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### Synthesis, Spectra and Crystal Structure of Tetrakis(Triphenylarsine Oxide)Iron(III)- $\mu$ -Oxo-Tribromoiron(III) Tetrabromoferrate(III)-Acetonitrile

Iveta Ondrejková<sup>a</sup>; Viktor Vrábel<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Inorganic Chemistry, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, Slovakia <sup>b</sup> Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Technology, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, Slovakia

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# SYNTHESIS, SPECTRA AND CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF TETRAKIS(TRIPHENYLARSINE OXIDE)IRON(III)- $\mu$ -OXO-TRIBROMOIRON(III) TETRABROMOFERRATE(III)-ACETONITRILE

IVETA ONDREJKOVIČOVÁ<sup>a,\*</sup> and VIKTOR VRÁBEL<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Inorganic Chemistry, <sup>b</sup>Department of Analytical Chemistry,  
Faculty of Chemical Technology, Slovak Technical University,  
Radlinského 9, 812 37 Bratislava, Slovakia

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The oxidation of triphenylarsine with dioxygen in reaction systems containing some iron compound and Br<sup>-</sup> anions in acetonitrile leads to the formation of a novel unsymmetrical oxo-bridged diiron(III) complex [(OAsPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Fe( $\mu$ -O)FeBr<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>[FeBr<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup>·CH<sub>3</sub>CN, where OAsPh<sub>3</sub> is triphenylarsine oxide. The title complex is also formed by direct reaction of iron(III) bromide and OAsPh<sub>3</sub> with dioxygen in acetonitrile solution. The crystal structure of the complex was solved by X-ray diffraction techniques. The cation contains two unsymmetrical species with an Fe—O—Fe bond angle of 159.2(2)°; one iron atom is pentacoordinated by four OAsPh<sub>3</sub> ligands and a  $\mu$ -oxo ligand which connects the tetracoordinated Fe atom with the FeBr<sub>3</sub>O chromophore. Structural parameters and IR spectra of similar complexes are compared and discussed.

**Keywords:** Iron(III) complex; Unsymmetrical oxo-bridged complex; Triphenylarsine oxide; Oxidation by dioxygen; Crystal structure

## INTRODUCTION

The ( $\mu$ -oxo)diiron(III) unit has been the subject of great interest for several years. The studied complex is one of the very rare examples of a  $\mu$ -oxo

\*Corresponding author.

bridged diiron(III) system where each iron atom is located in a substantially different coordination sphere [1]. The title complex belongs to the family of unsymmetrical oxo-bridged Fe(III) complexes containing cations of the composition  $[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{X}_3]^+$ , where  $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$  [2, 3] or  $\text{Br}$ , with penta- and tetracoordinated iron atoms.

Complexes containing of  $[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{X}_3]^+$  cations were prepared in similar ways, mainly by autocatalytic oxidation of  $\text{AsPh}_3$  to  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  by dioxygen in the presence of some iron(III) salts and  $\text{X}^-$  anions ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$  [2, 3] or  $\text{Br}$ ). In this paper, we discuss and compare the structural parameters and IR spectra of these complexes.

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Analyses and Measurements

All chemicals used were of analytical grade. Iron(III) was determined chelatometrically with Chelaton 3 using sulphosalicylic acid. Carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen were determined by microanalytical methods (Carlo Erba Instruments EA 1108). Analytical data for solid samples are given in Table I. The yields of products are related to the initial metal content in reacting mixtures. Infrared spectra of the powdered samples were recorded in nujol mulls on KBr plates over the  $4000-200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  range using an FTIR-Magna 750 spectrophotometer (Nicolet) at room temperature with  $4\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution. Electronic spectra of acetonitrile solutions were recorded on a Specord 200 spectrophotometer (Analytik Jena). The measurements of dioxygen uptake were performed at constant temperature and constant atmospheric pressure of dioxygen in a gas burette apparatus using a procedure described previously [4].

