

Note

Synthesis of bis- or tris(pentafluorophenyl) thallium(III) complexes with bidentate ligands.
X-ray crystal structure of
[Tl(C₆F₅)₂(acac){(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O)}]

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Abstract

The reaction of Tl(C₆F₅)₂Cl or Tl(C₆F₅)₃(diox) (diox = 1,4 dioxane) with bidentate ligands (L = PPh₂CH₂PPh₂, (O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O) or (S)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(S)) gives Tl(C₆F₅)₂CIL or Tl(C₆F₅)₃L, respectively. Displacement of chloride gives new cationic or neutral complexes, [Tl(C₆F₅)₂{(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O)}]⁺BF₄⁻ or [Tl(C₆F₅)₂(acac){(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O)}] (acac = acetylacetone), respectively. The structure of the latter was determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction at 143 K. Crystals are monoclinic, space group P2₁/n, *a* = 12.733(3), *b* = 23.717(8), *c* = 14.981(4) Å, β = 110.37(3)°, *Z* = 4 and *R*(*F*) = 0.046. The structure forms a chain polymer.

Key words. Crystal structures, Thallium complexes, Perfluoroaryl complexes; Bidentate ligand complexes

Introduction

A number of interesting di- or triaryl thallium(III) complexes of the types [TlR₂CIL] or [TlR₃L] (R = aryl group) have been described [1-5], but no derivatives containing a neutral bidentate ligand, such as PPh₂CH₂PPh₂, (O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O) or (S)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(S), have been reported.

We describe here the preparation of the neutral [Tl(C₆F₅)₂XL] (X = Cl or acac), or [Tl(C₆F₅)₃L] with L = PPh₂CH₂PPh₂, (O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O) or (S)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(S) or the cationic complex [Tl(C₆F₅)₂{(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O)}]⁺BF₄⁻. The structure of [Tl(C₆F₅)₂(acac){(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O)}] has been established by X-ray diffraction.

Experimental

Instrumentation and general experimental techniques were as described earlier [5]. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded on a Varian UNITY 300 spectrometer in CDCl₃. Chemical shifts are quoted relative to SiMe₄ (¹H), 85% H₃PO₄ (external, ³¹P) and CFCl₃ (external, ¹⁹F). Conductivities, ³¹P{¹H}, ¹H and ¹⁹F NMR data are listed in Table 1. All the reactions were performed at room temperature and carried out under nitrogen atmosphere. Anhydrous and deoxygenated solvents were used.

Preparation of the complexes

[Tl(C₆F₅)₂CIL] (L = PPh₂CH₂PPh₂ (**1**),
(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O) (**2**) or (S)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(S)
(**3**))

To a solution of Tl(C₆F₅)₂Cl [6] (0.143 g, 0.25 mmol) in diethyl ether (30 ml) or dichloromethane (20 ml, L = (S)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(S)) was added the neutral ligand, L = PPh₂CH₂PPh₂ (0.096 g, 0.25 mmol), (O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O) (0.104 g, 0.25 mmol) or L = (S)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(S) (0.112 g, 0.25 mmol). The solution was stirred for 1 h and the white precipitate of **2** was filtered off and washed with 2 × 3 ml of hexane (0.223 g, 90% yield). *Anal.* Found: C, 45.05; H, 2.3. Calc. for C₃₇H₂₂F₁₀ClO₂P₂Tl: C, 44.85; H, 2.25%. The evaporation of the solutions to c. 2 ml and addition of hexane led to the separation of **1** (0.156 g, 65% yield; *Anal.* Found: C, 45.5; H, 2.35. Calc. for C₃₇H₂₂ClF₁₀P₂Tl: C, 46.35; H, 2.3%) or **3** (0.146 g, 57% yield; *Anal.* Found: C, 44.7; H, 2.4. Calc. for C₃₇H₂₂ClF₁₀S₂P₂Tl: C, 43.45; H, 2.15%).

