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Journal of Organometallic Chemistry 692 (2007) 3901-3906

www.elsevier.com/locate/jorganchem

Si–C coupling reaction of polychloromethanes with HSiCl₃ in the presence of Bu₄PCl: Convenient synthetic method for bis(chlorosilyl)methanes

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> Received 15 February 2007; received in revised form 16 May 2007; accepted 17 May 2007 Available online 2 June 2007

Abstract

Coupling reaction of polychloromethanes $CH_{4-n}CI_n$ (n = 2-4) with HSiCl₃ in the presence of tetrabutylphosphonium chloride (Bu₄PCl) as a catalyst occurred at temperatures ranging from 30 °C to 150 °C. The reactivity of polychloromethanes increases as the number of chlorine-substituents on the carbon increases. In the reactions of CCl₄ with HSiCl₃, a variety of coupling products such as bis(chlorosilyl)methanes $CH_2(SiCl_3)(SiXCl_2)$ [X = Cl (1a), H (1b)], (chlorosilyl)trichloromthanes $Cl_3CSiXCl_2$ [X = Cl (2a), H (2b)], and (chlorosilyl)dichloromthanes $Cl_2HCSiXCl_2$ [X = Cl (3a), H (3b)] were obtained along with reductive dechlorination products such as CHCl₃ and CH₂Cl₂ depending on the reaction temperature. In the reaction of CCl₄, 2a is formed at the initial stage of the coupling reaction and converted to give CHCl₃ at low temperature of 30 °C, to give 1a, 3a, and CHCl₃ at 60 °C, and to afford 1a as major product and CH₂Cl₂ in competition above 100 °C. Si–H bond containing silylmethanes can be formed by the H–Cl exchange reaction with HSiCl₃. Reaction of CHCl₃ with HSiCl₃ took placed at 80 °C to give three compounds 1a, 3a, and CH₂Cl₂, and finally 3a was converted to give 1a and CH₂Cl₂ at longer reaction time. While the condition for the reaction of CCl₄ and CHCl₃ at 100 °C for 8 h, respectively, and in 41% (34:7) yield from that of CH₂Cl₂ at 170 °C for 12 h. In the Si–C coupling reaction of polychloromethanes with HSiCl₃, it seems likely that a trichlorosilyl anion generated from the reaction of HSiCl₃ with Bu₄PCl is an important key intermediate.

Keywords: Tetrachloromethane; Chloroform; Methylene chloride; Bis(chlorosilyl)methane; Trichlorosilane; Si-C coupling

1. Introduction

Trichlorosilane (HSiCl₃) undergoes a variety of interesting and useful Si–C bond formation reactions with organometallic reagents [1] and unsaturated organic compounds in the presence of transition metal complexes [2] to give various organosilanes containing Si–Cl bonds as functionalities, which are used as important starting materials in the silicones industry [3]. Another established Si–C bond forming method is the organic base-catalyzed reaction of activated alkyl chlorides such as benzyl chloride and polychlromethane with HSiCl₃ [4]. Tertiary amines catalyze the coupling reaction of activated polychloromethanes [4] such as chloroform (CHCl₃) and carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) [5] with HSiCl₃ affording bis(chlorosilyl)methanes in moderate yields, respectively. Recently, we have reported successful coupling reactions with organic chlorides affording alkyltrichlorosilanes in high yields in the presence of quaternary phosphonium chloride as a catalyst in place of amine [6,7], the introduction of SiCl₂ moiety to butadienes to form 1,1dichlorosilacyclopent-3-enes [8], and the double silylation

