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Recent Results on Synthesis and Ring Cleavage Reactions of 2H-Azaphosphirene Derivatives

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RECENT RESULTS ON SYNTHESIS AND RING CLEAVAGE REACTIONS OF 2H-AZAPHOSPHIRENE DERIVATIVES

RAINER STREUBEL and ANNETTE OSTROWSKI

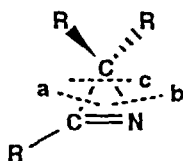
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Abstract Reactions of [amino(aryl)carbene](pentacarbonyl)metal complexes with chlorophosphane derivatives under basic conditions yield 2H-azaphosphirene complex derivatives. Investigations of thermally induced ring-cleavage reactions of 2H-azaphosphirene tungsten derivatives in the presence of various trapping reagents are presented.

Keywords: *phosphorus heterocycles, 2H-azaphosphirenes, carbene complexes, phosphanediyl complex.*

Introduction

There are few known synthetic methods that give access to strained three-membered heterocycles containing a ring system with a C=N-moiety and a further heteroatom. These heterocycles are of interest because of their molecular structure and expected high reactivity. In contrast, the chemistry of 2H-azirenes has been investigated in detail, especially with respect to ring-opening reactions.¹ Several reaction pathways have been reported, including reactions that pro-



Scheme. Ring-opening reactions of 2H-azirenes.

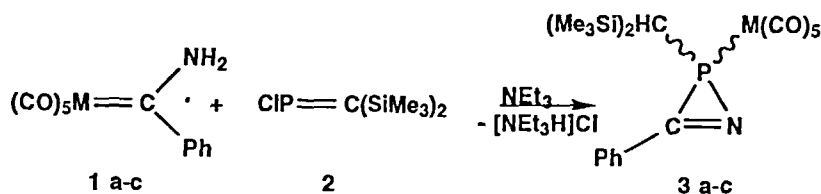
ceed by one- (a, b) or two-fold bond fission (c) (scheme).

The first synthesis of 2*H*-azaphosphirene tungsten complexes has been achieved by reaction of [amino(aryl)carbene](pentacarbonyl)-tungsten(0) complexes with [bis(trimethylsilyl)methylene]chlorophosphane under basic conditions.²

Results

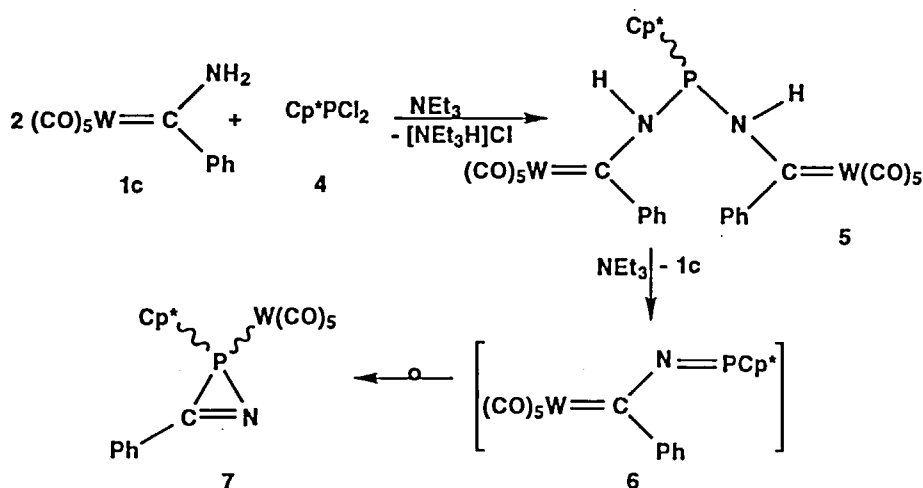
Syntheses of 2*H*-azaphosphirene complexes

In order to exploit our synthetic approach to 2*H*-azaphosphirene complexes, we decided to investigate the reaction of amino(phenyl)carbene metal complexes ($M = \text{Cr}, \text{Mo}, \text{W}$) **1a-c** towards methylene(chloro)phosphane **2**. In the presence of triethylamine a clean reaction occurred, affording 2*H*-azaphosphirene metal complexes **3b,c** in good yields, whereas compound **3a** showed a slow decomposition yielding diphosphene complex derivatives even at ambient temperature.³



