Scheme I⁴



1-4: R,R' = TPDS; 5: R = R' = H; 6: R = TBDMS, R' = H; 7: R = TBDMS, R' = C(S)OPh; a: B = adenin-9-y; b: B = uracii-1-y1; c: B = 3-N-benzoyturacii-1-y1; 8-11: R = TBDMS.



^a(a) CH_2N_2/Et_2O . (b) $h\nu/PhC(O)Ph/MeCN/C_6H_6$. (c) $NH_3/MeOH$. (d) $Bu_4N^+F^-/THF$. (e) TBDMSCl/imidazole/DMF. (f) PhOC(S)Cl/DMAP/MeCN. (g) $Bu_3SnH/AIBN/C_6H_6/\Delta$.

2'-deoxynucleoside-2'-spiropyrazoline derivatives 2a (88%) and **3a** (4%) (Scheme I). The stereochemistry of 2a(2'R) and 3a(2'S)was assigned from 2D ROESY NMR experiments with each compound. Thus, diazomethane cycloaddition occurred preferentially from the less hindered α -face to give 2a as the major isomer, analogous with our results with protected 3'-ketonucleosides and a bulky reducing agent^{10a} or methyltriphenylphosphorane.^{10b} Benzophenone-sensitized photolysis¹¹ of 2a/3a in acetonitrile/benzene (1:1) provided the 2'-spironucleoside 4a (92%). Deprotection (TBAF/THF) gave microcrystalline 2'deoxyadenosine-2'-spirocyclopropane (5a, 90%).¹²

Analogous treatment of 1c¹³ with diazomethane/ether gave spiropyrazolines 2c (63%) and 3c (28%). Photolysis of 2c/3c and deprotection (NH₃/MeOH, TBAF/THF) gave crystalline 2'deoxyuridine-2'-spirocyclopropane (5b, 50% from 2c/3c).12 Compounds 5a and 5b are the first examples of nucleoside analogues containing the novel spirocyclopropane-sugar moiety.

Protection of 5a with tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride/imidazole/DMF gave the 5'-O-TBDMS (6a, 90%) and 3',5'-bis-O-TBDMS (5%) derivatives. Treatment of 6a with phenyl chlorothionoformate/DMAP/MeCN¹⁴ gave 5'-O-TBDMS-2'deoxy-3'-O-(phenoxythiocarbonyl)adenosine-2'-spirocyclopropane (7a, 90%).¹² The uridine analogue 7b was prepared from 5b in an analogous manner.

Our first biomimetic model reaction utilized the Barton radical-mediated deoxygenation^{14,15} (Bu₃SnH/AIBN/benzene/80 °C) of 7a. We were gratified to discover that 2'-ethyl-2',3'-unsaturated (8, 65%) and 8,2'-ethano-2',3'-unsaturated cyclonucleoside (9, 25%) derivatives were formed. The structure of 8 was apparent from its ¹H NMR spectrum, which had an ethyl triplet (δ 1.09) as expected in the product of hydrogen transfer to the primary radical intermediate. Its UV (λ_{max} 260 nm) and MS data and elemental analysis were compatible with those of 8. Structure 9 was in harmony with its ¹H and ¹³C NMR, UV $(\lambda_{max} 264 \text{ nm})$ and mass spectral data, elemental analysis, and known chemistry involving the preferential addition of radicals at the 8-position of purine nucleosides.¹⁶ Analogous treatment of 7b gave the 3-butenyl nucleoside 10 $(71\%)^{12}$ and the UV-

transparent 5,6-dihydrouracil cyclonucleoside 11 (25%).¹² These results demonstrate a rational new approach to investigate the proposed radical-mediated conversion of ribonucleotides to their 2'-deoxy analogues by ribonucleotide reductases.

In summary, 2'-deoxynucleoside-2'-spirocyclopropanes have been prepared for the first time, as mechanistic probes for ribonucleotide reductases. A cycloaddition/photolysis route provided these analogues in good yields. Biomimetic radical reactions have yielded products resulting from ring opening of cyclopropylcarbinyl radicals. Studies with other nucleosides and collaborative enzymatic evaluations7 with 5'-di- and triphosphate esters are in progress.

Acknowledgment. We thank the American Cancer Society (Grant No. CH-405) for support and Mrs. Kathryn Rollins for assistance with the manuscript.

