

# Syntheses of crown ether-esters with (benzyloxy)methyl side arms using $\text{SbPh}_3$ and $\text{BiPh}_3$ as templates<sup>1</sup>

Yoichi Habata,\* Fumio Fujishiro and Sadatoshi Akabori\*

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Toho University, Funabashi, Chiba 274, Japan

New crown ether-esters **3a**, **3b**, **4a**, **4b**, **4c** and **5a** with side arms are synthesized by the treatment of (benzyloxy)methyl-substituted diols (**1** and **2**) with acid chlorides [malonyl chloride and diglycolyl chloride (2,2'-oxydiacetyl chloride)].  $\text{SbPh}_3$  and  $\text{BiPh}_3$  are effective templates for the synthesis of 14-crown-4 ether-esters with (benzyloxy)methyl side arms, and the template effect depends on the structures of both the diols and acid chlorides. Also, it was revealed that the key step in the template synthesis is the formation of a complex between **1** and  $\text{MPh}_3$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Sb}$  and  $\text{Bi}$ ) by IR and mass spectral studies. The order of complexing ability between **1** and  $\text{MPh}_3$  is:  $1 + \text{BiPh}_3 \gg 1 + \text{SbPh}_3 > 1 + \text{AsPh}_3$ . In particular,  $\text{BiPh}_3$  can form stable 1:1 and 2:1 complexes with **1**.

It is well known that template syntheses are some of the most useful methods for the synthesis of macrocyclic compounds such as crown ethers and supramolecules.<sup>2</sup> Ogawa *et al.* reported<sup>3</sup> that triarylbismuthines were efficient dehydration reagents for the preparation of ester compounds such as the crown ether-esters by the reaction of a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid anhydride with an aliphatic alcohol or polyethylene glycol in nonpolar solvents such as benzene. Also, Alcock *et al.*<sup>4</sup> and Takahashi *et al.*<sup>5</sup> reported that antimony(III) chloride ( $\text{SbCl}_3$ ), which is unstable in air, formed stable 1:1 complexes with 12-crown-4, 15-crown-5 and 18-crown-6. These results have led us to use  $\text{SbPh}_3$  as a template for the syntheses of crown ether-esters with side arms.  $\text{SbPh}_3$  is a very convenient template, because (i) it is highly soluble in low polarity solvents such as benzene, (ii) it is stable in water and air, and (iii) it is easily recovered from the reaction mixture. Although a number of crown ethers having one or more side arms as additional binding sites have been extensively investigated,<sup>6</sup> no example has been reported on the synthesis of crown ether-ester derivatives with side arms. It is expected that these crown ether-esters may have specific selectivities for metal cations similar to crown ethers with side arms. Here, we report the synthesis of crown ether-esters with (benzyloxy)methyl side arms using  $\text{MPh}_3$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Sb}$  and  $\text{Bi}$ ) as the template.

## Results and discussion

### Syntheses of crown ether-esters with (benzyloxy)methyl side arms

(Benzyloxy)methyl-substituted 16-, 14- and 13-membered crown ether-esters were prepared by the treatment of diols **1** and **2**<sup>7</sup> with the corresponding acid chlorides (malonyl chloride and diglycolyl chloride) under high dilution conditions (see Experimental section). For example, when **1** was treated with malonyl chloride, pure monomer **3a** and dimer **3b** were obtained as hygroscopic oils in 35 and 21% yield, respectively. On the other hand, when diglycolyl chloride was used, monomer **4a**, dimer **4b** and trimer **4c** were obtained as cyclization products. Using **2** as a diol gave only the monomer **5a**. Structures of these cyclization compounds were confirmed by elemental analyses, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  and EI-mass spectroscopy (20 eV). COSY and CHCORR (C-H Correlated 2D NMR) techniques were used for the assignment of the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra. All peaks in the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were reasonably assigned. Although the molecular ion peaks of **3a**, **3b**, **4a** and **5a** in the EI-mass spectra were observed as  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , those of **4b** and **4c** could not be