1a, 3a: $M = \text{Cr}$; **1b, 3b:** $M = \text{Mo}$; **1c, 3c:** $M = \text{W}$

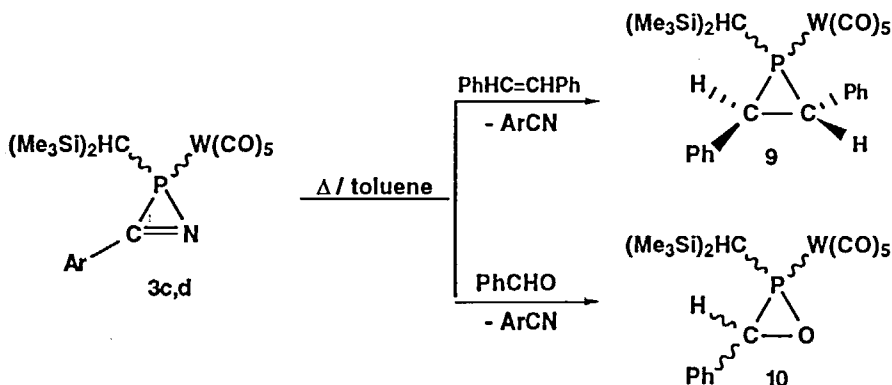
The employment of a *cis*-phosphane-substituted carbene tungsten complex showed that this rearrangement reaction proceeds stereospecifically with respect to the metal center.³ A surprisingly selective base-induced condensation reaction of [amino(phenyl)carbene]-tungsten(0) derivative **1a** with the bulky alkyl(dichloro)phosphane derivative **4a** ($R = \text{Cp}^*$) led to the 2*H*-azaphosphirene complex derivative **7** via the bisamino-substituted phosphane **4**.³ As crucial reaction step a rearrangement of a transiently formed 2-aza-1-phospha-4-tungsta-1,3-butadiene derivative **6** to give **7** is proposed.



Investigations of thermally induced ring-opening of 3c,d

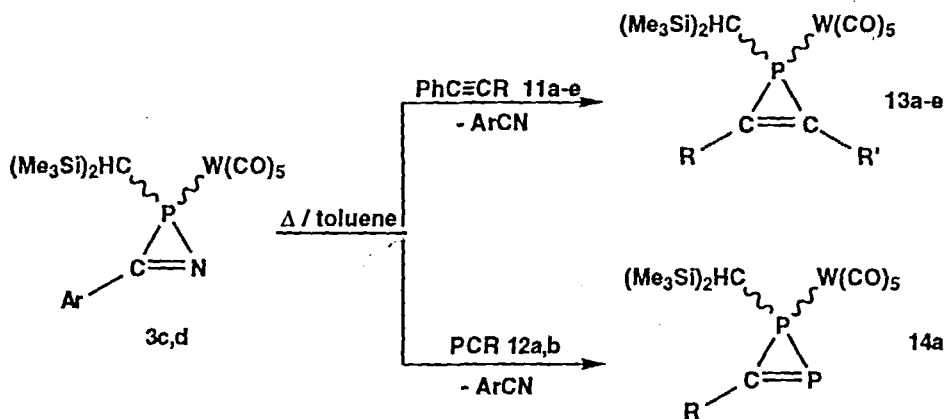
One of the most interesting aims in heterocyclic chemistry of small ring compounds is to explore their ring-opening behaviour.

The P-C-N ring system of the 2H-azaphosphirene tungsten complex 3d possesses very narrow ring angles, pointing to a strained ring system.² As first investigations of the reactions of 3c,d have shown, it displays a remarkably low stability in solution. Thermal decomposition of 3c,d in toluene in the presence of *trans*-stilbene or benzaldehyde afforded the corresponding nitrile derivatives and the [2+1]-cycloaddition products 9³,10.⁴ The nitrile derivatives have been identified by IR-spectroscopy. The formation of 9,10 can be rationalized by reaction of a transiently formed phosphanediyl complex with these multiple bond systems, nevertheless a short liv



ing phospho-analogue of a nitrile ylide - generated by ring-opening of **1c,d** - cannot be completely excluded. The X-ray structure analysis of **10⁴** reveals a widened P-C-O ring system in comparison to another oxaphosphirane complex.⁵

Further substantiation for the proposal of a phosphanediyl complex intermediate has been obtained using other trapping reagents. Thermal decomposition of **3c,d** in toluene in the presence of acetylene derivatives **11a-e** (**11a**: R,R' = Ph; **11b**: R = Ph, R' = H; **11c**: R = Ph, R' = Me; **11d**: R = H, R' = OEt; **11e**: R,R' = CO₂Me) or phosphalkynes **12a,b** (**a**: R = *i*Pr(Me₃Si)N; **b**: R = *t*Bu) afforded the corresponding 1*H*-phosphirene derivatives **13a,b⁴,c-e⁶** and the 1*H*-diphosphirene complex **14a⁶**; in the case of **12b** a 1,2-dihydro-1,2,3-triphosphete complex⁶ is the final product.



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