# Crystal Structures of Octaphenylcyclotetraphosphazene and Octaphenyl-cyclotetra-arsazene 

By Michael J. Begley, D. Bryan Sowerby,* and R. Jonathan Tillott, Department of Chemistry, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD


#### Abstract

The crystal structures of octaphenylcyclotetraphosphazene ( $\mathrm{Ph}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ ) (I) and of the arsenic analogue ( $\mathrm{Ph}_{8} \mathrm{As}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ ) (II) have been determined from diffractometer data by Patterson and Fourier methods and refined by least squares to $R 0.046$ [(I), 1000 observed reflexions] and 0.058 (II), 588 observed reflexions] respectively. The compounds are isostructural and have $S_{4}$ molecular symmetry with the ring conformation intermediate between the ideal boat $\left(S_{4}\right)$ and the ideal saddle ( $D_{2 d}$ ) forms. The ring bonds for both compounds are equal and in each case the ring angle at nitrogen is small. The value for (II) ( $121 \cdot 4^{\circ}$ ) is particularly low and may indicate a smaller degree of arsenic $4 d$ orbital participation in the bonding than $3 d$ orbital participation in (I). Crystals of both compounds are tetragonal, space group $P \overline{4} 2{ }_{1} c, Z=2$ with unit cell dimensions: ( I ) $a=14 \cdot 688(2), c=9 \cdot 755(2)$


 $\AA$ : (II) $a=14.977(3), c=9 \cdot 708(3) \AA$.Single-crystal $X$-ray structures of a number of homogeneously substituted tetraphosphazenes, $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{8}$, can be rationalized by relating the resulting ring conformation to the electronic requirements of the exocyclic groups, X . The influence of steric factors is not readily apparent in such compounds but their importance is shown by the results of structure determinations on non-geminally tetra-substituted compounds, $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{4} \mathrm{Y}_{4}$, where it appears that steric requirements can influence the resulting ring conformation to an extent comparable to that observed for electronic effects. The effect is shown in the structures adopted by two non-geminal isomers of composition $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{~F}_{4}\left(\mathrm{NMe}_{2}\right)_{4}{ }^{1,2}$ and particularly in the distorted ' crown' conformation adopted by the ring in the cis-non geminal- $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Ph}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}$ isomer. ${ }^{3}$ The structure of the octaphenyl compound, $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Ph}_{8}$ (I) is of interest in this connection, and the structure has been determined. The analogous arsenic compound is known but since preliminary $X$-ray data ${ }^{4}$ seemed to indicate different $\mathrm{As}^{-} \mathrm{N}$ bond lengths, which is unexpected, a re-examination of the structure was considered desirable.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Preparation of $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Ph}_{8}$. -Iminobis(aminodiphenylphosphorus) chloride ${ }^{5}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PNH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{NCl}(3.0 \mathrm{~g})$ was heated at $250{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2 h and extracted with hot benzene to separate the phosphazene from ammonium chloride. On cooling white needles of $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Ph}_{8}$ were obtained ( $1.9 \mathrm{~g}, 75 \%$ ), m.p. $324{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (lit., ${ }^{5} 326-328{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) (Found: C, $71 \cdot 7 ; \mathrm{H}, 4.9$; N, 6.8. Calc. for $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{C}_{48} \mathrm{H}_{40}$ : C, $\mathbf{7 2 \cdot 4} ; \mathrm{H}, 5 \cdot 1 ; \mathrm{N}, 7 \cdot 0 \%$ ).

Preparation of $\mathrm{As}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Ph}_{8}$. - Method (i). Chlorodiphenylarsine, obtained by redistribution of a mixture of triphenylarsine and arsenic trichloride, was chlorinated at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in dichloromethane solution giving $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{AsCl}_{3}$ which was recrystallized from toluene, m.p. $173{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (lit., ${ }^{6} 172{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ). Dried (sodium) ammonia gas ( $1 \cdot 16 \mathrm{~g}, 68 \cdot 1 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was passed into a solution of $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{AsCl}_{3}(5.71 \mathrm{~g}, 17 \cdot 0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in chloroform ( 100 ml ) at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and the solution filtered to remove precipitated ammonium chloride $\{2.73 \mathrm{~g}, 50.5$ mmol ). After evaporation of the chloroform the residue was recrystallized from toluene giving $\mathrm{As}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Ph}_{8}$, m.p.
${ }^{1}$ D. Millington, T. J. King, and D. B. Sowerby, J.C.S. Dalton, 1973, 396.
${ }^{2}$ M. J. Begley, D. Millington, T. J. King, and D. B. Sowerby, J.C.S. Dalton, 1974, 1162.
${ }^{3}$ G. J. Bullen and P. A. Tucker, J.C.S. Dalton, 1972, 1651.
${ }^{4}$ M. D. Glick, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1965.
$319-320{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (lit., ${ }^{7} 316-317{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) (Found: C, $58 \cdot 9$; H, 4.8 ; $\mathrm{N}, 5 \cdot 0$. Calc. for $\mathrm{As}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{C}_{48} \mathrm{H}_{40}: \mathrm{C}, 59 \cdot 2 ; \mathrm{H}, 4 \cdot 1 ; \mathrm{N}, 5 \cdot 8 \%$ ).

