

# Isolation and characterisation of symmetrical $C_{60}Me_6$ , $C_{60}Me_5Cl$ and $C_{60}Me_5O_2OH$ , together with unsymmetrical $C_{60}Me_5O_3H$ , $C_{60}Me_5OOH$ , $C_{60}Me_4PhO_2OH$ , and $C_{60}Me_{12}$ ; fragmentation of methylfullerenols to $C_{58}$

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Reaction of freshly prepared  $C_{60}Cl_6$  (from chlorination of [60]fullerene by ICl in benzene) with methyl lithium followed by hydrolysis and work-up including HPLC separation yields  $C_s$  symmetry  $C_{60}Me_6$  (isostructural with  $C_{60}Br_6$  and  $C_{60}Cl_6$ ), together with unsymmetrical  $C_{60}Me_{12}$  which is comprised of two of the motifs present in  $C_{60}Me_6$  and must arise from the presence of a small amount of  $C_{60}Cl_{12}$  in the  $C_{60}Cl_6$ . From the same reaction mixture we have also obtained  $C_{60}Me_5Cl$  [isostructural with  $C_{60}Ar_5Cl$  and  $C_{60}(OR)_5Cl$ ], hydroxyepoxides [ $C_{60}Me_5O_2OH$  (symmetrical),  $C_{60}Me_5OOH$  and  $C_{60}Me_4PhO_2OH$  (both unsymmetrical)] and unsymmetrical  $C_{60}Me_5O_3H$  (a cage-opened ketone). The results provide further information concerning the addition patterns and mechanistic features of fullerene chemistry, show that methylated, arylated, alkoxyated and halogenated [60]fullerenes are isostructural, and that  $C_{60}Cl_6$  also contains traces of  $C_{60}PhCl_5$ . Some of the compounds give exceptionally high intensities of the  $C_{58}^+$  fragmentation ion during EI mass spectrometry.

## Introduction

The great majority of fullerene chemistry studies concern cyclo-additions. They are relatively easy to carry out, and a single major product can usually be obtained in good yield. Steric hindrance due to the 1,2-cycloaddend inhibits subsequent reaction at the 3,4-bond, the site otherwise preferred since it has enhanced  $\pi$ -density created by the first addition.<sup>1,2</sup>

Reactions involving polyaddition have been less studied because control of the addition level is difficult, and further reaction in the vicinity of the first addition also occurs. Nevertheless, study of these reactions is essential for fundamental understanding of the electronic and steric effects that operate in the cage. Structural analysis is especially difficult when the products have unsymmetrical arrays, since there is no analytical technique presently available (unless suitable and ordered crystals are obtained) for determining the addend dispositions. In these cases deductive reasoning based on NMR data, and intuition (with the possibility of error) has to be resorted to in the interim.

Hydrogenation is at first sight the ideal reaction of choice, since steric effects should be minimal, and some studies aimed at locating the addends in this reaction have been carried out.<sup>2-6</sup> However, hydrogenation is complicated both by the tendency of derivatives to oxidise rapidly to the fullereneol, and multiple spin-spin coupling of higher hydrogenated species which prevents interpretation of some NMR spectra. We have therefore investigated alkylation, since alkylfullerenes are comparatively stable, give analysable NMR spectra, and dissolve readily in solvents in which the parent fullerene is virtually insoluble.

Alkylation requires in principle, electrophilic addition, a process rendered difficult by the electron-withdrawing properties of the cage. This can be circumvented either by reaction of the electrophile with the fullerene radical anion (produced both by

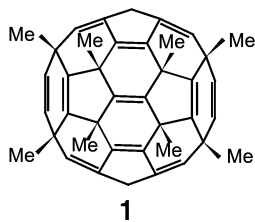
reaction with alkali metals), or by nucleophilic substitution of a halogeno group by alkyl; we have used the latter method in this study. The former, introduced by Olah and co-workers, resulted in the addition of up to 24 methyl groups to the cage, with (uncharacterised)  $C_{60}Me_6$  and  $C_{60}Me_8$  prominent.<sup>7</sup> More controlled addition can be obtained by initial electrochemical reduction, and in this way a mixture of 1,2- and 1,4- $C_{60}Me_2$  has been obtained,<sup>8</sup> and also  $C_{60}R_2$  ( $R = Et, n-Bu$ ),  $C_{60}Me_4$  and  $C_{60}Me_6$ , (all so far uncharacterised).<sup>9</sup> In the sublimate from the reaction of [60]fullerene with potassium-MeI,  $C_{60}Me_6$  (uncharacterised) was the main product.<sup>10</sup>

