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Zirconium-catalyzed cycloalumination of alkenes in the one-pot synthesis of 3-substituted 1*H*-phospholane oxides

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A new one-pot synthesis of 3-R-1*H*-phospholane oxides (57–65% yield) was implemented by reaction of phosphorus tri- or pentahalides with 3-R-1-aluminacyclopentanes (*in situ* generated by Zr-catalyzed cycloalumination of alkenes). The products are readily P-vinylated by Cu-promoted reaction with alkynes.



Tertiary phosphines, 1*H*-phosphines and 1*H*-phosphine oxides are very useful in organic and organometallic synthesis, in hydrophosphinylation of alkenes and alkynes and are employed as ligands and analogues of known biologically active compounds.^{1–28}

The known syntheses of secondary phosphine oxides are mainly limited to diaryl(alkyl)phosphine oxides.^{20–22,29,30} A bounded number of syntheses of cyclic 1*H*-phosphine oxides are described.^{11,12,31–33} Due to high reactivity they are used in the hydrophosphinylation of alkynes^{30,34,35} to prepare 1-alkenylphospholanes of specified structure. In addition, these cyclic 1*H*-phosphine oxides are of exceptional interest as key monomers to produce new reagents in organic synthesis and efficient ligands for catalytic systems.

Recently, we have developed an original one-pot synthesis of alkyl(aryl)phospholanes and phospholenes based on the catalytic cycloalumination as the key step giving rise to cyclic organoaluminums with subsequent replacement of aluminum by phosphorous atoms using alkyl(aryl)phosphorous(III) dichlorides.³⁶⁻⁴⁰

We hypothesized that the use of phosphorus halides such as PCl_3 , PBr_3 , or PCl_5 in this reaction after hydrolysis of the reaction mixture, and keeping in mind their feature to undergo hydrolysis without changing the oxidation state, would allow one to develop a new one-pot process giving access to five-membered cyclic hard-to-reach and previously undescribed phosphine oxides containing a P–H bond.

Our studies have shown that 3-substituted aluminacyclopentanes (ACP)⁴¹ **1** *in situ* generated in the cycloalumination of alkenes with Et_3Al in the presence of 5 mol% Cp₂ZrCl₂ as the catalyst react with phosphorus trihalide or pentahalide in inert-gas



Scheme 1

atmosphere (CH₂Cl₂, room temperature, 6 h) to afford 3-alkyl(aryl)-1H-phospholane oxides **2** with *syn/anti* ratio of 1:1, after hydrolysis of the reaction mixture (Scheme 1).

The experiments revealed that three equivalents of PCl_3 or PBr_3 are required for the selective formation of 1H-phospholane oxides. When this molar ratio was 1:1, the predominant formation of 3-alkyl-1-ethylphospholane oxides **3** occurred. Apparently, they resulted from interaction of intermediate 1-chlorophospholanes with excess of Et₃Al. 1-Ethylphospholane oxides **3** were also formed on using 1 or 3 equiv. of phosphorus oxychloride POCl₃.

The structure of the synthesized cyclic organophosphorus compounds was proved by mass spectrometry and ¹H, ¹³C, ³¹P NMR spectroscopy as well as homo- and heteronuclear 2D correlation experiments (COSY ¹H-¹H, HSQC, HMBC).[†]

The ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR spectra of 2a-c gave expectedly signals for *syn*- and *anti*-stereoisomers. Their ¹H NMR spectra

3-Substituted 1H-phospholane oxides **2a–c** (general procedure). A roundbottomed flask was charged with stirring in dry argon atmosphere at 0 °C with Cp₂ZrCl₂ (0.073 g, 0.25 mmol), alkene (5 mmol), and AlEt₃ (0.75 ml, 5 mmol). The temperature was brought to 40 °C and the mixture was stirred for 12 h. Then CH₂Cl₂ (15 ml) was added, the reaction mixture was cooled to –(5–10) °C, phosphorus trihalide (15 mmol, 3 equiv.) was added portionwise, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for additional 6 h. Then the mixture was hydrolyzed with a minimum of water, the reaction products were extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with CH₂Cl₂ (2×10 ml). The combined extracts and organic layer were dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was vacuum distilled to afford 1*H*-phospholane oxides **2a–c** as colourless oils.

Adding 1 equiv. of phosphorus trihalide as well as 1 or 3 equiv. of phosphorous oxychloride under the above reaction conditions caused formation of 1-ethylphospholane 1-oxide 3.

