

APPROACH TO THE SYNTHESIS OF "HEXACHLORO TRIS- σ -HOMOBENZENE"

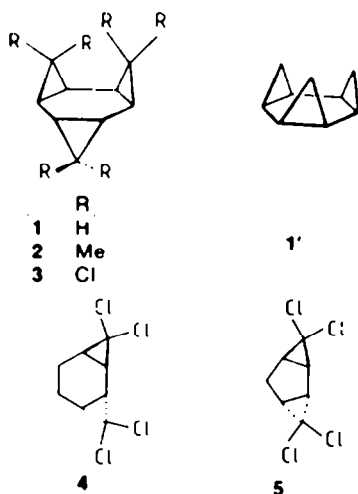
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Abstract—Oxidation of the cyclohexa-1,3-diene- CCl_2 bis-adduct **4** with chromium(VI) oxide in acetic acid gives the diketone **10**. Subsequent reduction with sodium borohydride, giving **11**, formation of thionocarbonate **12**, and elimination with trimethyl phosphite provides a facile synthesis of the tetrachloro bis- σ -homobenzene **9**, which is totally resistant to further attack of CCl_2 and epoxidation. Evidently the formation of hexachloro-tris- σ -homobenzene **3** is extremely hindered. Reaction of tetraphenyl allene **6** with CCl_2 gives the heptafulvene **13** in low yield. The previously-described¹ hexachloro tris- σ -homobenzene derivative **7**, however, could not be isolated.

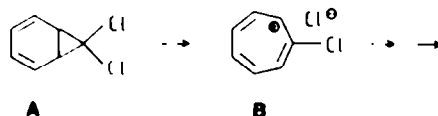
Tetracyclo[6.1.0.0^{2,4}.0^{5,7}]nonane ("tris- σ -homobenzene") and tris-hetero- σ -homobenzenes have been investigated several times from both the synthetic and theoretical points of view.^{2,3} Whereas the *anti* isomer **1** is stable,^{2a} the *syn* isomer **1'** has not yet been isolated due to the cycloreversion leading to tris- π -homobenzene.^{2c,d} Substituents R larger than hydrogen evidently decrease the stability of tris- σ -homobenzenes as indicated by the isomerization of **2** above 120°.⁴



In connection with our investigation of the reaction of dichlorocarbene with aromatic hydrocarbons,⁵ and of the stereochemical assignment of CCl_2 bis adducts to cyclic diolefins,⁶ we were interested in the synthesis of 3,3,6,6,9,9, - hexachloro - tetracyclo[6.1.0.0^{2,4}.0^{5,7}]nonane ("hexachloro tris- σ -homobenzene"), **3**. However, for **3** a large strain can be predicted because even in the *anti* structure two vicinal cyclopropane rings are *cis*-standing, caused by high sterical hindrance by the two *endo* chlorine atoms.

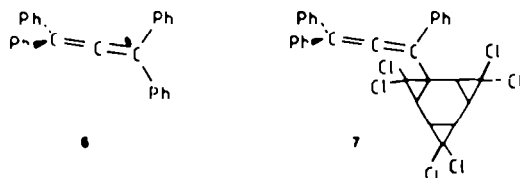
Evidently, the 1,3-cyclohexadiene- CCl_2 bis-adduct **4**, readily accessible in high yield, is formed only as an *anti* isomer.⁶ On the other hand, the facile formation of **4**, and even **5**^{6,7} (from cyclopentadiene, only a small amount of chlorobenzene as by-product) shows the power of the phase transfer method for a repeated addition of CCl_2 to diolefins. These observations prompted us to look for a synthesis of **3** despite expected stereochemical difficulties also shown by molecular

models. Unfortunately, the simplest synthesis of **3**, threefold addition of CCl_2 to benzene must be unsuccessful for at least two reasons. First, benzene itself is completely unreactive towards CCl_2 , even generated under most drastic conditions of phase transfer method.³ Furthermore, the hypothetical CCl_2 mono adduct to benzene, the noncaradiene derivative **A** should be notoriously unstable leading to the tropylium derivative **B** and its subsequent products.



