# **SMALL RING COMPOUNDS-XXX' HOMOLYTICAL AROMATIC SUBSTITUTION AND HYDROGEN ABSTRACTION REACTION WITH CYCLOPROPYL RADICAL**

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Abstract—Homolytic aromatic substitution and hydrogen abstraction reactions with cyclopropyl radi**cal were carried out to determine the reactivity and ionic character of cyclopropyl radical by examination of the orientation effect, partial rate factor and influence of substituents. By thermal decomposition of biscyclopropaneformyl peroxide in a series of substituted benzenes. the corresponding cyclopropylated benzene derivatives (the mixture of ortho. meta and para isomers) were obtained in moderate yield. In view of the orientation effect and the partial rate factor, the cyclopropyl radical seems to be fairly free from polar effect. and to resemble the phenyl radical more than the common alkyl radical although the cyclopropyl radical has a slightly higher reactivity than the phenyl radical. The relative reactivity of the 2-phenykyclopropyl radical in the hydrogen abstraction reaction toward the benzylic position of ring-substituted toluenes gave good Hammett's correlation**  with the slope of  $+0.20$  suggesting little ionic character in the transition state. This result was in good **agreement with the conclusion obtained from homolytic aromatic substitution reaction and with the chemical reactivity to be** *expected* **from the non-planar nearly sp'-hybridized conformation of the**  cyclopropyl radical.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The stereoconfigurational stability of the cyclopropyl radical has received much attention<sup>24</sup> and although the pyramidal configuration of this radical has been proposed by Walborsky' and Ando', only little is known concerning character and reactivity.<sup>54,b</sup>

It has been suggested<sup> $6-11$ </sup> that the increase in s-character of the orbital occupied by the odd electron of a radical makes its nature in homolytic aromatic substitution more electrophilic. Thus, it may be expected that the ionic character and reactivity of the cyclopropyl radical are analogous to those of the vinyl radical rather than common alkyl radical, since the hybridization state of cyclopropane C-H bond has been proposed to be rather  $sp<sup>2</sup>$  than  $sp<sup>3</sup>$ . Therefore, in the present study, the homolytic aromatic substitution and hydrogen abstraction reaction with respect to the cyclopropyl radical were carried out.

## **RESULTS**

### *Homolytic aromatic substitution reaction*

Biscyclopropaneformyl peroxide (1) was thermally decomposed in a series of substituted benzenes at 100" for about 2 days and the corresponding cyclopropylated benzenes  $2\negmedspace\negmedspace\negmedspace\negmedspace$  were obtained in moderate yields. Determination of the distribution of the positional isomers (ortho, *meta* and *para) in*  each product was accomplished by gas chromatographic analysis. (Golay Column; MBMA-45m)

The distribution of each isomer and the yield of



all of the cyclopropylated benzenes are summarized in Table 1, in which the distributions reported in the similar reactions of cyclohexyl radical' and phenyl radical' are indicated for comparison. All of the products were isolated by a preparative gas chromatography and identified by spectroscopic and elemental analyses. Furthermore, some of them were characterized by comparison of their spectroscopic and gas chromatographic behaviour with those of authentic samples.<sup> $\overline{B}$ </sup> The low yield of cyclopropylated toluene (6) was rationalized by the existence of the competitive hydrogen abstraction reaction of cyclopropyl radical from the benzylic position of toluene. The *metalpara* ratios in homolytic aromatic cyclopropylation were calculated from the isomer distributions shown in Table 1 and are indicated in Table 2 together with the corresponding data of phenylation<sup> $\tau$ </sup> and cyclohexylation.' Furthermore, the relative reactivities of the

	Cyclohexylation		$Cyclopropylation(\%)$			Y"	Phenylation(%)			
<b>C.H.X</b>	ortho	meta	para	ortho	meta	para	$\frac{1}{2}$	ortho	meta	para
C.H,CI	54	34	12	59	27	14	29.4	50	32	18
C.H.OCH,	67	28		70	18	12	$26 - 7$	69	18	13
C.H.CN	52	4	44	62	11	27	$58 - 2$	60	10	30
C <sub>s</sub> H <sub>s</sub> Bu(t)	0	72	28	2	64	34	31.7	24	49	27
C.H.CH,	32	43	25	52°		$48^{\circ}$	$14-3$	67	19	14

