

the methyl substitution progressed, the resonance signals of the phosphorus atom and the boron atom (attached to the phosphorus) both shifted downfield, and the B-P coupling constant increased. However, the values of the chemical shifts and the coupling constants for each corresponding pair of compounds were different. The B-P coupling constant was larger, and the ^{31}P shift value was more positive for each triborane(7) adduct than for the corresponding borane(3) adduct. See Table II. These differences were considered to reflect the stronger acid strength of triborane(7), over that of borane(3), toward the phosphines. The qualitative relationship between the B-P coupling constant and the dative bond strength had been noted earlier by several investigators.¹⁸⁻²¹

Experimental Section

Chemicals. Laboratory stock tetraborane(10) which had been purified as described elsewhere¹¹ was used. Phosphine²² and methylphosphines²³ were prepared by the literature methods. Reagent grade dichloromethane and tetrahydrofuran were stored over molecular sieves and LiAlH_4 , respectively. Trimethylphosphine-triborane(7) was prepared by the direct, stoichiometric reaction of B_4H_{10} with $\text{P}(\text{CH}_3)_3$.⁵ The borane(3) adduct of $\text{P}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ was sublimed out from the product mixture. Volatile compounds were handled in conventional vacuum lines.

Instruments. The NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian XL-100-15 spectrometer equipped with a spin-decoupler unit (Gyrocode) and a variable-temperature control unit. The operating frequencies were 100, 40.5, and 32.1 MHz for ^1H , ^{31}P , and ^{11}B nuclei, respectively. The mass spectral data were obtained on an AEI MS-30 mass spectrometer operating in the electron impact mode at 70 eV.

Reactions of B_4H_{10} with Phosphines. A 0.94-mmol sample of B_4H_{10} was dissolved in 2 mL of CH_2Cl_2 in a 100-mL round-bottom flask equipped with a Teflon needle valve, and a 2.86-mmol sample of PH_3 was condensed in the flask. The flask was then allowed to warm to room temperature and stand for 2 h while the solution was agitated. The volatile components were then pumped out at 0 °C. The solvent, PH_3 , B_2H_6 , $\text{PH}_3\cdot\text{BH}_3$ and B_4H_{10} were the volatile constituents. The triborane(7) adduct, $\text{PH}_3\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$, that remained in the flask could be distilled out slowly at room temperature. The yields were 40–60% on the basis of the amount of B_4H_{10} used.

The reactions of B_4H_{10} with CH_3PH_2 and $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{PH}$ were performed similarly, except that the reactants were mixed in 1:2 (borane:phosphine) ratios. (The use of a large excess of these phosphines resulted in the formation of the diborane(4) adducts of the phosphines. The fast reaction of $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{P}\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$ with $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{P}$ at room temperature to give $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{P}\cdot\text{BH}_3$ and $\text{B}_2\text{H}_4\cdot 2\text{P}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ was noted earlier.²⁴) The borane(3) adducts were separated from the triborane(7) adducts by pumping on the mixtures of 0 °C and then briefly at room temperature and were identified by their ^{11}B NMR spectra. The yields of the clear liquid methylphosphine adducts of triborane(7) were virtually quantitative. The mass spectra of these three adducts were typical of triborane(7) adducts, as the highest m/e appeared at two units less than the molecular ion masses of the adducts.¹¹

Reaction of $\text{THF}\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$ with PH_3 . A 0.96-mmol sample of tetrahydrofuran-triborane(7) was prepared⁸ in a reaction tube (22-mm o.d. Pyrex tube), and the adduct was dissolved in diethyl ether (ca. 2 mL). A 1.25-mmol sample of PH_3 was condensed into the tube at -196 °C, and the tube was allowed to warm to -80 °C. The tube was then allowed to warm to higher temperatures in stepwise increments of 10 °C, while the solution was agitated continuously. At each step, the pressure of the system was monitored for the absorption of the PH_3 vapor by the solution. A decrease in the pressure was not observed until the mixture was warmed to 0 °C. Unchanged phosphine was fractionated out from the reaction mixture when the pressure change became undetectable. The phosphine that was recovered was 0.32 mmol, indicating that the displacement reaction was 97% complete. Upon removal of other volatile components from the reaction mixture at -23 °C, a clear liquid remained in the reaction tube. The ^{11}B NMR spectrum of this liquid in a CH_2Cl_2 solution was that of $\text{PH}_3\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$

containing a small amount of $\text{THF}\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$.¹²

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Registry No. $\text{PH}_3\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$, 77589-49-2; $\text{CH}_3\text{PH}_2\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$, 77589-50-5; $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{PH}\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$, 77589-51-6; $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{P}\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$, 12543-29-2; B_4H_{10} , 18283-93-7; PH_3 , 7803-51-2; CH_3PH_2 , 593-54-4; $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{PH}$, 676-59-5; $\text{THF}\cdot\text{B}_3\text{H}_7$, 12544-89-7.

