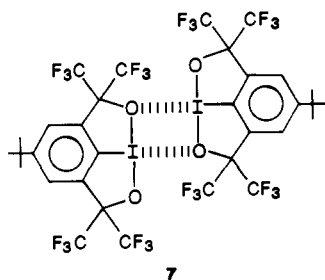


do-octahedral ($AX_2Y_2E_2$) with the four ligands essentially square planar and the two lone pairs anti with respect to each other. Coordination around each phosphorus is tetrahedral (distorted) with two long P—O bond¹⁴ lengths of around 1.62 Å each and two shorter ones of about 1.47 Å each. The remaining structural features (i.e., olefin, *t*-Bu, Ph, etc.) are unexceptional. These novel structural features around the iodines and phosphorus are due to the dimeric nature and consequent secondary bonding interactions⁸ in the solid state of the molecule. In particular, both the intra- and intermolecular I—O bond distances are of the same order of magnitude (2.70–2.85 Å)¹⁵ but significantly less than the sum of the van der Waals radii (3.5 Å) of I—O.¹⁶ Such secondary bonding interactions are well preceded in polycarbonate iodine chemistry.^{8,15} A similar interaction was reported by Martin and co-workers¹⁷ in the 10-I-3 iodine 7 with an I—O intermolecular



7

bond length of about 3.0 Å. It is interesting to speculate if the considerably shorter I—O distances in 6 vs 7 are due to the different nucleophilicities of the oxygens involved and the electrophilicities of the respective iodine centers as well as the similarity of the trans substituents in 6.

Treatment of 5 in $CDCl_3$ with NaOD/ D_2O results in complete exchange of the vinylic proton as evidenced by the infrared shift of the C=CH group (from 3080 to 2300 cm^{-1} for the stretching mode and 795 to 564 cm^{-1} for the out-of-plane vibration) and the complete disappearance of the 5.91 ppm vinylic proton signal in the NMR. The deuterated isomer of 5 is recovered quantitatively. This represents *prima facie* evidence¹⁸ for the intermediacy of an alkylidenecarbene-iodonium ylide (2) with a finite lifetime.

In summary, we report the X-ray structure of a vinyliodine species with 12-I-4 structural features and present evidence for an alkylidenecarbene-iodonium ylide (2). Attempts to isolate a stable ylide 2 as well as further work in this area are underway.

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Supplementary Material Available: A complete description of the X-ray structure of 6 and tables of positional and thermal parameters (14 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

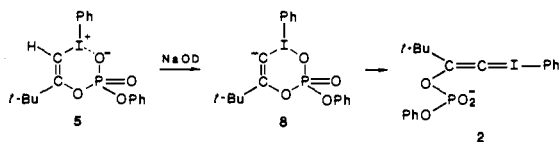
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(18) A referee pointed out that a structure such as 8 can account for the results of the base exchange and cannot be ruled out on the basis of our evidence. This is correct, but 8 may be looked upon as a cyclic, closed version of the postulated ylide. Calculations and experiments are under way to distinguish between 8 and 2.



Nature of the Tin–Tin Double Bond As Studied by Solid-State and Solution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

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During the past 10 years interest in multiple bonding between heavier elements of the main group has rapidly increased as more and more examples have been synthesized and characterized.¹ One of the most interesting of these species is the dimer, 1, of bis[bis(trimethylsilyl)methyl]tin, 2, the first compound² known to formally contain a Sn=Sn double bond. Despite much work^{3–5} relatively little is known about the nature of the Sn=Sn bond in 1 or its thermochromic behavior. In this paper we report NMR results that are consistent with the Sn=Sn bond in 1 being a very weak dative interaction and demonstrate that the monomer and dimer exist in equilibrium in solution.

Compound 1 was prepared⁴ by standard Schlenk line techniques, and the authenticity of the sample was confirmed by X-ray crystallography.⁵ Figure 1A depicts the room temperature ¹¹⁹Sn CPMAS spectrum of 1, giving an isotropic shift of 692 ppm downfield from tetramethyltin which moves upfield to 613 ppm at 77 K. This spectrum and all subsequent solid-state spectra were collected by using a variable-temperature CPMAS probe head that spins short sealed 5-mm NMR tubes.⁶ Such sample cells were necessary due to the extreme sensitivity of 1 to air and moisture. Analysis of the spinning sideband intensities⁷ gives the principal values of the chemical shielding tensor as $\sigma_{11} = 1600$, $\sigma_{22} = 400$, and $\sigma_{33} = 100 \pm 20$ ppm. This anisotropy is an order of magnitude larger than those observed for several tin(IV) compounds.⁸ Satellites are observed on each line in the CPMAS spectrum due to the 1340 ± 10 Hz scalar coupling to ¹¹⁷Sn. Satellites from coupling to both ¹¹⁹Sn and ¹¹⁷Sn are also clearly observed in single-crystal CP spectra, where the splittings are the sum of the anisotropic direct and indirect (*J*) dipolar couplings.⁹ The latter are quite anisotropic as the splittings at some orientations are over 4 times as large as can be accounted for by direct dipolar coupling alone.¹⁰ The ¹³C CPMAS spectrum at room temperature displays a single line for the methine carbon with satellites due to coupling with both ¹¹⁹Sn and ¹¹⁷Sn. Beginning at ~220 K this resonance splits into three lines which continue to shift smoothly apart down to ~100 K (Figure 2B). This behavior is most easily explained by a conformational equilibrium in the solid that is slowed upon cooling.

Attempts to observe ¹¹⁹Sn spectra in solution at room temperature failed but two signals were observed at 165 K in either ether or toluene at 740 and 725 ppm (Figure 1B). Upon warming, these resonances broaden and shift to lower field, finally disappearing into the base line at ~225 K. Assignment of these peaks on the basis of the ¹¹⁹Sn shifts alone is not possible as no rationale has yet emerged for the interpretation of tin(II) ¹¹⁹Sn shifts even though they span over 4000 ppm.¹¹ While the shifts are close

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