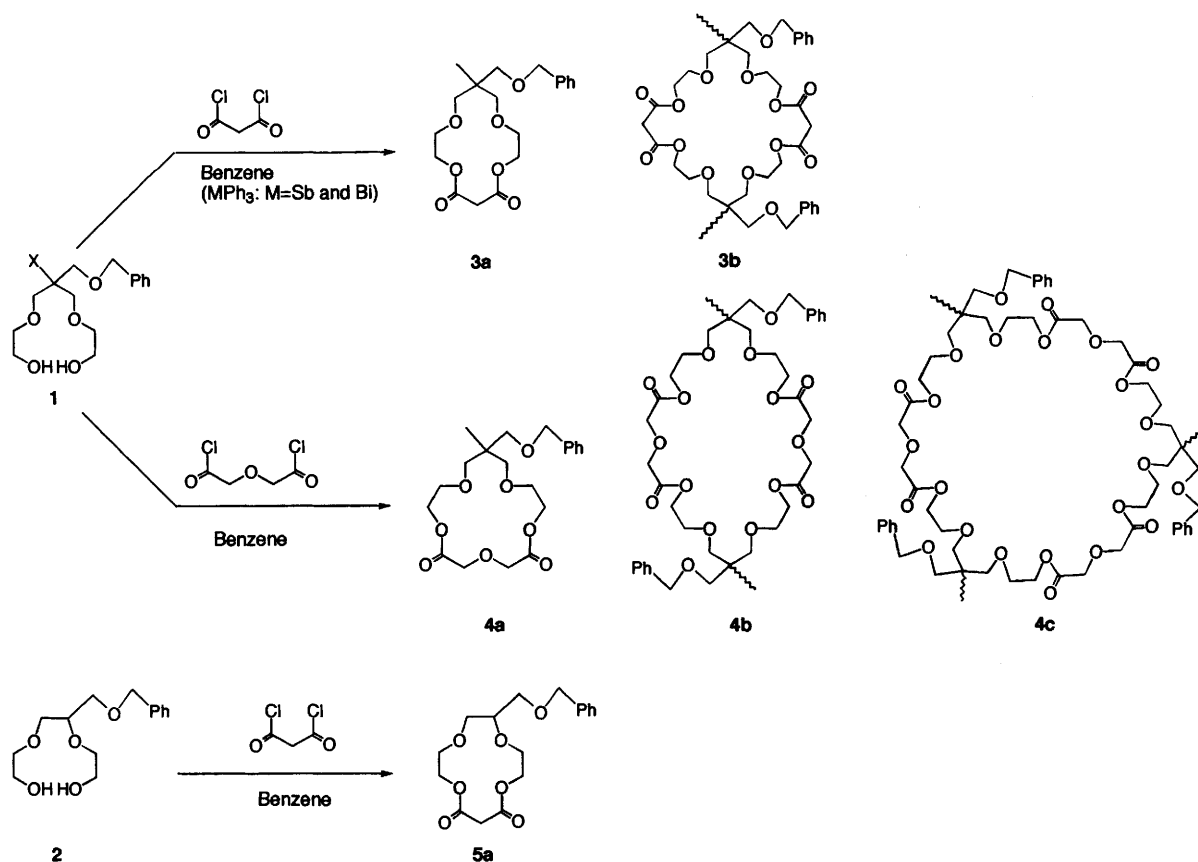
observed. We confirmed these structures by the fragment ion peaks arising from  $[\text{M} - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2 - \text{H}]^+$  at 700 (44%),  $[\text{M} - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2 - \text{OCOCH}_2\text{O} + \text{H}]^+$  at 628 (10%) and  $[\text{M}/2]^+$  at 396 (5%) in **4b** and  $[\text{M} - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2\text{COO} - \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CCH}_3(\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}]^+$  at 774 (0.9%),  $[\text{M} - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2 - \text{M}/3]^+$  at 701 (2%) and  $[\text{M} - \text{M}/3 - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2 - \text{OCOCH}_2\text{O} + \text{H}]^+$  at 628 (0.5%) in **4c**.

### Template effect by $\text{MPh}_3$ for the syntheses of the crown ether-esters

The yield and recovery of  $\text{MPh}_3$  ( $\text{M} = \text{As}$ ,  $\text{Sb}$  and  $\text{Bi}$ ) from the reaction of diols with acid chlorides are summarized in Table 1. As shown in Run 3, using  $\text{SbPh}_3$  for the reaction of **1** with malonyl chloride increased the yield of monomer **3a** and decreased that of dimer **3b** when compared with Run 1. The recovery of  $\text{SbPh}_3$  was 86%. We also examined the effect of  $\text{AsPh}_3$  and  $\text{BiPh}_3$  as a template for the cyclization reaction, because  $\text{As}$  and  $\text{Bi}$  are also group XV metals. When  $\text{AsPh}_3$  was used as the template (Run 2), the yields of **3a** decreased and that of **3b** remained the same as compared with Run 1. The recovery of  $\text{AsPh}_3$  was quantitative. On the other hand, addition of one equivalent of  $\text{BiPh}_3$  increased not only the yield of **3a** but also that of **3b** (Run 6). In this case,  $\text{BiPh}_3$  could not be recovered because it decomposed under the reaction conditions. In order to investigate the effect on the structure of the acid chloride, diglycolyl chloride was used as the acid chloride. Runs 5–8 in Table 1 show the yield of the (benzyloxy)methyl substituted 16-crown-5 ether-ester **4a**, the dimer **4b** and the trimer **4c**. A significant template effect by  $\text{MPh}_3$  was not observed, although the yield of the dimer was slightly enhanced by using  $\text{SbPh}_3$  (Run 6). Next, we examined the effect on the structure of the diol. The (benzyloxy)methyl-substituted tri(ethylene glycol)-derivative **2** was treated with malonyl chloride (Runs 7 and 8). In this system, monomer **5a** was predominantly obtained. A significant template effect was not observed, although the yield of **5a** was slightly increased using  $\text{SbPh}_3$ . These results show that the effect of  $\text{SbPh}_3$  and  $\text{BiPh}_3$  as templates depends on the structures of both the diols and acid chlorides under the given reaction conditions.