This can unequivocally be predicted in consideration of the CCl_2 reaction with toluene,^{5a} naphthalene,^{5b} and many other simple aromatic hydrocarbons.^{5a-c} Only at aromatic systems extremely high substituted with electron donors (1,4,5,8-tetramethoxy naphthalene,^{8a} octamethyl naphthalene^{8b}), a further addition of CCl_2 to the norcaradiene intermediate proceeds faster than the rearrangement to the tropylium system.

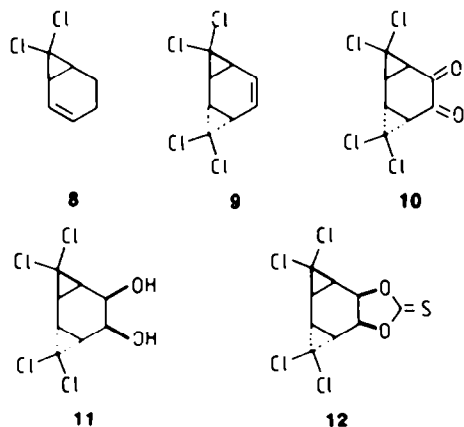
All these results regarding the behaviour of aromatic compounds during the reaction with CCl_2 seem to be contrary to an observation of Greibrokk¹ who claimed a non-crystalline compound with $M = 590$ to be the hexachloro tris- σ -homobenzene derivative **7**, as the only reaction product (10% yield) from tetraphenyl allene **6** and CCl_2 . This publication¹ has been for us an additional stimulation to investigate systematically the problem mentioned above.



Synthesis and properties of tetrachloro bis- σ -homobenzene **9**

The precursor for a synthesis of **3** should be the tetrachloro bis- σ -homobenzene **9**, the so called benzene- CCl_2 bis adduct. A further CCl_2 addition, if possible, should lead to **3**. On the way to the hitherto unknown **9** we had to avoid the stage of the norcaradiene **A**. There-

fore, the synthesis strategy had to be focussed to two key steps. Either an additional functional group will be introduced into **8** which allows after a further CCl_2 addition to generate compound, or bis-adduct **4** is capable to be functionalized in order to obtain **9**. We started the first way from **8**, most readily accessible by treatment of 1,3-cyclo-hexadiene with equivalent amounts of CCl_2 [chloroform/NaOH/benzyltriethylammonium chloride (BTEAC)] in methylene chloride. However, reaction of **8** with NBS failed under various conditions.⁹ Obviously, the reactivity of the double bond is decreased by the dichloro cyclopropane ring. Treatment of **8** with *t*-butyl chromate gave a complex mixture of many compounds not easily to separate.



We turned now to the oxidation of **4**. Again bromination by several methods failed,⁹ even reaction with ozone on silica gel furnished only starting material although bis- σ -homobenzene (without chloro substituents) could be readily converted to the respective ketone by this method.^{2b} This behaviour shows again the decreased reactivity of functional groups by dichloro cyclopropane rings.

Finally, we succeeded by reaction of **4** with chromic acid in glacial acetic acid at 80° to obtain the diketone **10**. The yield remained low despite attempts to optimize the reaction. After 1.5h reaction time 10% of **10** could be obtained, whereas longer reaction time favoured side reactions. **10** has a highly symmetrical structure indicated by both ^1H (AA'BB'-system) and ^{13}C NMR spectra (4

signals). **10** was smoothly converted to the diol **11** by treatment with sodium borohydride in aqueous ethanol at room temperature. The hydroxy groups of **11** are spectroscopically shown to be *cis*, because equivalent C- and H-atoms (e.g. C-3, -8 and H-5, -6) gave different signals. According to the method of Corey and Winter¹⁰ **11** has been transformed *via* thiono-carbonate **12** into the desired compound **9**. All the spectroscopic data provide unequivocal evidence for the structure. In the ^1H NMR spectrum the olefinic and allylic protons show an AA'XX'-system with $J_{\text{XX}'} = 9$ Hz for the olefinic protons. The non-allylic cyclopropane protons are more downfield shifted than the allylic protons by the anisotropic effect of the chloro atoms in a very close position.

