

refined by the block-diagonal least-squares method, using anisotropic temperature factors for all the nonhydrogen atoms. The weighting scheme  $w = [\sigma^2(F) + 0.000625F^2]^{-1}$  was employed, and the final  $R$  value was 0.062 for 2257 independent reflections [ $\sin \theta/\lambda \leq 0.76$ ,  $|F| \geq 3\sigma$ , without absorption correction].

The polyhedral model of the heteropolyanion  $PV_{14}O_{42}^{9-}$  is shown in Figure 1. The central  $PO_4$  tetrahedron shares its oxygen atoms with four  $V_3O_{13}$  groups, each of which is made up of three edge-sharing  $VO_6$  octahedra, defining the well-known  $\alpha$ -Keggin structure. There are 14 possible sites which are "pits" on a Keggin molecule for further coordination of vanadium atoms (six A sites, four B sites, and four C sites as shown in Figure 1). The last two VO units occupy trans-located A sites, forming trigonal bipyramidal caps. The geometry of the anion is shown in Figure 2, which includes some bond parameters.

In the region of pH 1.3-4.0, each of the 40.5-MHz  $^{31}P$  NMR spectra of P/V 1:4 solutions showed only a singlet peak at  $-0.2$  to  $+0.7$  ppm (with respect to 85%  $H_3PO_4$  as external standard) accompanied by a phosphate ion peak.

Such a Keggin structure with the capping 5-coordinated metal atoms has not been previously observed in the structures of polyanions. Compared with the polyanions of Mo(VI) and W(VI), a high negative charge will prevent the formation of Keggin-type anion  $PV_{12}O_{40}^{15-}$  whereas bicapped Keggin anion  $PV_{14}O_{42}^{9-}$  is stabilized by the two capping  $VO_3^{3+}$  units. The results of this work suggest the possibility of a capped Keggin ion series  $PV_{12+n}O_{40+n}^{-(15-3n)}$  ( $n = 1-6$ ).<sup>5</sup>

**Acknowledgment.** We are grateful to Dr. K. Sato for measuring  $^{31}P$  NMR spectra.

**Supplementary Material Available:** Three tables listing atomic positions, thermal parameters, and structure factors (18 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

(5) Very recently we have obtained a crystal of heteropolyvanadate containing arsenic as a heteroatom whose structure seems to be a capped Keggin type ( $n = 14$  or  $15$ ?). A crystallographic analysis is in progress.

R. Kato, A. Kobayashi, Y. Sasaki\*

Department of Chemistry and  
Research Centre for Spectrometry  
Faculty of Science, The University of Tokyo  
Hongo, Tokyo 113, Japan

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## Olefin Metathesis Reaction: Characterization of an Active Catalyst Precursor, $CH_3WOCl_3 \cdot O(C_2H_5)_2$ , from the $WOCl_4-(CH_3)_2Mg$ Reaction

Sir:

Earlier<sup>1</sup> we had shown that  $WOCl_4$  in combination with main group metal alkyls provided a consistent source of an exceedingly active catalyst precursor for the olefin metathesis reaction.<sup>2</sup> With the report of the synthesis, isolation, and characterization of  $CH_3WOCl_3$ ,<sup>4</sup> we set out to identify the precursor and the intermediate(s) in the  $WOCl_4$ -based olefin metathesis reaction. We describe here the character of the  $(CH_3)_2Mg-WOCl_4$  reaction,

(1) M. T. Mocella, R. Rovner, and E. L. Muetterties, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **98**, 4689 (1976).

(2) Especially active was the product from alkylaluminum chlorides.<sup>1</sup> Products from  $WCl_6$  and main group metal alkyls were shown to be inactive except under conditions wherein small amounts of air were admitted to the reaction system.<sup>1</sup> The reaction system of  $WCl_6$ ,  $[(C_2H_5)_2AlCl]_2$ , and ethanol is an alternative source of an active olefin metathesis catalyst.<sup>3</sup>

(3) N. Calderon, E. A. Ofstead, J. P. Ward, W. A. Judy, and K. W. Scott, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **90**, 4133 (1968).

