba, K.; Riemann, J. M.; Harman, C. A.; Bertrand, M.; Bezaquet, A.; Santelli, M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1971, 93, 3933. (b) Fitjer, L.; Conia, J.-M. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1973, 12, 334.
    (8) (a) Salaün, Cf. J. R.; Conia, J. M. Chem. Commun. 1971, 1579. (b) Salaün, Cf. J. R.; Champion, J.; Conia, J. M. Org. Synth. 1977, 57, 36. (c) Pacifici, J. G.; Diebert, C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1969, 91, 4595. (d) Aue, D. H.; Meshishnek, M. J.; Shellhamer, D. F. Tetrahedron Lett. 1973, 4799. (e) Pacifici, J. G.; Diebert, C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1969, 91, 4595. (f) Slafer, W. D.; English, A. D.; Harris, D. O.; Shellhamer, D. F.; Meshishnek, M.; Aue, D. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1975, 97, 6638.
    (9) (a) Lambert, R. L.; Seyferth, D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1972, 94, 9246. (b) Mollere, P. D.; Hoffmann, R. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1975, 97, 3680. (c) Seyferth, R. L.; Lambert, R. L.; Annarell, D. C. J. Organomet. Chem. 1976, 122, 311. (d) Seyferth, R. L.; Haas, C. K.; Lambert, R. L.; Annarell, D. C. J. Organomet. Chem. 1978, 152, 131. (e) Eckert-Maksić, M.; Kovačević, K.; Maksić, Z. B. J. Organomet. Chem. 1979, 168, 295. (f) Jones, P. R.; White, D. D. J. Organomet. Chem. 1979, 181, 399. (g) Delker, G. L.; Wang, Y.; Stucky, G. D.; Lambert, R. L.; Haas, C. K.; Seyferth, D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 98, 1779. (h) Delker, G. L.; Wang, Y.; Stucky, G. D.; Lambert, R. L.; Hass, C. K.; Seyferth, D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1976, 98, 1179.

[^2]:    (10) Weber, L.; Luker, E.; Boese, R. D. Organometallics 1988, 7, 978. (11) Baudler, M.; Leonhardt, W. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1983, 22, 632.
    (12) Hung, J.-T.; Yang, S.-W.; Gray, G. M.; Lammertsma, K. J. Org. Chem. 1993, 58, 6786.

[^3]:    (13) Mathey, F. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1987, 26, 275. Marinetti, A.; Mathey, F. Organometallics 1984, 3, 456. Marinetti, A.; Mathey, F.; Fischer, J.; Mitschler, A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1982, 104, 4484. Marinetti, A.; Mathey, F. Organometallics 1982, 1, 1488. Lammertsma, K.; Chand, P.; Yang, S.-W.; Hung, J.-T. Organometallics 1988, 7, 1875. Hung, J.-T.; Yang, S.-W.; Chand, P.; Gray, G. M.; Lammertsma, K. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1994, 116, 10966. Lammertsma, K.; Hung, J.-T. J. Org. Chem. 1992, 57, 6557. Lammertsma, K.; Hung, J.-T. J. Org. Chem. 1993, 58, 1800. Wang, B.; Lake, C. H.; Lammertsma, K. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1996, 118, 1690.
    (14) de Meijere, A.; Kozhushov, S. I.; Spaeth, T.; Zefirov, N. S. J. Org. Chem. 1993, 58, 502.
    (15) (a) Erden, I.; de Meijere, A. Tetrahedron Lett. 1980, 21, 2501. (b) de Meijere, A.; Erden, I.; Weber, W.; Kaufmann, D. J. Org. Chem. 1988, 53, 2501. (c) Foerstner, J.; Kozhushkov, S.; Binger, P.; Wedemann, P.; Noltemeyer, M.; de Meijere, A.; Butenschön, H. Chem. Commun. 1998, 239.

[^4]:    (16) Bowers, M.; Baudet, R. A.; Goldwhite, H.; Tang, R. J. Am. Chem.

[^5]:    (17) (a) Boese, R.; Miebach, T.; de Meijere, A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1991, 113, 1743. (b) Zöllner, S.; Buchholz, H.; Boese, R.; Gleiter, R.; de Meijere, A. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1991, 30, 1518. (c) Boese, R.; Micbach, T.; de Meijere, A. Liebigs Ann. 1996, 913. (d) Boese, R.; Blaser, D.; Gomann, K.; Brinker, U. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1989, 111, 1501.
    (18) (a) Wiberg, K. B. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1986, 25, 312. (b) The reported SE value of $28.1 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ is based on the group increment (GI) method: Schleyer, P. v. R.; Williams, J. E.; Blanchard, K. R. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1970, 92, 2377. Würthwein, E.-U.; Chandrasekhar, J.; Jemmis, D. E.; Schleyer, P. v. R. Tetrahedron Lett. 1981, 22, 843.
    (19) Pihlaja, K.; Taskinen, E. In Physical Methods in Heterocyclic Chemistry; Kratitzky, A. R., Ed.; Academic Press: New York, 1974; Vol. 6, p 199.
    (20) Bachrach, S. M. J. Phys. Chem. 1989, 93, 7780.
    (21) Stirling, C. J. M. Tetrahedron 1985, 41, 1613.
    (22) Boatz, J. A.; Gordon, M. S.; Hilderbrandt, R. L. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1988, 110, 352. See also: Kitchen, D. B.; Jackson, J. E.; Allen, L. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1990, 112, 3414 (this work reports a SE for silirane of $40.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ).