An alternative means of introducing alkyl groups onto [60]-fullerene involves addition of nucleophilic alkyl from reagents  $MR$  ( $M =$  alkali metal), with quenching of the intermediate  $C_{60}R_n^-$  either by electrophilic H or alkyl  $R'$ .<sup>11</sup> This has been used to produce  $C_{60}R_5H$  ( $R =$  fluoren-9-yl),<sup>12</sup> which is isostructural with  $C_{60}Ph_5H$ ,<sup>13</sup> and a number of other derivatives (many as yet uncharacterised).<sup>11</sup> A related procedure giving  $C_{60}Me_5H$  employed the organocopper reagent mixture,  $MeMgBr-CuBr-Me_2S$ .<sup>14</sup> Alkylation has also been observed within a mass spectrometer by reacting fullerenes with ketones (up to *ca.* 20 alkyl groups become attached),<sup>15</sup> and cyanoalkyl groups have been attached to [60]fullerene by reaction with azoisobutyronitrile.<sup>16</sup>

Our previous study on methylation through reaction between both [60]- and [70]fullerenes with lithium followed by methyl iodide, revealed the following.<sup>17</sup>

(i) The detection and/or identification of various methylated [60]fullerene species *viz.*, 1,2- and 1,4- $Me_2C_{60}$ ; unsymmetrical  $Me_6C_{60}$  (showing three NOE pairs of methyls); six different isomers of  $Me_4C_{60}$  (each of which has either  $C_s$  or  $C_2$  symmetry);  $Me_8C_{60}$  [which has the  $C_{2v}$  structure motif shown in **1**, found previously only in  $C_{60}Br_8$ ].<sup>18</sup>

(ii) Up to 34 methyl groups added to [60]fullerene (this confirms the general observation of Olah and coworkers),<sup>7</sup>



the most abundant species (EI mass spectrum) in the poly-methylated mixture being  $C_{60}Me_n$  ( $n = 10, 12, 14$ ). These results are pertinent to recent calculations which indicate that [60]-fullerene can accommodate 12 electrons in  $Li_{12}C_{60}$ , but no further electrons are transferred to the cage at higher lithiation levels.<sup>19</sup> Thus lithiation followed by reaction with methyl iodide should give  $C_{60}Me_{12}$  as the maximum methylation level. Since much higher levels are observed in the reaction of [60]fullerene with lithium metal in solution, either the calculations do not model the experiments, or an extremely rapid series of consecutive reactions occur *viz.*, quenching  $\rightarrow$  further lithiation  $\rightarrow$  quenching  $\rightarrow$  further lithiation. Given the instantaneous reaction that occurs on quenching with methyl iodide, further lithiation at this stage seems highly improbable. Fragmentation-recombination of lower methylated species during EI mass spectrometry may be discounted since we were able to obtain spectra of pure methylfullerenes free from any higher methylated species.

(iii)  $1,2-Me_2C_{60}$  readily undergoes atmospheric oxidation to give five different oxide derivatives.

(iv) [70]Fullerene adds mainly 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10 methyl groups, and 1,2- and 5,6- $Me_2C_{70}$  are produced in a 3.4 : 1 ratio.

(v) Reduction of 1,2- and 1,4- $Me_2C_{60}$  takes place to give either  $Me_2C_{60}H_{16}$  or  $Me_2C_{60}H_{34}$ , *i.e.* 18 or 36 overall addend levels, emphasising the fundamental significance of these levels, which have been observed in hydrogenation and fluorination.<sup>3,20</sup>

(vi) The solubility increases with extent of methylation, and becomes high in solvents such as acetone and THF in which the fullerenes themselves are insoluble.

(vii) The retention times on a Cosmosil Buckyprep column decrease with increased methylation level. (*NB* The retention times of 6.2 and 6.5 min given for 1,2- and 1,4- $Me_2C_{60}$ , respectively, in ref. 1 should be interchanged.)

We now describe our results obtained from reaction of  $C_{60}Cl_6$  with methylolithium.

## Experimental

$C_{60}Cl_6$  was prepared by chlorinating [60]fullerene with ICl as described previously,<sup>21</sup> and was used without further purification in order to avoid degradation.

