

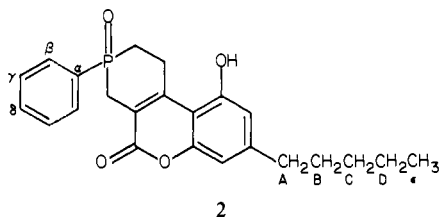
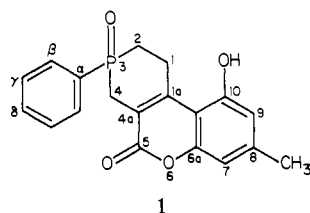
Carbon-Phosphorus Heterocycles. Synthesis of Phosphorus-Containing Cannabinoid Precursors and a Single-Crystal Analysis of 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-*n*-pentyl-5*H*-phosphorino[3,4-*c*][1]benzopyran-5-one 3-Oxide

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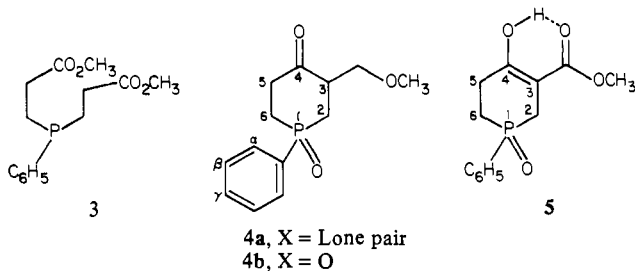
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Abstract: The syntheses of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-methyl- and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-*n*-pentyl-3-phenyl-5*H*-phosphorino[3,4-*c*][1]benzopyran-5-one 3-oxide have been achieved. These precursors of cannabinoid analogues are the first reported in this family of carbon-phosphorus heterocycles. A single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis of the pentyl derivative confirmed the structure. ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR analyses are also supportive of the basic assignments for both compounds. An intermediate synthon methyl 4-oxo-1-phenyl-3-phosphorinancarboxylate was analyzed via ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy and was found to exist primarily in an enol form in solution and had different properties than previously reported.

Considerable activity in the chemistry of cannabinoids,¹ in particular heteroatom-substituted derivatives, in recent years² and our interest in carbon-phosphorus heterocycles³ which are analogues of natural products prompt us to reveal our results on certain phosphorus-containing precursors of cannabinoids. We report herein the synthesis of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-methyl- (1) and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-*n*-pentyl-3-phenyl-5*H*-phosphorino[3,4-*c*][1]benzopyran-5-one 3-oxide (2).



Bis(2-(carbomethoxy)ethyl)phenylphosphine (3)⁴ was converted



to methyl 4-oxo-1-phenyl-3-phosphorinancarboxylate (4a)⁴ which, in crude form, was oxidized with 30% H₂O₂ to give oxide 4b.⁵ Since the physical properties differed significantly for 4b from those recorded,⁵ a careful spectral analysis seemed warranted. IR

analysis (KBr pellet) showed a broad band at 3350 cm⁻¹ assigned to an O-H stretching frequency of an enol. A small peak at 1725 cm⁻¹ also inferred the presence of a carbonyl group. The band at 1639 cm⁻¹ was of medium intensity and was supportive of the conjugated double bond present in the enol form.

¹H NMR analysis of 4b was complex (see Table I) although the protons of the methyl group appeared at δ 3.78. Indeed, the ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4b was not simple and the interpretation was best in accord with a very high population of the enol form 5. In Table I, there are two signals for sp²-hybridized carbons C(3) and C(4) located at 92.78 ppm (²J_{PC} = 3.90 Hz) and 172.07 ppm (³J_{PC} = 9.62 Hz), respectively. The other resonances seem reasonable.⁶ The ¹³C NMR signal pattern did not change for a solution of 4b in DCCl₃ at room temperature down to -70 °C.

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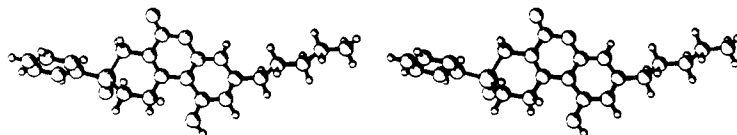


Figure 1. PLUTO¹⁷ drawing of single molecule of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-*n*-pentyl-5*H*-phosphorino[3,4-*c*][1]benzopyran-5-one 3-oxide (**2**).

