

# Intramolecular C-Thiocarbamoylation of Aroxy(Isothiocyanato)Phosphonium Salts

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**ABSTRACT:** *Isothiocyanatophosphonium salts bearing an aroxy group at the phosphorus atom have been obtained for the first time. As found, these compounds undergo an intramolecular heterocyclization to give hitherto unknown benzoxazaphosphininethiones or cyanoiminophosphoranes, according to the nature of the substituents on the aryl ring.* © 2008 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. *Heteroatom Chem* 19:667–670, 2008; Published online in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com). DOI 10.1002/hc.20491

## INTRODUCTION

Reactions of intramolecular C-(thio)carbamylation with various iso(thio)cyanates have been extensively used in heterocyclic synthesis [1–6]. Iso(thio)cyanatophosphonium salts have not yet been studied in this respect in spite of their great structural diversity and high (thio)carbamylation reactivity toward C-nucleophilic substrates. As shown by us previously, amido(isothiocyanato)phosphonium compounds efficiently thiocarbamoylate a number of electron-rich heterocycles and enamines [7]. The present study addresses the design of novel phosphonium salts in which an electrophilic P-isothiocyanato

group is combined with a C-nucleophilic center, thus affording an intramolecular heterocyclization.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As synthetic precursors of bifunctional isothiocyanatophosphonium salts, unsubstituted phenol and its electron-donor-substituted derivatives were used (Fig. 1), because compounds of this kind have been thoroughly studied in both inter- and intramolecular C-carbamoylations [4,5,8,9].

To synthesize hitherto unknown aroxy (isothiocyanato)phosphonium salts, we started from aroxyphosphonium salts **2a–d** obtained by the reaction of O-phosphorylated phenols **1a–d** with dichloroethane (Scheme 1).

Aroxy(chloro)phosphonium chlorides **2a–b** containing a diethylamino group on the aromatic ring were treated with trimethylsilyl isothiocyanate to provide the corresponding aroxy (isothiocyanato)phosphonium isothiocyanates **3a,b**, which were characterized by <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra without isolation. They were cyclized in situ in the presence of the equivalent quantity of triethylamine at 20°C. As was expected, the intramolecular cyclization furnished new heterocycles, benzoxazaphosphininethiones **4a** and **4b**, with respective yields of 33% and 25% (Scheme 2). Compounds **4a,b** were obtained as pale yellow high-melting solids stable to atmospheric moisture and oxygen.

As one would expect in going to phenol derivatives **2c,d** bearing less electron-donating

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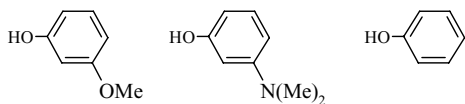


FIGURE 1

three substituents, intermediate aroxy(isothiocyanato)phosphonium salts **5a,b** become much more stable, so that these compounds can be isolated in the pure state, provided they are not heated above 40°C. It was, however, unexpected that the heterocyclization did not occur, if attempted under more severe conditions; instead, carbon disulfide was eliminated and cyanoiminophosphoranes **6a** and **6b** were formed in 74% and 35% yields, respectively (Scheme 3).

Scheme 4 represents a plausible mechanism for the formation of cyanoiminophosphoranes from salts **5a,b**. It is likely that the counterion (in our case, thiocyanate anion) initially attacks the carbon atom of the isothiocyanate group, which is typical of such compounds [10], followed by a rearrangement and elimination of carbon disulfide.

## CONCLUSION

As found, aroxy(isothiocyanato)phosphonium isothiocyanates furnish, in the presence of the equiv-

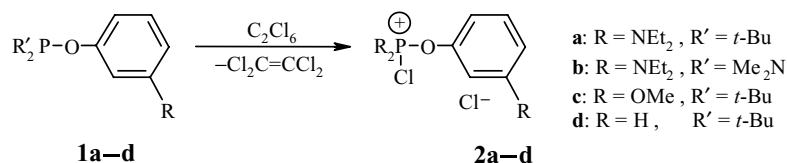
alent quantity of triethylamine, the corresponding benzoxazaphosphininethiones or cyanoiminophosphoranes. The course of the reaction is governed by the electron-donating properties of the substituents on the aryl ring: a decreased nucleophilicity of the aromatic carbon atoms stabilizes the aroxy(isothiocyanato)phosphonium salt both in the pure state and in solution, hinders the heterocyclization, and favors cyanoiminophosphorane formation.

