

**889. The Crystal and Molecular Structure of a Trigonal Form  
of Phosphobenzene B,  $(PC_6H_5)_6$**

By J. J. DALY

Crystalline phosphobenzene B is polymorphic. The structure of one of these forms has been determined. The axes of the trigonal unit cell are  $a = 13.026$ ,  $c = 11.547 \text{ \AA}$ ; the space group is  $P\bar{3}c1$  and the required molecular symmetry is  $\bar{3}$  ( $C_{3i}$ ). The molecule is hexameric,  $(PC_6H_5)_6$ , with a six-membered ring of phosphorus atoms in the chair form with phenyl groups occupying the equatorial positions.

THE existence of at least three polyphosphines of formula  $(PC_6H_5)_n$  is well established.<sup>1,2</sup> The structure of one of them, phosphobenzene A, has been determined<sup>3,4</sup> and it is known to be pentameric in the solid state  $(PC_6H_5)_5$ . Various values for  $n$  in phosphobenzene B (m. p. 190°) have been suggested, the highest from other methods, chiefly in solution, being four. In the solid state, the trigonal form of phosphobenzene B is hexameric ( $n = 6$ ). Three other crystalline forms of this compound are known to exist and have been described.<sup>2,3</sup> This Paper describes the structure of the trigonal modification.

#### EXPERIMENTAL

$C_{36}H_{30}P_6$ .  $M = 648.5$ . Trigonal.  $a = 13.026$ ,  $c = 11.547 \text{ \AA}$ .  $U = 1696.8 \text{ \AA}^3$ .  $Z = 2$ .  $D_c = 1.269$ ,  $D_m = 1.265 \text{ g./c.c.}$  Space group  $P\bar{3}c1$  ( $D_{ad}$ , No. 165). The cell constants were determined from precession photographs recorded with  $Cu-K_\alpha$  radiation. Recrystallisation from tetrahydrofuran gave at least two crystalline forms in one batch, one triclinic<sup>2</sup> and one trigonal. The trigonal crystals were in the form of hexagonal prisms elongated along  $c$ ; many of these crystals exhibit twinning, which superimposes the  $hkil$  and the  $khil$  spectra, and this superposition, when the twins are of the same size, gives the reciprocal lattice the apparent symmetry  $6/mmm$ . The true Laue symmetry is  $\bar{3}m$ , in which the intensities  $hkil$  and  $khil$  are not necessarily equal. The relative size of the twins could be estimated by comparing the intensities of the  $1\bar{3}\bar{4}1$  and  $3\bar{1}\bar{4}1$  diffraction spectra; these intensities were in the ratio 1 : 1600 for the crystal used in the analysis. The crystals are quite stable to the atmosphere but turn milky on exposure to  $X$ -rays. The intensities were measured with the aid of a Hilger and Watts automatic linear diffractometer.<sup>5</sup> Balanced filters were used with  $Mo-K_\alpha$  radiation; results were recorded up to  $\theta \sim 27^\circ$ . The oscillation axis was  $c$  and 1397 independent intensities were measured: of these 518 were adjudged to be weak enough to be classified as unobserved, leaving 879 planes with which the analysis was carried out. The intensities were converted into  $|F_o|$  values and, in the initial stages, the layers were assumed to be on the same relative scale; the layers were rescaled later ( $R = 0.20$ ) by equating  $\Sigma |F_o|$  to  $\Sigma |F_c|$  for each value of  $l$ . The systematic absences were  $hh0l$  absent for  $l$  odd, and so the possible space groups were  $P\bar{3}c1$  and  $P3c1$  with required molecular symmetries  $\bar{3}(C_{3i})$  or  $32(D_3)$  for the former and  $3(C_3)$  for the latter.