(4) C. C. Santini-Scampucci and J. G. Riess, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, **73**, C13 (1974); *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 196 (1976).

the spectroscopic and complex chemical properties of methyltungsten oxytrichloride-diethyl etherate complexes, and the catalytic properties of these methyltungsten complexes.

Riess and Santini<sup>4</sup> described the isolation of unsolvated  $CH_3WOCl_3$  from the reaction of  $(CH_3)_2Mg$  and  $WOCl_4$  in a pentane-diethyl ether medium.<sup>5,6</sup> After an intensive examination of this reaction under the precise Riess and Santini conditions, and also widely varying conditions, we report the following. Reaction between  $(CH_3)_2Mg$  and  $WOCl_4$  did not proceed until temperatures of  $-30$  to  $-20$  °C were attained.<sup>7</sup> At minimal reaction temperatures, methane and methyl chloride were formed in addition to small amounts of ethane, ethylene, and propylene, with no detectable  $CH_3OH$  or  $H_2$ .<sup>8</sup> A major<sup>10</sup> coproduct was a green insoluble solid that had no hydrolyzable  $W-CH_3$  or  $W-OCH_3$  function, contained W, Cl, and Mg, and was catalytically inactive.<sup>11a</sup> The soluble fraction was isolated as red, apparently<sup>11c</sup> single crystals at low temperatures ( $<-30$  °C).<sup>12</sup> These crystals contained tungsten and chlorine in the ratio of 1:2.93 and diethyl ether, but no magnesium; maximal yields of the isolated crystals were 45%. The extraordinary thermal reactivity precluded a normal high-precision analysis of all elements.<sup>12</sup> Nevertheless, the definition of the W/Cl ratio and the following spectroscopic studies establish these crystals to be an etherate of  $CH_3WOCl_3$ .<sup>11f</sup>

Red crystals of  $CH_3WOCl_3 \cdot O(C_2H_5)_2$  derived from a  $WOCl_4-Mg(^{13}CH_3)_2$ <sup>11d</sup> reaction were examined by  $^{13}C$  and  $^1H$  NMR as a function of temperature.<sup>12</sup> At low temperatures, there were

(5) C. Santini, Ph.D. Thesis, Institut de Mathematiques and Sciences Physiques, Nice, France (1973).

(6) We are indebted to Professor Riess and to Dr. Santini for detailed information. Unfortunately, the original NMR spectral data for unsolvated  $CH_3WOCl_3$  could not be obtained for precise comparison. They reported  $J_{H-W} = 3$  Hz for  $CH_3WOCl_3$ .

(7) Variations of temperature, ratio of pentane to diethyl ether solvent, reactant ratios, and modes of addition were explored in a glass high-vacuum system wherein all operations of filtration, gas-phase analysis, and recrystallization could be performed quantitatively as a function of temperature.

(8) With  $(CH_3)_2Mg$  to  $WOCl_4$  reactant ratios of 0.5:1.0, the percentages of methyl equivalents in the hydrocarbons formed at reaction temperatures were  $CH_4$  (3.2%),  $CH_3Cl$  (10.9%),  $C_2H_6$  (2.7%),  $C_2H_4$  (0.2%), and  $C_3H_6$  (~0.1%). These hydrocarbons when generated from the  $(CD_3)_2Mg$  reaction were fully deuterated with the exception of methane, which contained ~30%  $CD_3H$ .  $CD_3H$  formation may have been due to protons present on the surface on the Pyrex vessel.<sup>9</sup>

(9) Hydrogen incorporation was observed in the alkanes produced from the decomposition of tantalum perdeuterioalkyls when Pyrex vessels (flamed out under vacuum) were used but not when Vycor vessels (flamed out under vacuum) were employed: R. R. Schrock and J. D. Fellmann, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **100**, 3359 (1978).