Method (ii). $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{AsCl}_{3}(7 \cdot 1 \mathrm{~g}, 21 \cdot 0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dichloromethane ( 100 ml ) was added dropwise to a large excess of liquid ammonia at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and stirred for 3 h . When the solution was set aside the ammonia evaporated. Ammonium chloride was filtered off, the dichloromethane was removed, and the residue recrystalized from toluene (yield $3.2 \mathrm{~g}, 62 \%)$. A small quantity $(0.3 \mathrm{~g})$ of the trimer, $\mathrm{As}_{3} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{Ph}_{6}$ (m.p. $155-156{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, lit., ${ }^{6} 155-157^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) was also obtained from the mother liquor.
I.r. spectra of both arsenic compounds show a strong band at $940 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ attributed to $\mathrm{As}^{-} \mathrm{N}$-As ring vibrations. ${ }^{6,7}$

## Crystal Structure of (I) $\left(\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Ph}_{8}\right)$

Crystal Data. $-\mathrm{C}_{48} \mathrm{H}_{40} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{P}_{4}, M=796.5$, Tetragonal, $a=$ $14.688(2), c=9.755(2) \AA, U=2104.5 \AA^{3}, Z=2, D_{\mathrm{c}}=$ $1.256 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{mi}^{-1}, F(000)=832$, space group $P \overline{4} 2_{1} c$ from systematic absences: $h 00 \quad(h=2 n+1)$ and $h h l$ ( $l==$ $2 n+1)$. Mo- $K_{\alpha}$ radiation, $\lambda=0.7107 \AA ; \mu\left(\right.$ Mo- $\left.K_{\alpha}\right)=$ $0.76 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Crystal size ca. $0.6 \times 0.3 \times 0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$.

Unit-cell parameters were determined initially from oscillation and Weissenberg photographs, and later refined on a Hilger and Watts four-circle diffractometer by use of monochromatic Mo- $K_{\alpha}$ radiation. Intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects but not for absorption or secondary extinction.

A total of 3371 reflexions in the range $0^{\circ} \leqslant \theta \leqslant 30^{\circ}$ was measured but, on account of the space group, all reflexions are duplicated ( $h k l \equiv k h l$ ). Intensities of such pairs of reflexions were averaged and in each case that with the larger $h$ value was removed from the file. This now contained 1739 reflexions of which 1000 having $I>3 \sigma(I)$ were considered observed. Data reduction and subsequent calculations used the $X$-ray ${ }^{\prime} 70$ programs; ${ }^{8 a}$ atomic scattering factors were taken from ref. $8(b)$.

The asymmetric unit consists of one quarter of a molecule and the position of the phosphorus atom was readily deduced from a three-dimensional Patterson map. After a structure-factor calculation a three-dimensional Fourier synthesis phased on this atom revealed the positions of the nitrogen and twelve carbon atoms. Because at this stage the phosphorus atom occupies a special position the
${ }^{5}$ I. I. Bezman and J. H. Smalley, Chem. and Ind., 1960, 839.
${ }^{6}$ H. H. Sisler and C. Stratton, Inorg. Chem., 1966, 5, 2003.
7 W. T. Reichle, Tetrahedron Letters, 1962, 51 .
${ }^{8}$ (a) ' X-Ray '67,' eds. J. M. Stewart, F. A. Kindell, and J. C. Baldwin, University of Maryland Technical Report TR 67-58, 1967, revised 1970; (b) ' International Tables for $X$-Ray Crystallography,' vol. III, Kynoch Press, Birmingham, 1965.

