

SALT EFFECTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL EFFECTS IN IODODEMETALLATION OF TETRAALKYLTINS IN METHANOL

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Summary

Rate constants are reported for iodometallation by I_2/I^- of a series of tetraalkyltins, R_4Sn , where $R = Me, Et, Pr^n, Bu^{iso},$ and Pe^{neo} . Together with previous literature results the present work shows that constitutional effects of the alkyl group, R , do not parallel those in typical S_N2 reactions of alkyl halides. Kinetic studies of the effect of added foreign nucleophiles on the iododemetallation revealed that the anions N_3^- , ClO_4^- , Cl^- and Br^- did not take part in any kinetically significant step, although small specific kinetic salt effects were noted. Product analyses showed also that neither Br^- nor the solvent methanol were involved in any product determining step. The two-stage mechanism proposed by Mathieu can therefore definitely be excluded for the iododemetallation of tetraalkyltins in methanol and other alcoholic solvents.

Introduction

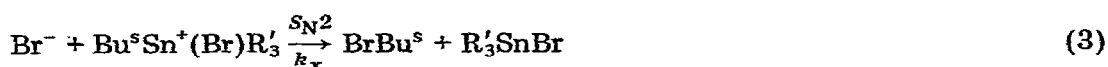
Rate constants for the iododemetallation of tetraalkyltins in polar solvents such as methanol have been reported by several workers [1–9], especially by Gielen and Nasielski [7–9]. In their extensive investigations, the latter workers showed that in the iododemetallation of tetramethyltin by I_2/I^- in methanol, there is no catalysis by iodide ion and that the iododemetallation follows a simple second-order rate eq. (1). Rate constants for the cleavage of a large num-

$$\nu = k_2[Me_4Sn][I_2] \quad (1)$$

ber of symmetrical and unsymmetrical tetraalkyltins by I_2/I^- in methanol were also obtained by Gielen and Nasielski [7,8], and later by Boué, Gielen and Nasielski [9].

In spite of all this work, it is still not possible to assign a definite mechanism to the iododemetallation of tetraalkyltins in polar solvents. Firstly, the stereo-

chemical course of the iododemetalation is not known. It is now evident that in the related bromodemetalation of *sec*-butyltin compounds in methanol, the *sec*-butyl bromide product may be formed with either predominant inversion or predominant retention of configuration, depending on the size of the leaving SnR_3 group [10–12]. There seems to be such a fine balance between the energetics of the inversion and retention mechanisms of substitution that it is difficult, if not impossible, to predict the stereochemical course of the iododemetalation reaction. Furthermore, such a fine balance leads to the difficulty (unknown in S_N2 substitutions) that even if the stereochemical course of substitution is known for one particular member of the alkyl series, for example the *sec*-butyl- or PhCHDCHD- group, there is no guarantee that the same stereochemical course will obtain in general along the series of alkyl groups. Secondly, there are now known to be possible mechanisms of substitution that are compatible with the simple kinetic form (1) but which do not proceed by a single elementary reaction. Mathieu [13] has re-interpreted the work of Jensen and Davis [10] on the bromodemetalation of *sec*-butyltin compounds by Br_2/Br^- in methanol, in terms of the two-step mechanism shown in eq. 2 and 3. Application of the steady-state theory to eq. 2 and 3 reveals that the observed kinetic



form is the simple second-order equation $v = k_2^{\text{obs}}[\text{Bu}^s\text{SnR}'_3][\text{Br}_2]$ where $k_2^{\text{obs}} = k_f k_x / (k_b + k_x)$, and thus on simple kinetic grounds the mechanism cannot be distinguished from a simple elementary reaction between the tetraalkyltin and bromine. Mathieu [13] suggests that the observed inversion of configuration in the *sec*-butyl group is actually the result of the S_N2 substitution (3).

We now report a reinvestigation of the iododemetalation of tetraalkyltins in methanol, with particular reference to the possibility of the mechanism proposed by Mathieu [13], and to the effect of more complicated alkyl groups on the rate of iododemetalation. Recent structure-reactivity studies on successive methyl-for-hydrogen replacement in substrates of type RHgBr revealed that a rate-accelerating inductive (electronic) effect works in opposition to a rate-retarding steric effect [14]. Whereas the former dominates for α -substitution, the latter dominates for β -substitution. It seemed therefore useful to obtain rate constants for the iododemetalation of several more tetraalkyltins, so that a more complete series of α - and β -methylated alkyl groups would be covered.