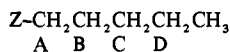
One ³¹P signal was observed at +28.95 ppm which indicates the presence of only one isomer.

Treatment of oxide **4b** with 5-methyl- or 5-*n*-pentylresorcinol in the presence of concentrated H₂SO₄ followed by the addition of Cl₃P=O gave, after workup, **1** and **2**, respectively, in yields of 43.3% and 38.5%. The C—P heterocycles are the first members to be prepared in this family of heterocyclic cannabinoid precursors. A variety of other conditions were attempted but resulted in lower yields than recorded above.

Although the ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** was very complex, signals for methyl protons occurred at δ 2.24 while the aryl protons H(7) and H(9)⁷ appeared as overlapping singlets at about δ 6.40 (see Table I). The ¹H spectrum of **2** was similar except for the additional proton signals for the *n*-pentyl side chain.

The ¹³C NMR analysis of both **1** and **2** proved interesting. Although **1** was poorly soluble in organic solvents, a spectrum was obtained in Me₂SO-*d*₆ after 42 h as shown in Table I. In addition to the expected ¹³C resonances, signals for the aliphatic carbons α [C(2) and C(4)] to the P=O group appeared at 22.89 ppm (¹J_{PC} = 70.0 Hz) and 25.96 ppm (¹J_{PC} = 64.93 Hz). In **1**, since there are no adequate model systems for comparison, we tentatively suggest that the latter resonance is for C(4) which is also α to the double bond. Interestingly also, C(1) had a signal at 25.85 ppm (²J_{PC} = 5.50 Hz) and was easily distinguished because of the chemical shift and coupling value. We also suggest that the ¹³C resonance for C(1a) appears at 150.34 ppm (³J_{PC} = 10.90 Hz) and that for C(4a) appears at 114.82 ppm (²J_{PC} = 4.95 Hz), both typical shifts for vinyl carbons⁸ and J_{PC} coupling values.⁹ That the β-carbon in unsaturated six-membered ketones^{8c} and lactones^{8d} absorbs at lower field than the α-carbon is recognized.^{8c,d} We note the larger ³J_{PCC(4)} compared to ²J_{PC(3)} in **4b** in which the assignment of the chemical shift for C(4) is unequivocal. The three-bond coupling to C(5) was somewhat large (³J_{PC} = 9.0 Hz) and the signal appeared at 160.02 ppm in **1**.

In the case of the pentyl analogue **2**, solubility was quite adequate in DCCl₃ and a spectrum could be obtained in 15 h. Assignments for the carbon signals paralleled those found in **1** as seen in Table I. Resonances for the side chain were at 35.35, 31.48, 29.90, and 22.46 ppm for the A-, B-, C-, and D-carbons,



respectively, as similarly found in several tetrahydrocannabinols.^{10,11} Surprisingly, a search of the literature did not reveal a single reference to ¹³C NMR data on the comparable lactone precursors of tetrahydrocannabinols.

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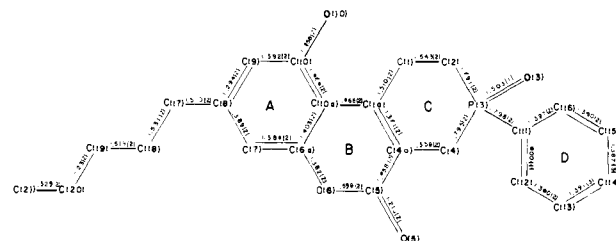


Table I. Spectral Properties of 1, 2, and 4b.