Fourier map also contains peaks associated with a centrosymmetrically related $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PN}$ unit. Four cycles of fullmatrix least-squares refinement with isotropic temperature factors reduced $R$ to 0.126 and with anisotropic temperature factors $R$ converged at 0.074 after four more

Table 1
Fractional co-ordinates ( $\times 10^{4}$ ), with estimated standard deviations in parentheses, for non-hydrogen atoms in (I)

|  | $x / a$ | $y / b$ | $z / c$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $-29(0)$ | $1346(1)$ | $299(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)$ | $-919(2)$ | $769(2)$ | $603(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $386(2)$ | $1697(2)$ | $1962(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1165(3)$ | $2282(3)$ | $2050(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1506(4)$ | $2474(3)$ | $3325(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $1097(3)$ | $2202(3)$ | $4499(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $320(3)$ | $1675(3)$ | $4425(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $-16(3)$ | $1423(2)$ | $3164(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $-337(2)$ | $2393(2)$ | $-564(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $-1052(3)$ | $2905(3)$ | $-55(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $-1299(4)$ | $3704(4)$ | $-7169)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $-1292(5)$ | $3975(4)$ | $-1869(8)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $-862(5)$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $-170(5)$ | $3473(4)$ | $-2377(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $97(3)$ | $2670(3)$ | $-1727(5)$ |

cycles of refinement. A weighting scheme: $w=\{1+$ $\left.\left[\left(F_{0}-7 \cdot 0\right) / 10 \cdot 1\right]^{2}\right\}^{-1}$ was introduced and four further cycles of least-squares refinement reduced $R$ to 0.065 . Modific-
with the ten hydrogen atoms included with isotropic temperature factors, final convergence was achieved with $R 0 \cdot 046$.

Crystal Structure of (II) $\left(\mathrm{As}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Ph}_{8}\right)$
Crystal Data.- $\mathrm{C}_{48} \mathrm{H}_{40} \mathrm{As}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4}, \quad M=972 \cdot 2$, Tetragonal, $a=14 \cdot 977(3), \quad c=9 \cdot 708(3) \AA, \quad U=2177 \cdot 6 \quad \AA^{3}, \quad Z=2$, $D_{\mathrm{c}}=1.482 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{ml}^{-1}, F(000)=976$. Space group $P \overline{4} 2_{1} c$ from systematic absences: $h 00 \quad(h=2 n+1)$ and $h h l(l=$ $2 n+1)$. Mo- $K_{\alpha}$ radiation, $\mu\left(\operatorname{Mo}-K_{\alpha}\right)=3.00 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. A crystal, dimensions ca. $0.6 \times 0.25 \times 0.25 \mathrm{~mm}$, was sealed in a silica capillary.
Oscillation and Weissenberg photographs clearly indicated that (I) and (II) were isostructural. Intensities were measured initially for 2217 reflexions but after averaging the $h k l$ and $k h l$ reflexions a total of 1101 remained, of which 588 having $I>2 \cdot 5 \sigma(I)$ were considered observed. The position of the arsenic atom was obtained from a Patterson map and subsequent solution of the structure was as described for (I). The $R$ value converged at $0 \cdot 103$ after four cycles of full-matrix least-squares refinement with isotropic temperature factors and at 0.058 after six further cycles of refinement with anisotropic temperature factors. A final difference Fourier showed no peaks $>0.4 \mathrm{e}^{-3}$ but a number of positions could probably be associated with hydrogen atoms. The data-to-parameter ratio, however,

Table 2
Anisotropic thermal parameters ${ }^{a}\left(\times 10^{4}\right)$, with estimated standard deviations in parentheses, for non-hydrogen atoms in (I)