### Complexing ability between diol **1** and $\text{MPh}_3$

Recently, Rogers *et al.*<sup>8</sup> reported the X-ray crystallography of complexes of ethylene glycols with  $\text{M}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  ( $\text{M} = \text{As}$ ,  $\text{Sb}$  and  $\text{Bi}$ ). We believe that complex formation between the diol and  $\text{MPh}_3$  is an important step in the cyclization reaction. In order to assess the complexing abilities of diol **1** with  $\text{MPh}_3$  ( $\text{M} = \text{As}$ ,



**Table 1** Yield<sup>a</sup> of crown ether-ester and recovery of MPh<sub>3</sub> (M = As, Sb and Bi)

Run	Diol	Acid chloride	Template	Yield (%)			Recovery of MPh <sub>3</sub> (%)
				Monomer	Dimer	Trimer	
				<b>3a</b>	<b>3b</b>		
1	<b>1</b>	Malonyl chloride	—	35	21	—	
2	<b>1</b>	Malonyl chloride	AsPh <sub>3</sub>	25	21	—	> 99
3	<b>1</b>	Malonyl chloride	SbPh <sub>3</sub>	40	15	—	86
4	<b>1</b>	Malonyl chloride	BiPh <sub>3</sub>	40	44	—	<i>b</i>
				<b>4a</b>	<b>4b</b>	<b>4c</b>	
5	<b>1</b>	Diglycolyl chloride	—	43	22	4	
6	<b>1</b>	Diglycolyl chloride	AsPh <sub>3</sub>	44	23	8	> 99
7	<b>1</b>	Diglycolyl chloride	SbPh <sub>3</sub>	42	28	8	84
8	<b>1</b>	Diglycolyl chloride	BiPh <sub>3</sub>	43	18	4	<i>b</i>
				<b>5a</b>			
9	<b>2</b>	Malonyl chloride	—	48	—	—	
10	<b>2</b>	Malonyl chloride	SbPh <sub>3</sub>	54	—	—	78

<sup>a</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>b</sup> BiPh<sub>3</sub> decomposed.

Sb and Bi), <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration studies in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution were carried out by the addition of **1** to MPh<sub>3</sub> (Fig. 1). No chemical shift changes for the OH protons were observed for **1** + AsPh<sub>3</sub>, **1** + SbPh<sub>3</sub> or **1** + BiPh<sub>3</sub>, although there were slight chemical shift changes between **1** and the **1** + MPh<sub>3</sub> systems. Since we could not observe differences in the binding abilities using <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral studies, we tried to estimate them by means of IR and EI-mass spectroscopy (20 eV). IR spectral data for the C–OH stretching band for **1**, **1** + AsPh<sub>3</sub>, **1** + SbPh<sub>3</sub> and **1** + BiPh<sub>3</sub> are shown in Table 2. There are remarkable differences between **1** and the **1** + MPh<sub>3</sub> (M = Sb and Bi) systems. The order of differences is as follows: **1** + BiPh<sub>3</sub> (–15 cm<sup>-1</sup>) > **1** + SbPh<sub>3</sub> (–10 cm<sup>-1</sup>) > **1** + AsPh<sub>3</sub> (±0 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The same tendency was observed using EI-mass spectra. Table 3 shows the fragment ion peaks and intensities of MPh<sub>3</sub>, Table 4 shows those of mixtures of **1** + MPh<sub>3</sub> (**1**:MPh<sub>3</sub> = 1:1, M = As, Sb and Bi) and Table 5 shows the peaks and intensities of a mixture of malonyl chloride + BiPh<sub>3</sub>. In the EI-mass spectral

**Table 2** IR spectral data (ν/cm<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>a</sup> of **1**, **1** + AsPh<sub>3</sub>, **1** + SbPh<sub>3</sub> and **1** + BiPh<sub>3</sub> systems

	ν(C–OH)	Δ cm <sup>-1</sup>
<b>1</b>	1065	—
<b>1</b> + AsPh <sub>3</sub>	1065	0
<b>1</b> + SbPh <sub>3</sub>	1055	–10
<b>1</b> + BiPh <sub>3</sub>	1050	–15

<sup>a</sup> Neat.