compd	IR, ^a cm ⁻¹	¹ H NMR, ^{b,c} δ (J, Hz)	¹³ C NMR, ^{b,c} ppm (<i>J</i> _{PC} , Hz)	³¹ P NMR ^{c,d}
1	3390, 1697 1144	2.24 (s, 3 H, CH ₃) 2.30–4.30 (m, 6 H, H(1), H(2), H(4)) 6.39, 6.42 ^e (2 s, 2 H, H(7), H(9)) 7.45–8.10 (m, 5 H, ArH) 10.67 (s, 1 H, OH)	C(1), 25.85 ^f (5.50) C(1a), 150.34 (10.90) C(2), 22.89 (70.00) C(4), 25.96 (64.93) C(4a), 114.82 (4.95) C(5), 160.02 (9.00) C(6a), 155.59; C(7), 108.28 C(8), 142.19; C(9), 105.69 C(10), 152.61; C(10a), 112.42 C(α), 130.37 (101.00) C(β), 129.67 (7.20) C(γ), 128.65 (10.00) C(δ), 133.73 C(ε), 20.80	+39.23
2	3390, 1700 1143	0.87 (t, 3 H, CH ₃ , <i>J</i> = 7) 1.12–1.80 (m, 6 H, H(α), H(β), H(γ), H(δ)) 6.36, 6.39 ^e (2 s, 2 H, H(7), H(9)) 7.45–8.04 (m, 5 H, Ar-H) 10.64 (s, 1 H, OH)	C(1), 26.84 (6.05) C(1a), 149.53 (12.37) C(2), 23.49 (66.92) C(4), 26.40 (67.88) C(4a), 112.99 (3.83) C(5), 160.98 (10.22) C(6a), 155.76; C(7), 107.35 C(8), 147.41; C(9), 106.16 C(10), 152.49; C(10a), 111.97 C(α), 129.87 (104.24) C(β), 130.27 (9.64) C(γ), 128.93 (12.41) C(δ), 132.64 (2.71) C(ε), 14.03 C(A), 35.35; C(B), 31.48 ^g C(C), 29.90; C(D), 22.46	+31.54
4b	3350, 1725 1640	2.02–3.20 (m, 5 H ring CH ₂ and CH) 3.78 (s, 3 H, CH ₃) 7.40–8.15 (m, 5 H Ar-H)	C(2), 24.82 (67.05) C(3), 92.78 (3.90) C(4), 172.07 (9.62) C(5), 26.94 (6.46) C(6), 24.07 (66.31) C(7), 171.73 (11.82) C(8), 51.97 C(α), 131.87 (98.55) C(β), 129.87 (9.45) C(γ), 128.66 (11.72) C(δ), 132.03 (2.28)	+28.95

^a KBr pellets. ^b Ppm from (CH₃)₄Si. Average values are italic. ^c Solvent was DCCl₃, except for 1 which was dissolved in Me₂SO-*d*₆. ^d Ppm from 85% H₃PO₄. ^e These singlets overlapped extensively and only the very tops of the signals were discernable. ^f All italic shift values are averages for doublets. ^g These signals may be interchanged.^{10,11}

nificantly shorter than that in 7 [average = 1.821 (2) Å]. Likewise, 2 and 6 have similar P–C(sp²) distances [1.798 (2) and 1.805 (2) Å, respectively], but the P–C₆H₅ distance in 2 is longer than the P–C(sp²) distance in 7 by 0.022 Å. The overall result is that there is very little difference between the P–C(sp³) and P–C(sp²) bond distances in 2. Since a large number of factors including hybridization, charge, valency, and steric factors influence P–C bond lengths in heterocyclic compounds, they are difficult to correlate with certainty.

The oxygen atom O(3) is in an axial position relative to the phosphorus-containing ring as is the oxygen atom in 6. However, the P–O distance in 2 of 1.503 (1) Å is appreciably longer than in 6 [1.483 (2) Å] and more closely parallels the P–O distance in 7 [1.505 (2) Å]. It is also longer than the value of 1.48 Å determined by electron diffraction for trimethylphosphine oxide.¹⁵

The central, aromatic portion of the molecule 2 [ring A = C(6a), C(7)–C(10), and C(10a); ring B = C(1a), C(4a), C(5), O(6), C(6a), and C(10a)] can be most readily compared to the structure of coumarin (8).¹⁶ As in 8, the C(1a)–C(4a) bond is

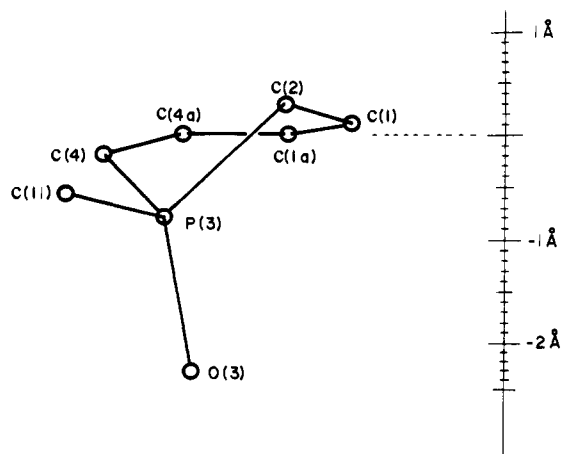
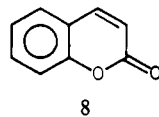