#### DETERMINATION OF THE STRUCTURE AND REFINEMENT

The  $N(z)$  test,<sup>6</sup> though not strictly applicable in view of the probable centric distribution of the heavy phosphorus atoms, was applied to the intensity values. The results (see Table 1)

<sup>1</sup> H. Köhler and A. Michaelis, *Chem. Ber.*, 1877, **10**, 807; Th. Weil, B. Prijs, and H. Erlenmeyer, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 1952, **35**, 616; J. W. B. Reesor and G. F. Wright, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1957, **22**, 385; W. Kuchen and H. Buchwald, *Chem. Ber.*, 1958, **91**, 2296; F. Pass and H. Schindlbauer, *Monatsh.*, 1959, **90**, 148; L. Horner, H. Hoffmann, and P. Beck, *Chem. Ber.*, 1958, **91**, 1583; P. R. Bloomfield and K. Parvin, *Chem. and Ind.*, 1959, 541; W. A. Henderson, M. Epstein, and F. S. Seichter, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1963, **85**, 2462; E. Wiberg, M. Van Gehman, and G. Müller-Schiedmeyer, *Angew. Chem.*, 1963, **75**, 814.

<sup>2</sup> J. J. Daly and L. Maier, *Nature*, 1965, in the press.

<sup>3</sup> J. J. Daly and L. Maier, *Nature*, 1964, **203**, 1167.

<sup>4</sup> J. J. Daly, *J.*, 1964, 6147.

<sup>5</sup> U. W. Arndt and D. C. Phillips, *Acta Cryst.*, 1961, **14**, 807.

<sup>6</sup> E. R. Howells, D. C. Phillips, and D. Rogers, *Acta Cryst.*, 1950, **3**, 210.

were encouraging, as the values fitted closely to the error function expected from a centric distribution of atoms. The space group  $P\bar{3}c1$  was accordingly accepted provisionally and refinement in it was successful.

Since the molecule possesses  $\bar{3}$  symmetry, it is only necessary to determine the position of one phosphorus atom and one phenyl group. The position of the phosphorus atom was found from a three-dimensional sharpened Patterson synthesis. The  $X$  and  $Y$  co-ordinates of Cl and C4 were then estimated from a model, leaving the orientation of the phenyl group

TABLE 1  
Results of  $N(z)$  test

$Z$	0·1	0·2	0·3	0·4	0·5	0·6	0·7	0·8	0·9	1·0
(PPh) <sub>3</sub> , $N(z)$ .....	26·0	36·0	44·0	49·5	52·0	57·0	62·0	64·0	67·0	69·0
$\text{erf}(z/2)^2$ (centric) .....	24·8	34·5	41·9	47·4	52·1	56·1	59·7	62·3	65·7	68·3
1-exp( $-z$ ) (acentric) ...	9·5	18·1	25·9	33·0	39·4	45·1	50·3	55·1	59·3	63·2

undetermined, and the three atoms were then used to calculate the electron density of the  $[c]$ -axis projection. This map showed the positions of the four remaining carbon atoms and structure factors were again calculated:  $R(hk0)$  was 0·25 at this stage. The model was then used to estimate the  $Z$  co-ordinates of the light atoms and a three-dimensional least-squares refinement was started. The trial structure was refined successfully till  $R$  (for 879 planes) had fallen to 0·072 and  $R'$  (for 876 planes) to 0·0066; the hydrogen atoms were ignored.

$$R = \Sigma |\Delta| / \Sigma |F_o|; R' = \Sigma w\Delta^2 / \Sigma wF_o^2$$

Anisotropic temperature factors were applied to each atom in the form

$$\exp -2\pi^2 \sum (h^2 a^{*2} U_{11} + h^2 b^{*2} U_{22} + l^2 c^{*2} U_{33} + 2hka^*b^*U_{12} + 2hla^*c^*U_{23} + 2hla^*c^*U_{13}).$$

A constant weight was applied to all observed structure factors; planes were not included in the least squares totals or  $R'$  if  $3|F_c|$  was less than  $|F_o|$  and there were three such planes in the final least-squares cycle. Refinement was stopped when the maximum drift was less than 0·2 of the corresponding standard deviation. The calculations were carried out on our Elliott 803B computer by using the programming system of Daly, Stephens, and Wheatley.<sup>7</sup>