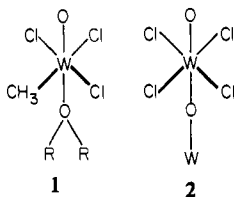
(10) 90% of the tungsten was present in this material with reactant ratios of  $(CH_3)_2Mg$  to  $WOCl_4$  of 1:1. This yield dropped to the 55-65% level at reactant ratios of  $(CH_3)_2Mg$  to  $WOCl_4$  of 0.5:1.0. The other product was crystalline  $CH_3WOCl_3$  etherate.

(11) (a) This green solid contained W, Cl, and Mg in the ratios of 1:3.46:0.65 (typical analysis). (b) Qualitatively, some of our observations did not coincide with those of Santini and Riess. Their insoluble product was described as brown and  $CH_3WOCl_3$  as yellow; the only yellow species we observed was  $WOCl_4[O(C_2H_5)_2]$ . Our soluble tungsten products invariably contained diethyl ether;<sup>11c</sup> Riess and Santini pointedly described their  $CH_3WOCl_3$  as ether free. Their reported optimal conditions of stoichiometry diverged from our findings: Our optimal yields of methyltungsten complexes were realized at  $WOCl_4/(CH_3)_2Mg$  ratios of 2:1. Extensive variations of these procedures were examined over a 3-year period, but we were unable to achieve the Riess-Santini accomplishments. Reaction of the methyl-tungsten complexes produced in our research with strong donor molecules led to formation of green, reduced tungsten species. (c) Quantitative gravimetric studies with  $WOCl_4$  established that this oxychloride formed a 1:1 etherate isolable as a crystalline solid, but high-vacuum pumping converted the crystals to an ether-free form at 20 °C in about 2 h. At  $-30$  °C, evacuation removed only about 2% of the ether from the solid etherate at  $-30$  °C in ~1 h. Because of the thermal reactivity of  $CH_3WOCl_3 \cdot O(C_2H_5)_2$ ,<sup>12</sup> ether removal by evacuation was not feasible. (d) The  $^{13}C$  content was 18%. (e) The  $CH_3WOCl_3$  etherate was purified by low-temperature crystallization to give large red needles. Visually, the crystals appeared to be single crystals. Attempts to obtain X-ray diffraction data at low temperatures failed in the processes of mounting the crystals in capillaries, where, because of the extreme thermal reactivity of the crystals, inadvertent temperature rises led to loss of crystallinity.<sup>12</sup> (f) The ratio of ether to tungsten in the complex was not established but was assumed to be 1:1 by analogy to  $WOCl_4[O(C_2H_5)_2]$ .

(12) These crystals decomposed rapidly at 0-20 °C (s), slowly at  $-30$  °C (min), detectably at  $-78$  °C (h), and undetectably at  $-197$  °C. In solution, the decomposition was slow at 20 °C.

three  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  resonances at 101.5, 101.1, and 86.6 ppm [referenced to  $(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{Si}$ ] of respective relative intensities 1:0.2:1.5, with the two intense resonances showing tungsten satellites,  $J_{^{13}\text{C}-^{183}\text{W}} = 48$  Hz. In the  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum, the two intense resonances were quartets,  $J_{^{13}\text{C}-\text{H}} = 132$  Hz, clearly establishing the presence of W-CH<sub>3</sub> groups. Also detectable in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum were two broad resonances at 65.6 and 12.4 ppm assignable to the CH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub> groups of diethyl ether. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra were temperature dependent. As the temperature was raised, the 101.5-ppm resonance broadened, and a new resonance at 103.7 ppm grew in. At -30 °C, the resonances at 101.5 and 103.7 ppm were of equal intensity, and both were binomial quartets in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum. With further temperature increase, the 103.7-ppm resonance sharpened so that tungsten satellites became clearly evident,  $J_{^{13}\text{C}-^{183}\text{W}} = 39$  Hz, and the other resonances decreased in intensity and then disappeared; these changes were reversible with temperature decrease.<sup>12</sup> The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the methyltungsten complexes derived from  $\text{Mg}(\text{CH}_3)_2$  was complex because the W-CH<sub>3</sub> resonances overlapped the CH<sub>2</sub> resonance of the complexed diethyl ether. At low temperatures, there were two readily distinguishable W-CH<sub>3</sub> singlets at 3.25 and 1.94 ppm, each with  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{183}\text{W}$  satellites,  $J_{\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}} = 132$  Hz and  $J_{\text{H}-^{183}\text{W}} = 5$  Hz. The spectra were also temperature dependent, and correlations with the  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra could be made. No NMR evidence for W-CH<sub>2</sub> or W-H species was obtained.