An excess of a MeLi solution (4 ml of 1 M in THF-cumene, 11 : 9) was stirred under  $N_2$  with  $C_{60}Cl_6$  (100 mg) at room temp. The orange solution turned brown-black immediately, and stirring was continued overnight. The reaction mixture was extracted with toluene, washed with water, dried ( $MgSO_4$ ), and the solvent removed under vacuum. Column chromatography (70–230 mesh silica gel), gave after elution with cyclohexane-toluene (9 : 1) a major fraction which contained  $C_{60}Me_6$  and  $C_{60}Me_5Cl$ . Further elution with cyclohexane-toluene (1 : 1) yielded symmetrical  $C_{60}Me_5O_2OH$ , and finally, elution with toluene alone gave a mixture of (all unsymmetrical)  $C_{60}Me_5O_3H$ ,  $C_{60}Me_5OOH$ , and  $C_{60}Me_4PhO_2OH$ .

HPLC separation of the products was carried out using a 10 mm  $\times$  250 mm Cosmosil 'Buckyprep' column operated at a flow rate of 4 ml  $min^{-1}$ , with elution either by toluene or toluene-heptane, (1 : 1 v/v). The retention times accompany details of the isolated components, below.

All EI mass spectra were run at 70 eV.  $^1H$  NMR spectra were

run as solutions in  $CDCl_3$ , and IR spectra were obtained using KBr discs.

## Results and discussion

### (i) $C_{60}Me_5Cl$

This compound (4 mg, 4.5%) eluted after 4.9 min (toluene) or 9.8 min (1 : 1 toluene-heptane). In the EI mass spectrum (Fig. 1) the parent ion at 830/832 amu is just discernible, but due

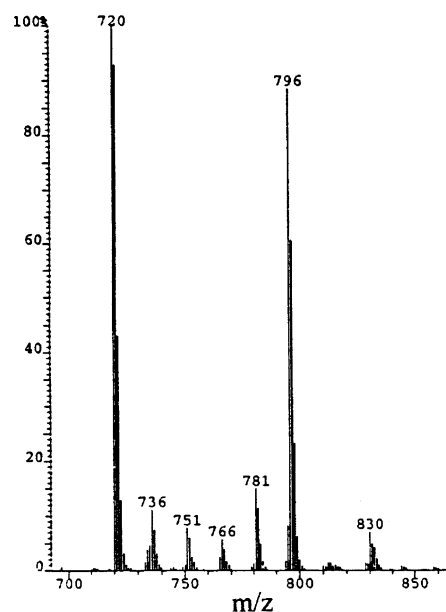


Fig. 1 EI mass spectrum for  $C_{60}Me_5Cl$ .

to the fragmentation which chlorofullerenes readily undergo under EI conditions, the main peak at 796 amu is due to chlorine loss followed by hydrogen capture; the subsequent fragmentation ions arise from consecutive loss of five methyl groups. In the doubly charged region, peaks are seen only for the fragmentation ions.

The IR spectrum exhibits the C–H stretching frequencies for the methyl groups at 2959, 2925 and 2854  $cm^{-1}$ .

The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum (Fig. 2) shows three methyl groups at  $\delta$  2.56, 2.355 and 2.335 in a 1 : 2 : 2 intensity ratio (the peak  $\times$  at  $\delta$  2.365 is due to traces of toluene), hence the compound has  $C_s$  symmetry. These shifts may be compared to those for the corresponding  $C_{60}Me_5H$  which are  $\delta$  2.42, 2.32, 2.30.<sup>14</sup> The downfield shift of the single methyl group resonance relative to those for the other methyls and relative to  $C_{60}Me_5H$  show that it must be next to the electronegative chlorine. Further, there are 0.3% and 0.7% NOE enhancements between the A and B methyls but none between the A and C methyls, confirming that the compound (Fig. 3) is isostructural with  $C_{60}Ar_5Cl$ ,<sup>13</sup> and with  $C_{60}(OR)_5Cl$  (R = Me, Et).<sup>22</sup> As in these latter cases, the least accessible chlorine is less readily replaced than the others.

### (ii) $C_{60}Me_6$

This compound (6 mg, 7.3%) eluted after 4.4 min (toluene) or 8.1 min (1 : 1 toluene-heptane), and gave an excellent EI mass spectrum (Fig. 4), which furthermore exhibits alternation in peak intensities due to consecutive loss of methyl groups, analogous to that found with phenylated fullerenes.<sup>23</sup> The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum shows four methyl peaks at  $\delta$  2.364, 2.300, 2.281 and 2.264 in a 1 : 2 : 2 : 1 ratio showing that the molecule has  $C_s$  symmetry. The NOE couplings of 1.3 and 1.8% between the A and D methyls confirm the structure as shown in Fig. 5, the methyl groups occupying the 1, 2, 4, 11, 15, and