[Tl(C₆F₅)₃L] (L = PPh₂CH₂PPh₂ (**4**) or
(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O) (**5**))

The same procedure as above was used, starting from Tl(C₆F₅)₃(diox) (diox = dioxane) [5] (0.159 g, 0.2 mmol) and L = PPh₂CH₂PPh₂ (0.077 g, 0.2 mmol), or (O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O) (0.083 g, 0.2 mmol). **4**: 0.157 g, 72% yield. *Anal.* Found: C, 47.45; H, 1.9. Calc. for

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TABLE 1 Conductivities and NMR data of the complexes

Compound	A_M^a	^1H NMR ^b (δ)		$^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR ^c (δ)		^{19}F NMR ^d (δ)	
		CH ₂	o-F	CH ₂	o-F	m-F	p-F
Tl(C ₆ F ₅) ₂ Cl(PPh ₂ CH ₂ PPh ₂) (1)	27	3.50(t) (13.5)	-12.8(s)	-118.6(dm) (759.2)	-159.6(dm) (321.1)	-152.0(dm) (78.5)	
Tl(C ₆ F ₅) ₂ Cl{(O)PPh ₂ CH ₂ PPh ₂ (O)} (2)	32	3.59(t) (13.4)	30.3(s)	-119.1(dm) (877.7)	-159.8(dm) (373.4)	-152.2(dm) (68.9)	
Tl(C ₆ F ₅) ₂ Cl{(S)PPh ₂ CH ₂ PPh ₂ (S)} (3)	3	4.56(t) (13.5)	38.1(s)	-118.8(dm) (719.9)	-158.7(dm) (310.3)	-151.4(dt) (18.0, 79.2) ^e	
Tl(C ₆ F ₅) ₃ (PPh ₂ CH ₂ PPh ₂) (4)	58	3.17(m)	-11.5(s, br)	-116.6(dm) (456.5)	-160.0(dm) (181.2)	-153.4(dt) (19.7, 56.9) ^e	
Tl(C ₆ F ₅) ₃ {(O)PPh ₂ CH ₂ PPh ₂ (O)} (5)	14	3.36(m)	29.5(s)	-116.9(dm) (571.8)	-158.3(dm) (206.6)	-151.4(dm) (57.8)	
[Tl(C ₆ F ₅) ₂ {(O)PPh ₂ CH ₂ PPh ₂ (O)}]BF ₄ (6)	124	3.72(t) (12.8)	34.8(s)	-120.3(dm) (987.9)	-158.3(dm) (398.2)	-149.6(dm) (56.5)	
Tl(C ₆ F ₅) ₂ (acac){(O)PPh ₂ CH ₂ PPh ₂ (O)} (7)	2	3.56(t) (14.8)	26.2(s)	-119.7(dm) (883.2)	-158.3(dm) (383.0)	-149.6(dm) (84.0)	

^aIn acetone, $\Omega^{-1} \text{cm}^2 \text{mol}^{-1}$. ^bRecorded in CDCl₃ at 300 MHz referred to internal TMS. Coupling constants (P–H) in Hz are shown in parentheses, t = triplet, m = multiplet, dt = doublet of triplets, dm = doublet of multiplets, br = broad. ^cReferred to external H₃PO₄, at room temperature. ^dReferred to external CFCl₃. Coupling constants ^e $J_{(203\text{-}F)-F}$, $J_{(203\text{-}205\text{-}Ti)-F}$ in Hz are shown in parentheses.

C₄₃H₂₂F₁₅P₂Tl: C, 47.4; H, 2.05%. **5** 0.195 g, 87% yield. *Anal.* Found: C, 44.4; H, 1.9. Calc. for C₄₃H₂₂F₁₅O₂P₂Tl CH₂Cl₂: C, 43.8; H, 2.0%.

[Tl(C₆F₅)₂{(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O)}]/BF₄ (6)

To a solution of complex **2** (0.182 g, 0.18 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 ml) was added Ag(BF₄) (0.036 g, 0.18 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The white precipitate of AgCl was filtered off and the solution was concentrated to 3 ml. Addition of hexane (20 ml) gave complex **6** as a white solid (0.145 g, 75% yield). *Anal.* Found: C, 42.25; H, 2.0. Calc. for C₃₇H₂₂BF₁₄O₂P₂Tl: C, 42.65; H, 2.15%.

[Tl(C₆F₅)₂{(O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O)}] (7)

The following procedures were used.

(a) To a suspension of complex **2** (0.198 g, 0.2 mmol) in diethyl ether (30 ml) was added Au(acac)(PPh₃) [7] (0.112 g, 0.2 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. A white solid was filtered off and identified as a mixture of AuCl(PPh₃) and **7**. The clear solution was evaporated to c. 2 ml and addition of hexane (20 ml) led to a pure crop of complex **7** (0.069 g, 33% yield). *Anal.* Found: C, 47.5; H, 2.8. Calc. for C₄₂H₂₉F₁₀O₄P₂Tl: C, 47.85; H, 2.75%.

