

Addition Reaction of *p*-Methoxyphenyltellurium Trichloride to 3-Hydroxy Alkynes

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Summary: The influence of the hydroxyl group in the regio- and stereochemistry of the reaction between *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride and 3-hydroxy alkynes is discussed. Mixtures of *Z* and *E* olefins, as well as products of opposed regiochemistry, are formed, depending on the structure of the substrate.

taining a hydroxyl group at the allylic position, which absorbed in the range 6.95–6.98 ppm. To understand this behavior, crystal structures of such compounds were determined, showing that the compounds actually isolated were **2** and **3** (Figure 1).

Introduction

Vinylic tellurides are emerging as synthetic reagents.¹ The addition of nucleophilic tellurium species to alkynes, giving the *Z* isomer, is the most useful method to synthesize these vinyl organoelement compounds.¹ Electrophilic addition of the commercially available tellurium tetrachloride, or the easily prepared aryltellurium trichlorides,² to alkynes is another approach to access this class of compounds. However, very few reports on these reactions are available. The reaction of tellurium tetrachloride with alkynes gives 1-trichlorotelluro-2-chloroalkenes of *Z* configuration,³ as recently demonstrated by X-ray analysis of the addition product of tellurium tetrachloride to phenylacetylene.⁴ Some years ago we reported our preliminary results on the addition of aryltellurium trichlorides to alkynes.⁵ We found that this reaction gives (*Z*)-1-aryldichlorotelluro-2-chloroalkenes **1** as the main product, which can be obtained in isomerically pure form after recrystallization. X-ray analysis of several analogous aromatic derivatives, or their corresponding tellurides, confirmed the regio- and stereochemistry proposed.⁶ The ¹H NMR analysis of the compounds described in our previous communication showed that the chemical shifts corresponding to the vinylic protons were in the range 7.54–7.79 ppm for all compounds, except for the ones con-

Results and Discussion

The reaction of 1-ethynylcyclohexanol with *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride in refluxing benzene gave a mixture of products, as demonstrated by the ¹²⁵Te NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture (signals at 900, 897, 788, and 627 ppm, the most intense being the one at 900 ppm). The major product, a cyclic tellurium oxychloride **2**, was purified by recrystallization from chloroform/hexane, and its structure was determined by X-ray experiments (Figure 2). This result indicates that the regio- and stereochemistry is the reverse of that originally proposed in our previous communication.⁵ NMR analysis is in accordance with the regiochemistry determined by X-ray experiment. HETCOR ¹H–¹³C experiments do not show any correlation between the ¹³C signal corresponding to the vinylic carbon linked to the tellurium atom (120 ppm, showing satellite bands with ¹J_{C–Te} of 350 Hz) and the ¹H signal corresponding to the vinylic hydrogen (7.05 ppm).

One of the products of the reaction between propargyl alcohol and *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride in refluxing benzene (**3**) was obtained in a similar way and also had the structure determined by X-ray analysis (Figure 3). However the cyclic oxychloride obtained has the opposite regiochemistry of the oxychloride obtained from the reaction with 1-ethynylcyclohexanol. The regiochemistry of **3** was also confirmed by NMR experiments. HETCOR ¹H–¹³C shows a correlation between the ¹H signal corresponding to the vinylic hydrogen (7.14 ppm) and the ¹³C signal corresponding to the carbon linked to the tellurium atom (120 ppm, showing satellite bands with ¹J_{C–Te} of 345 Hz).

The presence of the hydroxyl group in the starting alkynes has an important influence in the reaction of these compounds with *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride. The major products obtained from the addition of this reagent to aliphatic and aromatic alkynes are formed through a syn addition, probably involving a four-center mechanism (Scheme 1). When 3-hydroxy alkynes are used, products resulting from an anti addition are formed. These results can be rationalized in terms of an initial formation of a telluronium ion