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of olefins with HSiCl₃ to produce α,β -(trichlorosilyl)alkanes as major products [9]. In the coupling reaction of primary alkyl chlorides, their reactivity depends on the substituents at the carbon of C-Cl. The reaction of activated alkyl chlorides such as allyl chlorides and benzyl chlorides occurs at 130 °C, but those of unactivated alkyl chlorides such as 1hexyl chloride and 1-octyl chloride require the high temperature of 170 °C [7]. The success of these coupling reactions prompted us to extend this reaction to polychloromethanes $CH_{4-n}Cl_n$ (n = 2-4), which are expected to react with HSiCl₃ to yield poly(silyl)methanes as coupling products. The reaction of polychloromethanes with HSiCl₃ in the presence of Bu₄PCl occurred at the temperatures ranging from 30 °C to 150 °C depending on chlorine-substituents on the carbon to give a variety of Si-C coupling products and reductive dechlorination compounds. Herein, we wish to report the Bu₄PCl-catalyzed reaction of polychloromethanes with HSiCl₃ and a mechanism for the formation of Si-C coupling compounds in details.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Reaction of CCl₄ with HSiCl₃

When the most activated CCl₄ among the polychloromethanes reacted with HSiCl₃, a variety of coupling products such as bis(chlorosilyl)methanes CH₂(SiCl₃)(SiXCl₂) [X = Cl (**1a**), H (**1b**)], (chlorosilyl)trichloromethanes Cl₃CSiXCl₂ [X = Cl (**2a**), H (**2b**)], and (chlorosilyl)dichloromethanes Cl₂HCSiXCl₂[X = Cl (**3a**), H (**3b**)] were obtained along with reductive dechlorination products such as CHCl₃ and CH₂Cl₂ depending on the reaction temperatures (Eq. (1)). Si–H bond containing silylmethanes (**1b**–**3b**) can be formed by the H–Cl exchange reaction with HSiCl₃. The results obtained from the reactions of CCl₄ with HSiCl₃ at temperatures ranging from 30 °C to 130 °C are summarized in Table 1.

 $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Cl} (\mathbf{a}), \mathbf{H} (\mathbf{b})$

As shown in Table 1, the reaction of CCl₄ with HSiCl₃ occurred at 30 °C and gave a coupling product 2a (3%) and a reductive dechlorination product $CHCl_3$ (42%) as a major product with a 45% consumption of CCl₄ for 8 h (entry 1). At the higher temperature of 60 °C, a 4 h reaction gave a 76% consumption of CCl₄ and afforded a 3:2 mixture of 2a and 2b and CHCl₃ in 48% and 27% yields, respectively, (entry 2) and an 8 h reaction with all consumption of CCl_4 gave a 15:1 mixture of 1a and 1b, a 15:1 mixture of 2a and 2b, and a 12:1 mixture of 3a and **3b** in 16%, 16% and 13% yields, respectively, as well as $CHCl_3$ in 53% yield (entry 3). When the same reaction was carried out at the temperature of 80 °C, all CCl₄ was consumed within 2 h to give a 34:3 mixture of 1a and 1b and a 14:1 mixture of 3a and 3b in 37% and 15% yields along with reductive dechlorination products such as $CHCl_3$ (47%) and CH_2Cl_2 (1%) (entry 4). In a longer 8 h reaction at 80 °C, the yield of compounds 1 consisted of a 51:3 mixture of **1a** and **1b** increased up to 54% along with CH₂Cl₂ (11%), but that of CHCl₃ decreased to 31%, suggesting that the coupling reaction of CHCl₃ with HSiCl₃ takes place at 80 °C (entry 5). The yield of a mixture of 1 was maximized to 69% in an 8 h reaction at 100 °C (entry 6) and then decreased to 53% in a 1 h reaction at a higher temperature of 130 °C (entry 7). When HSiMeCl₂ was used as a hydrosilane instead of HSiCl₃, no Si-C coupling reaction with CCl₄ even at 80 °C was observed. In the reaction of CCl_4 with HSiCl₃, the coupling product 2a formed at the beginning stage is an important intermediate leading to silylmethanes 3 and CHCl₃ (entries 2 and 3), and finally to bis-silulation products 1.