3-Hexyl-1-[(E)*-2-phenylvinyl]phospholane 1-oxide* **4a** was prepared as described.⁴³

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[†] All reactions were carried out under dry argon atmosphere. Dichloromethane was dried and distilled immediately prior to use. Commercially available phosphorus halides, Cp₂ZrCl₂ and Et₃Al (Aldrich) were used without additional purification. 1D (¹H, ¹³C, ³¹P) and 2D homo- (COSY) and heteronuclear (HSQC, HMBC) NMR spectra were measured in CDCl₃ on a Bruker Avance-400 spectrometer (400.13 MHz for ¹H, 100.62 MHz for ¹³C, 161.97 MHz for ³¹P). Elemental analysis was performed on a Karlo Erba model 1106 instrument. The mass spectrum was obtained using a Shimadzu instrument; the ionization energy was 70 eV.

exhibit characteristic high-frequency doublet signals for the P–H protons at δ 7.3–7.4 ppm (${}^{1}J_{\text{PH}} \sim 462-466 \text{ Hz}$).⁷ The phosphorus chemical shift values (δ 46–49 ppm) in the ${}^{31}\text{P}$ NMR spectra are in good agreement with the published data.^{7,30}

For the correct determination of the phosphorus chemical shifts, the ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in a broadband decoupling mode. The ¹³C spectra of compounds **2a–c** show first, second, and third order splittings, whereas compounds **2a,b** also exhibit fourth order splittings. In addition, the C(2) and C(5) atoms in the cyclic moiety of each isomer have maximum phosphorus– carbon constants J_{PC} 64–67 Hz and J_{PC} 63–65 Hz, respectively.

In accordance with the published data,^{6,30,42} secondary phosphine oxides exist in solution as a tautomeric equilibrium between pentavalent (phosphine oxide form) and trivalent (phosphonic form) structures. Phosphine oxide form is more stable at room temperature. The examination of 3-substituted 1*H*-phospholane oxide solutions using ¹H, ¹³C, ³¹P NMR spectroscopy showed that phosphonic form was absent. Hence, in the solution the tautomeric equilibrium was completely shifted towards phosphine oxide form.

On the example of 3-hexyl-1*H*-phospholane oxide **2a** as a mixture of *syn*- and *anti*-isomers, we have studied the reactivity of this class of compounds in the hydrophosphinylation with 1.5-fold excess of phenylacetylene in the presence of a catalyst system

3-Benzyl-1H-phospholane 1-oxide 2b. Two isomers, yield 65%, bp 123-124 °C (1 Torr). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 46.70, 47.23. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.15–1.24 [m, 1H, C(4¹)H_a], 1.46–1.51 [m, 2H, C(2¹)H_a, C(2²)H_a], 1.64–1.69 [m, 1H, C(4²)H_a], 1.74–2.03 [m, 7H, C(5²)H_a, C(5¹)H₂, C(4²)H_b, C(2¹)H_b, C(3¹)H, C(4¹)H_b], 2.19–2.26 [m, 2H, C(2²)H_b, C(5²)H_b], 2.46–2.52 [m, 1H, C(3²)H], 2.60–2.69 [m, 4H, C(6¹)H₂, C(6²)H₂], 7.07–7.24 (m, 10 H, Ph), 7.36 (d, PH, ¹J_{PH} 462.5 Hz), 7.42 (d, PH, ${}^{1}J_{\text{PH}}$ 463.0 Hz). 13 C NMR (100.62 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 25.57 [d, C(5¹), ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ 64.4 Hz], 27.07 [d, C(5²), ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ 63.1 Hz], 29.13 [d, C(4¹), ²*J*_{CP} 7.8 Hz], 29.45 [d, C(4²), ²*J*_{CP} 5.4 Hz], 31.96 [d, C(2¹), ¹*J*_{CP} 66.2 Hz], 32.71 [d, C(2²), ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ 64.5 Hz], 38.87 [d, C(3¹), ${}^{2}J_{CP}$ 11.4 Hz], 39.93 [d, C(3²), ²*J*_{CP} 8.4 Hz], 41.76 [d, C(6¹), ³*J*_{CP} 13.4 Hz], 41.87 [d, C(6²), ${}^{3}J_{CP}$ 13.0 Hz], 126.41 [C(4'1,2)], 128.49 [C(3'1,2), C(5'1,2)], 128.78 [d, C(2^{'1,2}), C(6^{'1,2}), ²*J*_{CP} 5.0 Hz], 139.33 [d, C(1^{'1,2}), ¹*J*_{CP} 21.5 Hz]. HRMS, *m*/*z*: 195 [M+H]⁺. Found (%): C, 63.04; H, 7.65. Calc. for C₁₁H₁₅PO (%): C. 63.08; H. 7.78.