TABLE I Analytical data<sup>a</sup> for  $[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{Br}_3][\text{FeBr}_4] \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  prepared by four methods

Method	Starting compounds	Elemental analysis (%): found				Yield (%)
		Fe	C	H	N	
1	Fe, HBr, AsPh <sub>3</sub> , O <sub>2</sub>	8.00	43.20	3.13	0.55	75
2	FeBr <sub>3</sub> , AsPh <sub>3</sub> , O <sub>2</sub>	8.05	42.65	2.97	0.56	85
3	Fe <sub>2</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> · 7H <sub>2</sub> O, KBr, AsPh <sub>3</sub> , O <sub>2</sub>	8.13	42.44	3.00	0.52	55
4	[FeBr <sub>2</sub> (OAsPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> ][FeBr <sub>4</sub> ], O <sub>2</sub>	8.11	42.68	2.96	0.50	85
Calculated composition		8.08	42.88	3.06	0.68	

<sup>a</sup> Microanalysis results obtained with maximum deviations: Fe,  $\pm 0.4$ ; C,  $\pm 0.4$ ; H,  $\pm 0.5$ ; N,  $\pm 0.4$ .

## Preparation of $[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{Br}_3][\text{FeBr}_4] \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$

### Method 1

Acetonitrile (ca.  $30 \text{ cm}^3$ ) and  $0.43 \text{ cm}^3$  of a 46% solution (by weight) of aqueous HBr (3.5 mmol) were added into a vessel containing excess iron powder (0.09 g, 1.6 mmol) and  $\text{AsPh}_3$  (0.61 g, 2.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 days at  $60^\circ\text{C}$  under an  $\text{O}_2$  atmosphere. A small amount of insoluble solid was filtered off. When the resulting red-brown solution was allowed to stand at room temperature, microcrystals of the desired complex were obtained. The completion of the oxidation of  $\text{AsPh}_3$  to  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  was ascertained by comparing the electronic absorption spectrum of the reaction solution with that of pure  $\text{OAsPh}_3$ , which in acetonitrile exhibits four absorption bands with maxima at 252, 259, 262 and 270 nm.

### Method 2

A solution of  $\text{AsPh}_3$  (2.0 g, 6.5 mmol) in acetonitrile (ca.  $30 \text{ cm}^3$ ) was added to  $\text{FeBr}_3$  (1.5 g, 5.1 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  under an  $\text{O}_2$  atmosphere for two days. Then the mixture was filtered and well-formed orange needles suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by leaving the filtrate to standing for several days at room temperature.

When the reaction mixture is stirred at lower temperatures and for shorter times, a mixture of two complexes is formed, *i.e.*, the title complex and  $[\text{FeBr}_2(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4][\text{FeBr}_4]$  [5]. A similar mixture was also obtained when ethanol was used instead of acetonitrile.

### Method 3

A mixture of excess  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.53 g, 1.0 mmol), KBr (0.42 g, 3.5 mmol) and  $\text{AsPh}_3$  (0.62 g, 2.0 mmol) in  $40 \text{ cm}^3$  of acetonitrile was stirred and dioxygen was supplied continuously until all  $\text{AsPh}_3$  was oxidized. The reaction took place at  $70^\circ\text{C}$  for about 5 days. After the oxidation, the  $\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$  as by-product and other insoluble solids were filtered out. The filtrate was cooled to room temperature and set aside for crystallization.

### Method 4

A solution of  $[\text{FeBr}_2(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4][\text{FeBr}_4]$  (0.40 g, 0.21 mmol) in  $30 \text{ cm}^3$  of acetonitrile was stirred for 1 day at  $60\text{--}70^\circ\text{C}$  under an  $\text{O}_2$  atmosphere. The resulting solution was filtered and set aside for crystallization.

TABLE II Crystal data and structure refinement details for  $[(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{FeO FeBr}_3][\text{FeBr}_4] \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ 

Empirical formula	$\text{C}_{74}\text{H}_{63}\text{As}_4\text{Br}_7\text{Fe}_3\text{NO}_5$
Formula weight	2072.8
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.71069 Å
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	$\text{P2}_1/\text{c}$
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 13.858(8)$ Å $b = 21.818(10)$ Å $c = 25.677(18)$ Å $\beta = 90.64(5)^\circ$
Volume	$7763(8)$ Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	4
$\rho_c$	$1.774$ mg/m <sup>3</sup>
$\rho_m$	$1.752$ mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	$5.896$ mm <sup>-1</sup>
$F(000)$	4036
Crystal size	$0.10 \times 0.15 \times 0.15$ mm
Reflections collected	4976
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$
Final $R$ indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R1 = 0.056$ , $wR2 = 0.090$
$R$ indices (all data)	$R1 = 0.178$ , $wR2 = 0.107$
Largest diff. peak and hole	$0.565$ and $-0.357$ eÅ <sup>-3</sup>

