

Kinetics of the Reactions of Silicon Compounds. Part 11.¹ Kinetics and Mechanism of the Gas-phase Photochemical Reactions between Trimethylsilane and 1,1-Difluoroethylene

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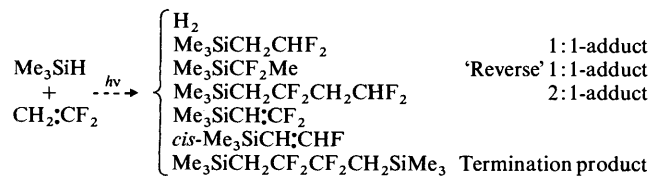
The mercury-photosensitised photolysis of gas-phase mixtures of trimethylsilane and 1,1-difluoroethylene has been studied at 30–80 °C, with reactant ratios from 1:1 to 12:1 and total pressures of 100–600 mmHg, in some cases with added inert gas present. The reaction yields hydrogen (from initiation), the 'normal' and 'reverse' 1:1-adducts (but not in good preparative yield), and the 2:1-adduct, but also two vinyltrimethylsilanes in substantial proportions during the early part of the reaction. A free-radical mechanism is presented, steady-state treatment of which is consistent with the observed quantum yields and kinetic behaviour. The effect of inert gas (CF₄) indicates that the deactivation of excited radicals plays a significant role in determining the product distribution.

The reaction of silanes with alkenes is a well-established route for the synthesis of alkylsilicon compounds. Such addition reactions proceed by free-radical chain mechanisms, which may be initiated by peroxide or transition metal catalysts or photochemically by ultraviolet irradiation.² The photochemical reactions have potential advantages in terms of product purity and control of product distribution, and have been extensively studied as synthetic routes. These studies have revealed some curious aspects worthy of mechanistic investigation; for example, irradiation of mixtures of (Me₃SiH–C₂F₄), (Cl₃SiH–C₂F₄), (Cl₃SiH–CH₂:CF₂), or (Cl₃SiH–CF₃CH:CH₂) with a mercury resonance lamp gives good yields of the 1:1-adducts (e.g. CF₃CH₂CH₂SiCl₃, precursor of the important Silastic rubber), whereas irradiation of (Cl₃SiH–CF₂:CCl₂) or (Me₃SiH–CH₂:CF₂) mixtures result in extremely slow reactions and very little of the desired 1:1-adducts.^{2–5}

In a previous paper³ we reported a kinetic study of the 'successful' photochemical reaction of trimethylsilane with tetrafluoroethylene; we now report a corresponding study of the mercury-photosensitised photolysis of trimethylsilane and 1,1-difluoroethylene, which fails to produce good yields of a 1:1-adduct.

Results and Discussion

When trimethylsilane and 1,1-difluoroethylene, containing mercury vapour at its saturated vapour pressure, were irradiated for short periods of time such that the conversion of reactants was less than 1%, the main products shown in Scheme 1 were identified. Typical product formation curves are



Scheme 1.

shown in Figure 1, although the relative proportions of products varied considerably with reaction conditions. It was also shown that the products did not include fluoroethylene,

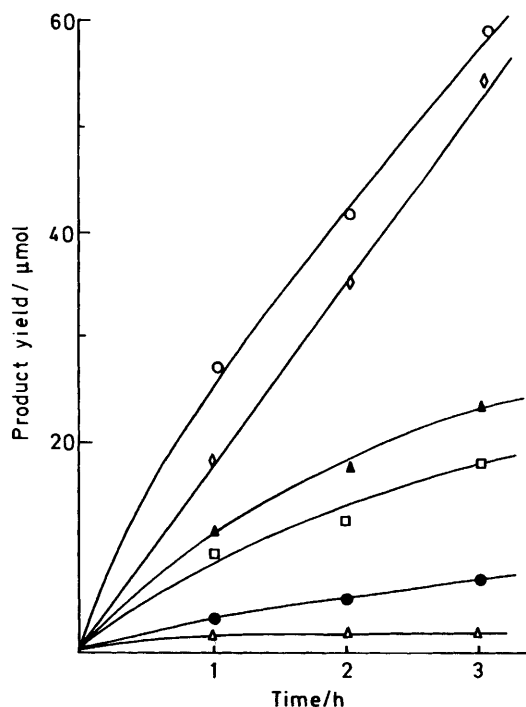


Figure 1. Product formation from trimethylsilane (300 mmHg) and 1,1-difluoroethylene (100 mmHg) absorbing 50 μmol/h of 254 nm radiation at 30 °C: ◇ hydrogen; ○ 1:1-adduct; ● reverse 1:1-adduct; □ 2:1-adduct; △ *cis*-2-fluorovinyltrimethylsilane; ▲ 2,2-difluorovinyltrimethylsilane

fluoroacetylene, 1,1-difluoroethane, fluorotrimethylsilane, or *trans*-2-fluorovinyltrimethylsilane, and only a trace of hexamethyldisilane was detected.