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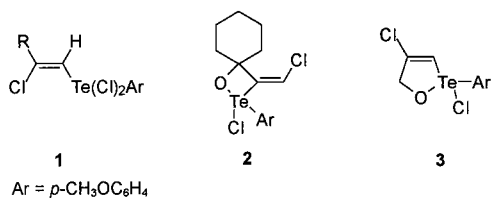
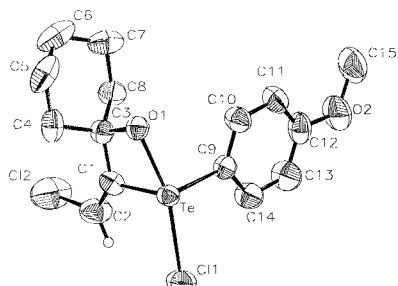
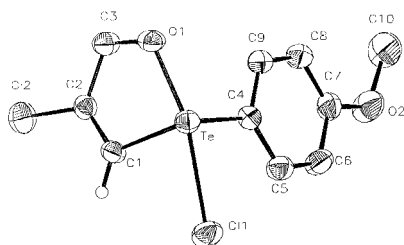
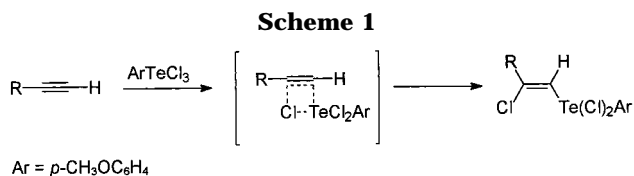
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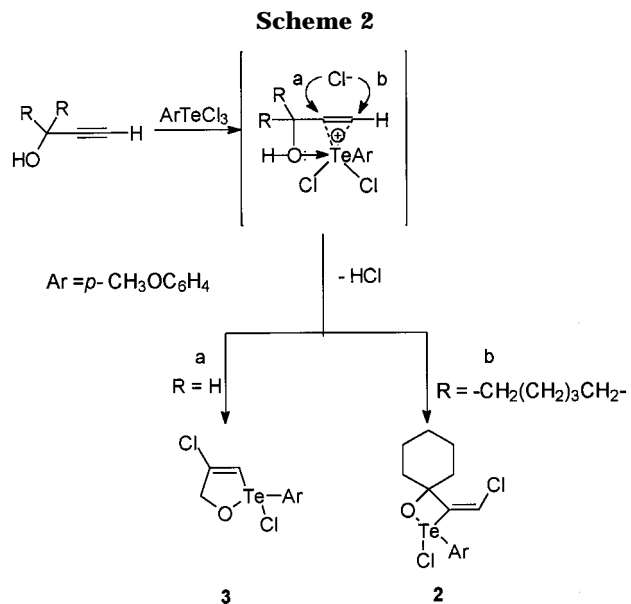
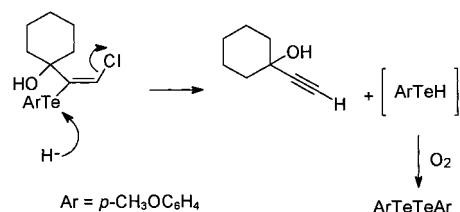
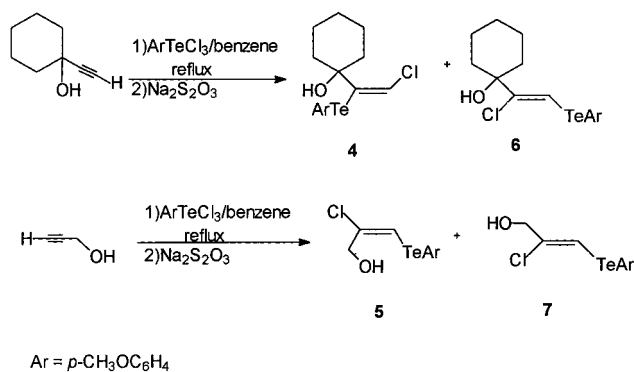
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**Figure 1.****Figure 2.** ZORTEP drawing of cyclic tellurium oxychloride **2**. Ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability scale, except the H atom, which is at an arbitrary scale for the sake of clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Te–O(1), 2.050(3); Te–C(1), 2.117(5); Te–C(9), 2.131(4); Te–C(1), 2.5643(12); O(1)–Te–C(1), 66.3(2); O(1)–Te–C(9), 92.15(14); C(1)–Te–C(9), 97.3(2); O(1)–Te–Cl(1), 157.26(9); C(1)–Te–Cl(1), 91.01(13); C(9)–Te–Cl(1), 91.20(12).**Figure 3.** ZORTEP drawing of cyclic tellurium oxychloride **3**. Ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability scale, except the H atom which is at an arbitrary scale for the sake of clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Te–O(1), 2.034(2); Te–C(1), 2.084(3); Te–C(4), 2.132(3); Te–Cl(1), 2.5593(8); O(1)–Te–C(1), 80.54(10); O(1)–Te–C(4), 91.58(10); C(1)–Te–C(4), 98.68(11); O(1)–Te–Cl(1), 164.39(6); C(1)–Te–Cl(1), 83.87(8); C(4)–Te–Cl(1), 91.43(8).