However, **9** is completely unreactive towards further CCl_2 addition. Neither the classical route from chloroform and potassium *t*-butoxide¹¹ nor the phase transfer method^{6,12} with various catalysts gave any result. Even after 100h refluxing with chloroform/NaOH/BTEAC no traces of **3** could be detected, the starting material **9** was recovered. Obviously, even a dichloro-cyclopropane and an oxirane ring on the same side of the six-membered ring are extremely hindered, because treatment of **9** with *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (MCPBA) at various temperatures up to 90° ¹³ was also absolutely unsuccessful.

Reaction of tetraphenyl allene **6** with CCl_2

Since in view of our experiments with **9** the results of Greibrokk¹ seem surprising, we repeated carefully the reaction of **6** with CCl_2 . Under normal conditions¹ we obtained only starting material. Under changed conditions with much more catalyst¹⁴ we isolated after removing starting material a crystalline compound by tlc in 8% yield. According to MS the formula is $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_2$, formed by addition of CCl_2 to **6**. Neither ^1H nor ^{13}C NMR spectra show other signals than those for conjugated double bonds. A possible reaction pathway could lead to **13** via addition of CCl_2 to one of the three different aromatic double bonds and subsequent rearrangement. There are some reasons for this assumption: addition of *one* CCl_2 to an aromatic system with high electron density occurs easily^{15,16} followed by cleavage of the cyclo-propane ring generating a tropylium system.¹⁷ Normally, the tropylium cation is deprotonated at a methyl substituent under formation of a heptafulvene. In our case no proton can be eliminated but the allene system will be able to close this gap, providing the conjugated compound **13**. Addition of CCl_2 to the allenic

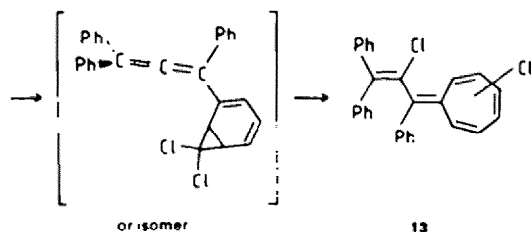
Table I. ^{13}C chemical shifts^a of 3,3,8,8-Tetrachloro tricyclo{5.1.0.0^{2,4}}octanes

Compd.	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-8	C-4	C-7	C-5	C-6
4 ^a								
	26.9		65.4		22.4		16.1	
9	(28.4)		64.2		(28.6)		122.4	
10	33.4		60.4		43.1		182.1	
11	26.4	25.2	61.6	60.8	34.2	32.7	64.3	63.7
12 ^b	27.0	24.4	59.5	57.9	30.2	28.2	75.6	72.3

^a In ppm from Me_4Si ; solvent CDCl_3 ; data in brackets are exchangeable.

^b C=S: 189.6

double bond with subsequent rearrangement can be excluded by the spectroscopic data of 13.



CONCLUSION

Tetrachloro bis- σ -homobenzene **9** is a completely unreactive compound and resists further attack of CCl_2 , even under most drastic conditions. Therefore, it might be impossible or at least very difficult to synthesize **3** or any related hexachloro tris- σ -homobenzenes because the spatial interaction of the two *endo* chloro atoms is prohibitive. With respect to our results we believe structure **7** assigned by Greibrokk¹ must be wrong. A possible structure for the compound¹ with $M = 590$ obtained by Greibrokk could be given by further twofold addition of CCl_2 to the more reactive double bond of **13**, although we have never detected such a compound.

