

Communications to the Editor

Intramolecularly Chelated Di- and Tetranuclear Aryllithium Compounds: Crystal Structure of $\text{Li}_4[\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(2\text{-CH}_2\text{NMe}_2)]_4$ Containing Four-Center Two-Electron-Bonded C(aryl) Atoms and Heptacoordinate Lithium Atoms

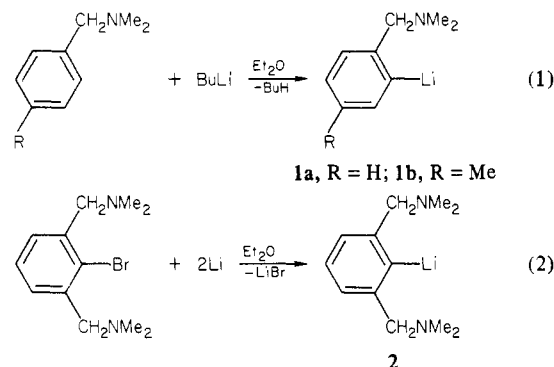
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A variety of aryllithium compounds can be easily obtained via a direct heteroatom-facilitated lithiation.¹ The coordination of the electron-deficient metalating agent with the nonbonding electrons of the substrate heteroatom has been proposed as the initial step in these reactions, but experimental proof for this is not yet available.¹ We have studied the lithiation of mono-² and 1,3-bis(dialkylamino)methylbenzenes³ as representative substrates and report here the structure in the solid state of a new tetranuclear aryllithium cluster, $\text{Li}_4[\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(2\text{-(CH}_2\text{NMe}_2)]_4$ (**1a**) containing the first example of a face-center bonded aryl group. We include ¹³C (natural abundance) NMR data that reflect the structures of **1a** and **1b** and related $\text{Li}_2[\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(2,6\text{-(CH}_2\text{NMe}_2)_2]$ (**2**) in toluene and toluene-THF mixtures.

Compound **1a**, $\text{Li}_4[\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(2\text{-(CH}_2\text{NMe}_2)]_4$, crystallizes slowly (48 h) from an ether-hexane solution containing an exact equimolar mixture of *n*-butyllithium and *N,N*-dimethylbenzylamine (see eq 1). Crystals of **1a** are tetragonal with space group *I*₄ with 16 molecules in a unit cell of dimensions *a* = 18.513 (1) and *c* = 10.187 (1) Å.

The two molecules in the asymmetric unit give rise to two almost identical, independent $\text{Li}_4[\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(2\text{-(CH}_2\text{NMe}_2)]_4$ tetramers around



4 axes. Relevant distances and angles are given in the legend to Figure 1.⁹ The four Li atoms form an approximately regular tetrahedron with two independent Li-Li distances of 2.577 (8) and 2.489 (8) Å. Each of the 2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄ ligands is bonded to the Li₄ tetramer via C(1) (see Figure 1A) to a face of three Li atoms [with almost equal C(1)-Li distances (2.25-2.30 Å)] and via the lone pair of the CH₂NMe₂-nitrogen atom to one of these three Li atoms [see Figure 1B; N-Li 2.011 (9) Å].

The face-centered position of C(1) leading to a Li₄C₄ skeleton for **1a**, which is similar to that found in $\text{Li}_4\text{Me}_4\cdot 2\text{TMEDA}$,¹⁰ and the nearly perpendicular position of the phenyl rings^{4b} to the Li₃ plane point to a four-center two-electron bonding of the 2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄ groups. This is not unexpected because the C(1) sp² orbital is like the C sp³ orbital suited for multicenter bonding.^{4b} However, this novel type of aryllithium structure is, to our knowledge, the first clear example of such aryl-metal bonding.¹¹

It is interesting to compare the structure of **1a** with the structure of the corresponding organocopper(I) tetramer $\text{Cu}_4[\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(2\text{-(CH}_2\text{NMe}_2)\text{-5-Me}]_4$,¹³ which comprises a butterfly arrangement of the four Cu atoms with three-center two-electron-bonded aryl groups¹⁴ and only weak Cu-N bonding.^{4b} Reasons for the observed difference in stereochemistry at the C(1) and metal atoms between the aryllithium and -copper(I) species are not apparent. Both Li and Cu^I have only vacant s and p orbitals available for bonding. A possible factor may be the much stronger preference of lithium for nitrogen coordination, thus stabilizing the Li₄C₄ core of **1a**, which has a nearly ideal geometry at lithium for intramolecular chelation.