Figure 4. The phosphorus-containing ring showing the derivatives of the atoms from the plane of the aromatic portion of the molecule.

a fairly localized double bond while the C(10a)–C(1a) and C(4a)–C(5) bond distances are significantly larger than 1.40 Å in both compounds. The A ring in both compounds is essentially aromatic although the C(10)–C(10a) bond distance in 2 of 1.424 (2) Å is appreciably longer than the other bonds in the ring and

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the corresponding bond in **8** [1.390 (5) Å]. The average C–C bond distance around both rings of **2** is 1.409 (27) Å, larger by 0.018 Å than the average C–C carbon distance in coumarin.

The bond angles in **2** and **8** are similar. The C(10a)–C(6a)–C(7) angle is larger than 120° while the O(6)–C(6a)–C(7) angle is smaller than 120° in both compounds. Likewise, the C(4)–C(5)–O(5) angle in coumarin of 125.6 (3)° is comparable to that found in **2** [124.6 (1)°].

The A and B rings taken together are planar with an average distance from the plane of 0.016 Å. The conformation of the phosphorus-containing ring is shown in Figure 4 which illustrates the deviations of the atoms from the plane through rings A and B. The planes formed by the alkyl chain [C(8), C(17)–C(21)] and the phenyl group [C(11)–C(16)] are approximately perpendicular to the central plane as indicated by the angles between the planes and the central plane of 80.6 and 86.1°, respectively.

As in compound **7**, the oxygen atom O(3) is involved in a hydrogen bond with the hydroxyl group of a symmetry-related molecule. The O(3)–O(10) intermolecular distance is 2.651 (2) Å in **2**, somewhat longer than the corresponding distance in **7** of 2.595 Å. The H(10)–O(10) distance is 0.89 (3) Å, the O(3)–H(10) distance is 1.76 (3) Å, and the O(3)–H(10)–O(10) angle is 176 (2)°, where O(10) and H(10) have been transformed by $-x, 1-y, -z$.

Experimental Section

Melting points were determined on a Thomas-Hoover melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. The ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR data were obtained on a Varian XL-100(15) NMR spectrometer equipped with Nicolet TT-100 PFT accessory operating at 100.1 MHz with tetramethylsilane (Me₄Si) as internal standard for ¹H NMR, at 25.2 MHz with Me₄Si as internal standard for ¹³C NMR, and at 40.5 MHz (with 85% H₃PO₄ as external standard) for ³¹P NMR. The ¹³C and ³¹P NMR spectra were obtained by operating in the FT mode utilizing broad-band proton decoupling. Mass spectral data were collected on a CEC Model 21-110B HR mass spectrometer. Infrared spectral data were obtained on a Beckmann IR-5A unit. Elemental analyses were performed by Galbraith Laboratories, Knoxville, TN.

Preparation of Bis(2-(carbomethoxy)ethyl)phenylphosphine (3). Phenylphosphine (10 g, 0.09 mol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (10 mL). To this stirred solution was added potassium hydroxide (1 mL, 10 N) and freshly distilled methyl acrylate (15.5 g, 0.18 mol), dropwise, under N₂. During the addition, the temperature was maintained at 20–35 °C by controlling the drop rate of the ester and by using an ice bath. After the addition was completed, the mixture was heated (45–50 °C) for 8 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature, washed with 2 × 10-mL portions of saturated aqueous NaCl solution, and then dried (Na₂SO₄). Distillation gave **3** boiling at 160–170 °C (0.5 mm) (lit.⁴ 158–160 °C (0.51 mm)); 16 g 62.4%.