**Table 1. The distribution of the positional isomers in homolytic aromatic substitution** 

<sup>\*</sup>yield: ([moles of cyclopropylated benzene]/2) [moles of 1], yield of 7: 25.8%

<sup>2</sup> calculated from NMR spectrum. The separation of *meta* and *para* isomers was impossible in the **present study.** 

**arenes to benzene in** the **substitution** with cyclopropyl radical were determined by a competitive technique.

An appropriate arene-benzene mixture was allowed to react with the cyclopropyl radical and the mixture was analyzed directly by the gas chromatographic technique to determine the relative amount of arylcyclopropane to phenylcyclop ropane. From this relative amount, the relative reactivities  $(K_X<sup>H</sup>)$  of the cyclopropyl radical toward the nuclei of a certain arene to that of benzene may be obtained. The partial rate factors  $(f_o, f_m, f_p)$  for the ortho, meta and para positions were calculated from the data in Table 1. Table 3 indicates the relative reactivities and partial rate factors for cyclopropylation together with those of phenylation' and cyclohexylation.

Both bis(trans 2-phenylcyclopropane) formyl peroxide  $(8)^{14}$  and t-butyl per (trans - 2 - phenylcyclopropane) carboxylate  $(9)^{2d}$  were employed as precursors of the trans - 2 - phenylcyclopropyl radical.



The reaction products obtained from the thermal decomposition of 8 and 9 in carbon tetrachloride consisted of trans- and cis-2-phenylcyclopropyl chlorides, (10a and 10b), *trans - 2 - phenylcyclop*ropanecarboxylic acid (11) and a small amount of phenylcyclopropane (7). All the products were identified by comparison of their spectroscopic and gas chromatographic behaviour with those of authentic samples and their yields were determined through gas chromatographic analysis.

*Hydrogen abstraction reaction* The formation of 1Oa and lob as major products indicated that both 8 and 9 decomposed homolytically and the resulting cyclopropyl radical abstracted a Cl atom from carbon tetrachloride. As

Table 2. The *meta/para* ratios in homolytic aromatic substitution

Aromatic		Cyclohexylation Cyclopropylation	Phenylation
C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> Cl	2.8	1.9	1.8
C.H.OCH.	5.6	$1 - 5$	$1-4$
C <sub>s</sub> H <sub>s</sub> CN	0.09	0.43	0.33
C.H <sub>5</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	1.7		$1-4$
C <sub>x</sub> H <sub>x</sub> Bu(t)	2.5	1.9	$1-8$

Table 3. Relative reactivity  $(K_H^{\mathbf{X})^n}$  and partial rate factor  $(f_o, f_m, f_p)^*$  in homolytic aromatic **substitution.** 



**f**  $K_H^{\star}$  = [Arylcyclopropane]/[Phenylcyclopropane]  $\cdot$  6/5

 $f_x = 5K_H^2$   $\cdot$  [z]/100  $\cdot$  y; y = 1/2 for ortho or meta position, y = 1.0 for paraposition. The **parenthesis [z] represents the distribution of each isomer in cyclopropylated arenes.** 



**was expected, the yield of each product was** similar in both cases. The noteworthy formation of 7 may be elucidated by the disproportionation of 2 phenylcyclopropyl radical in solvent cage.'

Phenylcyclopropane (7) was also formed from the thermal decomposition of 8 and 9 in toluene together with a considerable amount of **11.** 



**Thus,** the competitive hydrogen abstraction of 2-phenylcyclopropyl radical from the benzylic position of ring-substituted toluenes with chlorine abstraction of the same radical from carbon tetrachloride were carried out at 100" for 48 h using the ampule technique. The relative reactivities of ringsubstituted toluenes toward 2-phenylcyclopropy radical may be estimated through the quantitative analyses of the relative yield of 7 to 19a.b. The relative reactivities  $(k_H/k_C)$ , calculated according to the Eq  $(3)^*$  are summarized in Table 4 and 5.