¹H and ¹³C (natural abundance) NMR spectra of $\text{Li}_4[\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(2\text{-(CH}_2\text{NMe}_2)\text{-5-Me}]_4$ (**1b**) dissolved¹⁵ in toluene¹⁶ showed that up to 90 °C the tetranuclear structure, established for **1a** in the solid, is retained in solution; i.e., Li-N dissociation as well

[†] Anorganisch Chemisch Laboratorium.

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(1) Gschwend, H. W.; Rodriguez, H. R. *Org. React.* **1979**, *26*, 1.

(2) Ortho-lithiated *N,N*-dimethylbenzylamines have been extensively used in organic³ and organometallic syntheses.⁴

(3) Jones, F. N.; Zinn, M. F.; Hauser, C. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1962**, *27*, 4389; **1967**, *32*, 1479. Slocum, D. W.; Sugerman, D. I. *Adv. Chem. Ser.* **1974**, *130*, 222. Kaiser, E. M.; Slocum, D. W. "Organic Reactive Intermediates"; McManus, S. P., Ed.; Academic Press: New York, 1973; Chapter 5.

(4) (a) Omae, I. *Chem. Rev.* **1979**, *79*, 287. van Koten G.; Noltes, J. G. "Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry"; Pergamon: New York, 1982; Vol. 2, Chapter 14. (b) van Koten, G.; Noltes, J. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 6593.

(5) van Koten, G.; Jastrzebski, J. T. B. H.; Noltes, J. G.; Spek, A. L.; Schoone, J. C. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1978**, *148*, 233.

(6) Viswanathan, C. T.; Wilkie, C. A. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1973**, *54*, 1. 2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄Li reacts with Me₂SO probably providing Me₂NCH₂C₆H₅ and Li(Me₂SO-H).

(7) 1267 reflections with intensities above the 2.5σ level were measured on a Nonius CAD 4 diffractometer using graphite monochromated Cu Kα radiation. No absorption correction was applied. (crystal dimensions: 0.65 × 0.3 × 0.45 mm; μ = 4.04 cm⁻¹). The structure with two molecules in the asymmetric unit was determined by means of MULTAN.^{8a} Block-diagonal least-squares refinement, anisotropic for Li, C, and N, and isotropic for H, converged to an *R* value of 0.053. A weighting scheme *w* = (8.3 + *F*_o + 0.006 *F*_o²)^{-1/2} was applied. The calculations were performed with the X-RAY system^{8b} and PLUTO.^{8c} The final coordinates are listed in Table I, which has been deposited as supplementary data.

(8) (a) Main, P.; Lessinger, L.; Woolfson, M. M.; Germain, G.; Declercq, J. P. MULTAN 77 (a system of computer programs for the automatic solution of crystal structures from X-ray diffraction data, University of York, England and Louvain, Belgium, 1977). (b) Stewart, J. M. "The X-Ray System"; Technical Report TR 446, Computer Science Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 1976. (c) Motherwell, W. D. S. PLUTO Program for plotting crystal and molecular structures; University of Cambridge, England, 1976.

(9) Minor differences in bond lengths and angles are ascribed to crystal packing effects. The data mentioned and discussed in this communication belong to one of these two molecules.⁷

(10) Köster, H.; Thoennes, D.; Weiss, E. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1978**, *160*, 1.