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis are summarised in Tables 2—5. The atomic co-ordinates and standard deviations are given in Table 2, the thermal parameters and standard

TABLE 2  
Co-ordinates and standard deviations in Å (hexagonal axes)

	$X$	$Y$	$Z$	$X$	$Y$	$Z$	
P	1·4680(17)	2·1429(18)	0·5918(14)	C3	3·9021(90)	5·6974(89)	-2·1322(96)
				C4	4·9128(90)	6·8729(82)	-1·2103(114)
C1	2·8002(66)	3·9949(65)	-0·2198(62)	C5	4·8555(105)	6·6381(94)	0·1442(108)
C2	2·8141(78)	4·2354(78)	-1·6049(69)	C6	3·7800(85)	5·1792(86)	0·6507(87)

TABLE 3  
Thermal parameters and standard deviations in Å<sup>2</sup> (hexagonal axes)

	$U_{11}$	$U_{22}$	$U_{33}$	$2U_{12}$	$2U_{23}$	$2U_{13}$
P ...	0·0452(8)	0·0489(8)	0·0411(6)	0·0491(14)	-0·0093(13)	-0·0048(12)
C1 ...	0·0407(31)	0·0429(32)	0·0708(38)	0·0416(53)	-0·0131(56)	0·0000(56)
C2 ...	0·0668(43)	0·0574(41)	0·0758(45)	0·0606(72)	0·0386(69)	0·0402(71)
C3 ...	0·0746(52)	0·0699(51)	0·1318(72)	0·0841(89)	0·0645(96)	0·0707(98)
C4 ...	0·0654(49)	0·0471(42)	0·2145(109)	0·0609(78)	0·0310(108)	0·0310(118)
C5 ...	0·0917(65)	0·0529(45)	0·1648(97)	0·0316(92)	-0·0137(103)	-0·0328(126)
C6 ...	0·0658(47)	0·0659(46)	0·1055(60)	0·0481(78)	-0·0519(86)	-0·0352(86)

<sup>7</sup> J. J. Daly, F. S. Stephens, and P. J. Wheatley, Monsanto Research S.A., 1963, *Final Report No. 52*.

deviations in Table 3, the bond lengths and angles with their standard deviations in Table 4, and the final values of  $F_o$ ,  $F_c$ , and  $\Delta$  are listed in Table 5. The [c]-axis projection of the molecule in Figure 1 shows the labelling of the atoms and some non-bonded intramolecular distances: Figure 2 represents the packing of the molecules in the unit cell.

TABLE 4

Bond lengths (in Å) and angles (in degrees) with their corresponding standard deviations

P-P .....	2.237(5)	P-C1-C2 .....	123.13(51)
P-Cl .....	1.843(7)	P-Cl-C6 .....	115.14(53)
C1-C2 .....	1.405(10)	C6-C1-C2 .....	121.70(65)
C2-C3 .....	1.417(12)	C1-C2-C3 .....	118.70(69)
C3-C4 .....	1.437(13)	C2-C3-C4 .....	117.93(80)
C4-C5 .....	1.371(14)	C3-C4-C5 .....	122.79(89)
C5-C6 .....	1.405(13)	C4-C5-C6 .....	118.61(90)
C6-C1 .....	1.400(11)	C5-C6-C1 .....	120.20(78)
Average C-C .....	1.406(20)*	Average C-C-C .....	119.99(199)*

\* Standard deviation of individual values from the average.