|  | $U_{11}$ | $U_{22}$ | $U_{23}$ | $U_{12}$ | $U_{13}$ | $U_{23}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)$ | 546(4) | 497(4) | 831 (5) | 2(4) | $29(5)$ | $0(3)$ |
| N(1) | 603(12) | 629(13) | 843(18) | -25(12) | 57(14) | 128(14) |
| C(1) | 618(16) | 538(15) | 869(22) | -53(14) | $-9(17)$ | - 12(16) |
| C(2) | 972(29) | 1002(29) | 1042(33) | $-364(25)$ | $-93(25)$ | 87(25) |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 1138(34) | 1124(34) | 1257(45) | $-511(30)$ | -317(35) | 95(34) |
| C(4) | 1042(31) | 880(26) | 1134(38) | -83(25) | $-301(30)$ | -7(27) |
| C(5) | 952(27) | 954(27) | 964(31) | $-16(23)$ | -73(23) | 48(24) |
| C(6) | 711 (18) | 792(19) | 883(21) | - $48(25)$ | $-101(27)$ | -39(19) |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)$ | 638(16) | 580(16) | 941 (25) | 15(14) | $-17(18)$ | 7(18) |
| $\mathrm{C}(12)$ | 1045(29) | 821 (24) | 1346(45) | 326(23) | 76(31) | 3(28) |
| C(13) | 1387(47) | 935 (33) | 1754(54) | 536(30) | -122(47) | $14(39)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(14)$ | 1690(57) | 865 (31) | 1564(52) | 407(35) | $-325(51)$ | 277(37) |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 1673(55) | $1113(35)$ | 1450(45) | 328(39) | 90(48) | $530(35)$ |
| C(16) | 985(27) | 847(94) | 1130(31) | 162(22) | 104(32) | 253(24) |
| ${ }^{a}$ In | : $\exp [-$ | $a^{* 2}+U$ | $+U_{33} l^{2} c^{*}$ | $U_{12} h k a^{*} b^{*}$ | $f_{13} h^{\prime} a^{*} c^{*}$ | $\left.\left.{ }^{2} 7 b^{*} c^{*}\right)\right]$. |

ation of the data by removal of a small number of reflexions which had low net counts (as a result of low background counts) and two cycles of refinement gave $R \quad 0 \cdot 059$. A

Table 3
Fractional co-ordinates of hydrogen atoms $\left(\times 10^{3}\right)$ and isotropic thermal parameters $\left(\times 10^{3}\right)$, with estimated standard deviations in parentheses, for (I)

|  | $x / a$ | $y / b$ | $z / c$ | $U / \AA^{2}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\mathrm{H}(2)$ | $148(4)$ | $236(4)$ | $128(7)$ | $110(17)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(3)$ | $204(4)$ | $290(5)$ | $340(7)$ | $148(22)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(4)$ | $133(4)$ | $238(4)$ | $544(7)$ | $130(22)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(5)$ | $10(4)$ | $149(4)$ | $518(5)$ | $106(19)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(6)$ | $-58(3)$ | $105(3)$ | $309(6)$ | $99(16)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(12)$ | $-128(3)$ | $276(3)$ | $97(6)$ | $99(17)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(13)$ | $-174(5)$ | $406(5)$ | $-37(7)$ | $148(25)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(14)$ | $-102(5)$ | $457(5)$ | $-24(7)$ | $170(33)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(15)$ | $21(5)$ | $368(5)$ | $-320(8)$ | $170(26)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(16)$ | $61(3)$ | $244(3)$ | $-194(4)$ | $71(12)$ |

difference Fourier then revealed possible positions for the hydrogen atoms and, after four further cycles of refinement

* See Notice to Authors No. 7 in J.C.S. Dalton, 1973, Index issue (items less than 10 pp . are supplied as full-size copies).
was considered too low to allow inclusion of the hydrogen atoms in the final refinement.

Observed and calculated structure factors for both compounds are listed in Supplementary Publication No. SUP 21116 ( $6 \mathrm{pp} ., \mathrm{l}$ microfiche).* Final atomic co-

Table 4
Fractional co-ordinates $\left(\times 10^{3}\right)$, with estimated standard deviations in parentheses, for non-lyydrogen atoms in (II)

|  | $x / a$ | $y / b$ | $z / c$ |
| :---: | ---: | :---: | ---: |
|  | $x / a(1)$ | $139(0)$ | $34(0)$ |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)$ | $-37(0)$ | $76(1)$ | $77(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $-97(1)$ | $44(1)$ | $171(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $11)$ | $210(3)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $119(2)$ | $229(2)$ | $216(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $153(2)$ | $247(2)$ | $341(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $116(4)$ | $221(2)$ | $460(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $36(2)$ | $168(2)$ | $460(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $7(2)$ | $142(2)$ | $331(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $-38(1)$ | $247(2)$ | $-56(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $-109(2)$ | $293(2)$ | $3(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $-142(3)$ | $371(3)$ | $-74(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $-90(3)$ | $40(3)$ | $-178(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $-18(3)$ | $360(2)$ | $-221(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $4(3)$ | $276(2)$ | $-169(3)$ |