(11) Recently, the crystal structure of $\text{Li}_8\text{O}[\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(2,6\text{-(OMe)}_2)_6]$ has been resolved,¹² which consists of two Li₄ pyramids, each of them attached via its Li₃ base to the single oxygen atom. The remaining six Li₃ faces of the two pyramids are occupied by the six aryl groups. However, the difference between the shortest, 2.283 (3) Å, and the longest, 2.484 (2) Å, C(1)-Li distance and the coordination of three OMe groups to each top of the two Li₄ pyramids suggest rather an asymmetric three-center two-electron than a four-center two-electron bond.

(12) Dietrich, H. H.; Rewicki, D. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1981**, *205*, 281.

(13) van Koten, G.; Noltes, J. G. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1975**, *84*, 129.

(14) ten Hoedt, R. W. M.; Noltes, J. G.; van Koten, G.; Spek, A. L. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1978**, 1800.

(15) In contrast to the insolubility of **1a** in hydrocarbon solvents, **1b** has a good solubility (e.g., toluene, 0.4 g/mL), both **1a** and **1b** are very soluble in THF (about 0.5 g/mL).

(16) van Koten, G.; Noltes, J. G. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1979**, *174*, 367; with special reference to Table 3 and the experimental part of this paper.

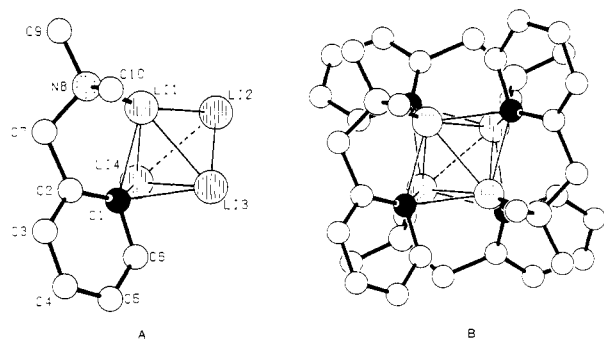


Figure 1. (A) Bonding of one of the 2-Me₂NCH₂C₆H₄ groups to the Li₄ tetrahedron:⁷ Li(1)-Li(3) 2.557 (11), Li(1)-Li(4) 2.489 (11), C(1)-Li(1) 2.290 (9), C(1)-Li(3) 2.254 (8), C(1)-Li(4) 2.305 (10), N(8)-Li(1) 2.011 (9) Å; Li(3)-Li(1)-Li(4) 61.1 (3), Li(2)-Li(1)-Li(3) 57.8, Li(1)-N(8)-C(7) 99.5, C(2)-C(7)-N(8) 113.4, C(2)-C(1)-C(6) 111.7 (4)°.²⁶ (B) Overall structure of the Ar₄Li₄ cluster **1a**.

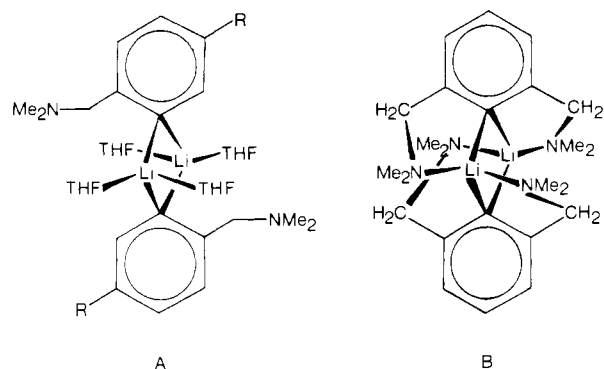


Figure 2. Proposed structure for (A) Ar₂Li₂·4THF (R = Me, H) and (B) Li₂[C₆H₃-2,6-(CH₂NMe₂)₂]₂.

as four-center two-electron aryl-Li₃ bonding are inert on the NMR time scale. The dissymmetry of the Li₄ aggregate (see Figure 1A) renders the prochiral CH₂ protons (¹H NMR δ 2.93, 4.49 (*J*_{gem} = 13 Hz)) and (Li-N)NMe₂ methyl groupings (¹³C NMR δ 42.9, 45.6) diastereotopic. The multiplicity of C(1) could not be resolved¹⁷ but the line width of 110 Hz is in line with the ¹³C(1) nucleus being coupled to three ⁷Li nuclei with an average ¹*J*(¹³C-⁷Li) of about 12 Hz (cf. ¹*J*(¹³C-⁷Li) for *n*-Bu₄Li₄ and *t*-Bu₄Li₄ of 14 and 11 Hz, respectively¹⁸).