2.2. Reaction of Cl₃SiCCl₃ (2a) with HSiCl₃

In order to look into the reaction pathway to 1 from CCl₄, monosilylated compounds 2a, formed at the early

$$CCl_4 + HSiCl_3 \longrightarrow Cl_3Si-CH_2-SiXCl_2 + Cl_2XSi-CCl_3 + Cl_2XSi-CHCl_2 + CHCl_3 + CH_2Cl_2 + CHCl_3 + CHCl_3 + CH_2Cl_2 + CHCl_3 + CHCl_3 + CHCl_3 + CH_2Cl_2 + CHCl_3 +$$

Table 1	
$Bu_4PCl\mbox{-}catalyzed\ reactions\ of\ CCl_4\ with\ HSiCl_3^a$	

Entry #	CCl_4^b	Reaction conditions		Product yields (%) ^c					
		Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	1 (a:b)	2 (a:b)	3 (a:b)	CHCl ₃	CH ₂ Cl ₂	
1	55	30	8	_	3(3:-)		42		
2	24	60	4	_	48 (29:19)		27		
3		60	8	16 (15:1)	16 (15:1)	13 (12:1)	53		
4		80	2	37 (34:3)	-	15 (14:1)	47	1	
5		80	8	54 (51:3)	_	3 (3:-)	31	11	
6		100	8	69 (67:2)	_		_	30	
7		130	1	53 (52:1)	_		_	33	

^a The reaction was carried out using a 10:60:1 mol ratio of CCl₄, HSiCl₃, and Bu₄PCl.

^b Unreacted CCl₄ (%) remained.

^c Yields are on the basis of CCl₄ used and were determined by GLC with use of internal standard.

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stage of the reactions with CCl_4 at low temperatures, were isolated and reacted with $HSiCl_3$ in the presence of Bu_4PCl catalyst, respectively. The reaction of **2a** with $HSiCl_3$ afforded the bis-silylation compounds **1a**, monosilylated dichloromethanes **3**, and $CHCl_3$ (Eq. (2)). The results obtained from the reaction with **2a** are summarized in Table 2

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Cl}_{3}\text{Si-CCl}_{3} + \text{HSiCl}_{3} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{Bu}_{4}\text{PCl}} \text{Cl}_{3}\text{Si-CH}_{2} - \text{SiXCl}_{2} + \text{Cl}_{2}\text{XSi-CHCl}_{2} + \text{CH}_{2}\text{Cl}_{3} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{I}} & \xrightarrow{I$$

As Table 2 shows, the reaction of 2a with HSiCl₃ occurred at 30 °C and afforded the Si-C coupling products 1a (2%) and 3a (5%), and CHCl₃ (8%) with a 16% consumption of 2a for 1 h (entry 8). In a 4 h reaction, 65% of 2a was consumed to give 1a, a 23:3 mixture of 3a and 3b, and CHCl₃ in 7%, 26%, and 32% yields, suggesting that the formation of CHCl₃ was more favorable than that of 1 at 30 °C (entry 9). When this reaction was carried out at the higher temperature of 60 °C, the yields of 1a and CHCl₃ increased from 23% and 38% for a 4 h to 33% and 42% for a 8 h, respectively, but that of the mixture of 3a and 3b decreased from 25% to 22% from the 86% and 97% consumptions of 2 for 4 h and 8 h, respectively (entries 10 and 11). The results indicate that compounds 2 are key intermediates converting to form 1 and CHCl₃. CHCl₃ can be formed by the reaction of **2** with HCl in the presence of Bu_4PCl .

Table 2 Bu₄PCl-catalyzed reactions of **2a** with HSiCl^a₃

2.3. Reaction of CHCl₃ with HSiCl₃

In order to look into the reactivity of CHCl₃, the reaction of CHCl₃ with HSiCl₃ was carried out at the temperatures ranging from 60 to 100 °C. The results obtained from the reaction of CHCl₃ with HSiCl₃ are summarized in Table 3.

As shown in Table 3, the reaction of CHCl₃ with HSiCl₃ did not occur at 60 °C for 4 h (entry 12), but gave a 3:1 mixture of **1a** and **1b**, and **3a** in 12% and 1% yields, respectively, with a 31% consumption of CHCl₃ at 80 °C for 8 h (entry 13). Reaction of CHCl₃ at a higher temperature of 100 °C for 8 h afforded a 9:1 mixture of **1a** and **1b** in 51% yield along with CH₂Cl₂ (48%) (entry 14). An 1 h reaction at 130 °C gave a 34:4 mixture of **1a** and **1b** in 38% yield along with CH₂Cl₂ (48%), suggesting that **3a** is one of the key intermediates for the formation of **1** and CH₂Cl₂ from CHCl₃ (entry 15).