Discussion

Rate constants for iododemetalation of tetraalkyltins by I_2/I^- in methanol were obtained using the spectrophotometric procedure outlined by Gielen and Nasielski [7,8]. In Table 1 are given results in terms of the alkyl reactivity constants, $-\log(k^R/k^{\text{Me}})$, for the iododemetalation of the symmetrical tetraalkyltins in methanol, together with literature values for the corresponding unsymmetrical compounds [9], for the bromodemetalation of $\text{RSnPe}^{\text{neo}}$ compounds in methanol [10], and for typical S_N2 reactions [15]. By comparison to the

TABLE 1

ALKYL REACTIVITY CONSTANTS, $-\log(k_R/k_{Me})$, FOR HALOGENODEMETALLATION IN METHANOL

R	S_N2^a	$Br_2 + RSnPe_3^{neo\ b}$	$I_2 + R_4Sn^c$	$I_2 + RSnMe_3^d$	$I_2 + RSnEt_3^d$
Me	0	0	0	0	0
Et	1.31	0.84	0.90	0.84	1.21
Pr ⁿ	1.67	1.39	1.68	1.50	1.74
Bu ^{iso}	2.70		1.95		
Pr ^{iso}	2.92	2.12	3.22	2.25	2.95
Pe ^{neo}	6.18	3.23	1.89 (2.34)	—	—

^a Values for typical S_N2 substitutions of alkyl halides [15]. ^b Ref. [10]. ^c This work (see Table 6 in the Experimental section). ^d Ref. [9].

values for the $S_N2(Inv)$ reactions, the reactivity of the Pe^{neo} (and Bu^{iso}) group in the halogenodemetalations is greater than expected; this is especially marked for the iododemetalation of the symmetrical compounds, and although there may be leaving-group effects, we feel that the heavily substituted β -methylated alkyl groups probably react by a mechanism involving retention of configuration at the carbon atom undergoing substitution. Calculations [16–18] suggest that for processes involving such retention of configuration, steric effects of β -methyl groups (as in the alkyl groups Bu^{iso} and Pe^{neo}) are very much less than for related substitutions involving inversion of configuration. These calculations [16–18] also indicate that steric effects of α -methyl groups (as in the alkyl groups Pr^{iso} and Bu^{sec}) are much larger for processes involving retention of configuration than those in which inversion of configuration takes place. It is therefore quite possible for Pe^{neo} groups to react with retention of configuration and yet for Pr^{iso} and Bu^{sec} groups to react with inversion of configuration in the same series of substitutions. We therefore decided to test Mathieu's [13] mechanism in the case of iododemetalation of tetraethyltin by kinetic salt effects, and for iododemetalation of several tetraalkyltins by product analyses.

If iododemetalation of a tetraalkyltin is carried out in the presence of a nucleophile, Y^- , where Y^- is not the common-ion, I^- , then Mathieu's mechanism may be expressed in terms of eq. 4–7.



Application of the steady-state theory to the intermediate $R_4Sn^+I^-$ yields for the observed rate constant, defined by eq. 8, the expression 9.

$$\nu = k_2^{obs} [R_4Sn][I_2] \quad (8)$$

$$k_2^{obs} = k_f \frac{k_x + k_y [Y^-]/[I^-]}{k_b + k_x + k_y [Y^-]/[I^-]} \quad (9)$$

There are two extreme cases that lead to a simplification of eq. 9:

(a) If $k_b \gg k_x, k_y$ and if $[Y^-]/[I^-]$ is not too large, then

$$k_2^{\text{obs}} = \frac{k_f k_x}{k_b} + \frac{k_f k_y}{k_b} \times \frac{[Y^-]}{[I^-]} \quad (10)$$

This situation corresponds to a rapid equilibrium (4 and 5) followed by rate-determining S_N2 processes (6 and 7). Therefore, the constitutional effects of R on the observed rate constant k_2^{obs} will be a combination of effects on the equilibrium constant, k_f/k_b , and on the rate constant k_x or k_y . More importantly from the present point of view, if the ratio $[Y^-]/[I^-]$ is altered, then the rate constant, k_2^{obs} , should vary and a plot of k_2^{obs} against $[Y^-]/[I^-]$ should yield a straight line of slope $k_f k_y/k_b$ and intercept $k_f k_x/k_b$. Furthermore, the product should contain both RY and RI in the ratio $[RY]/[RI] = k_y [Y^-]/k_x [I^-]$. The intermediate R_4Sn^+I could also react with the solvent to yield the corresponding methyl ether, ROME; although eqs. 9 and 10 can be modified to incorporate this process, such modification does not affect the general form of eq. 10.

