



palladium can less readily accommodate two halides and an EDM moiety in a square-planar configuration than in the case of the smaller halides. Palladium would still prefer a square-planar environment, but the steric requirements of the ligand prevent this. We are currently investigating the reactions of this unusual species.

It is interesting to note that no characterizable complexes could be isolated from the reaction of EDM with Pt(II) halides under a variety of conditions.

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### Boron Insertion Reactions. Preparation of 1,1-Dimethyldiborane(6) and 2,2-Dimethyltetrahydroborane(10)

Sir:

We wish to report two boron insertion reactions that appear to be the simplest examples of a previously unrecognized class of insertion reactions in boron hydride chemistry.<sup>1</sup> The inserting agent used was dimethylboron chloride,  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{BCl}$ , which was found to react with sodium tetrahydroborate,  $\text{NaBH}_4$ , and with sodium octahydrotriborate,  $\text{NaB}_3\text{H}_8$ , to produce 1,1-dimethyldiborane(6),  $1,1-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_2\text{H}_4$ , and the new 2,2-dimethyltetrahydroborane(10),  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$ , respectively. Thus these reactions may be considered as explicit examples of insertion of a formal  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}^+$  moiety into a borane anion *via* two bridge hydrogen bonds without loss of hydrogen. A plausible but tenuous analogy may be drawn between the reactions described here and reactions of  $\text{BH}_4^-$  and  $\text{B}_3\text{H}_8^-$  with several types of transition metal complexes to produce compounds in which the transition metal is bonded to the borane moiety through double bridge hydrogen bonds.<sup>2</sup> Previous studies of the synthesis of  $\text{B}_4\text{H}_{10}$  having a specific boron label in the 2 position involved formal addition of  $\text{BH}_3$  to the intermediate  $\text{B}_3\text{H}_7^-$ .<sup>3</sup>

Long and Wallbridge have postulated that the high-temperature reaction of  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{B}$  and  $\text{NaBH}_4$  or  $\text{LiBH}_4$  in the presence of  $\text{HCl}$  to produce mixed methylated diboranes proceeds through the intermediate formation of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{BCl}$  and subsequent reaction of this with the  $\text{BH}_4^-$  salt.<sup>4</sup> In view of our observations this postulate appears to be quite reasonable, but the differences in reaction conditions do not allow definitive conclusions.

In a typical preparation of  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$ , ether-free  $\text{NaB}_3\text{H}_8$ <sup>5</sup> (from 16.56 mmoles of  $\text{B}_2\text{H}_6$  and excess 0.6% Na-Hg, theoretical yield 8.28 mmoles) was slurried with 10.0 mmoles of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{BCl}$  for 40 min at  $-30^\circ$ . The volatile materials were then separated by fractional distillation in the vacuum line. The  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$

(1) M. F. Hawthorne and P. A. Wegner (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **90**, 896 (1968)) have recently reported another special type of boron insertion reaction for reconstructing the 1,2-dicarba-closo-dodecaborane(12) structure.

(2) F. Klanberg, E. L. Muetterites, and L. J. Guggenberger, *Inorg. Chem.*, **7**, 2272 (1968); S. J. Lippard and D. A. Ucko, *ibid.*, **7**, 1051 (1968), and references therein.

(3) R. Schaeffer and F. N. Tebbe, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **84**, 3974 (1962).

(4) L. H. Long and M. G. H. Wallbridge, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 3513 (1965).

(5) W. V. Hough, L. J. Edwards, and A. D. McElroy, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **80**, 1828 (1958).