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of **1b** in Et₂O (-35 to 30 °C) is similar to that observed in toluene-*d*₈, indicating that the tetranuclear Li₄ aggregate is stable in weakly coordinating solvents. However, THF effectively breaks down the tetranuclear aggregate into dinuclear species. At -35 °C the ¹³C NMR spectrum of a 1:4 molar mixture of **1b** and THF-*d*₈¹⁹ in toluene-*d*₈ established that two distinct organolithium species were present in solution, i.e., unreacted **1b** (abbreviated as Ar₄Li₄) and dinuclear Ar₂Li₂·4THF (see eq 3).



The structure of Ar₂Li₂·4THF (see Figure 2A) could be deduced from the observation of a seven-line 1:2:3:4:3:2:1 pattern for C(1) (¹*J*(¹³C-⁷Li) = 20 Hz),²⁸ consistent with an aryl group

(17) The observation of one broad line for C(1) in which no fine structure was detectable is caused by two facts: (i) a relatively small coupling constant; (ii) a relatively great natural line broadening (e.g., ~5 Hz for *n*-Bu₄Li₄) as a result of the quadrupolar moment of ⁷Li.

(18) McKeever, L. D.; Waack, R. J. *Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1969**, 750.

(19) Relevant ¹³C NMR data (δ) for **1a**²⁰ and **1b** recorded in THF-*d*₈ at -35 °C: (**1a**) 189.4 (septet, 1:2:3:4:3:2:1 ratio, ¹*J*(¹³C-⁷Li) = 20 Hz, C(1)), 72.7 (CH₂N), 46.4 (N(CH₃)₂); (**1b**) 189.3 (¹*J*(¹³C-⁷Li) = 20 Hz, C(1)), 72.4 (CH₂N), 46.3 (N(CH₃)₂).

(20) The ¹³C NMR spectrum, recorded at room temperature in a THF-hexane mixture, of an in situ prepared sample of **1a**, in which C(1) was observed as a single line of low intensity, has been reported: Oakes, F. T.; Sebastian, J. F. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1978**, 159, 363. See also ref 6.

now bridging between two Li atoms by a three-center two-electron bond. The ¹³C resonance for the NMe₂ group between -50 and 50 °C is observed as a single line (δ 46.4) remarkably close to the value of free C₆H₅CH₂NMe₂ (δ 46.3), suggesting that this group is not involved in lithium-nitrogen coordination.

At 0 °C in the ¹H NMR spectrum Ar₄Li₄ and Ar₂Li₂·4THF were in slow interaggregate exchange as indicated by spin saturation experiments.²¹ This was confirmed by coalescence of the resonance patterns of the two clusters and disappearance of ¹*J*(¹³C-⁷Li) at temperatures above 0 °C.

In Ar₂Li₂·4THF the THF molecules can effectively compete with the nitrogen atom containing substituents for coordination sites at lithium. In order to further study this aspect we isolated²² and studied the structure of LiC₆H₃-2,6-(CH₂NMe₂)₂ (**2**) in solution. Compound **2** (see eq 2) is an extremely soluble aryllithium compound (hexane, 0.2 g/mL), which exists in benzene as a dimer.²² The ¹³C NMR data are in accord with the structure shown in Figure 2B. As in Ar₂Li₂·4THF the aryl groups are three-center two-electron bonded to two lithium atoms. However, both CH₂NMe₂ ligands now coordinate intramolecularly to lithium, thus rendering this atom tetracoordinate. The special stereochemistry of the C₆H₃-2,6-(CH₂NMe₂)₂ monoanionic ligand²³ obviously stabilizes the Li-N coordination because strong donor molecules such as THF, TMEDA, and Et₃N no longer displace either one of these nitrogen ligands.