Table 5
Anisotropic thermal parameters ${ }^{a}\left(\times 10^{3}\right)$, with estimated standard deviations in parentheses, for non-hydrogen atoms in (II)

|  | $U_{11}$ |  | $U_{22}$ | $U_{33}$ | $U_{12}$ | $U_{12}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)$ | $64(1)$ | $60(1)$ | $86(1)$ | $4(1)$ | $-2(3)$ | $-2(1)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $85(13)$ | $69(11)$ | $83(14)$ | $10(10)$ | $11(11)$ | $-11(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $61(14)$ | $61(15)$ | $134(22)$ | $-25(11)$ | $12(16)$ | $7(15)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $124(25)$ | $135(28)$ | $110(28)$ | $-66(22)$ | $7(20)$ | $-7(22)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $101(24)$ | $136(28)$ | $131(30)$ | $-19(20)$ | $-11(24)$ | $-24(27)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $106(27)$ | $123(24)$ | $116(24)$ | $48(20)$ | $-78(22)$ | $-30(25)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $105(24)$ | $90(19)$ | $128(22)$ | $15(13)$ | $-20(21)$ | $-8(20)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $78(18)$ | $120(20)$ | $81(13)$ | $-45(20)$ | $54(21)$ | $-12(15)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $77(14)$ | $71(15)$ | $117(21)$ | $21(12)$ | $-1(17)$ | $-32(18)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $73(15)$ | $79(16)$ | $197(36)$ | $24(13)$ | $-64(21)$ | $-19(21)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $143(37)$ | $148(37)$ | $188(44)$ | $82(28)$ | $-5(31)$ | $-18(32)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $161(51)$ | $120(35)$ | $264(70)$ | $17(28)$ | $-73(46)$ | $5(41)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $178(42)$ | $145(30)$ | $128(27)$ | $40(31)$ | $73(33)$ | $55(23)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $129(26)$ | $115(22)$ | $131(22)$ | $-49(29)$ | $26(40)$ | $24(19)$ |
|  |  | $a$ Sce footnote to Table 2. |  |  |  |  |

ordinates and thermal parameters for the heavier atoms in (I) are listed in Tables 1 and 2, and for the hydrogen atoms in Table 3. Atomic co-ordinates and anisotropic thermal parameters for the arsenic compound are listed in Tables 4 and 5. The numbering of the atoms is shown in Figure 1.


Figure I The numbering of atoms $[(\mathrm{I}) \mathrm{M}-\mathrm{P},(\mathrm{II}) \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{As}]$
RESULTS ANI DISCUSSION
Bond distances and angles are summarized in Tables 6 (I) and 7 (II), and Figure 2 shows the ring conformation and orientation of the phenyl groups.

Compound (I). Although the molecule has overall $S_{4}$ symmetry, the ring conformation is intermediate between the ideal boat $\left(S_{4}\right)$ and the ideal saddle $\left(D_{2 d}\right)$ forms. The deviations toward the latter can be assessed by the magnitude of $\Delta \mathrm{P} / \Delta \mathrm{N}$, where $\Delta \mathrm{P}$ is the displacement of the phosphorus atoms and $\Delta N$ of the nitrogen atoms from the mean ring plane. ${ }^{9}$ The value here is $0 \cdot 292 / 0 \cdot 592$, i.e. $0 \cdot 49$, and should be compared with values of 0.75 for the $K$-form of $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{8}$ (closer to $S_{4}$ symmetry) and 0.35 for $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4}\left(\mathrm{NMe}_{2}\right)_{8}$ (closer to $D_{2 d}$ symmetry). Deviation from perfect $D_{2 d}$ symmetry can also be shown by the dihedral angles of the ring bonds $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{l}) \quad 25 \cdot 9$, and $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{P}(2) \quad 22 \cdot 0^{\circ}$. The ring conformation is in fact very similar to that of $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{Me}_{8} .{ }^{10}$

The ring angles are 119.8 at phosphorus and $127.8^{\circ}$ at

[^0]nitrogen, the latter being significantly smaller than for other tetrameric phosphonitriles. ${ }^{11}$ The $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{N}$ bonds are equal ( $1.590 \AA$ ) and slightly shorter than the mean ( $1.597 \AA$ ) in the analogous trimeric compound. ${ }^{12}$ Surprisingly, the octamethyl compound, to which (I) bears a strong similarity, has a $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{N}$ bond distance of $1 \cdot 60 \AA$, while the angle at nitrogen is $132 \cdot 0^{\circ}$; the inter-relationship between the $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{N}$ bond length, the ring angle at nitrogen, and the electronegativity of the substituent at phosphorus is thus more complex than expected.