TABLE III Atomic coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{Å}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for the title complex.  $U(\text{eq})$  is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized  $U_{ij}$  tensor

	$x/a$	$y/b$	$z/c$	$U(\text{eq})$
Fe(1)	7398(3)	8520(2)	1480(1)	43(1)
Fe(2)	7443(3)	10071(2)	1822(2)	69(1)
Fe(3)	7492(3)	4419(2)	717(2)	72(2)
Br(1)	8202(2)	10027(2)	2641(1)	101(1)
Br(2)	5921(3)	10449(2)	1939(2)	146(2)
Br(3)	8335(3)	10744(2)	1307(1)	151(2)
Br(4)	7112(3)	3391(1)	744(1)	90(1)
Br(5)	6471(3)	4871(2)	120(1)	104(1)
Br(6)	7187(3)	4807(2)	1542(1)	153(2)
Br(7)	9043(3)	4572(2)	513(2)	189(2)
As(1)	9710(2)	8097(2)	1313(1)	49(1)
As(2)	5139(2)	8024(2)	1538(1)	50(1)
As(3)	7744(2)	8043(1)	2719(1)	50(1)
As(4)	7112(2)	8227(1)	190(1)	51(1)
C(111)	9774(26)	7354(17)	1590(15)	77(16)
C(112)	10258(18)	7143(18)	2121(12)	66(12)
C(113)	10268(27)	6496(24)	2233(11)	106(17)
C(114)	9783(37)	6098(16)	1882(20)	116(18)
C(115)	9382(21)	6285(23)	1430(16)	91(16)
C(116)	9393(36)	6894(23)	1339(18)	143(25)
C(121)	10476(24)	8010(15)	713(11)	77(11)
C(122)	10303(19)	8485(12)	305(11)	53(9)
C(123)	10881(23)	8421(15)	-152(12)	69(12)
C(124)	11622(25)	8065(18)	-178(11)	62(11)
C(125)	11788(21)	7595(16)	213(14)	83(13)

TABLE III (Continued)

	$x/a$	$y/b$	$z/c$	$U(eq)$
C(126)	11185(25)	7560(14)	657(13)	83(13)
C(131)	10375(26)	8679(17)	1686(10)	49(10)
C(132)	9957(24)	9267(22)	1766(12)	86(13)
C(133)	10470(35)	9743(15)	2040(14)	97(14)
C(134)	11478(37)	9597(24)	2171(15)	137(23)
C(135)	11947(33)	9099(33)	2053(16)	207(32)
C(136)	11290(36)	8603(22)	1865(16)	148(22)
C(211)	5190(25)	7259(14)	1146(14)	50(10)
C(212)	5636(20)	6802(21)	1389(14)	68(11)
C(213)	5675(35)	6244(23)	1148(19)	144(21)
C(214)	5141(25)	6142(15)	712(20)	77(14)
C(215)	4723(19)	6675(24)	428(12)	65(11)
C(216)	4711(21)	7238(16)	642(13)	54(10)
C(221)	4490(23)	8646(16)	1174(10)	53(10)
C(222)	4997(22)	9231(17)	1174(10)	62(10)
C(223)	4523(23)	9729(17)	936(11)	77(12)
C(224)	3576(37)	9713(17)	730(20)	185(25)
C(225)	3168(29)	9174(19)	711(13)	136(21)
C(226)	3522(25)	8582(15)	960(11)	80(12)
C(231)	4233(21)	7801(20)	2107(14)	75(13)
C(232)	3829(26)	7246(16)	2144(14)	80(12)
C(233)	3132(35)	7174(24)	2528(17)	162(29)
C(234)	2989(43)	7498(31)	2903(22)	170(26)
C(235)	3445(31)	8029(26)	2896(19)	144(22)
C(236)	4139(22)	8223(13)	2504(19)	76(12)
C(311)	8819(18)	7946(17)	3047(10)	64(11)
C(312)	9526(24)	8424(20)	3100(9)	121(19)
C(313)	10315(32)	8413(15)	3370(14)	86(16)
C(314)	10690(27)	7752(37)	3508(16)	221(37)
C(315)	10013(34)	7430(19)	3640(11)	128(23)
C(316)	9095(29)	7382(14)	3323(13)	81(14)
C(321)	6933(18)	8532(14)	3130(15)	89(17)
C(322)	6426(27)	8927(16)	2879(14)	99(16)
C(323)	5800(27)	9344(14)	3128(15)	110(16)
C(324)	5787(22)	9266(19)	3678(15)	135(19)
C(325)	6490(32)	8982(18)	3955(11)	103(15)
C(326)	7040(34)	8541(18)	3656(14)	158(24)
C(331)	7282(29)	7235(19)	2643(15)	123(27)
C(332)	7509(34)	6670(26)	2379(12)	98(20)
C(333)	7128(41)	6154(16)	2414(15)	157(30)
C(334)	6461(23)	6094(27)	2772(21)	196(37)
C(335)	5938(30)	6655(28)	2961(15)	157(23)
C(336)	6456(35)	7173(13)	2916(16)	112(21)
C(411)	7811(19)	8882(14)	- 86(12)	57(10)
C(412)	8194(20)	9381(17)	186(10)	52(9)
C(413)	8754(25)	9862(14)	- 38(16)	88(13)
C(414)	8897(22)	9805(18)	- 563(15)	82(14)
C(415)	8624(22)	9300(15)	- 873(13)	72(12)
C(416)	8072(24)	8827(14)	- 644(11)	80(11)
C(421)	7797(36)	7513(20)	151(13)	122(22)
C(422)	7354(25)	6938(22)	334(11)	86(14)
C(423)	7825(25)	6387(15)	274(11)	55(10)
C(424)	8691(29)	6376(19)	- 5(11)	84(15)
C(425)	8990(28)	6912(21)	- 253(10)	91(16)