(b) To a solution of complex **2** (0.149 g, 0.15 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 ml) was added Tl(acac) (0.045 g, 0.15 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 3 days. The TlCl precipitated was filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated to c. 5 ml. Addition of hexane (20 ml) precipitated complex **7** as a white solid (0.087 g, 55% yield).

(c) To a solution of Tl(C₆F₅)₂(acac) [8] (0.064 g, 0.1 mmol) in diethyl ether (30 ml) was added the ligand (O)PPh₂CH₂PPh₂(O) (0.042 g, 0.1 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 1.5 h. Complex **7** was filtered off and washed with 2 × 3 ml of hexane (0.085 g, 65% yield). A second crop was obtained from the filtrate by concentrating to 5 ml and cooling it to -20 °C (0.020 g, 15% yield).

Crystal structure determination of compound 7 (dichloromethane solvate)

Crystal data

Crystals of **7** suitable for X-ray studies were obtained from dichloromethane/hexane C₄₃H₃₁Cl₂F₁₀O₄P₂Tl, M_r = 1138.89, monoclinic, P2₁/n, $a = 12.733(3)$, $b = 23.717(8)$, $c = 14.981(4)$ Å, $\beta = 110.37(3)$ °, $V = 4241(2)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_x = 1.784$ Mg m⁻³, $\lambda(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 0.71073$ Å, $\mu = 4.1$ mm⁻¹, $F(000) = 2224$, $T = -130$ °C.

Data collection and reduction

A colourless prism 0.65 × 0.15 × 0.1 mm was mounted in inert oil on a glass fibre and transferred to the cold gas stream of the diffractometer (Stoe STADI-4 with

Siemens LT-2 low temperature attachment). A total of 11 238 reflections was registered to $2\theta_{\max} 50^\circ$; crystal decay of 10% was allowed for. An absorption correction based on Ψ -scans was applied, with transmission factors ranging between 0.78 and 0.96. Cell constants were refined from $\pm \omega$ values of 60 reflections in the 2θ range 20–22°. 7399 unique reflections (R_{int} 0.043) were used for all calculations (program system SHELXL-92) [9].

Structure solution and refinement

The structure was solved by the heavy-atom method and refined anisotropically on F^2 . The carbon atom of the dichloromethane molecule is disordered over two sites. Hydrogen atoms were included using a riding model (rigid methyl groups). The final $R_w(F^2)$ was 0.108 for all reflections; the corresponding $R(F)$ was 0.046. The weighting scheme was $w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F^2) + (aP)^2 + bP$, with $3P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)$. 560 parameters; 486 restraints; S 1.07; max. Δ/σ 0.508 for the methyl group at C(2), which may be disordered; max. Δ/ρ 1.1 e Å⁻³. Final atomic coordinates are given in Table 2, with selected bond lengths and angles in Table 3.

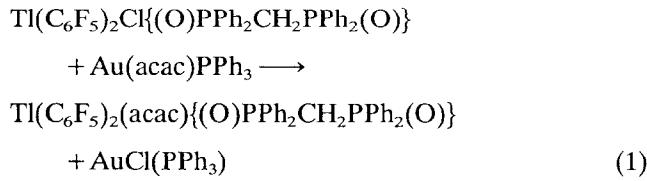
Results and discussion

The syntheses of $\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_2\text{Cl}$ and $\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3(\text{diox})$ ($\text{diox} = 1,4$ dioxane) have been described elsewhere [5, 6]. The reaction of $\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_2\text{Cl}$ with neutral ligands gives $\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_2\text{CL}$ ($\text{L} = \text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2$ (1), $(\text{O})\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2(\text{O})$ (2) or $(\text{S})\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2(\text{S})$ (3)).

The dioxane in $\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3(\text{diox})$ can be readily replaced [5] by other ligands to give neutral complexes, $\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3\text{L}$ ($\text{L} = \text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2$ (4) or $(\text{O})\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2(\text{O})$ (5)).

Precipitation of the chloride of complex 2 with $\text{Ag}(\text{BF}_4^-)$ leads to the cationic complex $[\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_2\{(\text{O})\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2(\text{O})\}]^+ \text{BF}_4^-$ (6).

Similar behaviour is observed in the reaction of complex 2 with $\text{Tl}(\text{acac})$ ($\text{acac} = \text{acetylacetone}$) which leads to the precipitation of TlCl and formation of $[\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_2(\text{acac})\{(\text{O})\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2(\text{O})\}]$ (7). Complex 7 can also be obtained by reaction of $\text{Tl}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_2(\text{acac})$ with the diphosphine dioxide or of complex 2 with $\text{Au}(\text{acac})\text{PPh}_3$, according to eqn. (1).