data of MPh<sub>3</sub>, the fragment ion peaks and their intensities are compatible with the previously reported data.<sup>9</sup> On the other hand, there were significant intensity changes in the fragment ion peaks between mixtures of **1** + AsPh<sub>3</sub>, **1** + SbPh<sub>3</sub> and **1** + BiPh<sub>3</sub>. In the mixture of **1** + AsPh<sub>3</sub>, the intensity of [**1** + H]<sup>+</sup> was 100%, while those of [**1** + AsPh<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, [**1** + AsPh<sub>2</sub> – H]<sup>+</sup> and [**1** + AsPh<sub>2</sub> – 2H]<sup>+</sup> were very low (0.1–0.5%). Also, the intensities of [**1** + SbPh<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, [**1** + SbPh<sub>2</sub> – H]<sup>+</sup> and [**1** +

**Table 3** Fragment ion peaks and intensities of  $MPh_3$  ( $M = As, Sb$  or  $Bi$ )<sup>a</sup>

Compound	$MPh_3^+$	$MPh_2^+$	$MPh^+$	$M^+$
$AsPh_3$	306 (31.7%)	229 (7.3%)	152 (100.0%)	
$SbPh_3^b$	352 (10.8%)	275 (14.9%)	198 (100.0%)	121 (0.4%)
	354 (7.9%)	277 (7.4%)	200 (74.3%)	123 (0.3%)
$BiPh_3$		363 (4.5%)	286 (100.0%)	209 (89.5%)

<sup>a</sup> Measured by the EI method (20 eV). <sup>b</sup> Natural abundances of <sup>121</sup>Sb and <sup>123</sup>Sb are 57.25 and 42.75%, respectively (100:74.7).

**Table 4** Fragment ion peaks and intensities of mixtures of **1** with  $MPh_3$  ( $M = As, Sb$  or  $Bi$ )<sup>a</sup>

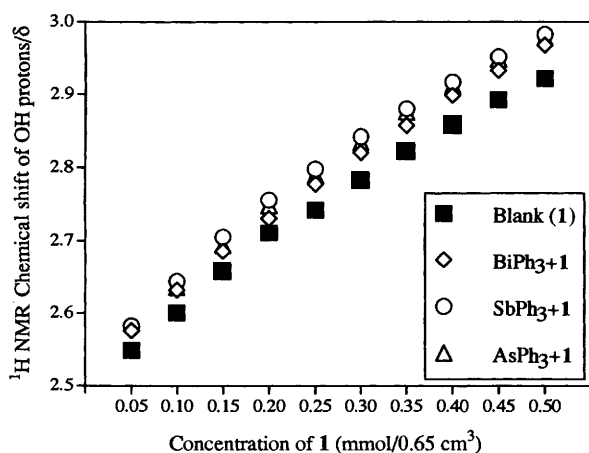
Mixture	$[1 + H]^+$	$[1 + MPh_2]^+$	$[1 + MPh - H]^+$ or $[1 + MPh]^+$	$[1 + M - 2H]^+$ or $[1 + M]^+$	$[2 \times 1 + M - 2H]^+$
<b>1</b> + $AsPh_3^c$	299 (100.0%)	527 (0.1%)	449 (0.1%)	371 (0.5%)	
<b>1</b> + $SbPh_3^{b,c}$	299 (100.0%)	573 (1.8%)	495 (5.5%)	417 (4.6%)	
		575 (1.3%)	497 (4.4%)	419 (3.6%)	
<b>1</b> + $BiPh_3^c$	299 (82.3%)	661 (26.1%)	584 (23.4%)	507 (100.0%)	803 (3.3%)

<sup>a</sup> Measured by the EI method (20 eV). <sup>b</sup> Natural abundances of <sup>121</sup>Sb and <sup>123</sup>Sb are 57.25 and 42.75%, respectively (100:74.7). <sup>c</sup> The intensity of each peak was normalized based on that of  $[1 + H]^+$  for **1** +  $AsPh_3$  and **1** +  $SbPh_3$ , and  $[1 + M]^+$  for **1** +  $BiPh_3$  systems.

**Table 5** Fragment ion peaks and intensities of a mixture of  $BiPh_3$  with malonyl chloride<sup>a</sup>

Mixture	Fragment ions, peaks and intensities				
Malonyl chloride + $BiPh_3$	$BiPh_2^+$	$BiPh^+$	$Bi^+$		
	363 (4.3%)	286 (12.8%)	209 (95.1%)		
	$BiCl_3^+$	$BiCl_2^+$	$BiCl^+$	$BiPhCl_2^+$	$BiPhCl^+$
	314 (0.8%)	279 (3.7%)	244 (85.9%)	356 (0.6%)	321 (14.5%)
	316 (0.7%)	281 (2.4%)	246 (26.6%)	358 (0.4%)	323 (4.7%)
	318 (0.2%)	283 (0.4%)		360 (0.1%)	
	320 (0.1%)				

<sup>a</sup> Measured by the EI method (20 eV).