TABLE III (Continued)

	<i>x/a</i>	<i>y/b</i>	<i>z/c</i>	<i>U(eg)</i>
C(426)	8584(33)	7460(16)	-182(13)	111(19)
C(431)	5982(24)	8199(21)	-244(10)	70(12)
C(432)	5251(36)	8716(20)	-230(14)	107(16)
C(433)	4446(27)	8638(19)	-503(14)	108(18)
C(434)	4224(35)	8179(28)	-826(18)	136(20)
C(435)	4919(34)	7720(22)	-892(17)	111(18)
C(436)	5818(27)	7656(15)	-577(12)	60(10)
O(1)	8589(10)	8309(6)	1166(5)	35(5)
O(2)	6196(10)	8239(7)	1753(6)	53(5)
O(3)	8054(11)	8264(7)	2115(5)	57(5)
O(4)	6726(10)	8346(6)	807(5)	41(5)
O(5)	7373(10)	9345(7)	1538(5)	41(5)
N(1)	2656	6600	1317	1008(116)
C(1)	2050	5600	1023	662(96)
C(2)	2312	6155	1170	375(43)

TABLE IV Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for [(OAsPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>FeOFBr<sub>3</sub>][FeBr<sub>4</sub>] · CH<sub>3</sub>CN

Fe(1)—Fe(2)	3.496(4)	Fe(2)—Br(1)	2.342(5)
Fe(1)—O(5)	1.808(5)	Fe(3)—Br(7)	2.243(5)
Fe(1)—O(2)	1.915(5)	Fe(3)—Br(5)	2.297(5)
Fe(1)—O(1)	1.902(5)	Fe(3)—Br(4)	2.305(5)
Fe(1)—O(3)	1.938(5)	Fe(3)—Br(6)	2.324(5)
Fe(1)—O(4)	1.993(5)	As(1)—O(1)	1.659(6)
Fe(2)—O(5)	1.745(5)	As(2)—O(2)	1.628(6)
Fe(2)—Br(2)	2.289(5)	As(3)—O(3)	1.685(6)
Fe(2)—Br(3)	2.340(5)	As(4)—O(4)	1.698(6)
O(5)—Fe(1)—O(2)	105.8(6)	Br(2)—Fe(2)—Br(1)	107.6(2)
O(5)—Fe(1)—O(1)	107.1(6)	Br(3)—Fe(2)—Br(1)	107.4(2)
O(2)—Fe(1)—O(1)	147.1(6)	Br(7)—Fe(3)—Br(5)	111.4(2)
O(5)—Fe(1)—O(3)	103.1(7)	Br(7)—Fe(3)—Br(4)	111.8(2)
O(2)—Fe(1)—O(3)	90.1(6)	Br(5)—Fe(3)—Br(4)	107.3(2)
O(1)—Fe(1)—O(3)	83.5(6)	Br(7)—Fe(3)—Br(6)	110.0(3)
O(5)—Fe(1)—O(4)	104.6(6)	Br(5)—Fe(3)—Br(6)	109.6(2)
O(2)—Fe(1)—O(4)	81.7(6)	Br(4)—Fe(3)—Br(6)	106.5(2)
O(1)—Fe(1)—O(4)	89.2(5)	As(1)—O(1)—Fe(1)	141.7(8)
O(3)—Fe(1)—O(4)	152.3(6)	As(2)—O(2)—Fe(1)	138.7(9)
O(5)—Fe(2)—Br(2)	109.6(5)	As(3)—O(3)—Fe(1)	137.3(9)
O(5)—Fe(2)—Br(3)	111.1(5)	As(4)—O(4)—Fe(1)	133.6(8)
Br(2)—Fe(2)—Br(3)	109.9(2)	Fe(2)—O(5)—Fe(1)	159.6(8)
O(5)—Fe(2)—Br(1)	111.1(5)	N(1)—C(2)—C(1)	170.7(4)

## X-ray Structure Determination

Data collection and cell refinement was carried out using Syntex P2<sub>1</sub> software. Intensity data were corrected to Lorentz and polarization factors using XP2<sub>1</sub> [6]. The structure was solved by the heavy atom method with SHELX86 [7] and subsequent Fourier synthesis using the same program.

Anisotropic thermal parameters were refined for all non-hydrogen atoms. Geometrical analysis was performed using SHELXL93 [8].

Structures were drawn using ORTEP [9]. Basic crystallographic data are summarized in Table II. Atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters are listed in Table III. Selected interatomic distances and bond angles are given in Table IV.