Preparation of Methyl 4-Oxo-1-phenyl-3-phosphorinancarboxylate 1-Oxide (4b). Bis(2-(carbomethoxy)ethyl)phenylphosphine (**3**) (9.4 g, 0.033 mol) dissolved in 50 mL of toluene was added dropwise to a boiling solution of sodium methoxide (1.8 g, 0.033 mol) in 150 mL of toluene. After the reaction mixture had been boiled (2 h), metallic sodium (0.7 g, 0.033 g-at) was added, and the mixture was boiled for an additional 15 h. After being cooled, this reaction mixture was treated with water (100 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted (3 × 50-mL portions) with HCCl₃. Combining extracts with the original organic layer gave a new solution which was dried (Na₂SO₄) and then evaporated to an oily residue. This crude phosphine **4a** (10 g, 0.04 mol) was partially dissolved in acetone (70 mL) and cooled in an ice bath. Dropwise addition of 30% H₂O₂ (9.5 mL, 0.086 mol) to this cooled emulsion (0 °C) of **4a** in acetone over a period of 10 min resulted in the formation of a clear solution. Evaporation of the acetone left a residue which was extracted (3 × 20 mL) with HCCl₃. The chloroform solution was washed with 5% aqueous ferrous ammonium sulfate (10 mL). After this chloroform solution was dried (Na₂SO₄), the solvent was evaporated to an oil. Acetone (≈5 mL) was added, and the resulting solutions was treated dropwise with dry pentane (12–15 mL). A small amount of oxide **4b** precipitated. Filtration gave a solution, which upon cooling, deposited 5.67 g (53%) of crystalline **4b**: mp 123–24 °C (lit.⁵ 88–89 °C); mass spectrum, *m/e* 266 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₄P: C, 58.64; H, 5.64; P, 11.65. Found: C, 58.78; H, 5.89; P, 11.79. The spectral data are in Table I.

Preparation of 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-methyl-3-phenyl-5H-phosphorino[3,4-*c*][1]benzopyran-5-one 3-Oxide (1). Methyl 4-oxo-1-phenyl-3-phosphorinancarboxylate 1-oxide (**4b**) (0.4 g, 0.0016 mol) was mixed with 0.24 g (0.00192 mol) of 5-methylresorcinol (Eastman Kodak

Table II. Summary of Crystallographic Data for 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-pentyl-3-phenyl-5H-phosphorino[3,4-*c*][1]benzopyran-5-one 3-oxide (2)

mol formula	C ₂₃ H ₂₅ O ₄ P
mol wt	396.4 g/mol
linear abs coeff	13.75 cm ⁻¹ (Cu Kα)
<i>d</i> (calcd)	1.357 g/cm ³
space group	P1
cell dimens (138 ± 2 K)	<i>a</i> = 8.698 (4) Å, <i>b</i> = 13.733 (5) Å, <i>c</i> = 8.335 (2) Å, α = 95.54 (2)°, β = 95.77 (3)°, γ = 79.31 (3)°, <i>V</i> = 970.3 Å ³ , <i>Z</i> = 2
no. of reflections	measd 3880 obsd (<i>F</i> > 5σ _{<i>F</i>}) 3544
final <i>R</i> (all reflections)	0.039
<i>R</i> _w (all reflections)	0.051

Co.) and 1 mL of concentrated H₂SO₄ was added dropwise with stirring and cooling (under N₂). At the end of the addition (5 min), the mixture was stirred until it became clear, and then 2.0 mL (0.33 g, 0.0021 mol) of Cl₃P=O was added slowly (≈5–10 min). A clear, viscous material formed and was stirred for another 40 h at room temp. This reaction mixture was cooled (0 °C, ice bath) and then neutralized with a slight excess of aqueous sodium bicarbonate (10%). Extraction (HCCl₃) gave an organic layer which was washed with water, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to afford a thick gum. The gum was taken up in 5 mL of chloroform. This solution was chromatographed on silica gel by using 300 mL of 20:1 HCCl₃/CH₃OH as the solvent system from which a light yellow solid **1** (0.23 g, 43.3%) was obtained. Recrystallization (CH₃OH) of this solid gave an analytically pure sample, mp 308–309 °C. Spectral data are summarized in Table I. Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₁₇O₄P: C, 67.05; H, 5.00; P, 9.11. Found: C, 66.94; H, 5.28; P, 9.08.