When these reaction mixtures were irradiated for longer periods of time, such that most of the reactants were converted into products, then only small amounts (*ca.* 1% of products) of the two vinylsilanes were detected. It thus appears that the vinylsilanes undergo secondary reactions to produce involatile materials which were not detected.

Mechanistic studies were therefore confined to the early stages of the reaction, and quantum yields were determined from the product yields after a standard irradiation time of two hours to give about 1% conversion of reactants to products. During these early stages the yield of hydrogen was linear with time,

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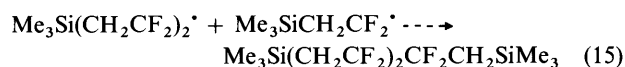
Steady-state treatment of the mechanism shown in Scheme 2 leads to equations (13)—(14) for the formation of the major

$$\frac{d[\text{Me}_3\text{SiCH}_2\text{CHF}_2]}{dt} = k_5[\text{Me}_3\text{SiH}][2\Phi I/(k_8 + k_9)]^{0.5} + k_9\Phi I/(k_8 + k_9) \quad (13)$$

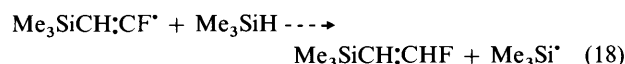
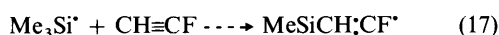
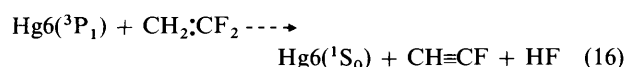
$$\frac{d[\text{Me}_3\text{SiCH}_2\text{CF}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2]}{dt} = k_6[\text{CH}_2:\text{CF}_2][\Phi I/(k_8 + k_9)]^{0.5} \quad (14)$$

adducts, where Φ is the quantum yield for initiation and I is the number of quanta absorbed per unit time. These are semi-quantitatively consistent with the observed dependence of quantum yields on temperature, light intensity, and reactant composition.

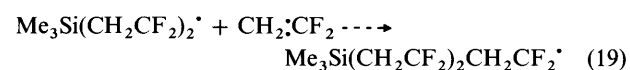
The apparent dependence of 2:1-adduct formation on $I^{0.2}$ rather than $I^{0.5}$ may be due to experimental difficulties, or may be a real effect due to the occurrence of significant termination by reaction (15).



Although quenching of the $\text{Hg}(^3\text{P}_1)$ will be predominantly by trimethylsilane [reaction (2)], quenching by difluoroethylene will also be significant,⁹ and can account for the formation of 2-fluorovinyltrimethylsilane by reactions (16)—(18). The HF produced in (16) would be expected to give SiF_4 on reaction with glass. However, SiF_4 was not found (i.r. or g.l.c.), and the HF must be reacting in some other way; exclusive formation of the *cis*-isomer is another puzzling feature.



The effect of inert gas pressure (CF_4) on the quantum yields is shown in Figure 4. Quenching by CF_4 is insignificant,⁷ and the main effect of inert gas is thought to be the deactivation of excited radicals [$\text{Me}_3\text{SiCH}_2\text{CF}_2^*$, $\text{Me}_3\text{Si}(\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2)_2^*$, *etc.*]. Such deactivation will promote addition to the alkene at the expense of hydrogen abstraction (which has the higher activation energy). The effect is therefore to increase the yield of 2:1-adducts and higher products [from reaction (19) *etc.*], at the expense of the 1:1-adducts and the termination products from the 1:1 radicals. Similar effects were observed in the system studied in Part 6.³



A point of interest in this reaction is the formation of 'reverse 1:1-adduct' ($\text{Me}_3\text{SiCF}_2\text{Me}$). Quantitative measurements were difficult, but the ratio of normal to reverse 1:1-adduct appeared to change little under the conditions studied, being about 9:1, similar to that found in other additions to 1,1-difluoroethylene.