[^6]:    (23) The G2MP2' $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}{ }^{298}$ enthalpies (in $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ), with G2MP2 (first) and reported experimental values ${ }^{24}$ (second) in parentheses, are as follow: $-18.94(-17.99,-17.80)$ for methane, $-21.29(-19.72,-20.1)$ for ethane, $-26.45(-24.25,-25.0)$ for propane, $-42.31(-38.86,-40.0)$ for neopentane, $-5.37(-3.80,-4)$ for methylphosphine, -14.51 , $(-12.31$, $-14)$ for dimethylphosphine, $-10.25(-8.05,-9.7$ (est.)) for ethylphosphine, and $-24.57(-21.11,-24)$ for tert-butylphosphine. The experimental $\Delta H_{\mathrm{f}}$ of 9.7 for $\mathrm{EtPH}_{2}$ is an estimate based on the G2MP2 calculated difference of $4.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ with the isomeric $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PH}$.
    (24) Lias, S. G.; Bartmess, J. E.; Liebman, J. F.; Holmes, Levin, R. D.; Mallard, W. G. J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data 1988, 17, Suppl. 1 (Gas-Phase Ion and Neutral Thermochemistry).
    (25) Beckhaus, H.-D.; Rüchardt, C.; Kozhushkov, S. I.; Belov, V. N.; Verevkin, S. P.; de Meijere, A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1995, 117, 11855.
    (26) Kao, J.; Radom, L. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1978, $100,760$.
    (27) Luk'yanova, V. A.; Pimenova, S. M.; Kolesov, V. P.; Kuznetsova, T. S.; Kokoreva, O. V.; Kozhushkov. S. I.; Zefirov, N. S. Zh. Fiz. Khim. 1993, 67, 1148; Russ. J. Phys. Chem. 1993, 67, 1023.
    (28) The recently developed G3 method uses four molecule-independent parameters for the higher level coorection, but this method is too expensive for the molecules of the present study. G3: Pople, J. A. (a) Angew. Chem. 1999, 111, 2015. (b) Curtiss, L. A.; Raghavachari, K.; Redfern, P. C.; Rassolov, V.; Pople, J. A. J. Chem. Phys. 1998, 109, 7764. G3(MP2): Curtiss, L. A.; Redfern, P. C.; Raghavachari, K.; Rassolov, V.; Pople, J. A. J. Chem. Phys. 1999, 109, 4703.

[^7]:    (29) Using the GI method gives SE values of 65.1 and $98.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for 2 and 3, respectively. ${ }^{25}$
    (30) Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Gill, P. M. W.; Johnson, B. G.; Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Keith, T.; Petersson, G. A.; Montgomery, J. A.; Raghavachari, K.; Al-Laham, M. A.; Zakrzewski, V. G.; Ortiz,J. V.; Foresman, J. B.; Cioslowski, J.; Stefanov, B. B.; Nanayakkara, A.; Challacombe, M.; Peng, C. Y.; Ayala, P. Y.; Chen, W.; Wong, M. W.; Andres, J. L.; Replogle, E. S.; Gomperts, R.; Martin, R. L.; Fox, D. J.; Binkley, J. S.; Defrees, D. J.; Baker, J.; Stewart, J. P.; HeadGordon, M.; Gonzalez, C.; Pople, J. A. GAUSSIAN94, Revision B.1; Gaussian, Inc.: Pittsburgh, 1994.
    (31) Becke, A. D. J. Chem. Phys. 1993, 98, 5648.
    (32) Becke, A. D. Phys. Rev. A 1988, 38, 3098.
    (33) Lee, C.; Yang, W.; Parr, R. G. Phys. Rev. B 1988, 37, 785.
    (34) Curtiss, L. A. R., K.; Pople, J. A. J. Chem. Phys. 1993, 98, 1293.
    (35) Raghavachari, K.; Trucks, G. W.; Pople, J. A.; Replogle, E. S. Chem. Phys. Lett. 1989, 158, 207.
    (36) Krishnan, R.; Binkley, J. S.; Seeger, R.; Pople, J. A. J. Chem. Phys. 1980, 72, 650.