Complexes 2–7 are air and moisture stable white solids. The white complex 1 slowly oxidizes in solution or in solid state to give complex 2. The cationic derivative

TABLE 2 Atomic coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for complex 7

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>U</i> _{eq}
Tl	6749.1(2)	3494.61(11)	7869.4(2)	26.0(2)
P(1)	4666(2)	3383.2(7)	5356.0(12)	24.1(10)
P(2)	4727(2)	2387.0(7)	3902.5(12)	24.2(11)
O(1)	5556(4)	3674(2)	6149(3)	28(3)
O(2)	3510(4)	2250(2)	3589(3)	29(3)
O(3)	5545(5)	4216(2)	7904(4)	41(4)
O(4)	7384(5)	3681(2)	9504(4)	39(4)
C(1)	5245(6)	2747(3)	5042(5)	26(4)
C(2)	4517(8)	4908(3)	8358(6)	47(4)
C(3)	5485(7)	4497(3)	8600(6)	40(4)
C(4)	6196(7)	4454(3)	9541(6)	40(4)
C(5)	7081(8)	4070(3)	9937(5)	39(4)
C(6)	7755(8)	4109(4)	11000(5)	52(5)
C(11)	4183(5)	3835(3)	4326(5)	28(4)
C(12)	3285(6)	3691(3)	3535(5)	36(3)
C(13)	2959(7)	4044(3)	2742(5)	42(4)
C(14)	3522(6)	4540(3)	2767(5)	41(5)
C(15)	4407(7)	4689(3)	3563(5)	38(4)
C(16)	4743(6)	4335(3)	4358(5)	35(4)
C(21)	3511(7)	3180(2)	5696(5)	34(3)
C(22)	3275(6)	3526(3)	6354(5)	34(3)
C(23)	2414(6)	3391(3)	6683(5)	38(3)
C(24)	1778(7)	2916(3)	6365(5)	40(3)
C(25)	2019(6)	2565(3)	5735(6)	39(3)
C(26)	2869(6)	2697(3)	5388(5)	36(3)
C(31)	5610(6)	1766(3)	4172(5)	34(3)
C(32)	5343(6)	1350(3)	4717(5)	36(3)
C(33)	6028(7)	888(3)	5003(5)	41(3)
C(34)	6966(6)	830(3)	4764(6)	48(3)
C(35)	7218(7)	1234(3)	4215(6)	45(3)
C(36)	6561(6)	1705(3)	3925(5)	39(3)
C(41)	5068(5)	2809(3)	3043(5)	31(3)
C(42)	4293(6)	2807(3)	2122(5)	36(3)
C(43)	4493(7)	3133(3)	1429(5)	38(3)
C(44)	5434(5)	3452(3)	1638(5)	39(3)
C(45)	6192(6)	3459(3)	2543(5)	37(3)
C(46)	6024(6)	3142(3)	3259(5)	37(3)
C(51)	8002(7)	3930(2)	7501(4)	32(3)
C(52)	8372(6)	3732(3)	6800(5)	34(3)
C(53)	9263(6)	3955(3)	6610(5)	43(3)
C(54)	9818(7)	4403(3)	7136(5)	49(4)
C(55)	9474(6)	4628(3)	7821(6)	46(3)
C(56)	8588(6)	4387(3)	7999(5)	38(3)
F(1)	7832(4)	3284(2)	6252(3)	45(3)
F(2)	9586(5)	3734(2)	5922(4)	75(4)
F(3)	10707(5)	4622(2)	6969(5)	85(4)
F(4)	10005(4)	5072(2)	8340(4)	60(4)
F(5)	8305(4)	4617(2)	8722(3)	42(3)
C(61)	5768(6)	2785(3)	7992(4)	32(3)
C(62)	5052(6)	2797(3)	8505(5)	34(4)
C(63)	4458(6)	2331(3)	8611(5)	37(3)
C(64)	4599(6)	1832(3)	8209(5)	40(4)
C(65)	5277(6)	1800(3)	7676(5)	37(4)
C(66)	5847(6)	2276(2)	7573(5)	33(3)
F(6)	4903(4)	3275(2)	8928(3)	43(3)
F(7)	3774(4)	2361(2)	9116(4)	58(3)
F(8)	4027(5)	1372(2)	8314(4)	63(4)
F(9)	5373(4)	1314(2)	7250(4)	52(3)
F(10)	6523(3)	2224(2)	7062(3)	32(3)
Cl(1)	2732(4)	317(2)	9339(3)	138(4)
Cl(2)	3691(5)	-559(2)	10670(3)	157(5)
C(7)	3709(16)	-198(7)	9722(12)	77(5)
C(7')	2571(14)	-148(7)	10126(13)	77(5)