To test whether tris(chlorosiyl)methanes (4) [10] can be readily formed and stable in our reaction conditions, the reaction of 4 with HCl gas was carried out in the presence Bu_4PCl at room temperature. Compound 4 was immediately decomposed by bubbling of HCl to form 1a and SiCl₄ (Eq. (3)). The result suggests that tris(siyl)methanes can be formed from the reactions of CCl₄ and CHCl₃ with HSiCl₃, but immediately decomposed by HCl to produce 1a and SiCl₄

$$CH(\underset{4}{SiCl_{3}})_{3} + HCl \xrightarrow[RT]{Bu_{4}PCl}{Pcl} Cl_{3}Si - CH_{2}SiCl_{3} + SiCl_{4}$$
(3)

Entry #	2 (a : b) ^b	Reaction conditions		Product yields (%) ^c		
		Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	<u>1a</u>	3 (a:b)	CHCl ₃
8	84 (55:29)	30	1	2	5 (5:-)	8
9	35 (31:4)	30	4	7	26 (23:3)	32
10	14 (11:3)	60	4	23	25 (23:2)	38
11	3 (3:-)	60	8	33	22 (21:1)	42

^a Reaction was carried out using a 10:40:1 mol ratio of 2a, HSiCl₃, and Bu₄PCl.

^b The number in parenthesis represents 2 (%) remained.

^c Yields are on the basis of **2** used and were determined by GLC with use of internal standard.

Table 3				
Bu ₄ PCl-catalyzed	reactions of	$CHCl_3$	with H	HSiCl ₃

Entry #	CHCl ₃ ^b	Reaction conditions		Product yields (%) ^c		
		Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	1 (a:b)	3 (a:b)	CH_2Cl_2
12	100	60	4			
13	69	80	8	12 (9:3)	1 (1:-)	18
14		100	8	51 (46:5)		48
15		130	1	38 (34:4)		48

^a Reaction was carried out using a 10:60:1 mol ratio of CHCl₃, HSiCl₃, and Bu₄PCl.

^b Unreacted CHCl₃ (%).

^c Product yields are on the basis of CHCl₃ used and were determined by GLC with use of internal standard.

2.4. Synthesis of bis(chlorosilyl)methanes

In order to synthesize bis(chlorosilyl)methanes 1, the reactions were carried out at 5 times scaleup and products 1 were isolated by distillation of the reaction mixtures obtained from the Bu_4PCl catalyzed reaction of polychloromethanes such as CH_2Cl_2 , $CHCl_3$, and CCl_4 with $HSiCl_3$ under optimum conditions (4). The results are summarized in Table 4

$$CH4 - nCl_n + HSiCl_3 \xrightarrow{Bu_4PCl} Cl_3Si - CH_2 - SiXCl_2 + Others$$

$$_{n=2,3,4} I(X=Cl_a;H,b)$$
(4)

As shown in Table 1, the higher chlorinated methanes, CCl₄ and CHCl₃, are much more reactive than CH₂Cl₂ in the coupling reaction with HSiCl₃ at 170 °C. Reactions of CCl₄ and CHCl₃ at 100 °C for 8 h gave the isomeric mixtures of 1a and 1b in 65% and 47% isolated yields, respectively. In addition to bis-silvlation compounds 1a and 1b, CH₂Cl₂ was obtained as the reductive dechlorination product in 29% and 42% yields, respectively (entries 16 and 17). However, the reaction of CH₂Cl₂ proceeded slowly at the higher temperature of 170 °C for 24 h gave a 34:7 mixture of bis-silvlation products, 1 and methyltrichlorosilane in 41% and 8% yields along with methyltrichlorosilane (12%) and high boilers (entry 18). In the reactions with polychloromethanes, the yields of the mixture of 1a and 1b and the ratio of 1a to 1b increase as the number of chlorine-substituents on the carbon increases. This Si-C coupling reaction is a useful synthetic process for the preparation of bis(chlorosilyl)methanes starting from polychloromethanes in laboratory scale, even though it were reported that bis(chlorosilyl)methanes were synthesized in 55% and 36% yields from the Si-C coupling reaction of CHCl₃ with HSiCl₃ using excess amount of tertiary amine as a catalyst and HCl scavenger at CH₃CN solvent [4b] and direction of elemental silicon with a gaseous mixture of CH₂Cl₂ and HCl at the high temperature of 280 °C [11], respectively.