The Li₂[C₆H₃-2,6-(CH₂NMe₂)₂]₂ (**2**) molecule has C₂ symmetry in the ground state (¹³C NMR below 0 °C), and therefore the CH₂ protons and NMe₂ methyl groupings are diastereotopic. It is, however, interesting to see that at temperatures above 10 °C these groups become enantiotopic. Since the ¹*J*(¹³C-⁷Li) value and chemical shift positions are temperature independent, we know that at higher temperatures the molecule becomes fluxional. The Δ*G*[‡] amounts to 13.4 kcal/mol.²⁴ A process is proposed involving oscillation of the aryl rings with respect to the Li...Li axis; this proceeds through transition states containing planar tetracoordinate C(1) atoms. Such transition states are similar to those observed during the rotation of aryl groups in Li₂M₂(C₆H₄-2-(CH₂NMe₂)₄ (M = Cu^I or Ag^I).^{4b}

It has been predicted that for dinuclear aryllithium species planar tetracoordinate carbon geometries for C(1) are more stable than the tetrahedral alternatives.²⁵ In the case of **2**, puckering

(21) Irradiation at δ 3.73 (the ¹H resonance for the CH₂N group in Ar₂Li₂·4THF) causes disappearance of the ¹H resonances at δ 4.59 and 2.95 (the AB pattern for the CH₂N group in **1b**).

(22) Li₂[C₆H₃-2,6-(CH₂NMe₂)₂]₂ (**2**) was prepared in 80% yield, after recrystallization from pentane at -20 °C, starting from 2,6-(Me₂NCH₂)₂C₆H₃Br and 2 equiv of metallic lithium in refluxing diethyl ether; mol wt (by cryoscopic in benzene) found 379 (calcd for Li₂[C₆H₃-2,6-(CH₂NMe₂)₂]₂ 396); ¹H NMR (toluene-*d*₈) δ 1.80, 1.95 (N(CH₃)₂, both s, above -20 °C one signal at δ 1.93), 2.85, 4.05 (NCH₂, both d, ²*J*(HH) = 11.5 Hz, above +5 °C one signal at δ 3.45); ¹³C NMR (toluene-*d*₈) δ 43.9, 47.9 (N(CH₃)₂, above +10 °C one signal at δ 46.1), 73.6 (NCH₂), 189.3 (C(1)), seven-line pattern with 1:2:3:4:3:2:1 intensity ratio, ¹*J*(⁷Li-¹³C) = 20.5 Hz²⁸ 152.5 (C(2)), 124.4 (C(3)), 125.1 (C(4)). In THF-*d*₈ essentially the same ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectrum was observed.

(23) Grove, D. M.; van Koten, G.; Ubbels, H. J. C.; Spek, A. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, 104, 4285.

(24) This value has been obtained from the coalescence temperatures of the N(CH₃)₂ (-21.5 °C) and the NCH₂ group (+6 °C) in the ¹H NMR spectrum as well as of the N(CH₃)₂ group (+9 °C) in the ¹³C NMR spectrum, yielding Δ*G* values of 13.2, 13.5, and 13.6 kcal/mol, respectively.

(25) Chandrasekar, J.; von Ragué Schleyer, P. J. *Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1981**, 260.

(26) Remarkable is the small C(2)-C(1)-C(6) angle of 111.7 (4)°, but similar distortions have been found in three-center two-electron-bonded phenyl groups in Ph₂Li₂·2TMEDA (111.8°),^{27a} Ph₆Mg₂Li₂·2TMEDA (111.6°),^{27b} and Ph₆Al₂ (113.7°).^{27c}

(27) (a) Thoennes, D.; Weiss, E. *Chem. Ber.* **1978**, 111, 3157. (b) Thoennes, D.; Weiss, E. *Ibid.* **1978**, 111, 3726. (c) Malone, J. F.; McDonald, W. S. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1972**, 2646.