**Fig. 1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR shift changes of OH protons of **1** ( $[MPh_3] = 0.05$  mmol/0.65 cm<sup>3</sup>)

$SbPh_2 - 2H]^+$  were about 1–4% in the mixture of **1** +  $SbPh_3$ , although the intensity of  $[1 + H]^+$  was 100%, the same as in the **1** +  $AsPh_3$  system. Surprisingly, in the mixture of **1** +  $BiPh_3$ , the intensities of  $[1 + H]^+$ ,  $[1 + BiPh_2]^+$ ,  $[1 + BiPh - H]^+$  and  $[1 + Bi - 2H]^+$  were 82.3, 26.1, 23.4 and 100.0%, respectively, and  $[2 \times 1 + Bi - 2H]^+$  arising from the 2:1 (**1**: $BiPh_3$ ) complex also appeared (3.3%) under these conditions. The results imply an order for the complexing abilities between **1** and  $MPh_3$  of **1** +  $BiPh_3 \gg 1 + SbPh_3 > 1 + AsPh_3$ , and in particular that  $BiPh_3$  can form stable 1:1 and 2:1 complexes with **1**. The increase and decrease in the yields of **3a** and **3b** using  $SbPh_3$  and  $BiPh_3$  (Runs 3 and 4, Table 1) can be explained by the trend in the complexing abilities between **1** and **1** +  $MPh_3$  ( $M = Sb$  and  $Bi$ ). That is, when  $SbPh_3$  was used, the formation of a 1:1 complex between **1** and  $SbPh_3$  enhanced the yield of monomer **3a** and reduced that of dimer **3b**. On the other hand, when  $BiPh_3$  was used, the

formation of the 1:1 and 2:1 complexes enhanced the yield of both compounds. Therefore, it is reasonable to speculate that enhancement of the yields of **3a** by  $SbPh_3$  and that of **3a** and **3b** by  $BiPh_3$  is due to the template effect as shown in Fig. 2. When  $AsPh_3$  was used as a template for the treatment of **1** with acid chlorides, the yield of **3a** (Run 2) decreased compared with the template-free conditions (Run 1), although there is no effect on the yield of **4a** (Runs 5 and 6). The results may indicate that  $AsPh_3$  inhibits monomer formation by **1** and malonyl chloride. In order to analyse the decomposition products of  $BiPh_3$ , the mass spectrum of the mixture of malonyl chloride +  $BiPh_3$  was measured. As shown in Table 5, several ion peaks such as  $BiCl_3^+$  and  $BiPhCl_2^+$  arising from the Cl substituted compounds of  $BiPh_3$  together with the fragment ion peaks arising from  $BiPh_3$  were detected. However, the ion peaks arising from the malonyl chloride–bismuth compound were not detected at all. The experimental results show that (i) the decomposed products of  $BiPh_3$  are mixtures of the Cl substituted compounds of  $BiPh_3$  and (ii) the formation of the complex of  $BiPh_3$  with malonyl chloride can be ruled out in the cyclization mechanisms. The second suggestion strongly supports our postulated cyclization mechanisms.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that  $SbPh_3$  and  $BiPh_3$  are effective templates for the syntheses of 14-crown-4 ether-esters with (benzyloxy)methyl side arms and that the template effect depends on the structures of both diol and acid chloride. Also, we showed that the key step in the template synthesis is the formation of a complex between the diol and  $MPh_3$  based on IR and mass spectral data.

## Experimental

Mass spectra were obtained on a Hitachi M80 Mass spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AC 250 spectrometer with  $Me_4Si$  as the internal stand-