resulting from the attack of *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride to the triple bond which coordinates with the hydroxyl group. This telluronium ion can be opened by the chloride ion in two different ways: (a) when the propargylic position is not sterically hindered, the five-membered-ring cyclic oxychloride is formed; (b) when the propargylic position is sterically hindered, the four-membered-ring cyclic oxychloride is formed (Scheme 2).

Reduction of the oxychlorides **2** and **3** with stoichiometric amounts of sodium borohydride or excess sodium bisulfite gave the corresponding tellurides **4** and **5**. When a great excess of sodium borohydride was used, oxychlorides **2** and **3** were quantitatively transformed into di-*p*-methoxyphenyl ditelluride and the correspond-

**Scheme 3****Scheme 4**

ing alkyne, presumably via the E₂ mechanism shown in Scheme 3. Similar results were obtained when the tellurides **4** and **5** were treated with sodium borohydride. These results support the stereochemistry proposed.

Reduction of the crude mixture of the addition reaction with excess sodium bisulfite, followed by column chromatography in silica gel, allowed the separation of two isomers. Tellurides **4** and **7** were obtained as major isomers, and tellurides **5** and **6** as minor isomers (Scheme 4). In the case of compounds **4** and **6** the isomeric ratio of the tellurides is consistent with the isolation of compound **2** as the major isomer. The low yield of compound **4** can be attributed to some degree of elimination during the reduction of the crude mixture, since no isomerization of **4** was observed by stirring it in the presence of silica gel. In the case of compounds **5** and **7** however, the ratio of isomers is not consistent with the yield for compound **3** (65%). After reduction of the crude mixture, compound **5** was obtained in only

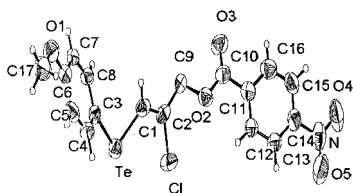


Figure 4. ZORTEP drawing of *p*-nitrobenzoate **8**. Ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability scale, except the H atom, which are at an arbitrary scale for the sake of clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Te–C(3), 2.085(7); Te–C(1), 12.088(7); C(3)–Te–C(1), 95.9(3).

20% yield, while compound **7** was isolated in 42% yield. In this case an isomerization is taking place. It was found that pure **5** was completely transformed into **7** after 2 h of stirring in a suspension of silica gel in a 1:1 mixture of hexane/ethyl acetate.

The regiochemistry of tellurides **6** and **7** was determined by NMR spectroscopy. HETCOR ^1H – ^{13}C experiments showed a correlation between the ^{13}C peak attributed to the carbon linked to the tellurium atom (105 ppm for **6**, 106 ppm for **7**, both presenting satellite bands with $^1J_{\text{C-Te}}$ 306 Hz) and the ^1H peak attributed to the vinylic proton (6.99 ppm for **6** and 6.98 ppm for **7**). In addition, treatment of these compounds with excess sodium borohydride did not give the elimination product, suggesting that **6** and **7** have *Z* stereochemistry, which does not allow an E_2 elimination similar to that shown in Scheme 3.