(28) The observed ¹*J*(¹³C(1)-⁷Li) value of 20 Hz for both Ar₂Li₂·4THF and Li₂[C₆H₃-2,6-(CH₂NMe₂)₂]₂, in which C(1) bridges between two lithium atoms, lies between the value of 11-14 Hz, as observed¹⁸ in lithium clusters in which C(1) bridges between three lithium atoms, and a value of about 45 Hz, as observed²⁹ for lithium carbenoids in which C(1) is bonded to only one lithium atom. This dependence of the ¹³C-⁷Li coupling constants on the state of aggregation of the lithium compounds was recently indicated by the results of computational studies.³⁰

in the five-membered chelate rings (see Figure 2B) causes the observed reversal in stability.

Acknowledgment. Thanks are due to Professor K. Vrieze for his stimulating interest.

Registry No. **1a**, 56174-66-4; **1b**, 82621-99-6; **2**, 82622-01-3; Ar₂-Li₂·4THF, 82622-00-2; Li, 7439-93-2.

Supplementary Material Available: Listings of positional and thermal parameters for Li₄[C₆H₄-2-(CH₂NMe₂)₂]₄ and of bond distances and bond angles (14 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

(29) Seebach, D.; Siegel, H.; Gabriel, J.; Hässig, R. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1980**, 63, 2046.

(30) Clark, T.; Chandrasekhar, J.; von Ragué Schleyer, P. J. *Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1980**, 672.

4-(1-Adamantyl)homoadamant-3-ene: An Extraordinarily Stable Bridgehead Olefin[†]

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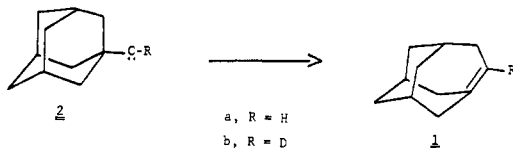
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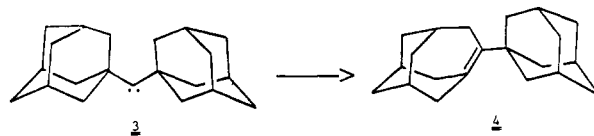
An extensive, recent analysis of experimentally known and calculated bridgehead ("anti-Bredt") olefins² confirmed Wiseman's prediction:³ when a *trans*-cycloheptene unit is present, such alkenes are too reactive to be isolable at room temperature. Homo-adamant-3-ene (tricyclo[4.3.1.1^{3,8}]undec-3-ene) (**1**) affords an



example. Prepared via carbene **2**, **1** could be characterized by infrared spectroscopy on a NaCl plate at low temperature. Warming to -20 °C resulted in dimerization.⁴

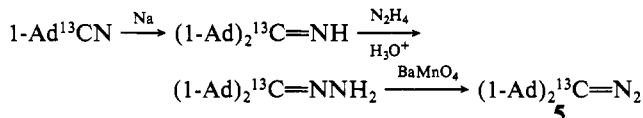
As we have pointed out, replacement of the vinyl hydrogen in trisubstituted bridgehead olefins by a bulky ("R") group should inhibit dimerization or other side reactions and enhance thermal stability, perhaps markedly.² This prediction has now been verified. In introducing such an "R" group we would also create the possibility of reactions of the divalent carbon of **2** with the

new "R" group. There is, however, a special "R", adamantyl, that avoids all problems. Ring expansion of diadamantylcarbene, **3**,