Table **4.** Relative **reactivity of ring-substituted toluenes in homolytic hydrogen abstraction reaction with 2**  phenylcyclopropyl radical generated from  $8°$ 

XC.H.CH.		$[7]^b$ (%) 10a,b <sup>c</sup> (%)	$k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm C}$	$\log k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm C}$
m-Cl	$11-3$	39.9	0.134	$-0.873$
v-Cl	10.5	$41 - 6$	0.120	$-0.921$
H	10.3	44.4	0.111	$-0.955$
$m$ -CH,	$10.1^{\circ}$	45.2	0.106	$-0.975$
p-CH,	$10.1^*$	$46 - 4$	0.104	$-0.983$

 $^{\circ}$  At 100°, 48 h, [8] **initial = 0.1M, [CCL]/[XC<sub>6</sub>H**,  $CH<sub>3</sub> = 1/2.$ 

**'Yield of 7 (([moles of 7]/2) [moles** *of* **8)).** 

**'Yield of 1Oa.b (([moles of lOa,bl/2) [moles of 8)).** 

**'Calculated according to Eq 3.** 

**\*Corrected for an additional Me group.** 

**\*Because of the formation of a small amount of 7 (0.4% from 8 and 0.3% from 9) in carbon tetrachloride. ah data were corrected by subtracting 0.5% (as the upper limit) from the yield of 7, as was done for the similar reaction of phenyl radical."** 

**Table 5. Relative reactivity of ring-substituted toluenes in homolytic hydrogen absttaction reaction with 2**  phenylcyclopropyl radical generated from 9<sup> $\bullet$ </sup>

XC.H.CH.		$[7]^{\bullet}$ (%) $[10a,b]^{\circ}$ (%) $k_H/k_C^4$		$log k_B/k_C$
$m$ –Cl	11-1	37.1	0.137	$-0.863$
p-Cl	$10-3$	$38 - 0$	0.121	$-0.917$
н	9. 1	$38 - 7$	0.112	$-0.951$
$m$ -CH $\lambda$	8.9*	$39-0$	0.108	$-0.967$
p-CH,	ጸ.ዎ	39.3	0.105	$-0.979$

 $^{\circ}$  At 100°, 48 h, [9] initial = 0.1M,  $[CCL]/[XC_{\circ}H_{\circ}CH_{3}]$  = **l/2** 

**bYield of 7 ([moles of 7]/[moles of 91)** 

**'Yield of 10a, b (fmoles of 10a, b)/fmoles of 91).** 

**'Calculated according to the Eq (3).** 

**\*Corrected 'corrected for an additional Me group.** 

$$
C_{\rm e}H, \longrightarrow C_{\rm e}H, \times
$$

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n\downarrow_{\mathsf{H}} & & \\
\downarrow_{\mathsf{H}} &
$$

 $\mathbf{C_6H_5}$ 

$$
\frac{7}{10}
$$

$$
X = p\text{-CH}_3, m\text{-CH}_3, H, p\text{-Cl}, m\text{-Cl}
$$

$$
k_{H}/k_{Cl} = \frac{[7] - 0.5}{[10a,b]} \cdot \frac{[CCL_{i}]}{[CH_{i}C_{r}H_{r}X]}
$$
(3)