TABLE 3. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and angles ($^\circ$) for complex 7

Tl-C(51)	2.129(8)	Tl-C(61)	2.141(7)
Tl-O(3)	2.310(5)	Tl-O(4)	2.338(5)
Tl-O(1)	2.531(5)	Tl-O(2i)	2.761(5)
P(1)-O(1)	1.494(5)	P(1)-C(21)	1.783(8)
P(1)-C(11)	1.802(7)	P(1)-C(1)	1.812(7)
P(2)-O(2)	1.491(5)	P(2)-C(41)	1.799(7)
P(2)-C(31)	1.811(8)	P(2)-C(1)	1.815(7)
O(3)-C(3)	1.262(9)	O(4)-C(5)	1.263(9)
C(2)-C(3)	1.513(11)	C(3)-C(4)	1.388(11)
C(4)-C(5)	1.409(11)	C(5)-C(6)	1.526(11)
C(51)-Tl-C(61)	156.4(2)	C(51)-Tl-O(3)	102.1(2)
C(61)-Tl-O(3)	99.7(2)	C(51)-Tl-O(4)	99.4(2)
C(61)-Tl-O(4)	93.3(2)	O(3)-Tl-O(4)	80.0(2)
C(51)-Tl-O(1)	83.9(2)	C(61)-Tl-O(1)	93.3(2)
O(3)-Tl-O(1)	74.4(2)	O(4)-Tl-O(1)	154.3(2)
C(51)-Tl-O(2i)	80.3(2)	C(61)-Tl-O(2i)	83.2(2)
O(3)-Tl-O(2i)	156.9(2)	O(4)-Tl-O(2i)	77.0(2)
O(1)-Tl-O(2i)	128.52(14)	O(1)-P(1)-C(21)	111.7(3)
O(1)-P(1)-C(11)	110.2(3)	C(21)-P(1)-C(11)	109.6(3)
O(1)-P(1)-C(1)	109.1(3)	C(21)-P(1)-C(1)	107.4(3)
C(11)-P(1)-C(1)	108.8(3)	O(2)-P(2)-C(41)	112.3(3)
O(2)-P(2)-C(31)	113.0(3)	C(41)-P(2)-C(31)	109.1(3)
O(2)-P(2)-C(1)	113.4(3)	C(41)-P(2)-C(1)	108.2(3)
C(31)-P(2)-C(1)	100.3(3)	P(1)-O(1)-Tl	138.8(3)
P(2)-O(2)-Tl(ii)	151.2(3)	C(3)-O(3)-Tl	129.9(5)
C(5)-O(4)-Tl	128.3(5)	P(1)-C(1)-P(2)	126.1(4)
O(3)-C(3)-C(4)	126.4(8)	O(3)-C(3)-C(2)	114.9(7)
C(4)-C(3)-C(2)	118.7(7)	C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	128.2(7)
O(4)-C(5)-C(4)	126.7(7)	O(4)-C(5)-C(6)	114.7(8)
C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	118.5(7)	C(56)-C(51)-C(52)	114.7(7)
C(66)-C(61)-C(62)	115.9(7)		

Symmetry operators: (i) $0.5+x, 0.5-y, 0.5+z$, (ii) $-0.5+x, 0.5-y, -0.5+z$.

6 behaves as a 1:1 electrolyte in acetone solutions (see Table 1) and the IR spectrum shows a band at 1085(s) which is characteristic of the BF_4^- anion [10]. Complexes **1**, **2**, **4** and **5** are slightly conducting in acetone solutions, though their conductivities are lower than the expected for 1:1 electrolytes. Complexes **2**, **5**, **6** and **7** show strong absorptions at 1185, 1180, 1160 and 1180 cm^{-1} respectively, assignable to $\nu(\text{P=O})$ [11]. The $\nu(\text{P=S})$ vibration [11, 12] of complex **3** appears at 594 cm^{-1} . The IR spectrum of the acetylacetone derivative **7** exhibits a strong band at 1598 cm^{-1} , assignable to the acac acting as O-donor bidentate ligand [13].