Supplementary Material Available: Listings of experimental details and spectral data for compounds 2a,c, 3a,c, 4a,b, 5a,b, 6a,b, 7a,b, and 8-11 (9 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Novel Synthetic Route to Isolable Pentacoordinate 1.2-Oxaphosphetanes and Mechanism of Their Thermolysis, the Second Step of the Wittig Reaction

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Although there have been many mechanistic studies on the Wittig reaction, most of them have dealt with the formation process of 1,2-oxaphosphetanes for the purpose of elucidating the origin of stereochemistry of the Wittig reaction.^{1,2} Attempts to investigate independently the second step of the Wittig reaction have been carried out only by using in situ generated 1,2-oxaphosphetanes,^{2,3} in spite of the synthesis of several isolable 1,2oxaphosphetanes.4

In the course of our study to trap an intermediate of the Horner-Emmons reaction, an oxidophosphorane, we have found a novel and general synthetic route to isolable pentacoordinate 1,2-oxaphosphetanes bearing the Martin ligand. We now report on a mechanistic study of their thermolysis, the second step of the Wittig reaction.

Sequential treatment of phosphine oxide 1 with 2 equiv of *n*-BuLi and then with p,p'-disubstituted benzophenones (2) in THF at 0-50 °C led to the isolation of a good yield of 1,2-oxaphosphetanes 3 via the corresponding dihydroxy derivatives 4 (Scheme I, Table I).⁵ Compound **3a** formed as colorless needles, mp 179 °C dec. The structure of 3a was strongly supported by its ³¹P $(\delta_P - 35.8)$ and ¹⁹F NMR spectra (double quartet with centers of $\delta_{\rm F}$ -79.6 and -76.5 ($J_{\rm FF}$ = 9.8 Hz)). In the ¹H NMR spectrum the signal due to the ortho proton of the Martin ligand⁶ was

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⁽⁵⁾ Aldehydes and aliphatic ketones can also be used instead of benzophenones. If carbonyl compounds are unsymmetric, compounds 3 are obtained as a mixture of diastereomers.

Table I. Yields, Melting Points, ³¹P NMR Data, and Rate Constants of Thermolysis of 3

3	х	yield," %	mp, [♭] ℃	δp ^c	$k,^{a}$ 10 ⁻⁵ s ⁻¹	
a	Н	94	179	-35.8	1.18	
b	CH ₃ O	87	70	-35.9	14.5	
с	CH ₃	88	107	-35.9	3.11	
d	F	75	183	-36.5	1.38	
е	Cl	70	148	-36.5	0.75	

^a Isolated yields based on 1. ^b Decomposition. ^c Measured in CDCl₁. ^d In d_8 -toluene at 111 °C.

Scheme I^a



^a Ar = p-X-C₆H₄. (a) 2 n-BuLi, THF, 0 °C; (b) Ar₂CO (2), 0-50 °C; (c) H₃O⁺.

observed at δ 8.64 (dd, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.7$ Hz, ${}^{3}J_{PH} = 11.9$ Hz), this chemical shift being characteristic of a TBP (trigonal bipyramid) structure. In the ¹³C NMR spectrum, the quaternary C-4 resonates at δ_C 75.93 (d, $^2J_{CP}$ = 16.2 Hz) and two sets of signals of aromatic rings at the 4-position are observed separately, because of the presence of a chiral phosphorus. The X-ray crystallographic analysis carried out for 3d has indicated that it has a distorted TBP structure (Figure 1).⁷

Compounds 3 were heated around 100 °C under argon to give 1,1-diarylethylenes (5) and the corresponding cyclic phosphinate 6 quantitatively. A kinetic study on the olefin formation from 3 by ¹H and/or ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy showed that the reaction was first order in 3; the rate constants (k) obtained in d_8 -toluene at 111.3 °C are shown in Table I. The rates show a good correlation with σ_p^+ , log $(k/k_0) = -0.709 (2\sigma_p^+) (r = 0.999).^8$ In the Wittig reactions using substituted aromatic carbonyl compounds, ρ values have been reported to range from +1.0 to +2.8 for both nonstabilized⁹ and stabilized ylides,¹⁰ indicating that the formation of oxaphosphetanes is a rate-determining step.¹¹ We have now clarified for the first time that the ρ value for the second step is negative. The rate constants of the reactions in d_8 -toluene (ϵ 2.38),¹² d_3 -acetonitrile (36.2), and d_6 -dimethyl sulfoxide (49) were 1.18×10^{-5} , 1.5×10^{-5} , and 1.8×10^{-5} s⁻¹, respectively, showing a very small solvent effect.