(b) If $k_b \ll k_x, k_y$ then eq. 9 collapses to yield the simple expression $k_2^{\text{obs}} = k_f$. This corresponds to a rate-determining initial reaction (4), followed by rapid reactions (6 and 7). Constitutional effects of R should therefore be apparent only as regards the initial step 4. There should be no effect of $[Y^-]$ on the observed rate constant, but since the intermediate R_4Sn^+I now reacts rapidly with any nucleophile in the system, both RI and RY should be formed as products, as well as the product of solvolysis of R_4Sn^+I , that is the ether ROME.

We first studied the effect of added azide ion on the rate constant, adjusting the ratio $[N_3^-]/[I^-]$ and holding the ionic strength constant, Table 2. There seems to be a slight effect of increase in k_2^{obs} with increase in the ratio $[N_3^-]/[I^-]$, as required by eq. 10, but we tested the equation further by a set of experiments in which the ionic strength was held constant by perchlorate ion, Table 3. Again, there are small variations in k_2^{obs} , but no really definite trend as expected on replacing ClO_4^- by the very nucleophilic N_3^- in an S_N2 reaction at a carbon centre in methanol. In an effort to understand the reason for the small variations of k_2^{obs} at constant ionic strength, Tables 2 and 3, we also carried out experiments in which the ionic strength was allowed to vary, Table 4.

TABLE 2
RATE CONSTANTS ^a FOR IODODEMETALLATION OF Et_4Sn IN PRESENCE OF N_3^-

$10^3 [KI]$ (mol dm ⁻³)	$10^3 [NaN_3]$ (mol dm ⁻³)	k_2^{obs} (dm ³ mol ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)
12.13	0.00	1.22
9.71	2.44	1.35
7.28	4.85	1.31
4.85	7.28	1.42
2.43	9.71	1.56
1.21	10.92	1.33

^a In methanol at 293 K. Initial concentrations were Et_4Sn (9.1×10^{-2} mol dm⁻³), iodine (3.1×10^{-5} mol dm⁻³).

TABLE 3
RATE CONSTANTS ^a FOR IODODEMETALLATION OF Et₄Sn IN PRESENCE OF N₃⁻ AND ClO₄⁻

10 ² [Bu ₄ NI] (mol dm ⁻³)	10 ² [NaClO ₄] (mol dm ⁻³)	10 ² [NaN ₃] (mol dm ⁻³)	k ₂ ^{obs} (dm ³ mol ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)
0.115	10.0	0	1.54
0.115	9.0	1.0	1.58
0.115	8.0	2.0	1.55
0.115	7.0	3.0	1.54
0.115	5.0	5.0	1.64
0.115	4.0	4.0	1.67
0.115	3.0	7.0	1.62
0.115	2.0	8.0	1.55
0.115	1.0	9.0	1.65
0.115	0	10.0	1.46

^a In methanol at 298 K. Initial concentrations were Et₄Sn (8.0 × 10⁻² mol dm⁻³), and iodine (3.0 × 10⁻⁵ mol dm⁻³).

It can be seen from Table 4 that there are specific salt effects on the values of k₂^{obs}. These are sufficient to explain the small variations in k₂^{obs} shown in Tables 2 and 3, and our conclusion is that added foreign anions do not affect the observed rate constant in the sense of eq. (10). Thus case (a), above, can be excluded on the basis of the overall results given in Tables 2, 3, and 4.

Product analyses were also carried out to test both case (a) and case (b). An iododemetalation was carried out in the presence of iodide ion (1.0 × 10⁻³ mol dm⁻³) and bromide ion (1.0 × 10⁻¹ mol dm⁻³) together. Examination of the reaction products by GLC revealed that the maximum possible concentration of bromoethane was less than 2% of the formed iodoethane. Taking into account the 100-fold excess of initial bromide ion over iodide ion, it can be deduced that reaction 7 (Y⁻ = Br⁻) takes place to an extent not greater than 0.02% of reaction 6. We also examined a number of iododemetalations, both in the presence and the absence of iodide ion, for the ether that would be obtained by an S_N2 attack of the solvent on the intermediate R₄Sn⁺I. For analytical reasons we used a number of alcohol solvents with the various tetraalkyltins. As can be seen from Table 5, in no case was any substantial quantity of ether formed; indeed, no ether was ever detected. The product analyses both for bromoethane and for the ethers again confirms that the mechanism of Mathieu [13] does not

TABLE 4
EFFECT OF ADDED SALTS ON RATE CONSTANTS ^a FOR THE IODODEMETALLATION OF Et₄Sn

Added salt (mol dm ⁻³)	k ₂ ^{obs} /k ₂ ⁰			
	NaClO ₄	NaCl	NaBr	NaN ₃
0	1	1	1	1
0.005	0.95	1.02	0.86	
0.010	0.93	1.07	0.81	
0.050	1.01	1.23	0.95	
0.100	1.12	1.25	0.84	1.07

^a In methanol at 298 K; initial concentrations as in Table 3, [Bu₄NI] = 1.15 × 10⁻³ mol dm⁻³.