This study has not revealed any features of the system which

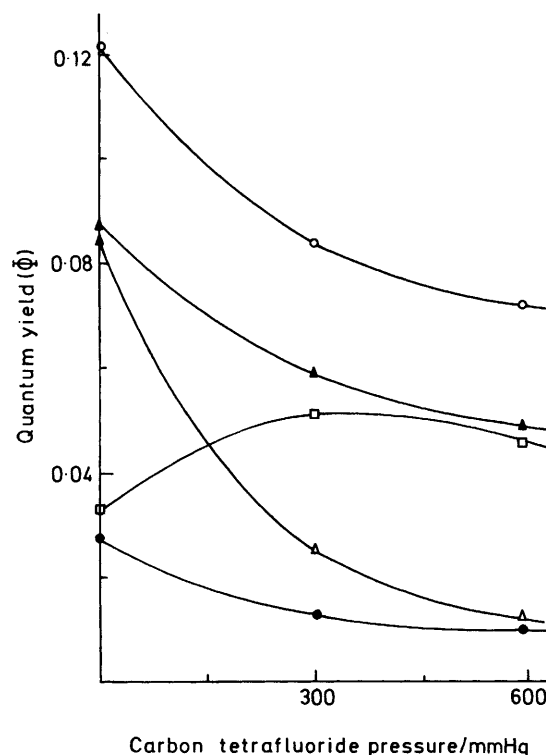


Figure 4. Effect of inert gas (CF_4) on product quantum yields for 50 mmHg trimethylsilane and 50 mmHg of 1,1-difluoroethylene absorbing 80 μmol of 254 nm radiation over 2 h at 30 °C: key as in Figure 1

are qualitatively different from those of the trimethylsilane-tetrafluoroethylene system studied previously.³ Although the latter is an efficient preparative reaction, the chain lengths were not high (1—25), and it appears that the inefficiency of the present reaction is attributable merely to a marginally unfavourable balance of various chain steps rather than to any major difference between the two systems. These investigations provide a rational basis for planning photochemical preparations of alkylsilanes. For example, the production of 1:1-adducts is favoured by high silane:alkene ratios at relatively low total pressures and light intensities, but at an elevated temperature.

Experimental

Irradiation of gaseous reactants was carried out in a quartz cell by a low-pressure mercury lamp in an apparatus similar to that described previously.³ Actinometry was by measurement of mercury-sensitised formation of hydrogen from propane, and variation of light intensity was effected by neutral density filters (Barr and Stroud) whose transmission factors had been measured by spectrophotometry. Hydrogen was separated from the other materials by passing through a U-tube at -196°C onto activated charcoal at -196°C , and was then determined by pressure measurement using a spiral gauge. The condensable products were transferred to a sampling bulb and injected by gas syringe into a Pye 104 dual-column flame-ionisation chromatograph. The main products were analysed on a 1 m glass column packed with 10% MS 550 silicone oil and 2.5% polyethylene glycol on silanised Celite at 40 °C and 70 °C; a 40 cm column of silica gel at various temperatures was also used to check for more volatile products. The chromatograph was periodically calibrated for the reaction products using various pressures of these materials in a sampling bulb. Long-chain termination products were not analysed quantitatively because of their low volatility.

Materials.—Trimethylsilane, prepared by lithium aluminium hydride reduction of chlorotrimethylsilane, and 1,1-difluoroethylene (Matheson) were purified by fractional condensation. Carbon tetrafluoride (B.D.H.), 1,1-difluoroethane (Matheson), fluoroethylene (Pennsalt), and propane (Matheson) were thoroughly degassed prior to use. Fluorotrimethylsilane was prepared by passing chlorotrimethylsilane in the vapour phase through a tube containing antimony trifluoride. Silicon tetrafluoride was prepared by heating barium hexafluorosilicate in a silica tube at 500–600 °C and condensing the gas evolved in a trap at –196 °C. All the above materials were shown to be pure by i.r. and g.l.c. Fluoroacetylene was produced (along with tetrafluorosilane) by irradiation of 1,1-difluoroethylene (150 mmHg) in a 200 cm³ silica cell for 4 h with a low-pressure resonance lamp.

Main reaction products were generated by irradiation of mixtures of trimethylsilane (300 mmHg) and 1,1-difluoroethylene (100 mmHg) in a 200 cm³ silica cell for 10 h with a lower-pressure mercury resonance lamp. The products from several of these runs were separated by fractional condensation and characterised as follows.