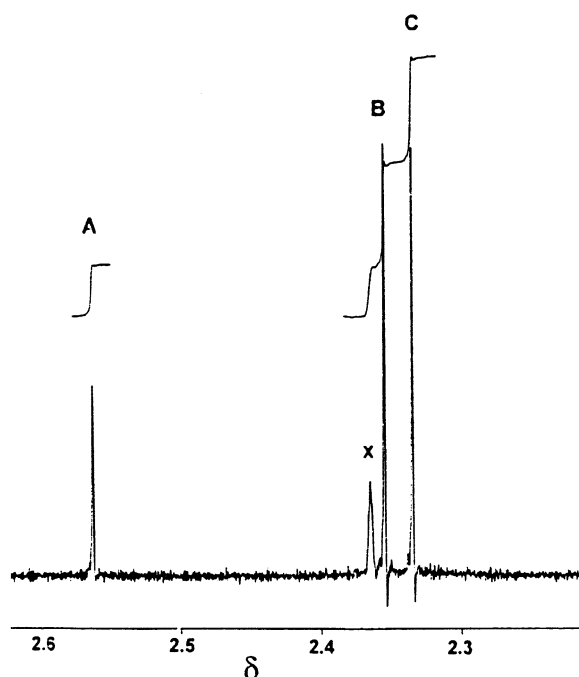


Fig. 2  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_5\text{Cl}$ , with peaks identified as shown in Fig. 3.

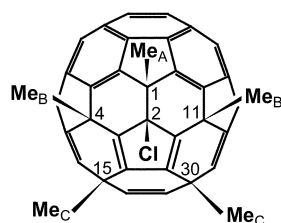


Fig. 3 Structure of  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_5\text{Cl}$ .

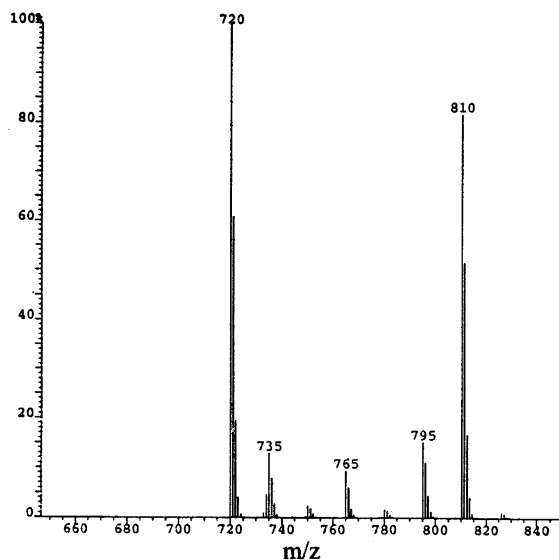


Fig. 4 EI mass spectrum for  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_6$ .

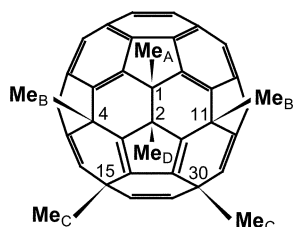


Fig. 5 Structure of  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_6$ .

30-positions. The compound (the IUPAC name<sup>24</sup> of which is 1, 2,4,11,15,30-hexamethyl-1,2,4,11,15,30-hexahydro[60]fullerene) is thus isostructural with  $\text{C}_{60}\text{allyl}_6$ ,<sup>25</sup> the only other hexaalkyl-[60]fullerene characterised to date.

The structure of the compound was confirmed by the single crystal X-ray structure (Fig. 6, 20% ellipsoids) obtained from

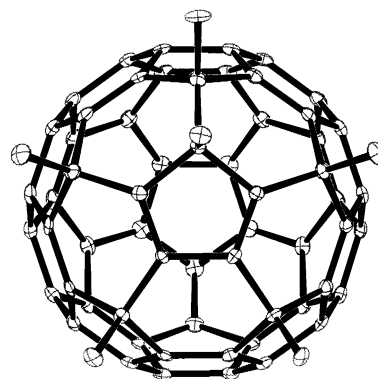


Fig. 6 Single crystal X-ray structure of  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_6$ .

crystals grown from toluene. The C(cage)–Me bond lengths (in Å) are 1.575 (C2–C66), 1.552 (C1–C61), 1.536 (average of C4–C62 and C11–C65) and 1.530 (average of C15–C63 and C30–C64). Thus steric compression causes significant bond lengthening when the methyl groups are adjacent, this being greatest for the C2-methyl group. Elongation of the bond to C2 was also observed previously in isostructural  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Br}_6$ .<sup>18</sup>