3-Cyclohexyl-1H-phospholane 1-oxide **2c**. Two isomers, yield 57%, bp 109–110 °C (1 Torr). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 48.53, 48.96. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 0.70–0.90 [m, 8H, C(7¹H₂, C(7²)H₂, C(11¹)H₂, C(11²)H₂], 0.97–1.22 [m, 14H, C(10¹)H₂, C(10²)H₂, C(9¹)H₂, C(9²)H₂, C(8¹)H₂, C(8²)H₂, C(3¹)H, C(6¹)H], 1.26–2.21 [m, 14H, C(2¹)H_a, C(6²)H, C(5¹)H₂, C(4¹)H₂, C(2²)H_a, C(3²)H, C(2¹)H_b, C(5²)H₂, C(2²)H_b], 7.30 (d, PH, ¹J_{PH} 465.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100.62 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 25.49 [d, C(5¹), ¹J_{CP} 64.7 Hz], 27.12 [d, C(5²), ¹J_{CP} 65.5 Hz], 25.97 [C(8^{1.2}), C(10^{1.2})], 26.16 [C(9^{1.2})], 29.71 [d, C(2¹), ¹J_{CP} 66.9 Hz], 30.64 [d, C(2²), ¹J_{CP} 65.1 Hz], 30.70 [C(4¹)], 30.78 [C(4²)], 31.13 [C(7^{1.2}), C(11^{1.2})], 42.46 [C(6¹)], 42.64 [d, C(3¹), ²J_{CP} 10.7 Hz], 42.82 [C(6²)], 43.99 [d, C(3²), ²J_{CP} 7.2 Hz]. HRMS, *m*/*z*: 187 [M+H]⁺. Found (%): C, 64.45; H, 10.13. Calc. for C₁₀H₁₉PO (%): C, 64.49; H, 10.28.



consisting of CuI (10 mol%) and ethylenediamine (15 mol%) as a ligand in DMSO at 60 °C for 3 h (Scheme 2).⁴³

The process was highly regio- and stereoselective (>99%) to afford anti-Markovnikov β -adduct **4a** as a mixture of *syn*- and *anti*-isomers (1:1) in 97% yield. The structure of **4a** was identified by 1D multinuclear (¹H, ¹³C, ³¹P) and 2D NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry.

In conclusion, we have developed a simple original synthesis of five-membered cyclic secondary phosphine oxides of type **2** by coupling of phosphorus tri- and pentahalides (PCl₃, PBr₃, PCl₅) and aluminacyclopentanes, generated *in situ* from alkenes and Et₃Al in the presence of Cp₂ZrCl₂. The new 1*H*-phospholane oxides can be successfully subjected to hydrophosphinylation of alkynes. Presently we are investigating the catalytic cyclo-aluminations of various hydrocarbons to extend this procedure to more complex compounds.

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Online Supplementary Materials

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi: 10.1016/j.mencom.2017.01.006.

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³⁻Hexyl-IH-phospholane 1-oxide 2a. Two isomers, yield 62%, bp 102-103 °C (1 Torr). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 48.68, 49.08. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 0.73–0.75 [m, 6H, C(11¹)H₃, C(11²)H₃], 1.14–1.35 $[m, 21 \, H, \ C(10^1) H_2, \ C(10^2) H_2, \ C(9^1) H_2, \ C(9^2) H_2, \ C(8^1) H_2, \ C(8^2) H_2,$ C(7¹)H₂, C(7²)H₂, C(6¹)H₂, C(6²)H₂, C(2¹)H_a], 1.49–1.56 [m, 2H, C(4²)H₂], 1.65–1.75 [m, 2H, C(3¹)H, C(5²)H_a], 1.83–1.99 [m, 5H, C(5¹)H₂, C(4¹)H_a, C(4¹)H_b, C(2¹)H_b], 2.09 [m, 1H, C(3²)H], 2.20–2.28 [m, 3H, C(5²)H_b, $C(2^2)H_2$], 7.36 (d, PH, ¹J_{PH} 464.4 Hz), 7.39 (d, PH, ¹J_{PH} 465.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100.62 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 13.93 [C(11^{1,2})], 22.45 [C(10^{1,2})], 25.45 [d, C(5¹), ¹J_{CP} 64.8 Hz], 26.95 [d, C(5²), ¹J_{CP} 63.4 Hz], 27.56 $[\mathrm{C}(7^{1,2})],\,29.08\;[\mathrm{C}(8^{1,2})],\,29.40\;[\mathrm{d},\,\mathrm{C}(4^{1}),\,^{2}J_{\mathrm{CP}}\,8.55\;\mathrm{Hz}],\,29.68\;[\mathrm{d},\,\mathrm{C}(4^{2}),$ ${}^{2}J_{\rm CP}$ 6.2 Hz], 31.58 [C(9^{1,2})], 31.99 [d, C(2¹), ${}^{1}J_{\rm CP}$ 66.2 Hz], 32.77 [d, $C(2^2)$, ${}^1J_{CP}$ 64.7 Hz], 35.71 [d, $C(6^1)$, ${}^3J_{CP}$ 13.2 Hz], 35.95 [d, $C(6^2)$, ${}^{3}J_{CP}$ 12.5 Hz], 37.00 [d, C(3¹), ${}^{2}J_{CP}$ 10.9 Hz], 38.22 [d, C(3²), ${}^{2}J_{CP}$ 7.6 Hz]. HRMS, m/z: 189 [M+H]+. Found (%): C, 63.77; H, 11.09. Calc. for C₁₀H₂₁PO (%): C, 63.80; H, 11.24.

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