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## Formation of Hypervalent Complexes of PhCCSiF<sub>3</sub> with Pyridine through Intermolecular Silicon···Nitrogen Interaction

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Increasing the number and chemical diversity of intermolecular interactions that can be used in supramolecular chemistry,<sup>1</sup> beyond those commonly used, will lead to the construction of ever more complex supramolecular arrays, with greater application potential. Recent synthetic and mechanistic studies in the field of silicon chemistry have led to new types of organo-silicon compounds and revealed some of the possible reaction pathways and intermediate species involved in the rich chemistry displayed by silicon.<sup>2</sup> However, until now, studies in silicon chemistry revolved mainly around covalent bonds to silicon. Herein, we report the synthesis of trifluoro-phenylethynyl-silane  $(1)^3$  that forms with pyridine (Py), through intermolecular Si····N interaction, the pentacoordinate 1·Py complex and at low temperatures also the hexacoordinate 1.Py2 complex (see Scheme 1). As derivatives of 1 can serve as basic building blocks in host molecules that incorporate several units such as 1, the hypervalent complexes of 1 with Py described here imply a possible application of such Si ··· N intermolecular interactions in supramolecular chemistry.

Scheme 1



Relative to carbon, silicon has a much smaller tendency to form compounds with coordination number less than four but a pronounced capacity for the enlargement of the coordination sphere. Indeed, isolable hypervalent silicon compounds are known, and numerous X-ray crystallographic penta- and hexacoordinate silicon structures have been reported in recent years.<sup>4</sup> For neutral hypervalent structures of silicon these are mostly compounds having intramolecular coordination, forming mainly five-membered rings that include the dative bond to silicon. A few neutral complexes having intermolecular bonds to silicon, mainly for the sterically accessible and highly "electron poor" silicon atom in SiF<sub>4</sub> were also reported. In this case, the majority are 1:2 adducts such as SiF<sub>4</sub>•Py<sub>2</sub><sup>5</sup> or 1:1 complexes with bidentate ligands, such as 2,2′bipyridine (bipy) as in SiF<sub>4</sub>•bipy.<sup>6</sup>

Gradual addition of pyridine to a solution of silane 1 in  $CDCl_3$ leads to complexation-induced shifts (CIS) of the quartet for 1 in the <sup>29</sup>Si NMR as a function of the pyridine concentrations (Figure 1, left). This suggests a fast equilibrium in the NMR time scale for making and breaking of the 1·Py complex (Scheme 1). Furthermore, evidence for a pentacoordinate structure for the 1·Py complex, in which an intermolecular Si···N bond is formed, is provided by the



*Figure 1.* <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectra (99.33 MHz, 298 K) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Left side: complexation upfield shifts<sup>8</sup> of the quartet for the SiF<sub>3</sub> group in 1 (0.1 M) induced by pyridine. (A) Free 1 (before adding Py), (B) 1 with 0.5 equiv of Py, (C) 1 with 1 equiv of Py, (D) 1 with 2 equiv of Py, (E) 1 with 3 equiv of Py.<sup>9</sup> Right side: a 1:2 mixture of 1 (0.1 M) and <sup>15</sup>N-pyridine, respectively, exhibiting a doublet of quartet. For clarity the individual peaks of the quartet are enlarged and shown in the dashed boxes. The small triplet at -92.6 ppm is for the siloxane, (PhCCSiF<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O, formed due to a trace amount of H<sub>2</sub>O in solution.<sup>10</sup>

doublet of quartets observed in the <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectrum for a 1:2 mixture of PhCCSiF<sub>3</sub> and isotopically labeled <sup>15</sup>N-pyridine (Figure 1, right). The quartet is due to coupling of the silicon to the three fluorine atoms in the SiF<sub>3</sub> group (<sup>1</sup> $J_{Si-F} = 215$  Hz), and the doublet is due to coupling between the <sup>29</sup>Si and <sup>15</sup>N atoms in the Si···N intermolecular bond in the **1**·Py complex (<sup>1</sup> $J_{Si-N} = 4$  Hz). This is, to the best of our knowledge, the first intermolecular <sup>29</sup>Si····<sup>15</sup>N one-bond coupling reported for a pentavalent complex of silicon.<sup>7</sup>