The $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}$ bonds are equal and slightly longer than in the trimer. The equations for the mean planes (in orthogonal Ångstrom space) through the two phenyl groups are:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{C}(1)-6):-0.566 x^{\prime}+0.824 y^{\prime}+0.013 z^{\prime} & =1.701 \\
\mathrm{C}(11)-(16): \quad 0.648 x^{\prime}+0.519 y^{\prime}+0.557 z^{\prime} & =1 \cdot 192
\end{aligned}
$$

and the maximum deviation of any atom from the respective plane is $0.01 \AA$. The $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bonds vary between


Figure 2 The ring conformation $[(\mathrm{I}) \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{P}$, (II) $\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{A} s$ ]
l .34 and $1.39 \AA$ (mean $\mathrm{l} \cdot 37 \AA$ ) while the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ angles range between 118.0 and $121.9^{\circ}$ (mean $120.0^{\circ}$ ). The mean $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bond distance is $0.97 \AA$.

The P-C bonds are not orientated symmetrically with respect to the local $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{N}$ segment and the angle between the $\mathrm{C}(1), \mathrm{P}(1), \mathrm{C}(11)$ plane and the $\mathrm{N}(1), \mathrm{P}(1), \mathrm{N}(4)$ plane is $86 \cdot 3^{\circ}$. Following from this there are also two sets of

[^1] B25, 316.
$\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}$ angles (ca. 111 and $105^{\circ}$ ). The dihedral angles between the two phenyl groups and the mean ring plane are $89 \cdot 2$ and $56 \cdot 1^{\circ}$ respectively for $\mathrm{C}(1)-(6)$ and $\mathrm{C}(11)$ (16), but with respect to the plane of the local $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{N}$ segment the rings are symmetrically oriented with dihedral angles of 56.4 and $56.7^{\circ}$ respectively. The planes of the two phenyl groups are almost normal to each other (dihedral angle $86.9^{\circ}$ ), thus ensuring minimum intramolecular interactions as, following the symmetry of the molecule, the relative orientations of the phenyl groups will be reversed at adjacent phosphorus atoms. Similar arrangements in the $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{P}$ group are found in $\mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{Ph}_{6}{ }^{12}$ and in the geminal di- ${ }^{13}$ and tetra-chlorides, ${ }^{14}$ but in the trimeric diphenyl tetrafluoride ${ }^{\mathbf{1 5}}$ the groups are eclipsed.

Compound (II).-Although there are considerably less reflexions for the arsenic compound, it is clearly isostructural with the phosphorus compound, thus confirming the overall structure suggested previously. ${ }^{4}$ In the present investigation however, the data-to-parameter ratio is much more favourable and it has been possible to refine the structure further.

The deviations of the arsenic and nitrogen atoms from the mean ring plane are 0.334 and $0.750 \AA$, giving $\Delta \mathrm{As} / \Delta \mathrm{N} 0.445$, and the overall ring conformation is almost identical to that already discussed for (I). This is confirmed by the dihedral angles of the $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ $\left(28.4^{\circ}\right)$ and $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{As}(2)\left(27.9^{\circ}\right)$ bonds. However, unlike results from the earlier determination, the two independent $\mathrm{As}^{-} \mathrm{N}$ distances are equal within experimental error (mean $1.73 \AA$ ) and shorter than the single-bond distance $(\mathbf{l} .87 \AA) .^{16}$ Paralleling the situation in the phosphorus series, the ring bonds in the tetramer are shorter than those in the corresponding trimeric compound ( $1.76 \AA$ ). ${ }^{16}$

The orientation of the phenyl groups is similar to that in (I) and there are again two scts of $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{As}-\mathrm{C}$ angles; the $\mathrm{As}-\mathrm{C}$ distances are as expected. The phenyl groups are planar, no atom deviating by $>0.07 \AA$ from the respective plane.