P'-P-P'' 94.58(9); P'-P-Cl 97.05(22); P''-P-Cl 99.92(22)

The successful refinement in the space group  $P\bar{3}cl$  shows that the molecule has symmetry  $\bar{3}$  ( $C_{3v}$ ) with a six-membered ring of phosphorus atoms in the chair form: to each phosphorus atom is attached one phenyl group in what, by analogy with cyclohexane, may be described as the equatorial position. A six-membered ring of phosphorus atoms

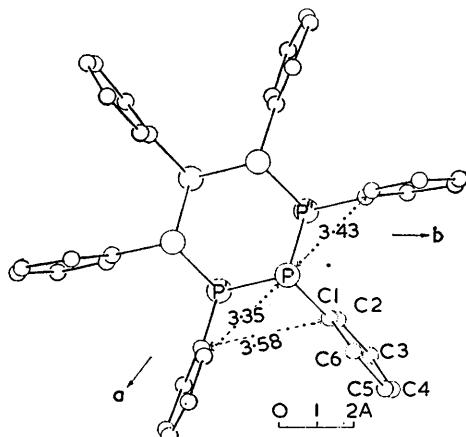


FIGURE 1. The [c]-axis projection of the molecule showing the labelling of the atoms and some non-bonded intramolecular contacts

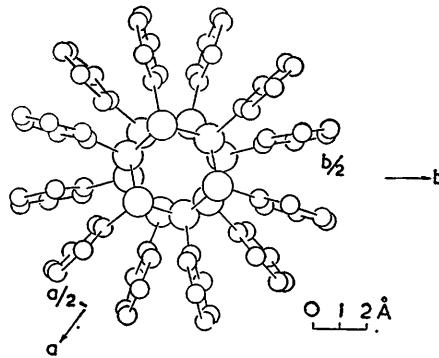


FIGURE 2. Packing in the unit cell: the [c]-axis projection

is not common, and has been found previously only in elemental black phosphorus<sup>8</sup> and in the inorganic salt<sup>9</sup>  $(\text{CsPO})_6 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; in the latter case, the phosphorus atoms are bonded to two oxygen atoms as well as to two phosphorus atoms. In the  $(\text{PO}_2)_6$  ion the average P-P-P-P torsion angle is  $68.6^\circ$ , while the average P-P-P angle is  $105.6^\circ$ ; the phosphorus ring (in the chair form) is therefore much flatter than that found in  $(\text{PC}_6\text{H}_5)_6$ .

<sup>8</sup> R. Hultgren, N. S. Gingrich, and B. E. Warren, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 1935, **3**, 351.

<sup>9</sup> J. Weiss, *Z. anorg. u. allgem. Chem.*, 1960, **306**, 30.













TABLE 5 (Continued)

<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	100 <i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	100 <i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	100 <i>Δ</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	100 <i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	100 <i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	100 <i>Δ</i>
6	3	12	-555	-588	33	4	1	13	-657	-568	-129
7	0	12	-536	-460	-76	4	2	13	-908	-836	-72
7	1	12	-663	-500	-163	5	1	13	-599	-503	-96
1	1	13	-302	-392	90	0	2	14	-613	-699	86
1	2	13	-541	-542	1	0	3	14	-932	-918	-14
1	3	13	-509	-578	69	0	4	14	-1249	-1095	-154
1	6	13	796	772	24	1	2	14	-504	-395	-109
2	1	13	-620	-639	19	1	3	14	-776	-671	-105
2	2	13	-931	-992	61	1	4	14	-870	-838	-32
2	3	13	-715	-834	119	2	0	14	321	503	-182
2	5	13	665	678	-13	2	1	14	608	609	-1
2	6	13	1157	1060	97	3	0	14	1221	1250	-29
3	1	13	-649	-652	3	3	1	14	1122	1073	49
3	2	13	-948	-1010	62	4	0	14	1436	1342	94
3	3	13	-601	-556	-45	4	1	14	857	843	14

Some molecular quantities in  $(PC_6H_5)_6$  and  $(PC_6H_5)_5$  are compared in Table 6. Although the P-P bond length found here ( $2.237 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$ ) is not significantly different from the average P-P length in  $(PC_6H_5)_5$  ( $2.217 \pm 0.006 \text{ \AA}$ ), it is interesting to note that the same situation occurs for arsenomethane<sup>10</sup> ( $AsCH_3)_5$  and arsenobenzene<sup>11</sup> ( $AsC_6H_5)_6$ , where the As-As bond length is greater by  $0.028 \text{ \AA}$  in the six-membered ring than in the five. The similarity of the six-membered phosphorus ring found here to the six-membered arsenic ring in arsenobenzene<sup>11</sup> is striking: the bond angles are  $94.6^\circ$  and  $100.0^\circ$  (average), respectively, and the torsion angles are  $85.0^\circ$  and  $89^\circ$  (average), respectively.