To confirm the stereochemistry proposed, telluride **7** was transformed into the corresponding crystalline *p*-nitrobenzoate **8**, by reaction with *p*-nitrobenzoyl chloride. X-ray analysis of **8** confirmed the *Z* stereochemistry (Figure 4).

Conclusion

The presence of the hydroxyl group in the starting alkyne has an important influence in the reaction of these compounds with *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride. When 3-hydroxy alkynes were used, cyclic oxylchlorides were formed through an anti addition, probably involving a telluronium ion giving the *E* isomer. A second isomer presenting the *Z* stereochemistry was formed through the four-center mechanism previously proposed.⁵

In view of the synthetic potential of the resulting adducts, studies are under way to control the regio- and stereochemistry of the reaction.

Experimental Section

^1H (500 MHz) and ^{13}C (125 MHz) NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker DRX-500 spectrometer in CDCl_3 with TMS as the internal reference. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1600 spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were obtained on a GC/MS Hewlett-Packard 5988-8/5890 spectrometer, operating at 70 eV. Column chromatography was carried out with Merck silica gel (230–400 mesh) according to the procedure by Still and co-workers.⁷ Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel 60 F-254 on aluminum foil. All solvents used were previously dried and distilled according to the usual methods.⁸ Tellurium (200 mesh), propargyl

alcohol, and 1-ethynylcyclohexanol were purchased from Aldrich. Aryltellurium trichloride^{2,9} and tellurium tetrachloride^{2,9} were prepared according to literature procedures.

Addition Reaction of *p*-Methoxyphenyltellurium Trichloride to 3-Hydroxy Alkynes. A solution of the 3-hydroxy alkyne (11 mmol) in dry benzene (10 mL) was added to a suspension of *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride (10 mmol, 3.40 g) in dry benzene (40 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 8 h, during which the *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride was consumed, forming a clear yellow solution. The resulting solution was cooled to room temperature, diluted with ethyl acetate, and washed with a saturated NH_4Cl solution and brine. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was quickly chromatographed on SiO_2 , using CCl_4 and $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ (5:1) as eluents. The resulting oil was crystallized from CHCl_3 /hexane.

4-{2-Chloro-3-[chloromethylidene]-1-oxa-2λ-tellurospiro[3.5]non-2-yl}phenyl Methyl Ether (2). Yield: 3.07 g (72%). ^1H NMR: δ 8.27 (d, $J = 8.85$ Hz, 2 H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.85$ Hz, 2 H), 6.44 (s, 1 H), 3.89 (s, 3 H), 2.42–1.35 (m, 2 H), 2.02–1.99 (m, 2 H), 1.73–1.66 (m, 5 H), 1.31–1.28 (m, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 162.52, 159.11, 137.11, 125.44, 118.52, 116.02, 76.04, 55.56, 34.68, 24.58, 21.59. IR (KBr, film; cm^{-1}): 3030, 2950, 2927, 1585, 1485, 840. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{TeO}_2\text{Cl}_2$: C, 42.11; H, 4.01. Found: C, 41.94; H, 4.18.

4-(2,4-Dichloro-2,5-dihydro-1,2λ-oxatelluro-2-yl)phenyl Methyl Ether (3). Yield: 2.33 g (65%). ^1H NMR: δ 7.91 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.14 (s, 1 H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 5.15 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1 H), 4.92 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 162.26, 151.37, 133.22, 124.97, 118.99, 115.58, 55.51, 11.54. IR (KBr, film; cm^{-1}): 3030, 2960, 1580, 1485, 830. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{TeO}_2\text{Cl}_2$: C, 33.30; H, 2.79. Found: C, 33.56; H, 2.94.

Reduction of the Crude Mixture of the Addition Reaction of *p*-Methoxyphenyltellurium Trichloride to 3-Hydroxy Alkynes. To a solution of *p*-methoxyphenyltellurium trichloride (1.7 g, 5.0 mmol) in benzene (20 mL) was added the 3-hydroxy alkyne (5.0 mmol). After the addition, the mixture was refluxed for 8 h. The solvent was evaporated, and the residual oil was treated with CHCl_3 (30 mL) and a saturated aqueous solution of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (3×30 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL). The organic phase was dried with MgSO_4 . The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel column, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (9:1).