# **DBCWSION**

As is shown in Table 2. in homolytic substitution reaction, cyclopropylation and phenylation gave a lower meta/para ratio than cyclohexylation for the electron-releasing substituents exhibiting orthopara orientation in the common electrophilic aromatic substitution reaction. On the other hand, just the reverse is observed for the strong electronattracting cyan0 group. It, thus, may suggest the

lower nucleophilicity of cyclopropyl and phenyl

Furthermore, it may be seen from Table 3 that **the** relative reactivities obtained for cyclopropylation and phenylation varied by less than a factor of 5-6 over the range of the aromatics listed in the  $p = 0.20$ Table, while those for cyclohexylation differed by almost a factor of 100. It appears that homolytic  $\Box$ aromatic cyclopropylation possesses similar selectivity to that of phenylation and is less selective than cyclohexylation. The correlation of meta partial rate factor  $(f_m)$  with Hammett's  $\sigma$ -parameters s in cyclopropylation is illustrated in Fig 1. A least square analysis of these plots gave a slope of 0.08 (correlation coefficient; 0.756, standard deviation; O-05). A similar correlation has been recently re ported for arylation<sup>9</sup> ( $\rho = 0.05$ ), cyclohexylation<sup>7</sup>



**Fig 1. Hammett's correlation for homolytic aromatic cyclopropylation.** 

The small  $\rho$ -value in Fig 1 may indicate little ionic character in the transition state of cyclop ropylation. Thus, it might be concluded from these experimental results that the cyclopropyl radical is fairly free from ionic character and considerably less selective in comparison with the common alkyl radical (e.g., cyclohexyl or methyl radical).

The nonpolar character of the cyclopropyl radical may also be shown from hydrogen abstraction reactions of Z-phenylcyclopropyl radical. The relative reactivities ( $k_H/k_{Cl}$ ) of ring-substituted toluenes toward the 2-phenylcyclopropyl radical gave good linear correlation with Hammett's  $\sigma$ -parameters as are shown in Figs 2 and 3. Least square analyses of the plots in Figs 2 and 3 give the same slope of O-20 (correlation coefficient;  $0.980$  (Fig 2),  $0.977$  (Fig 3), standard deviation O-014 (Figs 2 and 3)).

It would be interesting if a better correlation was obtained with  $\sigma$  rather than  $\sigma$ + values in cyclopropylation. The relatively electrophilic radicals such as Br atom<sup>17</sup>, trichloromethyl<sup>18</sup> or peroxy radical<sup>19</sup> showed better correlation with  $\sigma$ + than with  $\sigma$ , and gave substantially large negative  $\sigma$ -values in the same type of reactions as is shown in Table 6.



**Cl Fig 2. Hammett's** plots **of the relative reactivities of ring-substituted toluenes with 2-phenylcyclopropyl radical generated from 8.** 



**Fig 3. Hammett's plots of the relative reactivities of ring-substituted tpluenes in hydrogen abstraction reaction with 2-phenylcyclopropyl radical generated from 9.** 

**Table 6. Polar effect in hydrogen abstraction reactions of various radicals from ring-substituted toluenes** 

R'	o-value	better parameter
$Br^{\bullet}$	$-1.36$	$\sigma +$
$CCI^*$	$-1.46$	$\sigma +$
Cl <sup>o</sup>	0.66	$\sigma$ + or $\sigma$
t-BuO·	$-0.32 - 0.39$ <sup>4</sup> (-0.75) <sup>*</sup>	$\sigma$ + or $\sigma$
Ph·	$-0.10$	σ
$c-Pr$	$+0.20$	$\boldsymbol{\sigma}$

**'Ref 17, 'Ref 18, 'Ref 19, 'Ref 20, 'Ref 21. 'Ref 15** 

**The nonpolar character of phenyl radical at the transition state of similar hydrogen abstraction reaction from ring-substituted toluenes (** $\rho = -0.1$ **) was known." Therefore. on the basis of the present study, it seems to be reasonable to propose that the cyclopropyl radical is also almost completely free from polar character and substantially similar to the phenyl radical in reactivity.\* This conclusion is in good accordance with the chemical reactivity to be expected from the non-planar nearly sp'-hybridized**  configuration<sup>2-5b</sup> of the cyclopropyl radical. Finally, **these homolytic aromatic cyclopropylation might be of some synthetic utility especially for preparation of cyclopropyl cyanobenzene.** 