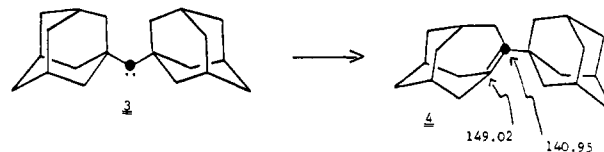


using any one of the six equivalent C-C bonds adjacent to the divalent carbon gives the same product, 4-(1-adamantyl)homoadamant-3-ene (**4**), in which the double bond is guarded by the second adamantane.⁵

Diadamantylidiazomethane (**5**) was produced from 1-

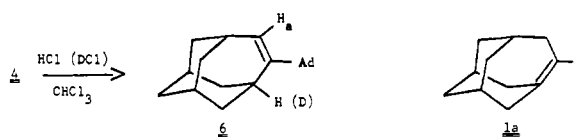


adamantylcyanide by minor modification of Wynberg's method⁶ in which MnO₂ oxidation was replaced by one using BaMnO₄.⁷ Introduction of ¹³C at the divalent carbon position was routine. Flash-vacuum pyrolysis of **3** from a flask maintained at 420 °C with rapid trapping at -196 °C⁴ led to solid material (>85% conversion, >90% purity) whose ¹H NMR spectrum revealed no vinyl hydrogens. Absorptions in the δ 2.2-3.0 range were indicative of the correct number of allylic protons. The ¹³C NMR showed two very weak signals in the olefinic region at 140.95 and 149.02. The intensity of the former peak, assigned to C₄ in **4**, was ap-



propriately enhanced in the ¹³C enriched product. These ¹³C chemical shifts extend Becker's observation that bridgehead alkene signals in *trans*-cyclooctene systems (at ca. 147 ppm) are not shifted to abnormal values.⁸ We conclude that our product **4** contains a tetrasubstituted double bond.

In chloroform containing HCl isomerization occurs to give a trisubstituted double-bond isomer, 4-(1-adamantyl)homoadamant-4-ene (**6**). Column chromatography (silica gel/hexane)



gave pure **6** (mp 167-170 °C), which was identified by ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy including a variety of decoupling experiments. The vinyl hydrogen (H_a in **6**) appears as a doublet of doublets (*J* = 8.8, 1.8 Hz) and, when DCl is used in place of HCl, collapses to a single doublet (*J* = 8.8 Hz).

Of prime interest is the position of the C=C double bond stretch in the infrared spectrum. In **1a**, as we reported earlier,⁴ a shift from the "expected" value of 1673 cm⁻¹ (*cis*-1-methylcycloheptene)⁹ to 1610 cm⁻¹ occurs. The double bond in **4** is tetrasubstituted and thus harder to observe. Moreover, we have been unable to achieve greater than ca. 90% purity (estimated by NMR) despite substantial effort. Compound **4** does not survive gas or column chromatography, and liquid chromatography has

[†] Dedicated to Professor Dr. H. Stetter, Aachen, a pioneer in adamantane chemistry, on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

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(2) Maier, W. F.; Schleyer, P. v. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, 103, 1891. Also see: Warner, P. M.; Peacock, S. J. *Comp. Chem.* **1982**, 3, 417. Ermer, O. "Aspekte von Kraftfeldrechnungen"; Wolfgang Baur: München, 1981; Chapter 4.4.

(3) Wiseman, J. R.; Pletcher, W. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1970**, 92, 956.

(4) Martella, D. J.; Jones, M., Jr.; Schleyer, P. v. R.; Maier, W. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, 101, 7634.

(5) New compounds (**4**, **6**, **7**) were characterized by precise mass spectroscopy and by infrared, ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR spectra.

(6) Wieringa, J. H.; Wynberg, H.; Strating, J. *Tetrahedron* **1974**, 30, 3053.

(7) Firouzabadi, A.; Ghaderi, E. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1978**, 839. Hughey IV, J. L.; Knapp, S.; Schugar, H. *Synthesis* **1980**, 489. Slusarek, W., private communication.

(8) Becker, K. B. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1977**, 60, 81.

(9) Lord, R. C.; Walker, R. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1954**, 76, 2518.