2,2-Difluoroethyltrimethylsilane (CHF₂CH₂SiMe₃).—The 1:1-adduct isolated by fractional condensation from the above products had vapour pressure 45 mmHg at 25 °C. Found: C, 43.4; H, 8.9; *M*, 138. C₅H₁₂F₂Si requires C, 43.4; H, 8.8%; *M*, 138. The material was shown by g.l.c. and n.m.r. to contain ca. 10% of the isomer 1,1-difluoroethyltrimethylsilane (see below). N.m.r. (chemical shift relative to external benzene or trifluoroacetic acid, intensity, band structure, assignment, and coupling constant moduli/Hz quoted): δ_H 1.64 (1 H, tt, CHF₂), 6.32 (2 H, td, CH₂), and 7.46 (9 H, s, SiMe₃); δ_F 24.5 [dt, CHF₂, *J*(H_βF_β) 58, *J*(H_αF_β) 21, and *J*(H_αH_β) 5 Hz]. The n.m.r. absorptions arising from the SiCH₂CHF₂ grouping were in close agreement with the comparable absorptions in other compounds contained in this group, e.g. ref. 4. The i.r. spectrum showed the following main bands (optical density per mmHg pressure in a 10 cm³ gas cell > 0.1 vs; 0.03–0.1 s; 0.003–0.03 m; < 0.003, w): 3 000s, 2 920m, 1 430m, 1 390m, 1 260s, 1 210s, 1 110s, 1 080s, 1 050vs, 1 005m, 975s, 905m, 850vs, 760m, and 705m. The mass spectrum showed peaks at *m/z* (assignments and relative abundances in parentheses): 43 (MeSi⁺, 10.6%), 45 (MeSiH₂⁺, 13.6), 47 (SiF⁺, 20.0), 49 (SiH₂F⁺, 20.9), 63 (MeSiHF⁺, 8.5), 73 (Me₃Si⁺, 48.5), 77 (Me₂SiF⁺, 100), 81 (MeSiF₂⁺, 15.5), 92 (Me₃SiF⁺, 2.1), 97 (Me₂SiH₂F₂⁺, 4.2), and 103 (Me₂SiC₂H₂F⁺, 1.5).

1,1-Difluoroethyltrimethylsilane (CH₃CF₂SiMe₃). The reverse 1:1-adduct was isolated in 60% purity (containing 40% of 2,2-difluoroethyltrimethylsilane) from the previous material by preparative g.l.c. using a 2 m glass column packed with 10% MS 550 silicone oil and 2.5% polyethylene glycol on silanised Celite at 30 °C. δ_H 6.07 (t, Me) and 7.42 (s, SiMe₃); δ_F 27.8 [q, CF₂, *J*(H_βF_α) 24 Hz]; *m/z* 43 (MeSi⁺, 8.5%), 45 (MeSiH₂⁺, 20.9), 47 (SiF⁺, 7.9), 49 (SiH₂F⁺, 8.2), 63 (MeSiHF⁺, 3.3), 73 (Me₃Si⁺, 100), 77 (Me₂SiF⁺, 57.0), and 81 (MeSiF₂⁺, 26.4).

2,2,4,4-Tetrafluorobutyltrimethylsilane (Me₃SiCH₂CF₂CH₂CHF₂). The 2:1-adduct isolated by fractional condensation of the reaction products had a vapour pressure of 5 mmHg at 25 °C. δ_H 1.46 (1 H, tt, CHF₂), 5.04 (2 H, quin. d, γ-CH₂), 6.08 (2 H, t, α-CH₂), and 7.33 (9 H, s, SiMe₃); δ_F 4.6 (quin. t, β-CH₂) and 36.4 [dt, CHF₂, *J*(H_βF_β) 55, *J*(H_βH_α) 5, *J*(H_αH_β) 22, and *J*(F_βH_γ) 16 Hz].

1,4-Bis(trimethylsilyl)-2,2,3,3-tetrafluorobutane (Me₃SiCH₂CF₂CF₂CH₂SiMe₃). This compound isolated from the reaction mixture by fractional condensation, had a vapour pressure of 1 mmHg at 25 °C. ¹H n.m.r. gave a singlet δ 7.28 (SiMe₃) and a complex symmetrical band at δ 6.04 assigned to the CH₂ groups. ¹⁹F n.m.r. gave a complex symmetrical band at +24.6

p.p.m. assigned to the CF₂ groups. Complex bands are expected since the molecule is symmetrical.⁸