#### EXPERIMENTAL

### 77aennal decomposition of biscycloproponefonnyl *perox***ide (1)** in a series of substituted **benzenes**

**General procedure.** In 1Oml of one arene (benzene, anisol, monochlorobenzene, cyanobenzene and tbutylbenzene)  $1^{12}$  (0.85g; 0.005 moles) was dissolved and the soln was heated in an ampule at 100" for 48 h. Then the excess aromatic solvent was evaporated at ordinary pressure and the residue was distillated at reduced pressure. The distribution of the positional isomers of cyclopropylated benzenes and their yields were determined by the gas chromatographic technique (column: silicon DC 550 Sm, PEG 2M 5m and Golay Column MBMA 45m). All were isolated through a preparative gas chromatography and their configurations characterized by spectroscopic methods and elemental analyses. Some of them were identified by comparison of their spectroscopic and gas chromatographic behaviour with those of authentic samples.<sup>13</sup> The spectroscopic and analytical results of these products are shown in Tables 7 and 8.

Preparation of bis(trans - 2 - phenylcyclopropane) formyl peroxide (8). The title compound was prepared from oxidative coupling of *trans -* 2 - cyclopropanecarbonyl chloride with sodium peroxide according to a modified procedure,<sup>12</sup> m.p. 119°; yield: 49.6%.

Preparation of *t-butyl per* (trans - 2 - *phenyfcyclopropane carboxylate (9).* In 100 ml anhyd ether 1-butyl **hyd**roperoxide (54.Og; 0.60 moles) and anhyd pyridine  $(71.0 \text{ g}; 0.80 \text{ moles})$  was dissolved. To this ethereal soln, a soln of trans  $-2$  - cyclopropanecarbonyl chloride (36.1 g; 0.20moles) dissolved in 150 ml of anhyd ether was carefully added dropwise with vigorous stirring under cooling in an ice-water bath. The resulting whitesuspended soln stood for 24 h at room temp in the dark. Then the mixture was poured into 500 ml ice-water and extracted with ether 3 times. The combined ethereal layer was washed 3 times with  $10\%$  H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aq neutralized with 10% Na,CO, aq, finally washed with distilled water and dried *over MgSO,.* **After the** ether was evaporated under reduced pressure at room temp. the residual white solid was washed with n-pentane, m.p. 75~76°; yield: 80.0%; IR(nujor): 1765 cm-'  $\bigcup$ C=O], 1380 cm<sup>-1</sup> (-CH NMR (CCL, ppm):  $\tau = 2.82$  (doublet, 5H, phenyl ring protons), 7.30-7.67 (multiplet, lH, a benzylic proton), 7.85-8.90 (multiplet. 3H, cyclopropane ring protons), 868 (singlet, 9H, t-butyl methyl protons); (Found: C, 71.80; H 7.97. C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires: C, 71.77; H, 7.74%).

*Thermal decomposition of 8 or 9 in toluene.* **In 50 ml** freshly distilled toluene, 8 or 9 (0.05 moles) was dissolved and the soln was **heated** at loo" for 48 h in an ampule. The mixture was analyzed by the gas chromatographic technique using cumene as an internal **standard (column: sili**con DC 550 2m). Compounds  $7<sup>22</sup>$  and trans  $11<sup>23</sup>$  were obtained **in almost similar yields (ca 22-25%).** 

Thermal decomposition of 8 or 9 in carbon tetrach**loride. In** 100 ml freshlv distilled CCL. 8 or 9 (0.025 mole) was dissolved and the soln was heated at 100° for 48 h in an ampule. The mixture was cooled to room temp and **analyzed by the gas chromatographic technique using m-chloroallylbenzene as an internal standard. The pro**ducts consisted of large amounts of *cis* and *trans* **10a**,b<sup>24</sup>,

