

The proposed mechanism is substantiated by several lines of evidence: (1) substances⁵ known to produce free radicals, either directly or as a result of chain transfer reactions, upon pyrolysis, and only such substances, catalyze this type of isomerization. By way of comparison, Lewis acids produce no such isomerizations (1,2-phenyl migrations),¹⁰⁻¹² but instead give rise to disproportionation reactions,¹⁰ which yield benzene and polyalkylbenzenes, or to methyl migration processes.^{11,12} No disproportionation or methyl migration occurs in the present isomerization reaction.

(2) Hydrogen bromide¹³ and mercaptans¹⁴ are noted chain transfer agents and even the relatively strong H-Cl bond in hydrogen chloride is susceptible to free radical attack.¹⁵

(3) The isomerization of *p*-cymene (1-methyl-4-isopropylbenzene) exclusively to 1-methyl-4-*n*-propylbenzene is consistent with known free radical rearrangements¹⁶ in that the relative positions of the two ring substituents are unchanged during the isomerization.

(5) Iodine, alkyl iodides,⁶ alkyl bromides,⁶ disulfides,⁷ sulfur,⁸ mercaptans,⁹ and, with less certainty, alkyl chlorides.⁶

(6) E. W. R. Steacie, "Atomic and Free Radical Reactions," Vol. I, 2nd ed., Reinhold Publishing Corp., New York, 1954, pp. 253-263.

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(9) A. H. Schon and B. deB. Darwent, *ibid.*, **76**, 4806 (1954).

(10) D. A. McCaulay and A. P. Lien, *ibid.*, **75**, 2411 (1953), and references cited therein.

(11) C. D. Nenitzescu, I. Mecsoiu, A. Glatz and M. Zalman, *Ber.*, **92**, 10 (1959).

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(14) C. Walling, *THIS JOURNAL*, **70**, 2561 (1948); R. A. Gregg, D. M. Alderman and F. R. Mayo, *ibid.*, **70**, 3740 (1948).

(15) J. H. Raley, F. F. Rust and W. E. Vaughan, *ibid.*, **70**, 2767 (1948).

(16) W. H. Urry and N. Nicolaides, *ibid.*, **74**, 5163 (1952).

SHELL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA

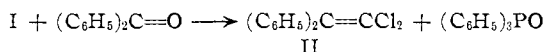
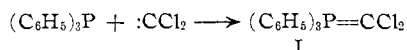
LYNN H. SLAUGH
JOHN H. RALEY

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A NOVEL SYNTHESIS OF 1,1-DIHALOOLEFINS

Sir:

The nucleophilic character of tertiary phosphines¹ and the recent observation that carbenes are electrophilic² suggested to us that the interaction of these two reagents should produce phosphinemethylenes. We wish now to report the formation of the ylid triphenylphosphine dichloromethylene I and its use in the synthesis of 1,1-dichloroolefins.



Treatment of a suspension of potassium *t*-butoxide and triphenylphosphine in pentane with chloro-

(1) G. M. Kosolapoff, "Organophosphorus Compounds," John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1950, pp. 23, 98; J. R. Van Wazer, "Phosphorus and Its Compounds," Interscience Publishers, New York, N. Y., 1958.

(2) P. S. Skell and A. Y. Garner, *THIS JOURNAL*, **78**, 5430 (1956); W. E. Doering and A. F. Hoffmann, *ibid.*, **80**, 5274 (1958).

form at 0-5° produced I as a golden yellow solid. Preliminary attempts to isolate I in the pure state led to isolation of large amounts of triphenylphosphine oxide and as yet other unidentifiable products. The parent compound, triphenylphosphinemethylene, also has been shown by Wittig and Geissler³ to be unstable.

Reaction of the yellow solid with benzophenone in pentane-ether mixture gave rise to 1,1-diphenyl-2,2-dichloroethylene (II), triphenylphosphine oxide, and unreacted benzophenone. A quantitative yield of potassium chloride also was isolated. II was isolated in 46% yield based on benzophenone consumed: m.p. 79-80°. A mixture melting point with an authentic⁴ sample was not depressed and the infrared spectra of the two were superimposable. Triphenylphosphine oxide (m.p. 152-153°) was isolated in 92% yield and shown to be identical with an authentic¹ sample. The unreacted benzophenone was recovered as its 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone (48% recovery; m.p.⁵ 238-239°).

The high yield of triphenylphosphine oxide as compared to the dichloroethylene may indicate competitive reaction of the phosphine dichloromethylene with *t*-butyl alcohol which was formed during carbene preparation. The reaction of carbenes⁶ with tertiary phosphines to yield compounds of type I is being investigated. The reaction of phosphinedihalomethylenes with carbonyl compounds would lead to unusual 1,1-dihaloolefins which normally would be difficult to prepare.

(3) G. Wittig and G. Geissler, *Ann.*, **580**, 44 (1953).

(4) We are indebted to Dr. L. A. Miller of our Dayton Laboratories for the authentic sample. See also E. E. Harris and G. B. Frank-foster, *THIS JOURNAL*, **48**, 3144 (1926), and "Organic Syntheses," Coll. Vol. III, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1955, p. 270.

(5) N. R. Campbell, *Analyst*, **61**, 392 (1936).

(6) J. Hine and K. Tanabe, *THIS JOURNAL*, **79**, 2654 (1957); J. Hine and J. J. Porter, *ibid.*, **79**, 5493 (1957); J. Hine and P. B. Langford, *ibid.*, **79**, 5497 (1957); W. E. Parham and R. R. Twelves, *J. Org. Chem.*, **22**, 730 (1957).

ST. LOUIS RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
ORGANIC CHEMICALS DIVISION
MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY
ST. LOUIS 66, MISSOURI

A. J. SPEZIALE
G. J. MARCO
K. W. RATTIS

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ION EXCHANGE MEMBRANES FOR USE IN HIGH RADIATION FIELDS¹

Sir:

The radiation instability of organic membranes has limited their use for processing high radioactive solutions. The necessary frequent replacement of these membranes by remote handling techniques would be difficult and expensive not only because of the cost of the membrane itself but also because of the damage to the electrodes, particularly where platinum is used. At Brookhaven National Laboratory one approach to the solution of this problem has been the development of an inexpensive membrane that can be replaced easily.

Work done at this Laboratory has indicated that a matrix between the particles to minimize diffusion is not necessary for an efficient ion exchange membrane. Membranes were therefore

(1) Work performed under the auspices of the U. S. Atomic Energy Comm.