2,2-Difluorovinyltrimethylsilane (CF₂:CHSiMe₃). This compound was prepared in 80% yield by heating an equimolar mixture of tri-*n*-butyltin hydride and trifluorovinyltrimethylsilane^{9,10} in a sealed tube at 100 °C for 24 h, and had a vapour pressure of 178 mmHg at 25 °C. δ_H 3.25 (1 H, dd, CH) and 6.78 (9 H, s, SiMe₃); δ_F –4.0 [1 F, dd, F(*cis*)] and –14.0 [1 F, dd, F(*trans*)] [*J*(FH_{*cis*}) 9.7, *J*(FH_{*trans*}) 42.0, and *J*(FF) 25.8 Hz]; ν_{max}. 2 940s, 2 890m, 1 700s, 1 400m, 1 290s, 1 260s, 1 130s, 1 070m, 952m, 850s, 785m, and 706m; *m/z* 43 (MeSi⁺, 11.5%), 45 (MeSiH₂⁺, 7.1), 47 (SiF⁺, 24.7), 49 (SiH₂F⁺, 18.4), 59 (Me₂SiH⁺, 4.8), 60.5 (Me₂SiCH:CF₂²⁺, 0.6), 63 (MeSiHF⁺, 7.8), 73 (Me₃Si⁺, 10.7), 77 (H₂SiCH:CF₂⁺, 1.4), 101 (Me₂SiC:CF₂⁺, 0.9), 105 (MeSiC:CF₂⁺, 1.4), 121 (Me₂SiCH:CF₂⁺, 30.0), and 136 (Me₃SiCH:CF₂⁺, 4.4).

2-Fluorovinyltrimethylsilane (CHF:CHSiMe₃). This compound was prepared in 81% yield, as a mixture of the *cis*- and *trans*-isomers, by heating an equimolar mixture of tri-*n*-butyltin hydride and 2,2-difluorovinyltrimethylsilane in a sealed tube at 120 °C for 3 days.

trans-2-Fluorovinyltrimethylsilane was isolated from the above mixture by preparative g.l.c. using a 10 m glass column packed with 3% QF1 on silanised Celite at 35 °C, and had a vapour pressure of 120 mmHg at 25 °C. Found C, 50.8; H, 9.3; *M*, 116. C₅H₁₁FSi requires C, 50.8; H, 9.4%; *M*, 118. δ 0.62 (1 H, dd, β-H), 1.92 (1 H, dd, α-H), and 6.96 (9 H, s, SiMe₃); δ_F 12.2 [dd, CHF, *J*(H_αH_β) 12.7, *J*(FH_α) 36, and *J*(FH_β) 92 Hz]; ν_{max}. 3 070w, 2 965s, 2 910m, 2 140w, 1 740w, 1 625s, 1 410w, 1 325m, 1 255s, 1 190s, 1 075s, 930s, 865s, 840s, 785w, and 690m; *m/z* 43 (MeSi⁺, 17.5%), 45 (MeSiH₂⁺, 6.8), 47 (SiF⁺, 28.4), 49 (SiH₂F⁺, 22.4), 51.5 (Me₂SiCH:CHF₂⁺, 0.1), 63 (MeSiHF⁺, 8.0), 73 (Me₃Si⁺, 14.9), 77 (Me₂SiF⁺, 96.3), 81 (MeSiF₂⁺, 1.8), 83 (Me₂SiC:CH⁺, 3.5), 87 (MeSiCH:CF⁺, 3.1), and 103 (Me₂SiCH:CHF⁺, 100).

cis-2-Fluorovinyltrimethylsilane, similarly isolated, had *M*, 116; C₅H₁₁FSi requires 118. δ_H 0.25 (1 H, 33, β-H), 2.39 (1 H, dd, α-H), and 6.91 (9 H, s, SiMe₃); δ_F 18.8 [dd, CHF, *J*(H_αH_β) 6.8, *J*(FH_α) 69, and *J*(FH_β) 97 Hz]; ν_{max}. 3 070m, 2 965s, 2 910m, 1 695m, 1 620s, 1 260s, 1 195m, 1 085m, 1 000s, 850s, 775m, and 695m; *m/z* 43 (MeSi⁺, 9.4%), 45 (MeSiH₂⁺, 5.1), 47 (SiF⁺, 20.6), 49 (SiH₂F⁺, 20.1), 51.5 (Me₂SiCH:CHF⁺, 0.1), 63 (MeSiHF⁺, 6.9), 73 (Me₃Si⁺, 12.3), 77 (Me₂SiF⁺, 100), 81 (MeSiF₂⁺, 1.0), 83 (Me₂SiC:CH⁺, 0.9), 87 (MeSiCH:CF⁺, 1.2), and 103 (Me₂SiCH:CHF⁺, 27.1).

Acknowledgements

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