TABLE 5
PRODUCT ANALYSES FOR IODODEMETALLATION OF TETRAALKYLSTANNANES

R ₄ Sn	Reagent	Solvent	RI ^a	Ether (%) ^a
Me ₄ Sn	I ₂	Bu ⁿ OH	MeI	MeOBu ⁿ (<1)
Me ₄ Sn	I ₂ /I ⁻	Bu ⁿ OH	MeI	MeOBu ⁿ (<1)
Et ₄ Sn	I ₂	Bu ⁿ OH	EtI	EtOBu ⁿ (<1)
Et ₄ Sn	I ₂ /I ⁻	Bu ⁿ OH	EtI	EtOBu ⁿ (<1)
Pr ₄ ⁿ Sn	I ₂	Pr ⁿ OH	Pr ⁿ I	Pr ⁿ OPr ⁿ (<1)
Pr ₄ ⁿ Sn	I ₂ /I ⁻	Pr ⁿ OH	Pr ⁿ I	Pr ⁿ OPr ⁿ (<1)
Bu ₄ ⁿ Sn	I ₂	Bu ⁿ OH	Bu ⁿ I	Bu ⁿ OBu ⁿ (<1)
Bu ₄ ⁿ Sn	I ₂ /I ⁻	Bu ⁿ OH	Bu ⁿ I	Bu ⁿ OBu ⁿ (<1)
Pr ₄ ^{iso} Sn	I ₂	Pr ^{iso} OH	Pr ^{iso} I	Pr ^{iso} OPr ^{iso} (<1)
Pr ₄ ^{iso} Sn	I ₂ /I ⁻	Pr ^{iso} OH	Pr ^{iso} I	Pr ^{iso} OPr ^{iso} (<1)
Bu ₄ ^{sec} Sn	I ₂	Bu ^{sec} OH	Bu ^{sec} I	Bu ^{sec} OBu ^{sec} (<1)
Bu ₄ ^{sec} Sn	I ₂ /I ⁻	Bu ^{sec} OH	Bu ^{sec} I	Bu ^{sec} OBu ^{sec} (<1)

^a Yields of RI based on the amount of iodine ranged from 50–100%, no attempt being made to optimise these yields by varying the reaction time, etc.

apply to the iododemetalation of tetraalkylstannanes in the alcohols.

Having disposed of the possibility of the mechanism shown in 4–7, we briefly discuss the charge-transfer (CT) mechanism proposed by Fukuzumi and Kochi [19]. These workers observed transient charge-transfer complexes between tetraalkylstannanes and iodine in nonpolar solvents, and suggested that such complexes were intermediates in the iododemetalation reaction, the latter proceeding through, eventually, an ion-pair species [R₄Sn⁺I₂⁻]. Although the CT complexes cannot be observed in polar solvents, Fukuzumi and Kochi generalised their CT mechanism to include iododemetalation in polar solvents as well as nonpolar solvents. It is known [1,19] that the relative reactivity of a series of R₄Sn compounds towards an electrophile such as iodine depends markedly on the solvent. In polar solvents such as acetonitrile and methanol (Table 1) the sequence of reactivity is Me₄Sn > Et₄Sn > Pr₄ⁿSn > Bu₄^{iso}Sn > Pr₄^{iso}Sn, but in dichloromethane the sequence is [19] Et₄Sn > Pr₄ⁿSn > Bu₄^{iso}Sn > Me₄Sn > Pr₄^{iso}Sn, and in chlorobenzene [1] the tetraisopropyltin is more reactive than tetramethyltin: Et₄Sn > Pr₄^{iso}Sn > Me₄Sn > Pr₄ⁿSn. Fukuzumi and Kochi suggest that the rate-limiting step in iododemetalation is the electron transfer step [R₄SnI₂] → [R₄Sn⁺I₂⁻] that follows the initial CT formation, R₄Sn + I₂ ⇌ [R₄SnI₂]. Thus the relative reactivity of a series of R₄Sn compounds will depend not only on the CT equilibrium constant (related to the R₄Sn ionisation potential) but also to the interaction energy in the ion pair, the relative proportions of these two 'driving forces' being solvent dependent *. However, for polar solvents the CT mechanism seems [19] to merge with the mechanism of electrophilic substitution; on the CT mechanism, the sequence of reactivity in polar solvents is due to effects such as steric effects in the interaction energy term, whilst on the S_E2 mechanism, the reactivity sequence is due to steric effects in a generalised transition state [16–18]. Thus at the moment we conclude that