Although the structures of (I) and (II) are closely similar, there are details which are significantly different. The most important of these is the smallness $\left(121 \cdot 4^{\circ}\right)$ in (II) of the angle at the ring nitrogen atoms, indicating that hybridization is very close to $s p^{2}$. The nitrogen lone-pair is thus more completely localized than in (II) and any in-plane ( $\pi_{s}$ ) component to the $\mathrm{As}-\mathrm{N}$ bond will be very small. However, no other firm conclusions can be drawn about the nature of the As-N bond, until there are structure determinations of other cycloarsazenes, particularly those with more highly electronegative substituents. In general terms, some degree of $\pi$ bonding is required by valence considerations and

[^2]$4 d$ orbital participation is to be expected. The general diffuseness of these orbitals is likely to make $\pi$ interaction with nitrogen $p_{z}$ orbitals less efficient than when phosphorus $3 d$ orbitals are involved, and bond shortening over the single-bond distance for the arsenic compound will probably be comparatively small.

| Table 6 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bond distances ( A$)^{\circ}$ * and angles ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) for (I) |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $1 \cdot 586(3)$ | $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 105•3(2) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | $1.594(3)$ | $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | 109.6(2) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1 \cdot 809(4)$ | $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 110.0(2) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $1 \cdot 810(3)$ | $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | 105.1(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | $119.9(1)$ | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | 105•1(2) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 127.9(2) |  |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1 \cdot 387(6)$ | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $1 \cdot 384(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $1 \cdot 388(8)$ | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $1 \cdot 387(8)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $1 \cdot 353(8)$ | $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $1 \cdot 355(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $1 \cdot 381(7)$ | $\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $1 \cdot 351(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | 1-376(6) | $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $1 \cdot 394(8)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1 \cdot 373(5)$ | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1 \cdot 364(6)$ |
|  |  | (Me | $1 \cdot 374)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | 119.6(3) | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | 119.0(3) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $122 \cdot 5(3)$ | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | 121.6(3) |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | 117.8(4) | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | 119.4(4) |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 120.0(5) | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $119.5(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | 121.4(5) | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $120.7(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | 119.1(5) | $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $120 \cdot 0$ (6) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | 119.6(5) | $\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $120 \cdot 4(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 122.0(4) | $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $120 \cdot 0(5)$ |
| (Mean 120.0) |  |  |  |
| * $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} 0.85-1.08$ A, mean $0.97 \AA$. |  |  |  |

Table 7
Bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ for (II)

|  | $1 \cdot 739(17)$ | $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $103 \cdot 0(9)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $1 \cdot 727(17)$ | $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $110 \cdot 9(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | $1 \cdot 907(25)$ | $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $113 \cdot 4(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1 \cdot 905(25)$ | $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $101 \cdot 9(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $107 \cdot 4(10)$ |  |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | $119 \cdot 9(8)$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{As}(2)$ | $121 \cdot 4(9)$ |  | $1 \cdot 39(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1 \cdot 41(4)$ | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $1 \cdot 47(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $1 \cdot 34(5)$ | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $1 \cdot 34(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $1 \cdot 36(5)$ | $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $1 \cdot 30(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $1 \cdot 44(4)$ | $\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $1 \cdot 40(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $1 \cdot 39(4)$ | $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $1 \cdot 33(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $1 \cdot 38(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $119(2)$ | $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $116(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $122(2)$ | $\mathrm{As}(1)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $122(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $119(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $122(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $118(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $116(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | $124(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $116(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $120(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $125(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $115(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $120(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $123(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $119(3)$ |

(Mean 120)
[4/1067 Received, 31st May, 1974]

[^3]
[^0]:    ${ }^{9}$ N. L. Paddock, Quart. Rev., 1964, 18, 168.
    ${ }^{10}$ M. W. Dougill, J. Chem. Soc., 1961, 5471.
    ${ }^{1}$ H. R. Allcock, Chem. Rev., 1972, ry, 315.

[^1]:    ${ }_{12}$ F. R. Ahmed, P. Singh, and W. H. Barnes, Acta Cryst.. 1969 ,

[^2]:    ${ }^{13}$ N. V. Mani, F. R. Ahmed, and W. H. Barnes, Acta Cryst., 1966, 21, 375.
    ${ }^{14}$ N. N. V. Mani, F. R. Ahmed, and W. H. Barnes, Acta Cryst., 1965, 19, 693.

[^3]:    ${ }^{15}$ C. W. Allen, J. B. Faught, T. Moeller, and I. C. Paul, Inorg. Chem., 1969, 8, 1719.

    16 L. K. Krannich, U. Thewalt, W. J. Cook, S. R. Jain, and H. H. Sisler, Inorg. Chem., 1973, 12, 2304.