### (iii) Symmetrical $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_5\text{O}_2\text{OH}$

This compound (7 mg, 8%) eluted after 4.8 min (toluene) or 8.8 min (1 : 1 toluene–heptane), and the structure (Fig. 7) has

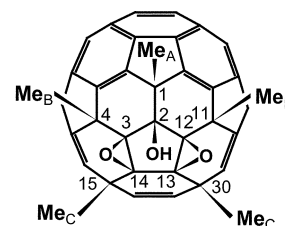


Fig. 7 Structure of symmetrical  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_5\text{O}_2\text{OH}$ .

been fully characterised in a preliminary publication.<sup>26</sup> [Owing to a lock signal error, the reported  $^1\text{H}$  NMR resonances should each be downfield by 0.37 ppm, *i.e.* at  $\delta$  4.25 (OH, confirmed by saturation transfer to water), 2.36 ( $\text{Me}_A$ ), 2.23 ( $\text{Me}_C$ ), and 2.12 ( $\text{Me}_B$ ).]; IR/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  3520br, 2971, 2924, 2857, 1438, 1384, 1099, 1074, 1047, 1037, 1016, 941, 665, 658, 572, 553, 535 and 513.

A notable feature to which we draw attention here is that the  $\text{C}_{58}$  fragmentation ion at 696 amu in the EI mass spectrum is 40% of the intensity of the 720 amu peak (see also below). This intensity is very much higher than is found in the EI mass spectra of  $\text{C}_{60}$  and arises because of the more facile loss of 2 CO molecules. We have noted this previously in the mass spectra of phenylated epoxides of [60]fullerene, where the intensity of the 696 amu peak was 30% of that of the 720 amu peak;<sup>27</sup> even higher intensities are found with unsymmetrical  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_5\text{O}_3\text{H}$  and  $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_4\text{PhOOH}$  (below).

### (iv) Unsymmetrical $\text{C}_{60}\text{Me}_5\text{O}_3\text{H}$

This compound (4 mg, 5%), which eluted after 5.2 min (toluene) or 10.1 min (1 : 1 toluene–heptane), is an open-cage ketone, and full details of the structural analysis have been described.<sup>28</sup> The intensity of the  $\text{C}_{58}^+$  fragmentation ion (696 amu) in the EI mass spectrum was 55% of that of the 720 amu peak.

(v)  $C_{60}Me_5OOH$

This compound (7 mg, 8%) eluted after 4.9 min (toluene) and 9.9 min (1 : 1 toluene–heptane). The EI mass spectrum (Fig. 8) shows the parent ion at 828 amu; here the intensity of

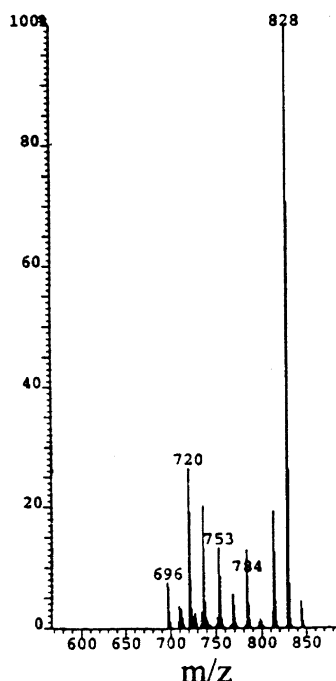


Fig. 8 EI mass spectrum for  $C_{60}Me_5OOH$ .

$C_{58}^+$  relative to that of  $C_{60}$  arising from  $2 \times CO$  loss is also substantial (28%). IR/ $cm^{-1}$  3492, 2963, 2921, 2859, 1443, 1417, 1377, 1342, 1267, 1238, 1201, 1163, 1104, 1068, 1028, 1015, 925, 733, 684, 661, 576, 553, 529 and 507.