(E)-1-[2-Chloro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)tellanyl]ethynylcyclohexanol (4). Yield: 0.86 g (40%). ^1H NMR: δ 7.73 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2 H), 6.81 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2 H), 5.17 (s, 1 H), 3.81 (s, 3 H), 2.40–2.34 (m, 3 H), 1.75–1.54 (m, 8 H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 160.40, 143.10, 143.04, 136.74, 115.84, 106.93, 103.74, 55.11, 33.10, 24.88, 21.59. LRMS m/z (relative intensity): 344 (18), 237 (10), 199 (100), 171 (27), 128 (15). IR (KBr, film; cm^{-1}): 3375, 3004, 2916, 2854, 1584, 1490, 1250, 821. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{TeO}_2\text{Cl}$: C, 45.68; H, 4.86. Found: C, 45.79; H, 5.20.

(E)-2-Chloro-3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)tellanyl]-2-propen-1-ol (5). Yield: 0.27 g (20%). ^1H NMR: δ 7.73 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 5.89 (s, 1 H), 4.42 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2 H), 3.80 (s, 1 H), 2.48 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 160.34, 141.96, 124.20, 116.96, 115.37, 101.07, 62.99, 55.12. LRMS m/z (relative intensity): 326 (44), 235 (51), 198 (72), 163 (100). IR (KBr, film; cm^{-1}): 3363, 2928, 2839, 1587, 1490, 1285, 824. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{TeO}_2\text{Cl}$: C, 36.82; H, 3.40. Found: C, 36.61; H, 3.22.

(Z)-1-[1-Chloro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)tellanyl]ethynylcyclohexanol (6). Yield: 0.26 g (12%). ^1H NMR: δ 7.20 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2 H), 6.98 (s, 1 H), 6.79 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2 H), 1.92 (s, 1 H), 1.76–1.65 (m, 5 H), 1.62–1.52 (m, 5 H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 160.06, 145.03, 140.96, 115.42, 105.84, 102.51, 75.66, 55.11,

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35.84, 25.24, 21.76. LRMS m/z (relative intensity): 344 (18), 237 (10), 199 (100), 171 (27), 128 (15). IR (KBr, film; cm^{-1}): 3473, 3002, 2929, 2856, 1586, 1490, 1248, 824. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{TeO}_2\text{Cl}$: C, 45.68; H, 4.86. Found: C, 45.55; H, 4.56.

(Z)-2-Chloro-3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)tellanyl]-2-propen-1-ol (7). Yield: 0.76 g (47%). ^1H NMR: δ 7.68 (d, $J = 8.4$, 2 H), 6.97 (s, 1 H), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.0$, 2 H), 4.15 (s, 2 H), 3.06 (s, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 159.94, 140.82, 137.49, 115.38, 105.93, 101.81, 66.82, 55.07. LRMS m/z (relative intensity): 326 (56), 237 (36), 196 (49), 108 (100). IR (KBr, film; cm^{-1}): 3371, 2936, 2858, 1586, 1489, 1285, 823. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{TeO}_2\text{Cl}$: C, 36.82; H, 3.40. Found: C, 36.59; H, 3.36.

(Z)-1-Chloro-2-[(4-methoxyphenyl)tellanyl]ethenyl-4-nitrobenzoate (8). The vinylic telluride **7** (0.65 g, 2 mmol) and *p*-nitrobenzoyl chloride (0.74 g, 4 mmol) in anhydrous pyridine (10 mL) were stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Then the mixture was diluted with saturated NaHCO_3 solution (10 mL) and with $\text{MeOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1:1), to give a solid product, which was recrystallized from $\text{MeOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1:1). Yield: 4.18 g (88%). ^1H NMR: δ 8.29 (d, 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 8.23 (d, 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.74 (d, 8.94 Hz, 2 H), 7.26 (s, 1 H), 6.81 (d, 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 4.98 (s, 2 H), 3.81 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR δ 163.94, 160.46, 150.72, 141.21, 134.98, 131.64, 130.92, 123.59, 125.67, 114.56, 101.80, 68.64, 55.23. LRMS m/z (relative intensity): 474 (4), 347 (5), 237 (11), 181 (16), 150 (100), 104 (17). IR (KBr, film; cm^{-1}): 3035, 2950, 1733, 1586, 1525, 1271, 718. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_5\text{ClTe}$: C, 42.95; H, 2.97. Found: C, 42.97; H, 2.88.