Preparation of 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-10-hydroxy-8-*n*-pentyl-3-phenyl-5H-phosphorino[3,4-*c*][1]benzopyran-5-one 3-Oxide (2). Methyl 4-oxo-1-phenyl-3H-phosphorinancarboxylate 1-oxide (**4b**) (1.4 g, 0.0055 mol) was mixed with 1.2 g (0.0066 mol) of 5-*n*-pentylresorcinol (Aldrich Chemical Co.), and 3.2 mL of concentrated H₂SO₄ was added dropwise with stirring and cooling (under N₂). At the end of addition (10 min), 0.6 mL (0.99 g, 0.0064 mol) of Cl₃P=O was added slowly. From this point the procedure paralleled that given above for the preparation of **1**. After chromatography, a thick, orange liquid was obtained. When ether was added, a solid (1 g, 38.5%) resulted. Recrystallization (HCCl₃/CH₃CO₂C₂H₅, 1:1) of this solid gave an analytically pure sample of **2**: mp 237–238 °C; mass spectrum, *m/e* 396 (M⁺). Other spectral data are summarized in Table I. Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₅O₄P: C, 69.69; H, 6.31; P, 7.83. Found: C, 69.86; H, 6.44; P, 8.20.

X-ray Analysis. The compound **2** was recrystallized by slow evaporation from chloroform and formed well-shaped crystals belonging to the triclinic system P1. The unit-cell dimensions (See Table II) and intensity data were measured at low temperature (138 ± 2 K) on an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 automated diffractometer.

The cell parameters were obtained by a least-squares fit to the +2θ and –2θ values of 47 well-centered reflections by using Cu Kα₁ (λ = 1.5405 Å) radiation. The intensity data for all reflections with 4° ≤ 2θ ≤ 150° were measured by using Cu Kα (λ = 1.5418 Å) radiation and the θ–2θ scan technique. The angular scan width was variable and taken to be (1.00 ± 0.15 tan θ)°. A receiving aperture with a variable width of (3.50 + 0.86 tan θ) mm and a constant height of 6 mm was located at a distance of 173 mm from the crystal. The maximum scan time for a reflection was 90 s. For each reflection, two-thirds of the scan time was spent scanning the peak and one-sixth was spent scanning each of the two backgrounds. During the intensity measurements, the intensities of three standard reflections were monitored after every 4000 s of X-ray exposure time and indicated no appreciable decomposition of the crystal.

A total of 3880 unique reflections were measured of which 336 were considered unobserved having observed structure factors less than 5σ(*F*_o). All intensity data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization factors, and numerical absorption corrections were applied (μ = 13.75 cm⁻¹, Cu Kα).

The structure was determined by direct methods using the program SHELX-76.¹⁸ The phases of 551 reflections having a normalized structure factor (*E*) greater than 1.3 were used to construct *E* maps. The map with the highest reliability factor (parachor = 1.87) gave the entire structure among the top 29 peaks. The nonhydrogen atoms were refined by least-squares methods in stages with isotropic and anisotropic thermal

(18) G. M. Shelldrick, SHELX-76, University Chemical Laboratory, Cambridge, England, 1976.

parameters. Difference maps were used to locate the hydrogen atoms which were then refined isotropically.

Because of the size of the structure and limitations in computer core space, the least-squares refinements were carried out by a blocked full-matrix method using the computer program SHELX. The scattering factors were taken from the "International Tables for X-ray Crystallography", Vol. 4, pages 99 and 149. The weighting scheme used was $W_F = K/[(\sigma_F)^2 + gF_o^2]$ where $\sigma_F = 1/2[\sigma^2 + (0.04P)^2/P(Lp)]^{1/2}$, $\sigma = T^{1/2}V$, $V = \text{scan speed}$, $T = Pk + 4(R + L)$, $P = [Pk - 2(R + L)]V$, $Pk = \text{peak height}$, $R = \text{right background}$, $L = \text{left background}$, and $Lp = \text{Lorentz and polarization factors}$. The factors K and g were redetermined after each structure factor calculation and were 0.205 and 0.00161, respectively, after the final cycle of refinement.

The variance was calculated as $V = \{M\sum[W_f(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2]/N\sum W_f\}^{1/2}$, where N is the number of reflections in a group, M is the total number of reflections, the sum in the numerator is over all reflections in a group, and the sum in the denominator is over all the reflections. An analysis

of the variance in terms of the parity of the reflection indices, $\sin \theta$, and $[F_o/F_{\text{max}}]^{1/2}$ showed no significant variation in V for various ranges of the functions tested. Refinement was terminated when all parameter shifts were less than 0.15 of their corresponding standard deviations. The final value of R for all 3880 reflections was 0.039 and for R_w where $R_w = \sum W_f^{1/2}[|F_o| - |F_c|]/\sum W_f^{1/2}|F_o|$ was 0.051.