The multiplicity of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR resonances for the  $^{13}\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$ -ether complex may be explained in terms of isomeric solution species at low temperatures. Of the five possible isomers, the predominant one should be **1** by analogy to stereo-



chemistry **2** established for the associated state of crystalline  $\text{WOCl}_4$ . The temperature dependence of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra is ascribed to a shift in equilibrium (eq 1), with the rates of ether



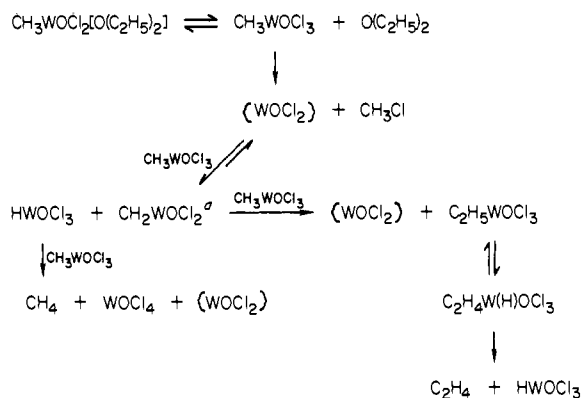
dissociation and association low with respect to the NMR time scale. This interpretation is fully consistent with the observed increase in free ether (methylene) resonance intensities with temperature increase.

Thermal decomposition of crystalline  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$  etherate at 20 °C primarily produced methyl chloride, methane, polymethylene, and a reduced tungsten oxychloride; minor products were ethane, ethylene, and propylene. All hydrocarbons with the exception of polymethylene were analyzed by gas chromatography (GC) and GC/MS (mass spectrometry); the polymethylene was characterized by  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, following the products produced from  $^{13}\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$ . The relative proportions of CH<sub>4</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>Cl were dependent upon the state of the methyl-tungsten complex: the ratio of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl to CH<sub>4</sub> was ~1.5:1.0 and 0.2:1.0 for the solution and solid states, respectively. In the solution-state decomposition of  $\text{CD}_3\text{WOCl}_3$ , methyl chloride and all the hydrocarbon products were fully deuterated, with the exception of methane which contained ~10%  $\text{CD}_3\text{H}$ .<sup>9</sup>

Decomposition of a mixture of  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{WOCl}_3$ , each prepared and isolated separately as red crystals, in solution at 20 °C produced a surprising pattern of deuterated hydrocarbons.<sup>13</sup> Methyl chloride consisted only of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl and CD<sub>3</sub>Cl whereas methane contained comparable amounts of CH<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>D, CD<sub>3</sub>H, and CD<sub>4</sub>, as well as much smaller quantities of CH<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>. Ethylene was comprised of a nearly statistical mixture of all isotopic species from  $d_0$  to  $d_4$  and thus must be generated in a

(13) We accounted for about 50% of the CH<sub>3</sub> equivalents derived from  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$ , exclusive of the polymethylene product. A quantitative measure of this latter product was not obtained.

## Scheme I



<sup>a</sup> Metathesis intermediate.

reaction pathway separate from the methane and methyl chloride pathways. Ethane consisted solely of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>6</sub>. This ethane, a trace product, must be produced in a reaction uncoupled from those producing methane and ethylene, probably from trace amounts of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{WOCl}_2$  and  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{WOCl}_2$ .<sup>14</sup> All methyl chloride elimination must follow a reaction sequence separate from the methane formation reaction. We suggest that methyl chloride formation is the initiating step of a chain reaction (Scheme I) involving  $\text{WOCl}_2$  as the chain-propagating species and  $\text{CH}_2\text{WOCl}_2$  as the metathesis intermediate (vide infra).