## EXPERIMENTAL

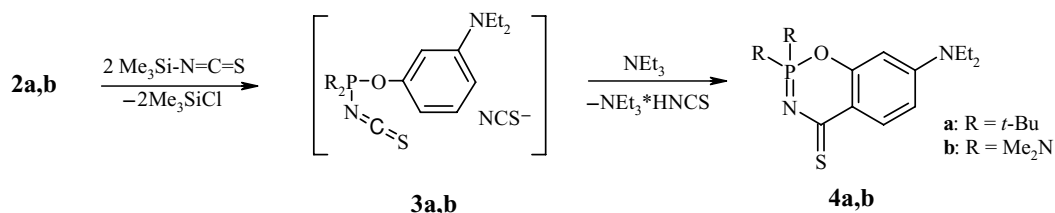
$^1\text{H}$  (300 MHz, TMS as internal standard) and  $^{31}\text{P}$  (282.2 MHz, 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  as external standard) NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian VXR-300 spectrometer. IR spectra were obtained on an UR-20 spectrometer for samples in KBr disks. Mass spectra were registered using an Agilent 1100 series LC/MSD system. All reactions were carried out under dry argon using the Schlenk-type glassware. Solvents, including deuterated solvents used for NMR spectroscopy, were dried and distilled prior to use.

### Aroxy(chloro)phosphonium Chlorides **2a,b**

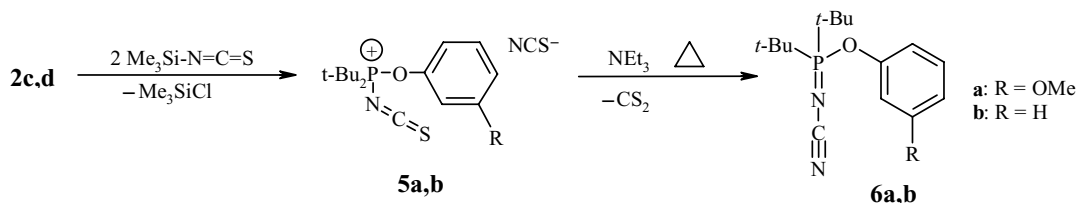
To a stirred solution of aroxyphosphines **1a,b** (0.01 mol) in benzene (20 mL) at 5°C for **1a** or in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$