EXPERIMENTAL

All b.p.s and m.p.s are uncorrected. IR spectra were determined using Perkin-Elmer 225 (KBr) and 257 (CCl_4) spectrometers, UV spectra using a Beckman DK 2A spectrometer. ^1H NMR spectra (CDCl_3) using a Bruker WH 270 spectrometer; ^{13}C NMR spectra (CDCl_3) using a Varian CFT-20 spectrometer (TMS as internal standard). MS spectra were determined on a Varian MAT 711 spectrometer (70 eV). Purity was checked by tlc and GC (Perkin-Elmer F-7, glass column 82 S 557, N_2). All organic solns after work-up were dried over MgSO_4 . (PE = Petroleum ether).

7,7-Dichlorobicyclo[4.1.0]hept-2-ene **8**

To a stirred soln of 1,3-cyclohexadiene (12.0 g; 0.15 mole), CHCl_3 (19.2 g; 0.16 mole), and benzyltriethylammonium chloride (BTEAC; 0.3 g) in CH_2Cl_2 (50 ml) at r.t., 15 ml of 50% NaOH aq was added slowly dropwise. After 6h refluxing the cooled mixture was diluted with 200 ml water and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted thrice with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic layers were washed with water, evaporated, and distilled to give 16.3 g (67%) **8**, b.p. 76–78°/12 torr (lit¹¹, b.p. 52.5–53°/1.25 torr). IR (CCl_4): 3040 s, 1650 w cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR: δ 1.75–2.15 (m, 6H), 5.88, 5.93 (br. AB-system, $J_{AB} = 11$ Hz, 2-, 3-H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 16.0, 20.9 (2 \times d), 27.1, 28.8 (2 \times t), 67.3 (s), 120.3, 130.0 (2 \times d).

5,5,8,8-Tetrachlorotricyclo[5.1.0.0^{4,6}]octane-2,3-dione **10**

To a stirred soln of 13.0 g CrO_3 in 350 ml glacial acetic acid (HOAc) at 80° a soln of 5.5 g (22.4 mmole) of **4** in 100 ml HOAc was added within 20 min. After 1.5h at 80° the mixture was cooled and most of HOAc was removed at 40° *in vacuo*. To the residue 300 ml CHCl_3 was added, and this soln was washed four times with water. After removing the CHCl_3 , 50 ml PE was added; orange-red crystals were filtered off, and recrystallized from CHCl_3 , m.p. 215–218°. The PE soln gave after evaporation 2.0 g **4**. Total yield of **10**: 0.41 g (10.5%). IR (KBr): 1722 s, 1708 vs cm^{-1} . UV (MeOH): λ (nm) 233 ($\epsilon = 2140$), 420 (25). ^1H -NMR: δ 3.00, 3.07 (AA'BB'-system, $J_{AB} = J_{A'B'} = 8$, $J_{AA'} = 6.5$, $J_{BB'} = J_{BB'} = 0$ Hz). MS: m/e 272, 274, 276, 278 (M^+ , Cl-isotope pattern, 4%), 216, 218, 220, 222 (M-2 CO, 45), 181, 183, 185 (M-2 CO, -Cl, 90), 146, 148, 150 (M-2 CO, -2Cl, 56), 111, 113 (M-2 CO, -3Cl, 36), 75 (M-2 CO, -3Cl, -HCl, 55), 73 (65), 69 (30), 63 (30), 50 (32), 43 (100). Found: C, 35.29; H, 1.58; Cl, 51.92. $\text{C}_8\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_4\text{O}_2$ requires: C, 35.08; H, 1.47; Cl, 51.77%.