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Supplementary Material Available: A listing of hydrogen parameters, thermal parameters, and final fractional coordinates for the nonhydrogen atoms and structural factors (16 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Reactions of (Alkylperoxy)cobaloximes in Acidic Aqueous Solutions

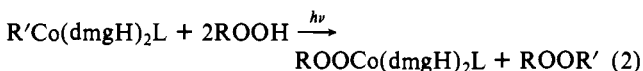
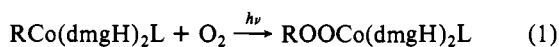
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Abstract: Bis(dimethylglyoximate)cobalt(III) complexes containing coordinated alkylperoxy groups have been studied. The compounds examined are (1) $\text{ROOCo}(\text{dmgH})_2(\text{pyridine})$ complexes with $R = \text{isopropyl}$, 2-butyl, cyclopentyl, benzyl, and isopropyl- d_7 and (2) $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHOOC}(\text{dmgH})_2\text{L}$ complexes with $L = \text{pyridine}$, piperidine, water, and ammonia. The complexes react with aqueous perchloric acid to form the cobalt(III) product $(\text{H}_2\text{O})\text{Co}(\text{dmgH})_2\text{L}^+$ and a mixture of ketone and hydroperoxide. The organic products are formed in parallel pathways, each by a kinetic equation having the same algebraic form, and are the products of respective oxygen–oxygen and cobalt–oxygen bond cleavage reactions. Kinetic data were determined as a function of $[\text{H}^+]$ and, in the case of the 2-butyl complex, temperature. The rate constants for reactant disappearance and of product formation were determined, as was the ratio of ketone to hydroperoxide in the products. An important pre-equilibrium is the protonation of the oxime oxygens; the equilibrium constant varies in a way which reflects the basicity of the axial ligand L . The kinetic data and other results can be used to formulate a *separate* pathway leading to each product. Hydroperoxide formation is best accounted for by a pathway in which internal proton transfer from H^+ bound to oxime oxygen occurs. Ketone production, on the other hand, shows an appreciable kinetic isotope effect: $k^{\text{H}}/k^{\text{D}} = 8.9 \pm 1.5$, suggesting C–H bond breaking is a major part of the activation process.

Introduction

The title compounds¹ are formed photochemically, either by insertion of oxygen into the cobalt–carbon bond of alkylcobaloximes,^{2–7} as in eq 1 (which, for some R groups, also occurs thermally), or by the substitution process⁸ of eq 2 (with $R = \text{tert-butyl}$ or cumyl):



(1) Cobaloxime is the trivial name given to bis(dimethylglyoximate)cobalt complexes: Schrauzer, G. N. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1968**, *1*, 97.

(2) Giannotti, C.; Gaudemer, A.; Fontaine, C. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1970**, 3209.

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The alkylperoxy compounds are isolated—with R representing a wide range of alkyl and aralkyl groups and L a conventional Lewis base such as pyridine (usually)—as stable, red-brown crystals. The formulation given has been thoroughly verified by spectroscopic methods (¹H NMR, UV⁷, and IR²), as well as by elemental analysis.^{2–8} Crystal structures have been determined for the $L = \text{pyridine}$ derivatives of compounds with $R = 2\text{-phenylethyl}$ ⁹ and 2-phenyl-2-propyl⁸ (or cumyl), verifying that ROO and L occupy trans positions on either side of the planar $\text{Co}(\text{dmgH})_2$ unit.

The (alkylperoxy)cobaloximes are subject to decomposition in solution upon prolonged UV irradiation or thermolysis.¹⁰ In addition,¹¹ solutions in chloroform or carbon tetrachloride react with acids (HClO_4 or CF_3COOH), forming hydroperoxide ROOH (eq 3) and (in parallel or perhaps by decomposition¹² of a primary or secondary hydroperoxide) the corresponding ketone or aldehyde.



We have found that the (alkylperoxy)cobaloximes also react with acid in aqueous solution. This medium, where the species

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