The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum (Fig. 9) shows peaks at  $\delta$  3.59 (1 H, s, OH), 2.36 (3 H, s,  $Me_A$ ), 2.30 (3 H, s,  $Me_C$ ), 2.24 (3 H, s,  $Me_{C'}$ ),

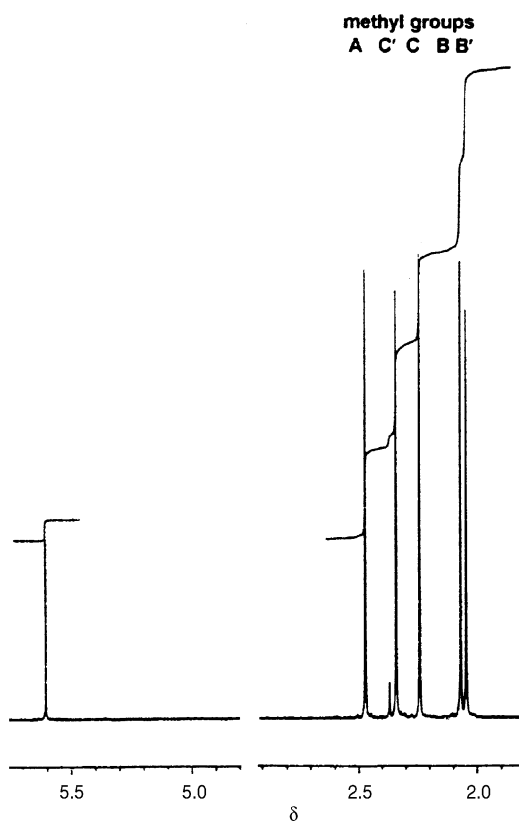


Fig. 9  $^1H$  NMR spectrum for  $C_{60}Me_5OOH$ .

2.22 (3 H, s,  $Me_B$ ), 2.14 (3 H, s,  $Me_{B'}$ ); the identity of the OH group was confirmed by saturation transfer to water. The compound is therefore unsymmetrical, the methyl peak locations being very similar to those in symmetrical  $C_{60}Me_5O_2OH$ . These peaks are identified from the NOE couplings which are 0.3, 0.2, 0.2, 0.1, and 0.2%, between OH and  $Me_A$ ,  $Me_B$ ,  $Me_{B'}$ ,  $Me_C$ , and  $Me_{C'}$ , respectively, and 2.7, 1.5, 2.4, 0.7, and 0.6% respectively between the methyls and OH.

The  $^{13}C$  NMR spectrum shows the required 52 peaks for the cage  $sp^2$ -carbons at  $\delta_C$  156.93, 154.88, 152.85, 152.18, 152.13, 150.58, 149.16, 148.85, 148.64, 148.62, 148.44, 148.38, 148.35, 148.32, 148.27 (2 C), 148.26, 148.22, 148.19, 148.10, 147.95, 147.69, 147.53, 147.525, 147.39, 147.29, 147.16, 147.025, 146.40, 146.16, 144.41, 144.29, 145.93, 144.55, 144.20, 144.18, 144.12, 144.06, 143.81, 143.80, 143.56 (3 C), 143.49, 143.35, 143.24, 143.00, 142.97, 142.68, 142.59, 142.47, 139.22. In the  $sp^3$  region peaks appear at  $\delta_C$  84.00, 80.76, and 75.95 (all 1 C, due to C–O–C and C–OH), 52.60 (C– $Me_A$ ), 50.50 (C– $Me_C$ ), 50.43 (C– $Me_{C'}$ ), 47.30 (C– $Me_B$ ), 46.28 (C– $Me_{B'}$ ), 27.75 ( $Me_A$ ), 25.63 ( $Me_C$ ), 25.17 ( $Me_{C'}$ ), 24.71 ( $Me_B$ ), 23.87 ( $Me_{B'}$ ).

Single crystals produced only weak diffraction and showed two independent molecules with, in both cases, the oxygen atoms disordered. Results were consistent with the structure in Fig. 10 deduced from the other data.

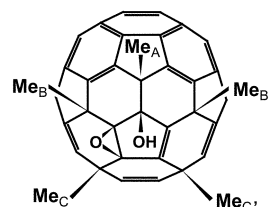


Fig. 10 Structure of  $C_{60}Me_5OOH$ .

An interesting feature of this compound that it is isostructural with  $C_{60}Ph_5O_2H$ , a species which undergoes oxidative dehydrogenation to  $C_{60}Ph_4C_6H_4O_2$  (which contains a furanoid ring).<sup>29</sup> A comparable oxidation is unlikely in the present case because it would lead to formation of a very strained *four*-membered ring.