a small amount of *trans* **11 and** a trace amount of 7. **Homolytic** *competitioe abstraction of 2 phenylcyclopropyl radical from the mixture between each of ring-substituted toluene and carbon tetrachloride.* **In IO ml of the mixed solvent between 0.05 moles of one of the ring-substituted toluenes (m-chloro, p-chloro, nonsubstituted.** *m-methyl,* **p-methyl) and O-025 mole carbon tetrachloride, 0.001 moles of 8 (or the t-butyl perester 9)**  was dissolved. The soln was heated at 100° for 48 h in an **ampule. The mixture was cooled and analyzed by the gas chromatographic technique to obtain the yield** of **7 and the total yield of 1Oa.b. (column: silicon DC 550 5m and** PEG 2M 5m). At the same time, a few samples which consisted of various relative amounts of 7 lo **1Oa.b** were analyzed by the gas chromatographic technique to get the internal correction curve line. The relative reactivities  $(k_H/k_C)$ of each of the ring-substituted toluenes toward 2 phenylcyclopropyl radical were calculated according to the equation 3.

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*<sup>\*</sup>More* recently, Stefan? suggested the importance of steric effect in addition to that of electronic effect in addition reactions of cyclopropyl radical to a variety of olefines.

Table 7. The NMR, and IR spectra of the positional isomers of cyclopropyl benzenes

Cyclopropylated benzene deriv		NMR spectra $(\tau$ -value, ppm, in CCL)	IR spectra $(cm^{-1})$
CI	$(2)$ ortho	$2.66 \sim 3.29$ (m., 4 H), $7.56 \sim 8.12$ (m., 1 H) $8.87 - 9.56$ (m., 4 H)	740
	(2) meta	$2.85 \sim 3.30$ (m., 4 H), $8.00 \sim 8.34$ (m., 1 H) $8.87 - 9.48$ (m., 4 H)	775, 680
<b>CI</b>	$(2)$ para	$2.97$ (q., 4 H), $7.96 \sim 8.43$ (m., 1 H) $8.85 \sim 9.57$ (m., 4 H)	815
H <sub>3</sub> CO	$(3)$ ortho	$2.85 \sim 3.50$ (m., 4 H), 6.25 (s, 3 H) $7.63 \sim 8.13$ (m., 1 H), $8.92 \sim 9.60$ (m., 4 H)	740
OCH,	$(3)$ meta	$2.85 \sim 3.10$ (m., 4 H), 6.28 (s, 3 H) $7.90 \sim 8.45$ (m., 1 H), $8.93 \sim 9.55$ (m., 4 H)	770, 688
OCH,	$(3)$ para	$3.21$ (q., 4 H), 6.28 (s, 3 H) $7.95 \sim 8.55$ (m., 1 H), $8.94 \sim 9.57$ (m., 4 H)	819
CN	$(4)$ ortho	$2.34 \sim 3.24$ (m., 4 H), $7.45 \sim 7.97$ (m., 1 H) $8.60 - 9.52$ (m., 4 H)	755
CΝ	$(4)$ meta	$2.35 \sim 3.21$ (m., 4 H), 7.79z8.35 (m., 1 H) $8.62 - 9.45$ (m., 4 H)	792, 675
<b>CN</b>	$(4)$ para	$2.74$ (q., 4 H), $7.80$ $8.32$ (m., 1 H) $8.74 \sim 9.46$ (m., 4 H)	810
	$(5)$ meta	$2.84 \sim 3.38$ (m., 4 H), $8.05 \sim 8.41$ (m., 1 H) $8.73$ (s., 9 H), $8.87 \sim 9.45$ (m., 4 H)	775, 690
	$(5)$ para	$2.97$ (q., 4 H), 790 $-8.40$ (m., 1 H) $8.69$ (S., 9 H), $8.97 \sim 9.46$ (m., 4 H)	812
	$(6)$ ortho	$2.75 \sim 3.32$ (m., 4 H), 7.61 (s., 3 H) $7.76 \sim 8.43$ (m., 1 H), $8.90 \sim 9.47$ (m., 4 H)	745
H,C	(6) $meta*$	$2-75 \sim 3-32$ (m., 4 H) 7-71 (s., 3 H) 7-76 $\sim$ 8-43 (m., 1 H) 8-90 9-47 (m., 4 H)	770, 690
CH, CH,	$(6)$ para		805





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