5,5,8,8-Tetrachlorotricyclo[5.1.0.0^{4,6}]octane-2,3-diol **11**

0.33 g (1.2 mmole) of **10** was dissolved in 150 ml EtOH, 15 ml water, and 0.06 g NaBH_4 were added, and stirred for 24h. Most of the solvent was removed *in vacuo*, 50 ml water was added, and acidified by addition of 10% aq HCl. After extraction thrice with ether and evaporation, 0.32 crude oil remained. Chromatography on silica gel with CHCl_3 afforded 0.17 g (51%) colourless crystals, m.p. 124–126° (ether/PE). IR (KBr): 3600–3150 br cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR: δ 2.0–2.2 (m, 1-, 4-, 6-, 7-H), 2.65, (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, OH), 2.75 (d, $J = 7$ Hz, OH), 4.03 (ddd, $J = 8.5$, 6, 2.5 Hz, 2-H), 4.44 (ddd, $J = 7$, 6.5, 6 Hz, 3-H). MS: m/e no M^+ , 216, 218, 220, 222 (M-2 CHOH, Cl-isotope pattern, 16%), 181, 183, 185 (M-2 CHOH, -Cl, 25), 141 (23), 113 (25), 77 (27), 60 (64), 58 (34), 43 (100). Found: C, 34.44; H, 2.81; Cl, 51.26. $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{Cl}_4\text{O}_2$ requires: C, 34.57; H, 2.90; Cl, 51.02%.

8,8,11,11-Tetrachloro-3,5-dioxatetracyclo[8.1.0.0^{2,7}.0^{4,9}]undecane-4-thione (11-thionocarbonate) **12**

To a soln of 0.15 g (0.84 mmol) of N,N-thiocarbonyl diimidazole¹⁶ in 50 ml dry toluene at 120° a soln of 0.23 g (0.83 mmole) **11** in 100 ml dry toluene was added (N_2 atmosphere). After 2h refluxing the soln was cooled, and poured into 200 ml water. The layers were separated, the organic layer washed thrice with water and concentrated *in vacuo*. Chromatography of the crude oil on silica gel with ether/PE (1:1) afforded 0.18 g (68%) **12**, m.p. 209–211° (ether/PE). ^1H -NMR: δ 2.27 (dd, $J = 10.5$, 8.5 Hz, 1-H), 2.41, 2.45 (AB-system, $J_{AB} = 10$ Hz, H_A as d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, H_B as d, $J = 1$ Hz, 9-, 7-H), 2.52 (dd, $J = 10.5$, 1.5 Hz, 10-H), 5.17 (dd, $J = 9.5$, 1 Hz, 6-H), 5.46 (dd, $J = 9.5$, 8.5 Hz, 2-H). MS: m/e = 318, 320, 322, 324 (M^+ , Cl-isotope pattern, 4%), 241, 243, 245 (8), 206, 208, 210 (7), 193, 195, 197 (11), 176, 178, 180 (20), 159, 161, 163 (85), 125 (100). Found: C, 33.62; H, 1.75; Cl, 44.17. $\text{C}_9\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_4\text{O}_2\text{S}$ requires: C, 33.78; H, 1.89; Cl, 44.31%.

5,5,8,8-Tetrachlorotricyclo[5.1.0.0^{4,6}]oct-2-ene **9**

A soln of 0.20 g (0.63 mmol) of **12** in 10 ml trimethylphosphite was refluxed for 80h (N_2 atmosphere).¹⁰ After addition of 20 ml 20% aq NaOH the mixture was extracted with ether. The ether phase was washed with water, and evaporated. Chromatography of the residue on silica gel with PE afforded 80 mg (53%) **9**, m.p. 76–78°. IR: (KBr): 3060 m, 3030 s, 1650 w cm^{-1} . ^1H -NMR: δ 2.00, 5.89 (AA'XX'-system, $J_{AA'} = 0$, $J_{AX} = 3$, $J_{AX'} = J_{A'X} = 1.5$, $J_{XX'} = 9$ Hz, H_A and $H_{A'}$ as d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-H), 2.25 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 6-, 7-H). MS: m/e 242, 244, 246, 248 (M^+ , Cl-isotope pattern, 5%), 207, 209, 211 (M-Cl, 18), 171, 173, 175 (M-Cl, -HCl, 100), 159, 161, 163, (24), 143, 145, 147 (25), 136, 138 (M-2 Cl, -HCl, 95), 125 (24), 111 (25), 99 (28), 75 (50). Found: C, 39.16; H, 2.31; Cl, 58.05. $\text{C}_8\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_4$ requires: C, 39.39; H, 2.48; Cl, 58.13%.