Thermal decomposition of benzene solutions of  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3 \cdot \text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$  in the presence of an olefin initiated catalytic metathesis of the olefin. Thus, 2-pentene was converted to 2-butene and 3-hexene in equimolar amounts. In addition, propylene and 1-butene were formed in a 1:1 molar ratio and in molar amounts comparable to the moles of  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$  used. These two olefins consisted solely of the C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>D<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>6</sub>D<sub>2</sub> isotopic species when the methyltungsten complex was  $\text{CD}_3\text{WOCl}_3 \cdot \text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$ .<sup>16</sup> It is important to note that formation of ethylene from the thermal decomposition of  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$  was completely suppressed by the presence of an olefin.

Our studies unambiguously establish that  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3 \cdot \text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$  is an olefin metathesis catalyst precursor and that a CH<sub>2</sub> fragment of the CH<sub>3</sub>-W complex is incorporated into the olefin metathesis products, the first demonstration of the incorporation of a CH<sub>2</sub> fragment, from a characterized methyl-transition-metal complex, in olefin metathesis reaction products. The metathesis intermediate is proposed to be  $\text{CH}_2\text{WOCl}_2$  (Scheme I).<sup>17,18</sup> Decomposition of  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$  is unquestionably complex, with three major "reductive elimination" products, methyl chloride, polymethylene, and methane.

(14) Methyltungsten complexes, detected by NMR, equilibrated CH<sub>3</sub> groups at a rate fast with respect to time of mixing (20 °C). None of these resonances, therefore, can be representative of a  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{W}$  species.

(15) Decomposition of  $\text{CH}_3\text{WOCl}_3$  is atypical of methyl-transition-metal complexes in that CH<sub>3</sub>Cl is a major product although the remaining products of CH<sub>4</sub> and small amounts of ethane, ethylene, and propylene are typical of CH<sub>3</sub>-M complex decompositions. Polymethylene formation may well have been missed in some studies since these studies have never accounted for more than 50% of the CH-M carbon atoms. Observations of polymethylene formation from methyl-transition compound decomposition are  $\text{CH}_3\text{TiCl}_3$  [Hn. DeVries, *Recl. Trav. Chim. Pays-Bas*, **80**, 866 (1961)] and  $\text{W}(\text{CH}_3)_6$  [A. J. Shortland and G. Wilkinson, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 872 (1973)].

(16) R. H. Grubbs and C. R. Hoppin [*J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 634 (1977)] have demonstrated that  $\text{WCl}_6$  and  $(\text{CD}_3)_4\text{Sn}$  initiate olefin metathesis with early production of a CD<sub>2</sub>-labeled terminal olefin; however, no CD<sub>3</sub>W intermediate was characterized. However, we<sup>1</sup> have shown definitively that  $\text{WCl}_6$  is an inactive reactant for a metathesis precursor unless oxygen is present.

(17) R. Schrock, S. Rocklage, J. Wengrovius, G. Rupprecht, and J. Fellman, *J. Mol. Catal.*, **8**, 73-83 (1980). Phosphine complexes of  $\text{CH}_2\text{W}-\text{OCl}_2$  have been isolated and shown to be slightly active metathesis catalysts.

(18) Since our work was completed, Schrock et al. have described  $(\text{C}-\text{H}_3)_3\text{CCHW}(\text{O})\text{Cl}_2[\text{Pt}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3]$  as an active olefin metathesis catalyst although rates were extremely low: J. H. Wengrovius, R. R. Schrock, M. R. Churchill, J. R. Misset, and W. J. Youngs, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **102**, 4515 (1980).