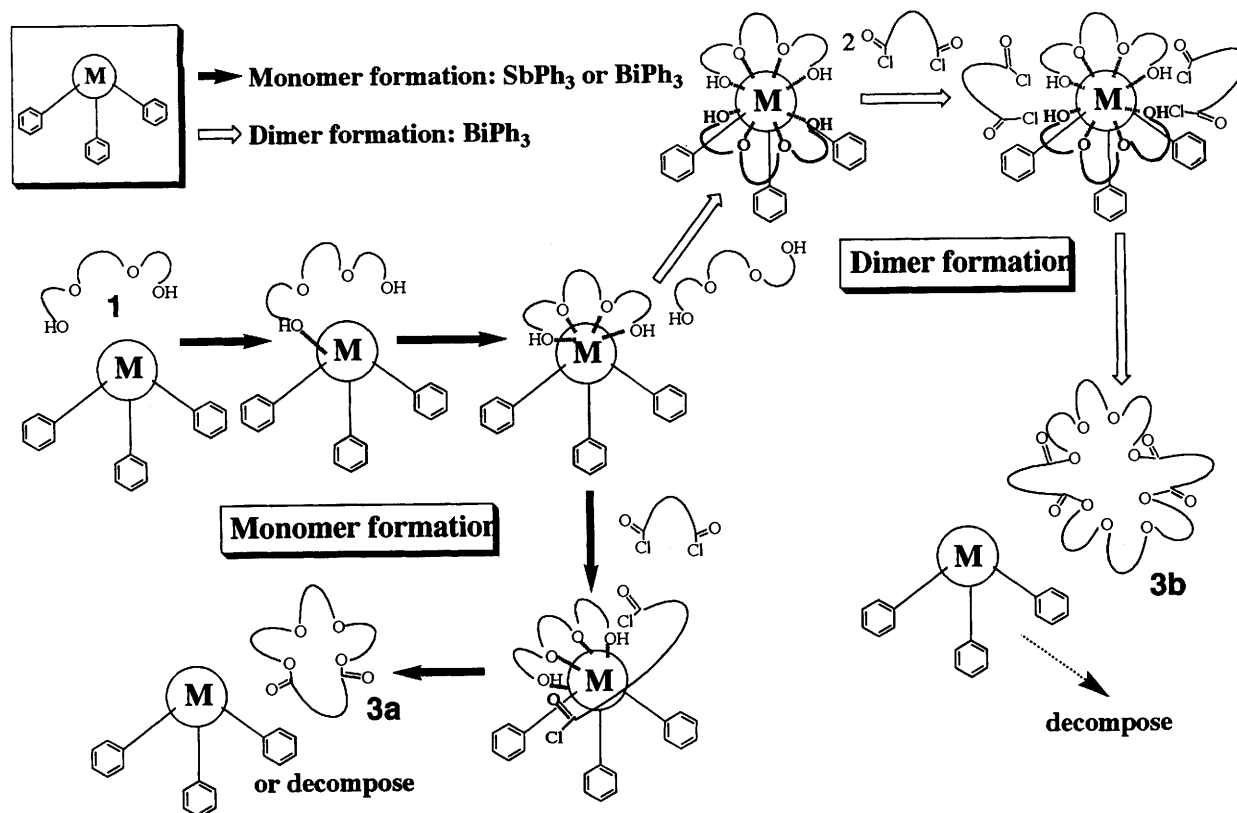


Fig. 2 Postulated cyclization mechanisms for 3a and 3b by the template effect

ard and *J* values are given in Hz. IR spectra were recorded with a JASCO FT/IR-230 spectrometer.

#### General procedure for the treatment of (benzyloxy)methyl substituted diols with acid chlorides

A solution of the diol (17 mmol) in benzene (100 cm<sup>3</sup>) and a solution of acid chloride (17 mmol) in benzene (100 cm<sup>3</sup>) were added dropwise over 5 h to refluxing benzene [500 cm<sup>3</sup>, containing MPh<sub>3</sub> (17 mmol) as appropriate] under a nitrogen atmosphere. After addition was complete, the mixture was heated under reflux for a further 24 h. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure and the residual oil was purified by silica gel column chromatography (benzene–ethyl acetate). The first and the second fractions were the triphenylmetal and a mixture of the cyclization compounds, respectively. The second fraction was concentrated and the residual oil was separated and purified by gel-permeation column chromatography (Sephadex LH-20, ethanol as eluent). The pure monomer, dimer and trimer were obtained as hygroscopic oils.

**13-(Benzyloxy)methyl-13-methyl-1,4,8,11-tetraoxacyclo-tetradecane-5,7-dione 3a.** Oil;  $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$  7.30 (5 H, s), 4.48 (2 H, s), 4.27–4.24 (4 H, m), 3.64–3.61 (4 H, m), 3.40 (2 H, s), 3.34 (2 H, d, *J* 16.6), 3.30 (2 H, d, *J* 16.6), 3.30 (2 H, s) and 0.97 (3 H, s);  $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$  165.9 (C-5, C-7, C=O), 138.6 (phenyl, bridgehead carbon), 128.1 (phenyl), 127.2 (phenyl), 127.1 (phenyl), 73.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 73.6 (BzOCH<sub>2</sub>), 72.2 (C-12, C-14), 68.3 (C-2, C-10, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 64.4 (C-3, C-9, OCH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 42.1 (C-6), 40.3 (C-13) and 17.6 (13-Me); *m/z* (20 eV) 367 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 18%);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1750 and 1730 (C=O) (Found: C, 62.0; H, 7.25. Calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: C, 62.28; H, 7.15%).