On the basis of our results, we propose a mechanism for the Bu_4PCl -catalyzed coupling reaction of $HSiCl_3$ with CCl_4 as a representative polychloromethane as shown in Scheme 1. $HSiCl_3$ undergoes a disproportionation reaction in the presence of Bu_4PCl [7] to give dichlorosilane and tetrachlorosilane as that in the presence of quaternary ammonium chloride as an organic salt catalyst [12]. All chlorosilanes could be involved in coupling reaction. In the first stage of Si-C coupling reaction of CCl₄ with HSiCl₃, Bu₄PCl interacts with HSiCl₃ to form a pentacoordinated intermediate which loses hydrogen chloride to produce a silvl anion intermediate I [1,3]. This intermediate I reacts with CCl₄ to give Cl⁻ and 2a, which subsequently reacts with the intermediate I to afford bis- and tris(silyl)chloromethanes. Compound 2a and its silvlated methane reacts with Cl⁻ or the intermediate I to give CHCl₃, **3a**, and bis(trichlorosilyl)chloromethane through reductive desilvlation reactions eliminating SiCl₄ or Cl₃Si-SiCl₃ [13], respectively. Such reductive desilylation compounds undergo repeatedly one more Si-C coupling and reductive desilylation reactions to yield 3a, bis(trichlorosilyl)chloromethane, and 4 which repeatedly one more to produce CH₂Cl₂, Cl₃SiCH₂Cl, and 1a. Finally coupling reactions of CH₂Cl₂ and Cl₃SiCH₂Cl also give bis-silylation products 1.

In conclusion, we describe the coupling reaction of polychloromethanes with HSiCl₃ in the presence of the quaternary phosphonium chloride catalyst. This research provides useful and important mechanistic information for the Si–C coupling reaction of organic halide with HSiCl₃ in the presence of organic salt catalyst.

3. Experimental

3.1. General comments

All reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware or stainless steel cylinder. All moisture-sensitive liquids were manipulated under anhydrous dinitrogen using cannula techniques. Trichlorosilane, methyldichlorosilane, (trichloromethyl)trichlorosilane, and (dichloromethyl)trichlorosilane were purchased from Gelest, Inc. and used without purification. (*n*-Bu)₄PCl was purchased from Aldrich Chem. Co. and used without further purification. Reaction mixtures were analyzed by GLC on a 2.5 m by 1/8 in. stainless steel column packed with packing materials (OV-101 on 80–100 mesh Chromosorb W/AW) or a capillary column (30 m, SE-30) using a Varian 3300 gas chromatograph equipped with a thermal conductivity detector and a Varian

Table 4

Synthesis of bis(chlorosilyl)methanes form Bu₄PCl-catalyzed reaction of polychloromethanes with HSiCl₃^a

Entry #	$CH_{4-n}Cl_n, n^b$	Reaction conditions		Product yields (%) ^c			
		Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	1 (a:b)	MeSiCl ₃	CH ₂ Cl ₂	Others (g)
16	4 (-)	100	8	65 (64:1)		29	0.28
17	3 (-)	100	8	47 (42:5)		42	0.29
18	2 (12)	170	24	41 (34:7)	8	(12)	2.93

^a The reaction was carried out using a 20:120:1 mol ratio of CH_{4-n}Cl_n, HSiCl₃, and Bu₄PCl.

^b The number in parenthesis represents $CH_{4-n}Cl_n$ (%) remained.

