Perchlorophenyl-silicon Compounds. Crystal and Molecular Structure of Perchlorotriphenylsilane

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The synthesis of tris(pentachlorophenyl)silane (1), perchlorotriphenylsilane (2), and bromotris(pentachlorophenyl)silane (3) are reported for the first time, the hydrolysis of (2) and (3) under neutral conditions giving tris(pentachlorophenyl)silanol (4); the structure of the silane (2) has been established by X-ray crystallography.

While tris(pentafluorophenyl)silane and corresponding halogenosilane derivatives have been extensively studied,¹ little is known about the corresponding pentachlorophenyl derivatives. Glidewell *et al.*² attempted to prepare perchlorotriphenylsilane (2) by use of the reagent BMC³ (S₂Cl₂-AlCl₃-SO₂Cl₂), but it was only obtained in traces. Gilman *et al.*⁴ were unable to prepare (2) *via* pentachlorophenylmagnesium chloride and silicon tetrachloride. We now report the synthesis of tris(pentachlorophenyl)silane (1), and of some of its derivatives by replacement of hydrogen by chlorine, bromine, and hydroxy groups, and the determination of the crystal structure of (2) by X-ray analysis (Figure 1).[†]

The silane (1) was synthesized (49% yield) from pentachlorophenylmagnesium chloride and trichlorosilane. The silane (1) is converted into the perchlorosilane (2) (100%) by u.v. irradiation in CCl₄, as occurs for similar compounds.⁵ Bromination of (1) in CCl₄ gave bromotris(pentachlorophenyl)silane (3) (100%). In contrast with fluorotris(pentachlorophenyl)silane, which is readily hydrolysed under neutral conditions yielding pentachlorobenzene,⁴ we have been able to hydrolyse the silicon-halogen bond of (2) or (3) preferentially yielding tris(pentachlorophenyl)silanol (4). The



† Crystal data, C₁₈Cl₁₆Si, M = 811.3, monoclinic, a = 10.259(1), b = 13.044(1), c = 21.301(3) Å, $\beta = 92.25(1)^\circ$, U = 2848.2 Å³, Z = 4, $D_c = 1.89$ g cm⁻³, Mo- K_α radiation (graphite monochromator), $\lambda = 0.71069$ Å, $\mu = 16.1$ cm⁻¹, space group $P2_1/n$. Well formed colourless crystals. Intensity data were collected on an Enraf-Nonius CAD4 diffractometer in the range $1 < \theta < 25^\circ$. Data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects. The structure was solved by direct methods using MULTAN 11/84⁶ and refined by full-matrix least-squares technique with SHELX-76⁷ to R = 0.052 and $R_w = 0.054$. Atomic co-ordinates, bond lengths and angles, and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. See Notice to Authors, Issue No. 1.

treatment of both (2) and (3) with NaOH in dimethyl sulphoxide gives pentachlorobenzene. All the new compounds have been characterized by elemental analysis and i.r. spectroscopy.

The crystal structure of (2) shows mean values of the Cl–C and C–C bond distances of 1.723(7) and 1.386(9) Å, respectively. The three Si–C bond distances are similar (*ca.* 1.91 Å) and Si–Cl is 2.053(6) Å, all slightly longer than average literature values.⁸ The Cl–Si–C bond angles are all *ca.* 105°, with C–Si–C *ca.* 114°. These values show distortion of the



Figure 1. Perspective view of (1) with atom numbering. Selected distances: Si(1)-C(2) 1.910(6), Si(1)-C(8) 1.902(6), Si(1)-C(14) 1.915(6), Si(1)-Cl(1) 2.053(2) Å; selected angles: C(2)-Si(1)-Cl(1) 105.1(2), C(8)-Si(1)-Cl(1) 105.2(2), C(14)-Si(1)-Cl(1) 104.2(2), C(2)-Si(1)-C(8) 113.1(3), C(2)-Si(1)-C(14) 113.4(3), $C(8)-Si(1)-C(14) 114.4(3)^{\circ}$.



Figure 2. Conformational torsion angles.

The conformation of the three perchlorophenyl rings can be described by the torsion angles between the Cl-Si-C planes and the corresponding mean planes of the phenyl rings, ϕ_1 (50.0°), ϕ_2 (48.6°), and ϕ_3 (45.9°) (Figure 2), indicating an approximate CCC conformation belonging to the symmetry group $C_3(3)$.⁹ This conformation is determined by the shortest intramolecular $Cl \cdot \cdot \cdot Cl$ distances (apart from those within a particular C₆Cl₅ group), from which two types can be distinguished. The shortest distances involve Cl(1) [Cl(1) · · · Cl(7) 3.18, $Cl(1) \cdots Cl(13)$ 3.20, $Cl(1) \cdots Cl(19)$ 3.21 Å], and the others Cl(3), Cl(9), and Cl(15), with $Cl \cdots Cl$ distances ranging between 3.6 and 4.1 Å. Also, owing to strong steric repulsions, the phenyl rings are slightly twisted towards a boat conformation (r.m.s.d. of mean plane 0.02 Å) and some chlorine atoms [mainly Cl(3), Cl(7), Cl(9), Cl(13), Cl(15), and Cl(19)] lie significantly out of the mean plane of their phenyl ring.

The compact crystal packing indicated by a relatively high density is confirmed by numerous short $Cl \cdots Cl$ intermolecular distances, the shortest being $Cl(16) \cdots Cl(11)^i$ (3.362 Å, i = -1,0,0). This high density is reflected in the hardness of the crystals and their high m.p. (304 °C).

We thank the C.S.I.C. and the Vallés Industrias Orgánicas S.A. for financial support of this work.

Received, 18th August 1986; Com. 1193

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