A temperature dependence of the chemical shifts in the <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>19</sup>F, <sup>29</sup>Si, and <sup>15</sup>N NMR spectra was observed for a mixture of **1** and pyridine in CDCl<sub>3</sub>,<sup>10</sup> indicating a fast equilibrium in forming the pentacoordinate **1**·Py complex (Scheme 1). For example, an upfield shift upon cooling and a downfield shift upon heating were observed for the quartet of **1** in the <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectra for a mixture of **1** and pyridine as expected for Si···N bond making and -breaking, respectively.<sup>10,11</sup> These shifts remained in the region typical for a pentacoordinate silicon structure.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, upon cooling (below 288 K), new signals develop in the <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>19</sup>F, <sup>29</sup>Si, and <sup>15</sup>N NMR spectra, <sup>10</sup> suggesting the formation of the 1·Py<sub>2</sub> complex (Scheme 1). For example, in the <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectra for a mixture of 1 and pyridine at low temperatures a doublet of triplets develops at -181.8 ppm at 233 K (Figure 2, left), a typical region for a hexacoordinate silicon structure<sup>4</sup> and about 90 ppm upfield with respect to the quartet of 1 (Figure 1, left). The doublet ( ${}^{1}J_{\text{Si}-\text{F}} = 155 \text{ Hz}$ ) of triplets ( ${}^{1}J_{\text{Si}-\text{F}} = 191 \text{ Hz}$ ) is due to coupling of the silicon to the one and the two nonequivalent fluorine atoms, respectively, in the 1. Py2 complex (Scheme 1). These new signals disappear and reappear when the temperature is raised or lowered, respectively, and their chemical shifts remain in the region typical for a hexacoordinate silicon structure, indicating a reversible and slow (in the NMR time scale) equilibrium in making and breaking of the 1.Py2 complex. Further evidence for a hexacoordinate structure of the  $1 \cdot Py_2$  complex, in which two intermolecular Si ···· N bonds are formed, is provided by the doublet of triple triplets observed in the <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectrum for a 1:2 mixture of 1 and



*Figure 2.* <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectra (99.33 MHz, 233 K) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Left side: a 1:2 mixture of **1** (0.1 M) and pyridine, respectively, exhibiting a doublet of triplet due to the two different geometries of the fluorines in the **1**·Py<sub>2</sub> complex (Scheme 1). Right side: a 1:2 mixture of **1** (0.1 M) and <sup>15</sup>N-pyridine, respectively, exhibiting a doublet of triplet triplet. The additional triplet demonstrates the <sup>15</sup>N····<sup>29</sup>Si coupling due to the two symmetrically equivalent pyridine ligands in the **1**·Py<sub>2</sub> complex (Scheme 1). The small quintet and triple quintet at -183.1 ppm, partly seen in the left and right spectra, respectively, are due to a trace amount of SiF4·Py<sub>2</sub> formed due to the presence of a trace amount of H<sub>2</sub>O in solution.<sup>10</sup>



Figure 3. Possible isomers, A, B, and C for the 1. Py2 complex.

isotopically labeled <sup>15</sup>N-Py (see Figure 2, right). The additional (with respect to Figure 2, left) triplet ( ${}^{1}J_{\text{Si}-\text{N}} = 15.6 \text{ Hz}$ ) is due to coupling between the <sup>29</sup>Si atom and the two symmetrically equivalent <sup>15</sup>N atoms that are intermolecularly bonded in the **1**·Py<sub>2</sub> complex (Scheme 1). This is, to the best of our knowledge, the first intermolecular <sup>29</sup>Si···<sup>15</sup>N one-bond coupling reported for a hexacoordinate complex of silicon.<sup>7</sup> In addition, <sup>19</sup>F and <sup>15</sup>N NMR spectra measured at low temperatures allowed us to obtain also the <sup>19</sup>F-Si···<sup>15</sup>N two bonds spin-spin interaction in the **1**·Py<sub>2</sub> complex.<sup>10,12</sup>