**13,27-Bis[(benzyloxy)methyl]-13,27-dimethyl-1,4,8,11,15,-18,22,25-octaoxacyclooctacosane-5,7,19,21-tetraone 3b.** Oil;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.32 (10 H, s), 4.47 (4 H, s), 4.24 (8 H, t, *J* 4.6), 3.59 (8 H, t, *J* 4.6), 3.38 (4 H, s), 3.35 (4 H, s), 3.34 (4 H, s), 3.31 (4 H, s) and 0.95 (6 H, s);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  166.1 (C-5, C-7, C-19, C-21, C=O), 138.6

(phenyl, bridgehead carbon), 128.2 (phenyl), 127.2 (phenyl), 127.1 (phenyl), 73.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 72.8 (BzOCH<sub>2</sub>), 73.3 (C-12, C-14, C-26, C-28), 68.7 (C-2, C-10, C-16, C-24, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-OCO), 64.4 (C-3, C-9, C-17, C-23, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 41.2 (C-6, C-20), 40.8 (C-13, C-27) and 17.2 (13-Me, 27-Me); *m/z* (20 eV) 733 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 18%);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1760–1730 (C=O) (Found: C, 61.6; H, 7.2. Calc. for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>14</sub> + 1/2H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 61.53; H, 7.20%).

**15-(Benzyloxy)methyl-15-methyl-1,4,7,10,13-pentaoxacyclo-hexadecane-5,9-dione 4a.** Oil;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.31 (5 H, s), 4.48 (2 H, s), 4.35–4.31 (4 H, m), 4.23 (4 H, s), 3.66–3.63 (4 H, m), 3.39 (2 H, d, *J* 16.8), 3.36 (2 H, d, *J* 16.8), 3.31 (2 H, s) and 0.96 (3 H, s);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  169.4 (C-5, C-9, C=O), 138.8 (phenyl, bridgehead carbon), 128.3 (phenyl), 127.5 (phenyl), 127.4 (phenyl), 73.3 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 73.1 (BzOCH<sub>2</sub>), 74.2 (C-14, C-16), 69.0 (C-2, C-12, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 64.8 (C-3, C-11, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 68.0 (C-6, C-8), 40.9 (C-15) and 17.4 (15-Me); *m/z* (20 eV) 397 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 17%) and 204 ([CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCOCH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>COOCH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>, 100%);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1750 and 1738 (C=O) (Found: C, 59.9; H, 7.2. Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>8</sub> + 1/4H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 59.76; H, 7.23%).

**15,31-Bis[(benzyloxy)methyl]-15,31-dimethyl-1,4,7,10,13,-17,20,23,26,29-decaoxacyclodotriacontane-5,9,21,25-tetraone 4b.** Oil;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.31 (10 H, s), 4.47 (4 H, s), 4.27 (8 H, t, *J* 4.6), 4.24 (8 H, s), 3.60 (8 H, t, *J* 4.6), 3.33 (8 H, s), 3.31 (4 H, s) and 0.94 (6 H, s);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  169.7 (C-5, C-9, C-21, C-25, C=O), 138.8 (phenyl, bridgehead carbon), 128.3 (phenyl), 127.4 (phenyl), 127.3 (phenyl), 73.3 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 73.0 (BzOCH<sub>2</sub>), 73.5 (C-14, C-16, C-30, C-32), 69.0 (C-2, C-12, C-18, C-28, OCH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 64.0 (C-3, C-11, C-19, C-27, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 68.0 (C-6, C-8, C-22, C-24), 41.0 (C-15, C-31) and 17.4 (15-Me, 31-Me); *m/z* (20 eV) 700 ([M - C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> - H]<sup>+</sup>, 44%), 628 ([M - C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> - OCOCH<sub>2</sub>O + H]<sup>+</sup>, 10%), 396 ([M/2]<sup>+</sup>, 5%), 252 ([M/2 - COCH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 32%) and 204 ([CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCOCH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>, 100%);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1755–1735 (C=O) (Found: C, 60.5; H, 7.1. Calc. for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>56</sub>O<sub>16</sub>: C, 60.59; H, 7.12%).

**15,31,47-Tris[(benzyloxy)methyl]-15,31,47-trimethyl-1,4,7,10,13,17,20,23,26,29,33,36,39,42,45-pentadecaoxacyclooctatetracontane-5,9,21,25,37,41-hexaone 4c.** Oil;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.31 (15 H, s), 4.47 (6 H, s), 4.26 (12 H, t, *J* 4.6), 4.22 (12 H, s), 3.59 (12 H, t, *J* 4.6), 3.33 (12 H, s), 3.30 (6 H, s) and 0.94 (9 H, s);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  169.7 (C-5, C-9, C-21, C-25, C-37, C-41, C=O), 138.8 (phenyl, bridgehead carbon), 128.3 (phenyl), 127.4 (phenyl), 127.3 (phenyl), 73.3 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 72.9 (BzOCH<sub>2</sub>), 73.6 (C-14, C-16, C-30, C-32, C-46, C-48), 69.1 (C-2, C-12, C-18, C-28, C-34, C-44, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 63.9 (C-3, C-11, C-19, C-27, C-35, C-43, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 68.0 (C-6, C-8, C-22, C-24, C-38, C-40), 41.0 (C-15, C-31, C-47) and 17.4 (15-Me, 31-Me, 47-Me); *m/z* (20 eV) 774 { $[\text{M} - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CCH}_3 - (\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}]^+$ , 0.9%}, 701 { $[\text{M} - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2 - \text{M}/3]^+$ , 2%}, 628 { $[\text{M} - \text{M}/3 - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2 - \text{OCOCH}_2\text{O} + \text{H}]^+$ , 0.5%}, 252 { $[\text{M}/3 - \text{COCH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_2]^+$ , 30%}, 204 { $[\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCOCH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}]^+$ , 32%} and 91 { $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2]^+$ , 100%};  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1755–1735 (C=O) (Found: C, 61.0; H, 7.2. Calc. for C<sub>60</sub>H<sub>84</sub>O<sub>24</sub>: C, 60.59; H, 7.12%).