The ^1H NMR spectra show a multiplet at δ c. 7.8 corresponding to the phenyl groups and a triplet or multiplet from the CH_2 group (see Table 1). In complex **7** there are two other resonances at δ 5.10(s) and 1.85(s) for the CH and CH_3 groups of the acetylacetone. The ^{19}F NMR spectra at room temperature show three groups of signals, as expected for equivalent pentafluorophenyl rings. The resonance of the fluorine atoms of BF_4^- in complex **6** appears as a singlet at δ -149.2

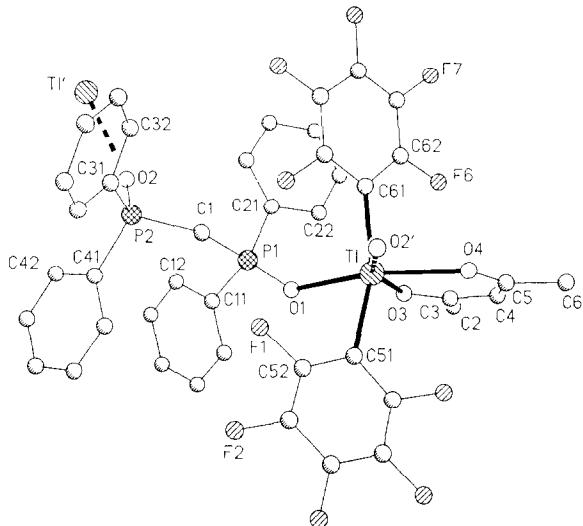


Fig. 1 The molecule of complex 7 in the crystal, showing the atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity, atom radii are arbitrary

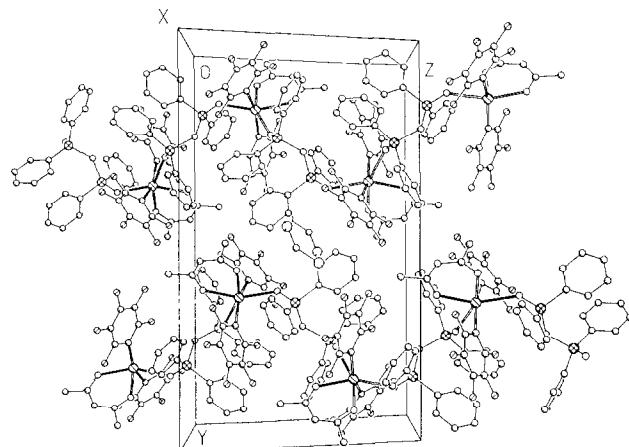


Fig. 2 The polymeric chains of complex 7 in the unit cell. Atom radii are arbitrary

The $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra at room temperature show a singlet. On cooling to -50°C this signal still remains sharp for complexes **3** and **7** or broadens slightly for complexes **1** and **2**. It splits into two broad doublets at δ 4.1 ($J(\text{Tl-P})$ 98 Hz) and -28.5 ($J(\text{Tl-P})$ 88 Hz) for compound **4** and into a doublet at δ 28.9 ($J(\text{Tl-P})$ 179 Hz) and a broad singlet at δ 22.5 for compound **5**.

The structure of **7** was determined by X-ray diffraction. The coordination at thallium is irregular (Fig. 1), but the geometry is similar to that found in $[\text{Tl}(\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me})_2(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)(\text{bipy})]_2$ [14]. The shortest bonds (Tl-C 2.129, 2.141 \AA) involve the C_6F_5 ligands, the C-Tl-C angle being 156.4°. The acac ligand chelates the thallium atom, with Tl-O 2.310, 2.338 \AA and a bite angle of 80.0°. These distances are slightly shorter

than those found in $\text{TiMe}_2(\text{acac})$ (2.45 Å) [15], but the bite angle found in this complex is very similar, 79.1°. The coordination sphere is completed by longer bonds (2.531, 2.761 Å) to the oxygen atoms of two $(\text{O})\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2(\text{O})$ molecules, thus forming a chain polymer (Fig. 2) parallel to the z axis with O1–Tl–O2' 128.5° (O2' is generated from O2 by the *n* glide). The conformation of $(\text{O})\text{PPh}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2(\text{O})$ is defined by the torsion angle O1–P1...P2–O2 164°, i.e. the oxygen atoms are almost antiperiplanar with respect to the P...P axis.

Supplementary material

Further details of the structure determination (complete bond lengths and angles, H atom coordinates, structure factors, temperature factors) have been deposited at the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftlich-technische Information mbH, D-76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen 2, Germany. Any request for this material should quote a full literature citation and the reference number CSD 400269.

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