Experiments on the reaction of **9** with CCl_2

(a) A stirred mixture of 30 mg (0.12 mmole) of **9**, 0.4 g KOtBu , 7 ml CHCl_3 , and 12 ml pentane was allowed to react at 0° for 12h. After usual work-up only starting material was isolated. (b) A stirred mixture of 35 mg (0.14 mmole) of **9**, 15 ml CHCl_3 , 8 ml 50% aq NaOH, and 40 mg BTEAC was refluxed for 8h. After usual work-up only starting material was isolated. (c) As (b) but 40h refluxing. (d) As (b) but 100h refluxing. (e) As (b) but with 25 mg dibenzo-18-crown-6 as catalyst, 8h refluxing. (f) As (e) but 40h refluxing. (c)-(f) gave the same result; only starting material in various amounts was isolated. No other compounds were detected (tlc).

Experiments on the reaction of **9** with MCPBA

(A) A soln of 25 mg (0.1 mmole) of **9** in 12 ml dry CH_2Cl_2 was allowed to react with 30 mg (0.17 mmole) MCPBA for 5 days at 0°. After usual work-up only starting material could be isolated. (b) As (a) but 5 days at r.t. Only starting material was obtained. (c) As (a) but in 1,2-dichloro ethane for 6h at 90° (reflux). Only starting material was obtained.

Tetraphenylallene **6** obtained according to Ref. [17], via 1,3,3-tri-phenylprop-2-ene-1-one,¹⁹ m.p. 163–165° (lit¹⁹ 165–166°). ^{13}C NMR: δ 112.7 ($\text{Ph}_2\text{C}=\text{C}$), 127.5, 128.5, 136.5 (phenyl), 208.5 ($=\text{C}$). MS: m/e 344 (M^+ , 100%), 267 (M-phenyl, 35), 252 (10) 154 (12), 105 (11).

Reaction of 6 with CCl₄

A mixture of 0.34 g (1.0 mmole of 6, 25 ml CHCl₃), 25 ml 50% NaOH aq. and 0.2 g BTEAC was stirred for 3 days at 0°. After usual work-up 0.44 g residue was obtained. Preparative layer chromatography on silica gel with PE/ether (98:2) allowed separation of 0.28 g 6 (first fraction), and 37 mg (9%) α -chloro-7-[1-(1-chloro-2,2-diphenylethyl)-1-phenyl]-methyliden-1,3,5-cycloheptatriene 13 (second fraction), m.p. 63–66° (PE/CHCl₃). IR (KBr): 1700 s (br.), 1675 s (br.), 1595 m cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 7.1–7.8 (m). ¹³C NMR: δ 125.2, 125.8, 127.0, 127.2, 127.4, 127.6, 128.0, 128.2, 128.6, 128.9, 129.3, 129.5, 129.8, 130.1, 130.4, 130.7, 138.7, 142.0, 142.2. MS: *m/e* 426, 428 (M⁺, Cl-isotope pattern, 4%), 425, 427 (17), 391, 389 (M–Cl, 20), 390, 288 (M–HCl, 16), 372 (28), 371 (30), 356 (M–2Cl, 18), 355 (M–Cl, –HCl, 24), 354 (M–2HCl, 17). MS (high resolu): C₂₂H₂₀³⁵Cl₂, calc. 426.0929, obs. 426.0916, C₂₂H₁₉³⁵Cl₂, calc. 425.0868, obs. 425.0872.

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