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E. L. Muetterties\*

Department of Chemistry, University of California  
Berkeley, California 94720

E. Band

Department of Chemistry, Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14853

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### Positive Halogen Cryptate: Complexation of Iodine with [2.2.2]Cryptand

Sir:

Many cationic species (e.g., metal cations and ammonium, guanidinium, imidazolium, and diazonium cations) are known to form inclusion complexes with macrocyclic ligands.<sup>1</sup> We report in this communication the first example of a positive halogen ion cryptation, formed by complexation of molecular iodine with the [2.2.2]cryptand ([2.2.2]) (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup>

The formation of charge-transfer complexes between diatomic halogens and amines or ethers has been extensively investigated.<sup>3</sup> In these complexes, a linear orientation of the halogen molecule with the donor atom is generally observed in the solid state.<sup>4</sup> Recently, Schori<sup>5</sup> and Pannell<sup>6</sup> have investigated the interaction between bromine and several crown ethers. They have concluded that the binding of the bromine to the polyether does not involve the cavity of the crown but rather that the bonding is essentially the same as in tetrahydrofuran or dioxan complexes, which involves a single oxygen-bromine interaction. The same conclusion was reached by Hopkins<sup>7</sup> for crown ether-iodine complexes.

The NMR spectrum of a solution of [2.2.2] in CDCl<sub>3</sub> shows a cleanly resolved triplet at 2.65 ppm for the CH<sub>2</sub>N protons, with no significant alteration between -40 and +50 °C. When 1 equiv of I<sub>2</sub> is added to this solution, a new triplet appears at 3.22 ppm for the CH<sub>2</sub>N protons, and the signal at 2.65 ppm nearly disappears.<sup>5</sup> The same spectra are obtained from +24 to -40 °C. This new spectrum must be due to the formation of a 1:1 complex between [2.2.2] and iodine. On the other hand, when 0.5 equiv of I<sub>2</sub> is added to the solution at 24 °C, two broad singlets of approximately equal intensity appear at 2.65 and 3.23 ppm. When the solution is cooled to -40 °C, triplets at 2.65 and 3.23 ppm are obtained which correspond to the free [2.2.2] and the [2.2.2]-iodine complex, respectively. When the solution is heated to 50 °C, a singlet is obtained at 2.97 ppm. At the coalescence temperature (*T*<sub>c</sub> 30 °C), the corresponding exchange rate (*k*<sub>c</sub>) and free energy of activation can be calculated in the usual way from the spectral parameters by using the Eyring rate equation (*k*<sub>c</sub> = 129 s<sup>-1</sup>, Δ*G*<sub>c</sub><sup>‡</sup> = 14.9 kcal·mol<sup>-1</sup>) (Figure 2).<sup>8</sup>

(1) Izatt, R. M.; Christensen, J. J., Eds. "Synthetic Multidentate Macrocyclic Compounds", Academic Press: 1979.

(2) The cavity of [2.2.2] is approximately 2.8 Å. The diameter of I<sup>+</sup> is approximately 1.6 Å (calculated value).

(3) Foster, R. "Organic Charge-Transfer Complexes"; Academic Press: 1969.

(4) In solution, the ionic character of the amine-I<sub>2</sub> complexes increases with the polarity of the solvent. The formation of conducting species occurs, possibly arising from an electron transfer in which the complex Et<sub>3</sub>N... I-I turns to the ion pair Et<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup>-I, I<sup>-</sup>.

(5) Schori, E.; Jagur-Grodzinsky, J. *Isr. J. Chem.* **1972**, *10*, 935.

(6) Pannell, K. H.; Mayr, A. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1979**, 132.

(7) Hopkins, H. P.; Jahagirdal, D. V.; Windler, F. J. *J. Phys. Chem.* **1978**, *82*, 1254.

(8) The spectrum of [2.2.2] shows a triplet at 3.60 ppm (CH<sub>2</sub>O protons) and a singlet at 3.70 ppm (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O protons). Modifications of these resonances upon complexation with iodine (3.70 ppm for the triplet and 3.65 ppm for the singlet) have not been considered since the CH<sub>2</sub>N proton shift is more significant.