(vi)  $C_{60}Me_4PhO_2OH$

This compound (4 mg, 5%) eluted after 4.9 min (toluene) or 10.7 min (1 : 1 toluene–heptane). The EI mass spectrum (Fig. 11) shows the parent ion at 906 amu and has a very intense

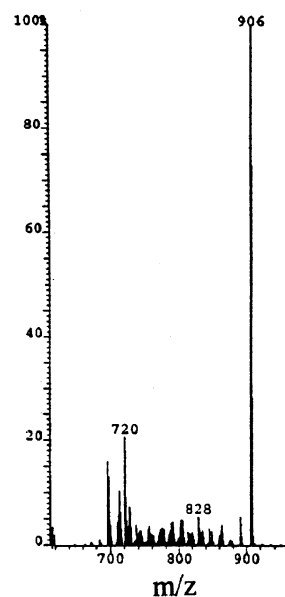


Fig. 11 EI mass spectrum for  $C_{60}Me_4PhO_2OH$ .

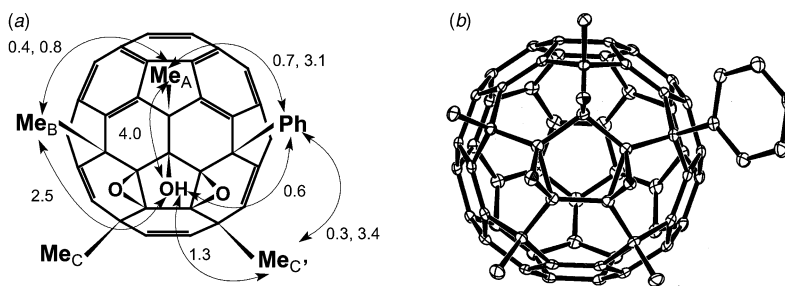


Fig. 12  $C_{60}Me_4PhO_2OH$  showing: (a) NOE couplings (%); (b) single crystal X-ray structure.

$C_{58}^+$  peak (696 amu), which is 76% of that for  $C_{60}$ . This is much the highest relative intensity so far observed for this ion in any fullerene derivative.

The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum gave  $\delta$  7.80–7.78 (2 H, dm,  $J$  7.2 and 0.7 Hz), 7.52–7.48 (2 H, dt,  $J$  7.2 and 0.7 Hz), 7.42–7.38 (1 H, dt,  $J$  7.2 Hz and unresolved), 4.285 (1 H, OH), 2.48 (3 H, s, Me), 2.175 (3 H, s, Me), 2.171 (3 H, s, Me), 2.095 (3 H, s, Me). The locations of the addends were deduced initially from the NOE couplings [Fig. 12(a)] and confirmed later by the single crystal X-ray structure [Fig. 12(b), 20% ellipsoids].

The question arises as to the origin of the phenyl group. Chlorination of [60]fullerene to give  $C_{60}Cl_6$  is carried out with ICl in benzene solution, and HPLC analysis of the product<sup>30</sup> shows that by-products comprise as much as 25% of the total yield. These have not been characterised because of the ready elimination of chlorine during EI mass spectrometry, but probably contain various combinations of phenyl and chloro addends, produced by electrophilic substitution into the benzene solvent; the high electrophilicity of the cage allows this to occur even in the absence of Friedel–Craft catalysts. We may assume that one of these will be  $C_{60}Cl_5Ph$ , so giving rise to the observed derivative, but this does not explain the location of the phenyl group. Whilst occupation of the  $Me_A$  position by Ph would probably increase steric hindrance, this is not the case for occupation of the  $Me_C$  position. Possibly, other isomers are formed which we have not isolated.

#### (vii) $C_{60}Me_{12}$

The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of a fore-run of  $C_{60}Me_6$  shows also the presence of eleven other peaks (ten of equal intensity and one of double intensity) in the lower field region, at  $\delta$  2.196, 2.172, 2.149, 2.146, 2.075, 2.057, 2.007, 1.997, 1.927, 1.920, 1.840 (2 H) (Fig. 13). There are NOE enhancements of 2.0% between

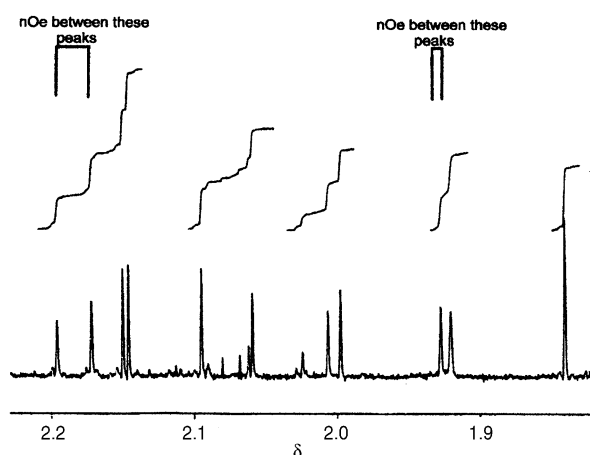


Fig. 13  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of  $C_{60}Me_{12}$ .