* But note also our previous comment that in any given series of R₄Sn compounds, the same stereochemical course may not be followed along the series.

the iododemetalation of the simple tetraalkyltins in the alcohols we have studied proceeds by either an S_E2 mechanism or by a CT mechanism that is close to the simple S_E2 mechanism. From our comparison of rate constants with those for S_N2 substitutions, it seems probable that (at least) the β -substituted compounds react on iododemetalation in methanol with retention of configuration at the carbon atom undergoing substitution.

Experimental

Methanol was distilled under nitrogen; a large fore-run was rejected and the middle fraction retained. Iodine was resublimed Analar grade, and the various inorganic salts were also Analar grade materials. The tetraalkyltins were prepared and purified as described in refs. 20–22 except for tetraneopentyltin which was a kind gift from Professor H. Zimmer.

Rate constants for the iododemetalation of the tetraalkyltins at 293 K were determined spectrophotometrically by the procedure described in detail by Gielen and Nasielski [7,8] using a Cary 17 recording spectrophotometer. Kinetic experiments were carried out using a large excess of the R_4Sn compound and a large excess of I^- , and the first-order rate constants thus obtained converted in the usual way to the observed second-order rate constants; the equilibrium constant for I_3^- formation at 293 K in methanol was taken as $2.04 \times 10^4 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ [7,8]. Details of the kinetic procedures and results are in Table 6. The salt effect studies reported in Table 2 were obtained in exactly the same way.

The rate constants and data at 298 K shown in Tables 3 and 4 were obtained from experiments carried out at lower concentrations of I^- in the form of Bu_4NI , $1.15 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$. At these concentrations of I^- , the iododemetalation proceeds very rapidly, and kinetic data were obtained using an on-line computer coupled to a spectrophotometer [23]; the computer was programmed to calculate rate constants using Guggenheim's method for a first-order reaction,

TABLE 6
KINETIC RESULTS ON THE IODODEMÉTALATION OF TETRAALKYLTINS IN METHANOL AT 293 K

R_4Sn	Initial concentration (10^2 mol dm^{-3})		$k_1^{obs} \text{ (s}^{-1}\text{)}$	$k_2^{obs} \text{ (dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}\text{)}$
	[R_4Sn]	[KI]		
Me_4Sn	9.150	2.225	13.14	6.52
	9.084	2.730	10.71	6.57
Et_4Sn	9.301	2.594	1.485	0.845
	9.160	2.730	1.349	0.820
Pr_4^iSn	9.106	2.730	0.2364	0.145
	8.943	3.233	0.1732	0.127
$Bu_4^{iso}Sn$	9.106	2.728	0.0986	0.060
	9.064	2.728	0.1204	0.074
	9.099	2.722	0.1281	0.078
$Fe_4^{neo}Sn$	0.1998	2.728	0.00309	0.086 ^b

^b Another set of experiments gave $k_2^{obs} = 0.021$ with $[Bu_4NI] = 0.0026 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ and $k_2^{obs} = 0.026$ with $[Bu_4NI] = 0.0158 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$. These values correspond to $k_2^{obs} = 0.03 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at $\mu = 0.027 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

and the first-order rate constants were converted to values of k_2^{obs} using $K(\text{I}_3^-) = 1.57 \times 10^4$ at 298 K.

Product analyses were carried out by GLC using a Perkin-Elmer flame ionisation gas chromatograph. The column used for all the analyses was a 1.5 m long column packed with O.P.N. Porasil bonded to a solid support of Porasil C, and operated at 383 K. All the possible haloalkanes and ethers were either obtained commercially or were prepared, and retention times of the compounds were determined relative to bromobenzene as an internal standard. For quantitative analyses, standard solutions containing the haloalkanes and ethers as well as the internal standard were prepared and calibration factors relating peak height to concentration were obtained for all the haloalkanes and ethers. For the analysis of the solutions after iododemetalation, the reaction mixture was made up to a standard volume after the addition of a known weight of the internal standard, and samples of the mixture injected directly onto the column. Measurement of the peak heights of the haloalkanes, ethers, and bromobenzene, together with a knowledge of the calibration factors and the (known) concentration of the internal standard, enabled the concentration of the haloalkanes and ethers to be obtained, Table 5.

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