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### Facile Synthesis of Hexakis(4-Formylphenoxy)-Cyclotriphosphazene and Hexakis(4-Acetophenoxy)-Cyclotriphosphazene

Kristine N. Ludwig<sup>a</sup> & Robert B. Moore<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Polymers and High Performance Materials, University of Southern Mississippi, Box 10076, Hattiesburg, MS, 39406-0076

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FACILE SYNTHESIS OF HEXAKIS(4-FORMYLPHENOXY)-  
CYCLOTRIPHOSPHAZENE AND HEXAKIS(4-ACETOPHENOXY)-  
CYCLOTRIPHOSPHAZENE

Kristine N. Ludwig and Robert B. Moore\*

School of Polymers and High Performance Materials,  
University of Southern Mississippi, Box 10076, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0076

**Abstract:** Synthesis of hexakis(4-formylphenoxy)cyclotriphosphazene and similar compounds may be achieved utilizing a phase-transfer reaction. This one-pot procedure eliminates the need for rigorous drying of solvents, purification of reagents, and reflux conditions during the reaction.

Hexakis(4-formylphenoxy)cyclotriphosphazene (HFP-PNT) has been utilized in the formation of Schiff base networks. These networks have been shown to be effective at reversibly binding bioactive molecules onto the hydrolyzable Schiff base linkage,<sup>1</sup> as well as possessing superior heat, corrosion, and moisture-resistant characteristics when compared to other phosphonitric-based resins.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, HFP-PNT has been used as precursor core for synthesis of polystyrene star polymers.<sup>3</sup>

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\* To whom correspondence should be addressed

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The previous techniques for the synthesis of HFP-PNT have typically involved a battery of rigorous procedures including: recrystallization or multiple fractional vacuum sublimations of the PNT, thorough drying of all solvents, performing the reaction in an inert atmosphere under reflux conditions for 48+ hours, filtration via Schlenk techniques, solvent removal via vacuum distillation, and recrystallization of the final product.<sup>1, 3, 5-8</sup> We describe herein a simple, one-pot, phase-transfer procedure that obviates the need for tedious purification of reagents and solvents and rigorous reaction conditions. Sodium salts of 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde and 4-hydroxyacetophenone are prepared utilizing an aqueous NaOH solution (see Scheme). When benzene was used as the PNT solvent in HFP-PNT synthesis, the hexa-substituted product precipitated out of the benzene layer. Hexakis(4-formylphenoxy)cyclotriphosphazene formation appeared to be facilitated by precipitation from the reaction mixture. When the solvent for the PNT phase was chloroform, the substituted product remained in solution, but penta-substitution was the maximum extent of reaction.

## EXPERIMENTAL

All reagents were laboratory grade and were used without further purification. The melting points were determined using a Mel-Temp capillary melting point apparatus. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker 300MHz NMR spectrometer, using CDCl<sub>3</sub> as the solvent. Proton NMR values are given in  $\delta$  relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS).

**Hexakis(4-formylphenoxy)cyclotriphosphazene (HFP-PNT) (1)**

Sodium hydroxide (2.00 g,  $5.00 \times 10^{-2}$  mol) was dissolved in 30 mL of deionized water. To this solution was added 5.10 g ( $4.1 \times 10^{-2}$  mol) of HBA (98%). The mixture was stirred to achieve complete dissolution. Separately, 2.37 g ( $6.82 \times 10^{-3}$  mol) of PNT was dissolved in 30 mL of benzene. The HBA and PNT solutions were combined, and three drops of Aliquat 336 were added. The mixture was stirred at 25°C. Progress of the reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) (mobile phase: 90% benzene, 10% ethyl acetate (EtOAc)). The gradual substitution on the PNT ring generally proceeded with reaction time as follows: mono-substituted: five minutes, di-substituted: 10 minutes, tri-substituted: 15 minutes, tetra-substituted: 30 minutes, penta-substituted: 45 minutes, and hexa-substituted: 90 minutes. After 90 minutes, hexakis(4-formylphenoxy)cyclotriphosphazene precipitated from the benzene layer of the reaction. The reaction was allowed to continue stirring for six hours in order to enhance the yield of the hexa-substituted product. The product was collected via filtration, dried, and recrystallized from EtOAc. Yield: 92%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.21 ppm (2H, d), 7.70 ppm (2H, d), 9.94 ppm (1H, s). These shifts are in agreement with those reported in the literature.<sup>3, 7, 8</sup> Melting point: 155-157°C (experimental), 154-158°C (literature<sup>1, 3</sup>).

This reaction was also performed using similar stoichiometry, but utilizing chloroform instead of benzene as the PNT solvent in order to keep the product in solution. After reacting for 24 hours at room temperature, the product consisted

of primarily penta-substituted PNT, as determined by TLC. The reaction was heated at reflux for an additional 24 hours. No further reaction was observed. The aqueous and organic layers were separated, and the chloroform was removed from the organic layer to yield a light yellow oil. In comparison to the reaction performed in benzene, it appears that the formation of the hexa-substituted product (in high yield) is facilitated by the occurrence of product precipitation.

#### **Hexakis(acetophenoxy)cyclotriphosphazene (2)**

Hexakis(acetophenoxy)cyclotriphosphazene was synthesized in a similar fashion to hexakis(4-formylphenoxy)cyclotriphosphazene, using 4-hydroxyacetophenone as the organic reactant and benzene as the PNT solvent. After reacting at 25°C for six hours, the hexa-substituted product remained dissolved in the benzene layer. The solution was added to 20 mL of deionized water, which resulted in precipitation of the product. The white powder was filtered, dried, and subsequently recrystallized from EtOAc. Yield: 90%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 2.50 ppm (3H, s), 6.95 ppm (2H, d), 7.70 ppm (2H, d). These shifts are in agreement with those reported in the literature.<sup>7, 8</sup> Melting point: 167-169°C.

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