The temperature dependence of the rate constants for 3a led to the estimation of the activation parameters ($\Delta H^{*} = 29.1 \pm 0.29$

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Figure 1. ORTEP drawing of 3d. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (deg): P(1)-O(1), 1.728 (2); P(1)-O(2), 1.754 (3); P(1)-C(1), 1.808 (4); O(1)-P(1)-O(2), 163.3 (1); C(1)-P(1)-C(15), 111.8 (2); C(1)-P(1)-C(21), 136.0 (2); C(15)-P(1)-C(21), 112.1 (2); O(1)-P-C(21)(1)-C(1), 77.4 (1); O(2)-P(1)-C(21), 87.4 (2).

kcal/mol and $\Delta S^* = -5.7 \pm 0.75$ eu).¹³

Theoretical calculation shows that ring formation and ring opening of the oxygen-apical oxaphosphetane and its pseudorotamer (carbon-apical oxaphosphetane) occur through a [2s + 2s] concerted mechanism.¹⁴ From the fact that polarity of the solvent did not significantly affect the rate it can be concluded that Bestmann's proposal, i.e., a P-C bond heterolysis mechanism from a carbon-apical oxaphosphetane,¹⁵ which agrees with the apical-entrance and apical-departure principle,¹⁶ is unlikely in the second step of the Wittig reaction.

In order to explain not only the solvent effect but also the substituent effect and the negative ΔS^* , we propose a slightly polar transition state as shown in I (Scheme I) for the ring-opening reaction. In the transition state the P-C and C-O bonds are slightly elongated to a different extent,¹⁷ so that C-3 and C-4 are polarized as δ^- and δ'^+ , respectively, whose positive charge can be stabilized by more electron donating groups, leading to the rate acceleration. The small solvent effect is attributed to the slightly polar transition state. The negative activation entropy can be interpreted to arise from the reduction of freedom of the solvent induced by reorientation of the solvent toward the slightly polar transition state.

In summary, we have succeeded in the isolation of stable pentacoordinate 1,2-oxaphosphetanes bearing substituted phenyl groups at the 4-position and elucidated that the second step of the Wittig reaction proceeds via a concerted mechanism involving a slightly polar transition state.

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⁽⁷⁾ $C_{29}H_{19}F_8O_2P$, fw = 582.43, crystal size (mm) 0.75 × 0.50 × 0.50, monoclinic, space group P_2/C , a = 10.450 (5) Å, b = 9.737 (1) Å, c = 25.766(4) Å, $\beta = 96.17$ (4)°, V = 2607 (1) Å³, Z = 4, $D_{calcd} = 1.484$ g/cm³, R =0.048 ($R_w = 0.046$). Full details of the crystallographic structure analysis are provided in the supplementary material.

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X-ray structure of 3d. We also thank Central Glass and Tosoh Akzo Co. for gifts of hexafluorocumyl alcohol and alkyllithiums, respectively.

Supplementary Material Available: Physical and spectral data of 3a-e and 6 and X-ray crystallographic data with tables of thermal and positional parameters, bond lengths, and bond angles for 3d (18 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

New Triply Hydrogen Bonded Complexes with Highly Variable Stabilities

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The use of hydrogen bonds to confer binding strength and selectivity has become a dominant theme in host-guest complexation studies.¹ As the number of reports on hydrogen-bonded complexes grows, so will the opportunities to discern patterns and, in turn, formulate rules for predicting the properties of unknown systems.² A case in point is the insightful analysis of triply hydrogen bonded systems recently reported by Jorgensen.³ It notes that two complexes in which hydrogen bond donor (D) and acceptor (A) groups alternate (ADA·DAD; 1.2, 3.4) have $K_{\text{assoc}} \approx 10^2 \text{ M}^{-1}$,^{4,5} while two DDA·AAD complexes (5.6, 7.8) are significantly stronger with $K_{assoc} \approx 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1.6.7}$ Since the primary hydrogen bonds were similar in each system, the discrepancy was proposed to result from the different arrangement of the hydrogen-bonding sites and, in turn, different secondary electrostatic interactions. To test the generality of this analysis, we have experimentally examined four new triply hydrogen bonded complexes (9.10, 9.11, 12.13, 14.15), of which one included the pre-

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viously unknown DDD-AAA hydrogen-bonding motif (12-13). This latter arrangement contained four attractive secondary interactions and was predicted computationally to lead to the strongest complex.³



Most of the compounds used in this study were commercially available or were readily prepared using known procedures. $^{8-11}$

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⁽⁸⁾ Compounds 10 and 13 were prepared according to ref 10. Compounds 9 and 12 were prepared according to ref 9. Compound 11 was prepared according to ref 11. Compound 14 is available from the Aldrich Chemical Co. as the amine. All compounds used in this study gave correct elemental analyses and had spectral data in full accord with the assigned structures.

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