Three isomeric structures are possible for the  $1 \cdot Py_2$  complex (Figure 3). The detailed multinuclear NMR data that we obtained for the 1·Py<sub>2</sub> complex allowed the determination of its isomeric preference. In addition to the <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectra shown in Figure 2, we measured in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra only one signal for the  $\alpha$ -hydrogens of the two Py ligands in the **1**·Py<sub>2</sub> complex,<sup>10</sup> and in the <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra a doublet and a triplet (F-F coupling) in a ratio of 2:1, respectively, and a triple doublet and triple triplet when <sup>15</sup>N-pyridine was used (triple due to F-N coupling, and in both 200 and 500 MHz spectrometers) in a ratio of 2:1, respectively.<sup>10</sup> In addition, only one doublet of triplets (N-F coupling) is observed in the <sup>15</sup>N NMR spectra of the 1·Py<sub>2</sub> complex.<sup>10</sup> All these data together indicate that the two Py ligands in the 1.Py<sub>2</sub> complex are both chemically and magnetically equivalent in all nuclei probes used, excluding isomers B and C, and therefore suggesting that only isomer A is present in solution (Figure 3).

Quantum mechanical ab initio calculations that we have carried out (at the MP2/6-31G\* level) show a distorted trigonal bipyramid structure for the 1·Py complex and a nearly ideal octahedral structure for the 1·Py<sub>2</sub> complex, having Si····N bond lengths of 2.257 and 1.994 Å respectively.<sup>10</sup> The shorter Si···N bond length calculated for the 1·Py<sub>2</sub> complex is in agreement with the larger Si···N spin—spin coupling measured for the 1·Py<sub>2</sub> complex (vs the 1·Py complex, see above). The trans isomer A (Figure 3) is calculated to be more stable than isomers **B** and **C** by 1.0 and 2.0 kcal/mol, respectively. A trans structure was found also in the crystal structure of SiF<sub>4</sub>·Py<sub>2</sub>.<sup>5,13</sup> In summary, we have described the synthesis of silane **1** and its binding modes with Py. Studies aiming to utilize this and other Si…N interactions in supramolecular complexes are under investigation in this laboratory.

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**Supporting Information Available:** Synthetic procedure and spectroscopic data for 1,  ${}^{1}H$ ,  ${}^{19}F$ ,  ${}^{29}Si$ , and  ${}^{15}N$  NMR spectra for a mixture of 1 and Py at various temperatures as well as calculated structures, Cartesian coordinates and energies for the 1·Py complex and isomer A of the 1·Py<sub>2</sub> complex. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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- (9) Titration of silane 1 with Py or titration of Py with 1 displayed a CIS for 1 (in the <sup>15</sup>F and <sup>29</sup>Si NMR) or for Py (in the <sup>15</sup>N NMR), respectively. However, a standard nonlinear least-squares data treatment for these titrations using a 1:1 binding model<sup>14</sup> gave poor curve fits. This was due to the presence of a small amount of the SiF<sub>4</sub>·Py<sub>2</sub> complex formed throughout the titration (due to a trace amount of H<sub>2</sub>O in solution).<sup>10</sup> Therefore, in the case of silane 1 and Py, we were not able to obtain a reasonably accurate binding constant for the formation of the 1·Py complex.
- (10) See Supporting Information for details.
- (11) (a) Upfield shift for the quartet of 1 was observed also when Py was added to a 1 solution in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (see Figure 1, left side). (b) Upfield shift upon cooling and downfield shift upon increasing the temperature were found for pentacoordinate silicon structures having an intramolecular Si· ··N bond and were used as a measure for the existence of coordination between the silicon and the coordinating nitrogen, see: Helmer, B. J.; West, R.; Corriu, R. J. P.; Poirier, M.; Royo, G.; De Saxce, A. J. Organomet. Chem. 1983, 251, 295.
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