**5-(Benzyloxy)methyl-1,4,7,10-tetraoxacyclotridecane-11,13-dione 5a.** Oil;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.34–7.27 (5 H, m), 4.52 (2 H, s), 4.42–4.18 (4 H, m), 3.94–3.61 (7 H, m), 3.52–3.24 (2 H, m) and 3.40 (2 H, d, *J* 4.9);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  166.1 (C-11, C-13, C=O), 137.9 (phenyl, bridgehead carbon), 128.4 (phenyl), 127.7 (phenyl), 127.6 (phenyl), 73.4 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 69.9 (BzOCH<sub>2</sub>), 71.0 (C-6), 68.8 and 68.6 (C-3, C-8, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 64.9 and 64.0 (C-2, C-9, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 42.4 (C-12) and 78.1 (C-5); *m/z* (20 eV) 339 (M<sup>+</sup> + H, 41%);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1760–1740 (C=O) (Found: C, 60.3; H, 6.8. Calc. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: C, 60.35; H, 6.55%).

#### Titration experiments

Titration experiments were carried out at 298 K upon the addition of 1.0–10.0 equiv. of **1** to the MPh<sub>3</sub> solution. Conditions: [**1**] = 0.05 mmol 10 mm<sup>-3</sup> in CDCl<sub>3</sub>; [MPh<sub>3</sub>] = 0.05 mmol 0.65 cm<sup>-3</sup> in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

#### Preparation of samples for IR and mass spectral studies

Samples for the IR and mass spectral studies were prepared as follows: 0.1 mmol of MPh<sub>3</sub> (M = As, Sb and Bi) was added to 0.1 mmol of **1** in 2 cm<sup>3</sup> of CHCl<sub>3</sub>. After the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, the residual oil was dried

with an Abderhalden's dryer (0.1 Torr, 100 °C) for 1 h. The residual oil was used directly for the IR and mass spectral studies. Also, for sample of malonyl chloride with BiPh<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 mmol of BiPh<sub>3</sub> was added to 0.1 mmol of malonyl chloride in a mixture of benzene (1 cm<sup>3</sup>) and CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1 cm<sup>3</sup>). After removal of the solvent, the residual solid was used directly for the mass spectral study.

#### Acknowledgements

This work was partially supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Japan (No. 05854066). The authors wish to thank Professor J. S. Bradshaw for helpful discussions.

#### References

- 1 Preliminary report: Y. Habata, F. Fujishiro and S. Akabori, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1994, 2217.
- 2 T. J. McMurry, K. N. Raymond and P. H. Smith, *Science*, 1989, **244**, 938; R. Hoss and F. Vögtle, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1994, **33**, 375 and references cited therein.
- 3 T. Ogawa, T. Hikasa, T. Ikegami, N. Ono and H. Suzuki, *Chem. Lett.*, 1993, 815; T. Ogawa, A. Yoshikawa and N. Ono, *67th CSJ Annual meeting*, abstract II, 1994, p. 1007.
- 4 N. W. Alcock, M. Ravindran and G. R. Willey, *Acta Crystallogr., Sect. B*, 1993, **49**, 507.
- 5 M. Takahashi, T. Kitazawa and M. Takeda, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1993, 1779.
- 6 J. S. Bradshaw, G. B. Maas, R. M. Izatt and J. M. Christensen, *Chem. Rev.*, 1979, **79**, 37; G. W. Gokel and S. H. Korzeniowski, *Macrocyclic Polyether Syntheses*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1982, ch. 5, p. 221.
- 7 B. P. Czech, D. A. Babb and R. A. Bartsch, *Org. Prep. and Proced. Int.*, 1983, **15**, 29.
- 8 R. D. Rogers, A. H. Bond and S. Agunaga, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1992, **114**, 2960; R. D. Rogers, A. H. Bond, S. Agunaga and A. Reyes, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1992, **114**, 2967.
- 9 F. W. McLafferty and D. B. Stauffer, *The Wiley/NBS Registry of Mass Spectral Data*, Wiley, New York, 1987, vol. 3, p. 2965; vol. 4, p. 3888; vol. 5, p. 5026.

Paper 5/04209G

Received 30th June 1995

Accepted 16th October 1995