Isomerization Experiment. To a flask containing a suspension of silica gel (2 g) in a 1:1 mixture of hexane/ethyl acetate (20 mL) was added the telluride **5** (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature, and the isomerization was monitored by GLC. After this time the mixture was filtered and the solvents were evaporated, affording telluride **7** in quantitative yield.

Crystal Data for 2: $\text{C}_{15}\text{Cl}_2\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{Te}$, $M_r = 428.79$, triclinic, space group $P\bar{1}$, $a = 8.160(1)$ Å, $b = 9.832(1)$ Å, $c = 11.531(2)$ Å, $\alpha = 109.48(1)^\circ$, $\beta = 101.44(1)^\circ$, $\gamma = 94.18(1)^\circ$, $V = 845.1(2)$ Å³, $Z = 2$, $D_c = 1.685$ g cm^{-3} , $\mu(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 2.074$ mm⁻¹, irregular specimen max. and min. dimensions 0.40, 0.25 mm, 3130 unique reflections for $2.37^\circ < \theta < 25.57^\circ$; 2785 having $F > 2\sigma(F)$. Final results: R1 [$F > 2\sigma(F)$] = 0.0325, wR2 (F^2 all data) = 0.0895, and 182 parameters; $S = 1.058$. For **3:** $\text{C}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{Te}$, $M_r = 360.68$, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$, $a = 14.000(1)$ Å, $b = 5.7953(4)$ Å, $c = 14.6148(8)$ Å, $\beta = 92.910(5)^\circ$, $V =$

1184.2(1) Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_c = 2.023$ g cm^{-3} , $\mu(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 2.939$ mm⁻¹, specimen $0.30 \times 0.15 \times 10$ mm, 2405 unique reflections for $2.79^\circ < \theta < 26.29^\circ$; 2033 having $F > 2\sigma(F)$. Final results: R1 [$F > 2\sigma(F)$] = 0.0216, wR2 (F^2 all data) = 0.0565, and 137 parameters; $S = 1.087$. For **8:** $\text{C}_{17}\text{ClH}_{12}\text{NO}_5\text{Te}$, $M_r = 473.33$, orthorhombic, $Pbca$, $a = 12.187(3)$ Å, $b = 7.840(3)$ Å, $c = 38.204(10)$ Å, $V = 3650.2(19)$ Å³, $Z = 8$, $D_c = 1.723$ g cm^{-3} , $\mu(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 1.802$ mm⁻¹, irregular specimen max. and min. dimensions 0.25, 0.15 mm, 3426 unique reflections for $2.71^\circ < \theta < 25.59^\circ$; 1609 having $F > 2\sigma(F)$. Final results: R1 [$F > 2\sigma(F)$] = 0.0445, wR2 (F^2 all data) = 0.1184, and 227 parameters; $S = 1.000$.

Other Conditions. Data at 291 K, Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 Mach 3 diffractometer, using graphite monochromatic Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) and $\omega/2\theta$ scans. Lp correction and semiempirical absorption corrections derived from ψ -scans were applied. Structural solution was by heavy-atom methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares based on F^2 . Hydrogen atoms were located on stereochemical grounds and refined using a riding model with $U(\text{H}) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ for methyl and $1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ for other groups. For data collection and cell refinement the CAD-4 Software was used;¹⁰ data reduction was performed using MolEN.¹¹ The program used to solve the structures was SHELXS86,¹² and SHELXL97¹³ was used to refine them. The molecular graphics program ZORTEP¹⁴ was used.

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Supporting Information Available: Tables of crystallographic data, solution, data collection, and refinement details, positional and thermal parameters, and bond distances and angles for **2**, **3**, and **8**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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