^c Isolated yields on the basis of CH_{4-n}Cl_n used.

$$R_{4}PCI + HSiCl_{3} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} R_{4}P \end{bmatrix}^{+} \begin{bmatrix} H \\ CI - Si \\ CI \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} R_{4}P \end{bmatrix}^{+} \begin{bmatrix} R_{4}P \end{bmatrix}^{+} \begin{bmatrix} CI & Si \\ CI \end{bmatrix} + HCI$$

$$CCl_{4} \xrightarrow{I}_{RT} Cl_{3}Si - CCl_{3} \xrightarrow{I}_{Cl_{3}} Cl_{3}Si - CCl_{2} - SiCl_{3} \xrightarrow{I}_{Cl_{3}} Cl_{3}Si - CC - SiCl_{3} \xrightarrow{Cl_{3}} Cl_{3}Si - CC - SiCl_{3} \xrightarrow{Cl_{3}} Cl_{3}Si - Cl_$$

Scheme 1.

4290 integrator. The progresses of reaction were also monitored by GLC in the time intervals of 1 h. Product yields were determined by isolation or GLC using *n*-dodecane as the internal standard. GC–MS data were obtained with a HP6890/5973 system (70 eV, EI).

3.2. General procedure for the reaction of polychloromethanes

As a representative, the reaction of CCl_4 with HSiCl₃ is described as follows: into a 25 mL dried stainless steel bomb with a valve was charged with CCl_4 (1.00 g, 6.50 mmol), HSiCl₃ (5.28 g, 39.0 mmol), Bu₄PCl (0.19 g, 0.64 mmol), and *n*-dodecane (0.50 mL) under a dry nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction was carried out at 30–130 °C, respectively. Yields are on the basis of CCl_4 used and were determined by GLC with use of internal standard. The results are summarized in Table 2.

Using the same procedures, the reactions of $CHCl_3$ with $HSiCl_3$ were carried at 60–100 °C. The results are summarized in Table 3.

In scale up preparation, into a 75 mL dried stainless steel bomb with a valve was charged with CCl₄ (7.97 g, 51.8 mmol), HSiCl₃ (42.11 g, 310.9 mmol), and Bu₄PCl (0.76 g, 2.6 mmol) under a dry nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction was carried out at 100 °C for 8 h and gave a 98:2 mixture (9.50 g) of 1a and 1b, CH₂Cl₂ (1.27 g) in 65% and 29% yields, respectively, along with high boilers (0.28 g). Using the same procedures of scaleup preparation above, a reactions of CHCl₃ (6.19 g, 51.9 mmol) with HSiCl₃ (42.11 g, 310.9 mmol) at 100 °C for 8 h gave a 90:10 mixture (6.85 g) of **1a** and **1b**, and CH_2Cl_2 (1.85 g) in 47% and 42%, respectively, along with high boilers (0.29 g). Using the same procedures of scaleup preparation above, a reaction of CH₂Cl₂ (4.40 g, 51.0 mmol) with HSiCl₃ (42.11 g, 310.9 mmol) at 170 °C for 24 h gave a 83:17 mixture (5.88 g) of **1a** and **1b**, and CH_2Cl_2 (0.53 g) in 41% and 12%, respectively, along with high boilers (2.93 g). The results are summarized in Table 1.

3.3. Reaction of 2a with HSiCl₃

Using the general procedure described above, the reactions of **2a** (1.00 g, 3.96 mmol) with HSiCl₃ (3.22 g, 23.7 mmol), Bu₄PCl (0.12 g, 0.41 mmol), and *n*-dodecane (0.50 mL) were carried out at 30 °C and 60 °C, respectively. The results are summarized in Table 4.

3.4. Reaction of tris(trichlorosilyl) methane (4) with hydrogen chloride

Into a stirred mixture of tris(trichlorosilyl)methane (14.39 g, 34.56 mmol), Bu_4PCl (1.02 g, 3.46 mmol), and *n*-dodecane (1.00 mL) was bubbled with anhydrous hydrogen chloride in 10 mL/min at room temperature for 1 h. An exothermic reaction was observed with bubbling of HCl gas. **1a** was obtained in 87% yield along with tetrachlorosilane with 91% consumption of reactant after 1 h.

Acknowledgement

This research was supported financially by the Ministry of Science and Technology in Korea.

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