the  $\delta$  2.196 and 2.172 peak pair and 1.8% between the  $\delta$  1.927 and 1.920 peak pair. The higher the addition level, the further upfield are the peaks in the  $^1H$  NMR spectra of fullerenes (see e.g. ref. 3), so this by-product is evidently unsymmetrical  $C_{60}Me_{12}$ . From the peak integration, the  $C_{60}Me_6 : C_{60}Me_{12}$  ratio

is 55 : 45. The two NOE couplings indicate that  $C_{60}Me_{12}$  contains two of the motifs shown in Fig. 5. There are twelve ways in which these two arrangements can be combined, nine with adjacent motifs differing only in the relative positions of the addends attached to the central pentagons ( $1 \times C_{2v}$ ,  $2 \times C_s$ ,  $2 \times C_2$ ,  $4 \times C_1$ ) and three with remote motifs, centred on antipodal pentagons of the cage ( $1 \times C_{2h}$ ,  $2 \times C_2$ ). With a variety of addends (H, F, Cl, Br, Me) and all three MO semiempirical methods, the three antipodal isomers are consistently more stable than the adjacent isomers by 20–30 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. However, their formation would not be consistent with contiguous addition<sup>31</sup> and all three are ruled out by symmetry. The number of peaks in the spectrum is consistent only with the four totally unsymmetrical  $C_1$  isomers with adjacent motifs. These have addends at the following positions (see ref. 32 for numbering) 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 15, 20, 22, 23, 30, 37, 40 (No. 3); 1, 2, 4, 11, 15, 18, 30, 34, 35, 38, 51, 54 (No. 4); 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23, 30, 37, 39, 40 (No. 5); 1, 2, 4, 11, 15, 18, 30, 34, 38, 51, 53, 54 (No. 8). There is no obvious mechanistic reason for any one of these to be preferred, and the semiempirical calculations actually favour more symmetric adjacent-motif isomers over all four. In kinetic models based on Hückel theory all nine adjacent-motif isomers would have equal energy and the product would be a statistical mixture. In MOPAC calculations, MNDO and AM1 methods prefer isomer No. 8 amongst the  $C_1$  set by a margin of 5–18 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, but PM3 prefers isomer No. 4 by a margin of 1–6 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. No further conclusions regarding the structure of  $C_{60}Me_{12}$  can be made, short of obtaining a single-crystal X-ray structure.

#### Solubility of methylfullerenes

The solubilities of a mixture of methylated [60]fullerenes obtained by methylation with lithium–MeI are (mg ml<sup>-1</sup>): THF (30), acetone (3), dichloromethane (3), CS<sub>2</sub> (6), toluene (3), benzene (3), slight solubility being observed in petroleum ether, cyclohexane and heptane. The THF and acetone solubilities are orders of magnitude greater than that of [60]fullerene, and suggest applications of these derivatives (e.g. as polymer cross-linkers) in which the parent fullerenes show promising properties, but insufficient solubility.<sup>33</sup>

#### Crystal data for $C_{60}Me_6$ †

$M = 810.8$ , monoclinic,  $P2_1/n$  (No. 14),  $a = 11.6277(6)$ ,  $b = 19.6831(10)$ ,  $c = 15.1972(8)$  Å,  $\alpha = 90$ ,  $\beta = 100.541(3)$ ,  $\gamma = 90^\circ$ ,  $V = 3419.5(3)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $\mu(\text{Mo-K}\alpha) = 0.09$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $T = 173$  K.  $R_f = 0.123$  for 4271 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ,  $wR^2 = 0.334$  for 5932 independent reflections.

#### Crystal data for $C_{60}Me_4PhO_2OH$ †

$M = 906.84$ , monoclinic,  $P2_1/n$  (No. 14),  $a = 10.0491(2)$ ,  $b = 31.5976(8)$ ,  $c = 11.6546(3)$  Å,  $\alpha = 90$ ,  $\beta = 93.197(1)$ ,  $\gamma = 90^\circ$ ,

† Full structural data are available from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 166355 and 166356). See <http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/p2/b1/b108292m/> for crystallographic files in .cif or other electronic format.

$V = 3694.9(2) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $\mu(\text{Mo-K}\alpha) = 0.10 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ,  $T = 173 \text{ K}$ .  $R_f = 0.045$  for 3691 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ,  $wR^2 = 0.1058$  for 4462 independent reflections. The O atoms are disordered 0.69 : 0.31 over two arrangements (O1 at C1 or C3).

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