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New Route for the Synthesis of Tricyclopentadienyluranium Halides

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A facile synthetic route for UCp_4 , UCp_3 , $\text{U}(\text{COT})_2$, and other related organoactinides has been achieved by the direct reaction of a fresh reactive uranium powder from electrolytic amalgamation with respective organic substrates.¹ In this work we further demonstrate the applicability of the uranium powder method to the simple synthesis of UCp_3X , where $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$, Br , and I , respectively. The uranium powder was reacted with cyclopentadiene and alkyl halides simultaneously under a mild condition to obtain the respective complexes. Previously these complexes were prepared by treating uranium tetrahalides with alkali or thallium cyclopentadienide.²⁻⁵

Experimental Section

Infrared spectra were obtained on a Perkin Elmer 397 IR spectrophotometer. Proton NMR spectra were recorded at 80.0 MHz on a Varian Associates FT-80A. Chemical shifts to high field of internal standard (Me_4Si) are given as positive. Mass spectra were obtained with use of a Varian-Mat 112 spectrometer. Gaseous products were analyzed with a Varian 3700 gas chromatograph. Elemental analyses were performed by Universal Consultant Corp. and are shown in Table I. All the operations were carried out under nitrogen in a glovebag or in an evacuated system. Organic solvents were distilled from drying agents prior to use. The starting material, uranium amalgam, was prepared as described elsewhere.⁶ Thermal decomposition at 10^{-4} torr and 150 °C gave the reactive metal powder. The compound UCp_3 was freshly prepared prior to use as described elsewhere.¹

Reactions of Ethyl Bromide or Iodide and Cyclopentadiene with Uranium Powder. Fifty milliliters of a benzene solution of ethyl bromide (3 mL) or ethyl iodide (3 mL) and 3 mL of freshly distilled cyclopentadiene were added to a round-bottom flask containing 5 g of freshly prepared uranium powder in an evacuated system. The reaction mixture was heated and refluxed until it turned from colorless to brown within a few minutes. After a 4-h reaction period, the gaseous products were collected and analyzed; the results are shown in Table II. The mixture was filtered; the filtrate was pumped to dryness, washed with hexane several times, and finally dried in vacuo. The solid was characterized as tricyclopentadienyluranium(IV) bromide and iodide. The yields were 85% and 90% for UCp_3Br and UCp_3I , respectively.

Reactions of Methylene Chloride or Carbon Tetrachloride and Cyclopentadiene with Fresh Uranium Powder. Fifty milliliters of a benzene solution of methylene chloride (3 mL) or carbon tetrachloride (3 mL) and 3 mL of freshly distilled cyclopentadiene were added to a flask containing 5 g of freshly prepared uranium powder in an

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Table I. Analytical Data for UCp_3X

compd	elemental ^a anal.	¹ H NMR ^b	IR ^c	mass ^d
$\text{UCp}_3^{35}\text{Cl}$		3.48	3080 (w), 2910 (vw), 1440 (m), 1010 (s), 910 (w), 785 (vs)	468 (26.4), 433 (2.3), 403 (100), 368 (3.0), 338 (95.8), 303 (2.2), 273 (12.5)
$\text{UCp}_3^{79}\text{Br}$		3.72	3101 (w), 2925 (vw), 1440 (s), 1360 (w), 1264 (vw), 1218 (vw), 1064 (vw), 918 (m), 824-780 (vs)	512 (38.8), 447 (81.2), 382 (100), 368 (3.5), 319 (8.21), 317 (9.4), 303 (3.5)
UCp_3I	C 31.48 (32.14)	4.36	3100 (w), 2924 (vw), 1440 (s), 1360 (w), 1264 (vw), 1218 (vw), 1070 (m), 1016 (s), 910 (m), 826-780 (vs)	560 (47.6), 495 (64.3), 433 (76.2), 430 (83.3), 368 (100), 303 (40.5)

^a Calculated values in parentheses. ^b Me_4Si as internal standard. ^c KBr pellet. In cm^{-1} . ^d Relative intensities in parentheses.