Hydrogen atom coordinates, thermal parameters and list of observed and calculated structure factors are available on request from the corresponding author.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reaction of anhydrous  $\text{FeBr}_3$  with  $\text{AsPh}_3$  and dioxygen in acetonitrile at moderate temperatures proceeded to form a new ( $\mu$ -oxo)diiron(III) complex  $[(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{FeOFeBr}_3][\text{FeBr}_4] \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ . This complex was also prepared by another methods (Tab. I) as was its isostructural analogous chloro-complex [3]. During autocatalytic oxidation of  $\text{AsPh}_3$  to  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  the reaction systems (methods 1–3) consumed  $\text{O}_2$ , as was demonstrated by measurements of dioxygen uptake. If excess  $\text{AsPh}_3$  was used, free  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  was generated besides the title complex. However, the oxidation of  $\text{AsPh}_3$  was much slower than the oxidation of  $\text{PPh}_3$  in similar systems [10]. This probably is caused by the lower reactivity of  $\text{AsPh}_3$  and weaker energy of the As—O bond in comparison with  $\text{PPh}_3$  [11].

The molecular structure of the title complex is shown in Figure 1. The crystal structure consists of the dimeric cation  $[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{Br}_3]^+$ , the  $[\text{FeBr}_4]^-$  anion and an acetonitrile solvate molecule. The coordination polyhedron around the Fe(1) atom is a distorted tetragonal pyramid. Fe(1)—O interatomic distances varying from 1.808(5) to 1.993(5) Å and the bond angles from 81.7(6) to 107.1(6)°. As can be seen from Figure 1, the central Fe(1) atom is coordinated by four  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  ligands which form a plane. The apical position is occupied by the bridged O(5) atom of the  $\text{OFeBr}_3$  moiety. The Fe(1) atom is 0.511(4) Å from the O(1)—O(5) mean plane, on the same side as the  $\mu$ -oxo ligand. The Fe(2) atom is tetrahedrally coordinated by three bromine atoms and the oxo-bridged ligand. The Fe(2)—O(5) bond of 1.745(5) Å is slightly shorter than the Fe(1)—O(5) bond of 1.808(5) Å, as expected. Both bond lengths, as well as the Fe—O—Fe angle, fall in the range of values observed for ( $\mu$ -oxo)diiron analogues [1–3]. Bond lengths for Fe(1)— $\text{OAsPh}_3$  in the title complex (average 1.937(5) Å) are shorter than those observed in the