Figure 1. [2.2.2]Cryptand

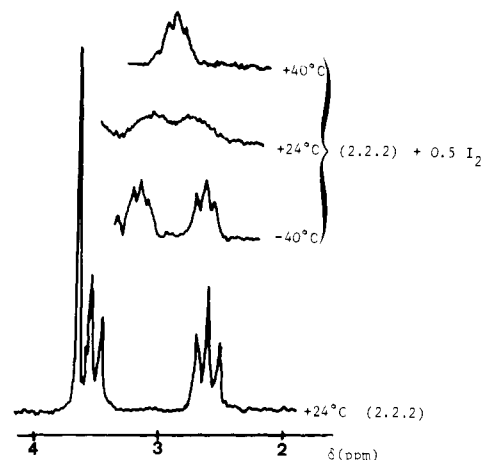


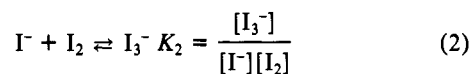
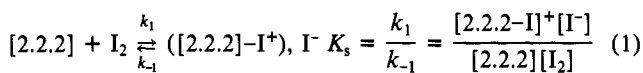
Figure 2. 100-MHz NMR spectra of CDCl<sub>3</sub> solutions.

Similar experiments were performed with triethylamine instead of [2.2.2]. The methylene protons of free triethylamine and triethylamine-iodine complex are observed at 2.55 and 3.55 ppm, respectively. When 0.5 equiv of I<sub>2</sub> is added, the quartet is displaced to 3.07 ppm, corresponding to a fast exchange rate between the complexed and noncomplexed species; at -40 °C, the exchange remains rapid, normally indicating a less stable complex.

In the present case, NMR spectroscopy is not a convenient method for estimating the equilibrium constant (*K*<sub>s</sub>) of the complex formation since the Benesi-Hildebrand method requires a large excess of I<sub>2</sub>.<sup>9</sup>

When iodine is added to chloroform solutions of [2.2.2], conductance measurements reveal an ionic character for the resulting complex: the conductance of a 2 × 10<sup>-2</sup> M solution of [2.2.2] and I<sub>2</sub> (1:1 stoichiometry) was found to be 6 × 10<sup>-2</sup> Ω<sup>-1</sup>·M<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-2</sup> ([2.2.2]cryptand or I<sub>2</sub> alone is not conducting). This value is similar to that obtained for a 2 × 10<sup>-2</sup> M solution of N<sup>+</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>, I<sup>-</sup> (3.45 × 10<sup>-3</sup> Ω<sup>-1</sup>·M<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-2</sup>).

Voltamperometric measurements in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.9 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M) unambiguously confirm the ionic character of the complex. I<sub>2</sub>, I<sup>-</sup> and I<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> are the only species detected (I<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is also detected by UV analysis). The quantities present of these species add up to less than the initial I<sub>2</sub> concentration; thus, from the law of conservation of both charge and mass, one can state that there is necessarily present additional, positively charged iodine species. I<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is formed in the well-known equilibrium (eq 2). The results favor a mechanism corresponding to eq 1 and 2.



The equilibrium constant *K*<sub>s</sub> is estimated to be ≥10<sup>7</sup> (for the Et<sub>3</sub>N-I<sub>2</sub> complex, the *K*<sub>s</sub> value is only 4.6 × 10<sup>3</sup> M). *K*<sub>2</sub> is obtained (3.12 × 10<sup>6</sup> M) in a manner similar to that used by Guidelli and Piccardi<sup>10</sup> for CH<sub>3</sub>CN solutions. The relative values of *K*<sub>s</sub> and *K*<sub>2</sub> are in agreement with the stoichiometry determined from NMR measurements (vide supra).

As the complex is more stable than the dissociated state (*K*<sub>s</sub> > 1), the *k*<sub>c</sub> and Δ*G*<sub>c</sub><sup>‡</sup> values correspond to the rate (*k*<sub>-1</sub>) of the I<sup>+</sup> leaving the [2.2.2]-I<sup>+</sup> complex. Attention must be focused on the fact that the spectrum remains symmetrical at -40 °C (one

(9) Near 1.3:1 stoichiometry, the solutions became turbid; more dilute solutions (2 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M) remain homogeneous.

(10) Guidelli, R.; Piccardi, G. *Electrochim. Acta* **1967**, *12*, 1085.