Table II. Gaseous Products from Reactions of Uranium Powder with Ethyl Bromide and Cyclopentadiene and Ethyl Bromide Uranium Powder^a

reaction with HCp and $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$: C_2H_4 (75), C_2H_6 (100),
 C_4H_8 (2), C_4H_{10} (2)
reaction of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$: H_2 (4), CH_4 (1), C_2H_4 (100), C_2H_6 (25),
 C_3H_6 (1), C_3H_8 (<1), C_4H_{10} (2)

^a Parentheses indicate relative intensity.

evacuated system. The reaction mixture was heated and refluxed until it turned to a deep brown. After a 3-h reaction period, the mixture was filtered; the filtrate was pumped to dryness, and the solid was transferred for sublimation. The sublimate with a yield of 40% was characterized as UCp_3Cl (60% yield).

Reaction of Ethyl Bromide with Uranium Powder. An excess of ethyl bromide (5 mL) was added to a flask containing 3 g of freshly prepared uranium powder in an evacuated system. The reaction mixture was stirred. Three millimoles of gaseous products were collected after an 18-h reaction period. The results are listed in Table II. The reaction mixture was filtered; the solid was extracted with water and filtered through a glass frit. The Br/U ratio was observed to be 2.4.

Reaction of Ethyl Bromide with Tricyclopentadienyluranium. An excess of ethyl bromide (5 mL) or ethyl iodide (5 mL) was added to a solution of tricyclopentadienyluranium (2.0 g) in 50 mL of benzene in the presence of a small amount of highly reactive uranium powder in an evacuated system. The workup was the same as the previous ones. The solid was characterized as UCp_3Br .

Results and Discussion

The direct reaction of uranium powder with cyclopentadiene and alkyl halides probably involves an oxidative-addition mechanism. A similar pathway might be followed by the reaction of UCp_3 and $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$ in the presence of a small amount of uranium powder. However, what was observed in the NMR spectra was the increase of the product, UCp_3Br , accompanied by the corresponding decrease of UCp_3 , and not a trace ascribable to the intermediate, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{UCp}_3\text{Br}$. The analytical data of the gaseous products from the latter are shown in Table II. Comparable quantities of ethane and ethylene were accompanied by small quantities of butane and butene. A more complicated pattern was obtained from the reaction of uranium powder with ethyl bromide. The gaseous

products could be ascribed to the decomposition of a metal alkyl or/and a precursor complex from electron-transfer dehalogenation to the formation of free radicals^{9,10} and to a coupling of ethyl radicals which gave butane and butene. The evolution of methane, propane, and propene is interesting; however, this observation is not ready to be interpreted.

A similar phenomenon of coupling was also found recently in the reaction of carbon tetrachloride with uranium powder, wherein a major product, C_2Cl_6 , was obviously from the coupling of the $\cdot\text{CCl}_3$ radical.¹¹

The reaction of methylene chloride or carbon tetrachloride, cyclopentadiene, and uranium powder brought forth UCp_3Cl with a yield of 40% and oily products ascribable to various chloro compounds. The mass spectra of UCp_3 and UCp_3Br at 70 eV appear normal; the first two Cp ligands are easily ruptured whereas the remaining one is very difficult to remove. The U-Cl and U-Br bonds are more difficult to rupture than the more covalent U-C bonds.¹² However, U-I is more easily ruptured than U-C for UCp_3I .

Registry No. UCp_3Cl , 1284-81-7; UCp_3Br , 67507-08-8; UCp_3I , 69030-40-6; UCp_3 , 54007-00-0; $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$, 74-96-4; $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$, 75-03-6; CH_2Cl_2 , 75-09-2; CCl_4 , 56-23-5; HCp , 542-92-7.

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Preparation and Characterization of Copper(I) Amides

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Compared to organocopper¹ and copper alkoxides,^{2,3} copper amides have not been well studied. Some synthetic organic reactions involving copper amide intermediates are known.^{4,5} However, isolation and characterization of copper amides derived from ordinary amines have not been reported. Recently we have prepared a unique organocopper(I) compound of mesitylcopper(I) (**1**)⁶ which is thermally stable up to 100

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