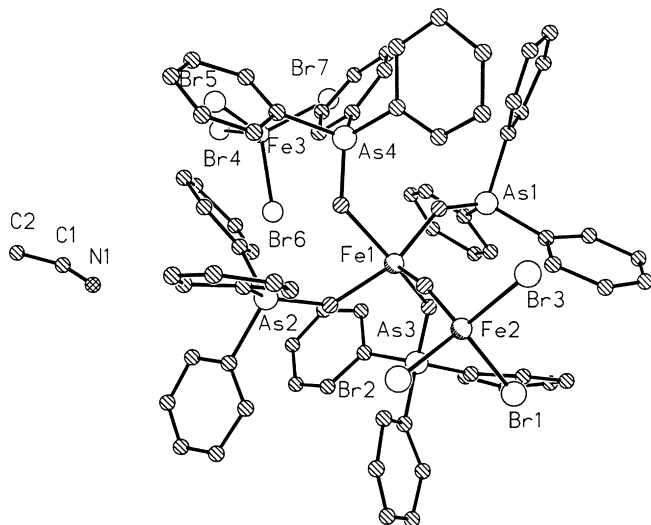


FIGURE 1 The molecular structure of  $[(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{Fe}(\mu\text{-O})\text{FeBr}_3][\text{FeBr}_4] \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ .

$[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{Cl}_3]^+$  cations [2, 3] (average  $1.981(5)\text{\AA}$ ). The mean  $\text{Fe}(2)\text{-Br}$  bond distance in the title complex ( $2.324(5)\text{\AA}$ ) is slightly shorter than that found in the  $[(n5)\text{FeOFeBr}_3]^+$  cation ( $2.348(3)\text{\AA}$ ) [12]. The  $[\text{Fe}(3)\text{Br}_4]^-$  anion shows significant distortion from regular tetrahedral coordination for which the  $\text{Fe}(3)\text{-Br}$  distances vary from  $2.243(6)$  to  $2.324(6)\text{\AA}$  and the bond angles from  $106.5(2)$  to  $111.8(2)^\circ$ . Similar distortions of tetrabromoferrate anion were observed for  $[\text{FeBr}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_4][\text{FeBr}_4]$  [13] and other species [14].

The dominant feature in the infrared spectrum of the title complex is the presence of three strong bands at about  $850\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Two absorption bands at  $862$  and  $874\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are assigned to the stretching vibration  $\nu(\text{As-O})$ . These bands are shifted to lower energies compared with free  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  ( $880\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), as the result of its coordination [3]. Another strong band at  $839\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is attributed to the asymmetric  $\text{Fe-O-Fe}$  stretching vibration ( $\nu_{\text{as}}$ ). The symmetric  $\text{Fe-O-Fe}$  stretch ( $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ) is located at  $409\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Bands assigned to the  $\text{Fe-O-Fe}$  stretching vibrations ( $\nu_{\text{as}}, \nu_{\text{s}}$ ) are within the range expected for these monobridged structures [15]. The  $\text{Fe-O-Fe}$  stretching vibrations of  $[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{X}_3]^+$ , where  $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$  [2, 3] or  $\text{Br}$ , correlate with bond angles; the  $\text{Fe-O-Fe}$  angles can be predicted to within  $10^\circ$  from a knowledge of  $\nu_{\text{as}}$  and  $\nu_{\text{s}}$ . IR spectra of the title complex show a characteristic strong band at  $292\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_3$ ) for  $[\text{FeBr}_4]^-$ . Another band at  $214\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is assigned as  $\nu(\text{Fe-Br})$  for the  $[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}(\text{OAsPh}_3)_4\text{Br}_3]^+$  cation [16].

In conclusion, we have synthesized and characterized a new unsymmetrical ( $\mu$ -oxo)diiron(III) complex with OAsPh<sub>3</sub> and Br ligands. The Fe—O bonds, as well as the Fe—O—Fe angle for the [Fe<sub>2</sub>O(OAsPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Br<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> cation and for its chloro-analogues fall in the range of values observed for oxo-bridged diiron(III) complexes and correlate with their Fe—O—Fe vibrations [1, 15].

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