The P-C bond length found here does not differ significantly from that found in triphenylphosphorus,<sup>12</sup> but the bond angles at the phosphorus atom are much larger in  $(PC_6H_5)_3$ , where they are essentially equal and average  $103.0^\circ$ .

TABLE 6  
Comparison of molecular quantities in  $(PC_6H_5)_6$  and  $(PC_6H_5)_5$

	$(PC_6H_5)_6$		$(PC_6H_5)_5$	
P-P .....	Range	Average	Range	Average
P-P-P .....	—	2.237(3)	2.207—2.223	2.217(6)*
P-P-P-P  .....	—	94.6(1)	94.1—107.2	100.0(54)*
P-C .....	—	85.0	2.2—60.6	38.1
P-P-C .....	1.97.1(2) and 99.9(2)	1.843(7)	1.828—1.858	1.843(14)*
P-C-C .....	1.123.1(5) and 1.115.1(5)	1.19.6	1.14.5—1.25.5	1.20.2(42)*
C-C .....	1.371—1.437	1.406(20) σ	1.372—1.440	1.403(26)*
C-C-C .....	1.117.9—1.122.8	1.120.0(20) *	1.117.0—1.123.7	1.120.0(14)*

\* Standard deviation of individual values from the average.

The carbon atoms of the phenyl group do not deviate significantly from a plane regular hexagon of side  $1.397 \text{ \AA}$ . However, the  $U_{33}$  thermal parameter is rather high for some of the atoms, particularly C4 and C5. This may be real and due, for example, to slight disorder, but it is difficult in this case to see why the thermal parameters of atom C6 are not particularly big. Another possibility is that there is an unidentified systematic error in the intensity measurements.

The departures of the molecule from symmetry  $\bar{3}m$  ( $D_{3d}$ ) are not great. To achieve this symmetry both P-C-C angles should be equal (they differ by  $2.8^\circ$ ), the phenyl ring should be parallel to the [c]-axis (it makes an angle of  $5.6^\circ$  with c) and the phosphorus atom should be coplanar with the phenyl ring (the displacement is  $0.03 \text{ \AA}$ ).

There are 9 independent Van der Waals contacts of less than  $4.0 \text{ \AA}$ ; the two shortest are

<sup>10</sup> J. H. Burns and J. Waser, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1957, **79**, 859.

<sup>11</sup> K. Hedberg, E. W. Hughes, and J. Waser, *Acta Cryst.*, 1961, **14**, 369.

<sup>12</sup> J. J. Daly, *J.*, 1964, 3799.

C···C contacts both of 3.46 Å; there are no contacts of less than 4 Å involving the phosphorus atom. If we ignore contacts within a phenyl group and those that subtend a bond angle, then there are three non-bonded intramolecular contacts of less than 3.6 Å; these are illustrated in Figure 1.

It seems possible that the monoclinic and rhombohedral forms<sup>3</sup> of  $(PC_6H_5)_6$ , in which the required molecular symmetry forbids the boat conformation, differ from the trigonal form mainly in the orientation of the phenyl rings about the P-C bonds; the triclinic modification<sup>2</sup> however is not known to be restricted to the chair form by symmetry.

I thank Dr. L. Maier who prepared the crystals and determined the density and with whom I have had many helpful discussions.

MONSANTO RESEARCH S.A., BINZSTRASSE 39,  
8045 ZURICH, SWITZERLAND.

[Received, December 21st, 1964.]

---