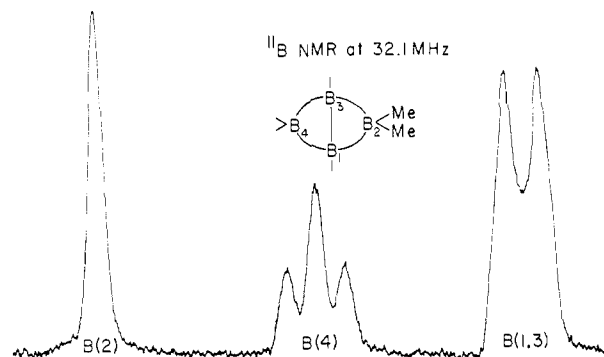


Figure 1. The  $^{11}\text{B}$  nmr spectrum of  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$  at 32.1 MHz. Chemical shifts from  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2 \pm 0.5$  ppm (and coupling constants  $\pm 5$  Hz) for the resonances are: B(2),  $-21.1$ ; B(4),  $+9.3$  (126); B(1,3),  $37.9$  (150).

slowly distills through a  $-78^\circ$  trap and is almost completely condensed in a  $-95^\circ$  trap (yield 4.06 mmoles, 49%). Decomposition of  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$  occurs fairly rapidly at room temperature even in the gas phase. Thus vapor pressures and gas density data are at best only marginally reliable criteria for determining purity. Observed vapor pressures are 5.8 mm at  $-30.4^\circ$ , 9.4 mm at  $-23.7^\circ$ , and 36.5 mm at  $0.0^\circ$ . Extrapolation of these data gives a normal boiling point of about  $72^\circ$ . The vapor density molecular weight was found to be 82.8; calcd 81.4. The mass spectrum of  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$  (MS-902 spectrometer) at 70 V cuts off at  $m/e$  78, which corresponds to the parent ion less four hydrogen atoms: calcd for  $^{12}\text{C}_2^{11}\text{B}_4\text{H}_{10}$ , 78.1155; found 78.1162. The  $m/e$  77 peak also arises from a single species of the same empirical composition as the  $m/e$  78 peak but containing a  $^{10}\text{B}$  in place of a  $^{11}\text{B}$ : calcd for  $^{12}\text{C}_2^{10}\text{B}^{11}\text{B}_3\text{H}_{10}$ , 77.1191; found, 77.1197. The  $^{11}\text{B}$  nmr spectrum of  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$  is shown in Figure 1. The chemical shifts of the triplet and doublet differ very little from the corresponding shifts for  $\text{B}_4\text{H}_{10}$ ,<sup>6</sup> but there is a conspicuous absence of resolved long-range coupling, as has also been noted in the spectrum of  $2\text{-BrB}_4\text{H}_9$ .<sup>7</sup> The  $^1\text{H}$  nmr spectrum (100 MHz) of  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$  is somewhat complex owing to bad overlap, but the general features are in agreement with the other spectral evidence. The gas-phase infrared spectrum of  $2,2-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_8$  (10-mm pressure, 10-cm cell) contains bands (in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) characteristic of C-H at 2970 (m), 2925 (w, sh), and 2850 (vw); B-H at 2575 (vs) and 2500 (s); and B-H-B at 2250 (s) and 2095 (m); as well as a fairly complex fingerprint region having bands at 1440 (w), 1325 (s), 1155 (m), 1100 (m), 1035 (s), 990 (w, sh), 940 (m), 885 (w), 840 (m), 795 (m), and 670 (w).

The  $1,1-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_2\text{H}_4$  was prepared by slowly warming a mixture of excess  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (barely wet with diethylene glycol dimethyl ether) and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{BCl}$  from  $-196$  to about  $0^\circ$ . The material that passed a trap at  $-122^\circ$  consisted entirely of  $1,1-(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{B}_2\text{H}_4$ , as shown by exact correspondence comparison of the gas-phase infrared spectrum with that in the literature<sup>8</sup> (yield 71%).

Further studies of boron insertion reactions are in progress and will be reported shortly.

(6) R. E. Williams, S. G. Gibbins, and J. Shapiro, *ibid.*, **81**, 6164 (1959).

(7) J. Dobson and R. Schaeffer, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 593 (1965).

(8) W. J. Lehman, C. O. Wilson, and I. Shapiro, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **34**, 476 (1961).