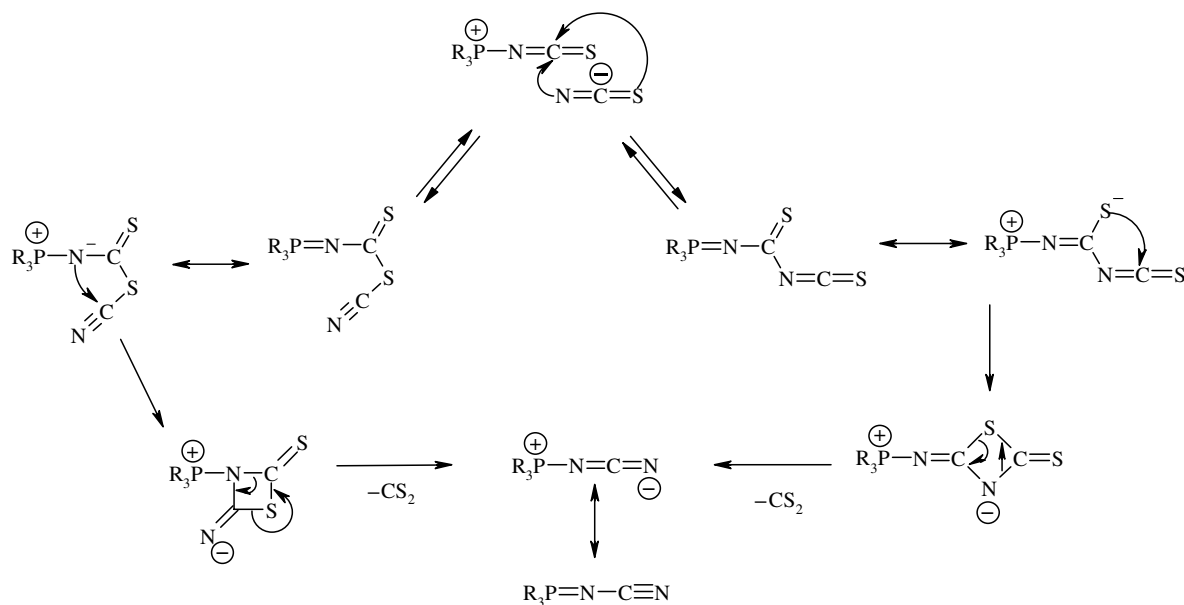
SCHEME 1



SCHEME 2



SCHEME 3



SCHEME 4

(20 mL) at  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  for **1b**, a solution of  $C_2Cl_6$  (2.37 g, 0.01 mol) in benzene (20 mL) for **1a** or in  $Et_2O$  (20 mL) for **1b** was added. The reaction mixture was heated to  $20^\circ\text{C}$  and held at this temperature for 2 h. After decanting the solvent,  $Et_2O$  (20 mL) was poured over the oily product and it was rubbed until crystallization occurred. The resulting precipitate was filtered off on a dry filter and washed with  $Et_2O$  ( $2 \times 10$  mL).

**Compound 2a.** Yield 3.19 g (84%).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$ (ppm): 126.70.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta$  (ppm): 0.91 (t,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.18 (d,  $J_{\text{HP}} = 11.7$  Hz, 18H, *t*-Bu), 2.99 (q,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$  Hz, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.25 (m, 1H, Ar), 6.81 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.14 (m, 1H, Ar).

**Compound 2b.** Yield 3.44 g (84%).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$ (ppm): 39.00.

#### Aroxy(chloro)phosphonium Chlorides **2c,d**

To a stirred solution of aroxyphosphines **1c,d** (0.01 mol) cooled to  $-40^\circ\text{C}$ , a solution of  $C_2Cl_6$  (2.37 g, 0.01 mol) in  $Et_2O$  (10 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was heated to  $20^\circ\text{C}$  and held at this temperature for 1 h. The precipitate of the product was filtered off on a dry filter and washed with  $Et_2O$  ( $2 \times 10$  mL).

**Compound 2c.** Yield 2.88 g (85%), mp  $85\text{--}86^\circ\text{C}$ .  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$  (ppm): 127.90.

**Compound 2d.** Yield 2.72 g (88%), mp  $80\text{--}85^\circ\text{C}$ .  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$  (ppm): 128.10.

#### 2,2-Dimethyl-4H-1,3,2λ<sup>5</sup>-benzoxazaphosphinine-4-thiones **4a,b**

To a solution of aroxy(chloro)phosphonium chlorides **2a,b** (0.01 mol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL), a solution of  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiNCS}$  (3.28 g, 0.025 mol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL) was added at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  and the reaction mixture was held at this temperature for 2 h. Resulting aroxy(isothiocyanato)phosphonium isothiocyanates **3a,b** were characterized by  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra without isolation.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\delta_P$  (ppm) for **4a**: br 81.18 and for **4b**: br 19.5, ca. 50% intensity relative to the other signals. After adding triethylamine (2.52 g, 0.025 mol) to the reaction mixture, it was allowed to stand for 1 h and then evaporated. The product was extracted from the residue with benzene, followed by evaporation of benzene and extraction of the product from the residue with  $Et_2O$  ( $5 \times 20$  mL). The resulting ether solution was held over activated charcoal, filtered, evaporated to 1/4 of its volume, and left overnight. The crystals that deposited from the solution were filtered off and dried until the constant mass was achieved.

**7-(Diethylamino)-2,2-di-tert-butyl-2,2-dihydro-4H-1,3,2-benzoxazaphosphinine-4-thione 4a.** Yield 1.21 g (33%), mp  $177\text{--}178^\circ\text{C}$ .  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$ (ppm): 64.30.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta$  (ppm): 0.78 (t,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.00 (d,  $J_{\text{HP}} = 15.6$  Hz, 18H, *t*-Bu), 2.80 (q,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$  Hz, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.13 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 6.18 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 9.3$  Hz,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 9.41 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 9.3$  Hz,

1H, Ar).  $m/z$  366  $[M]^+$ . Found: P 8.37; S 8.84.  $C_{19}H_{31}N_2OPS$ . Calcd.: P 8.45; S 8.75.

*7-(Diethylamino)-2,2-bis(dimethylamino)-2,2-dihydro-4H-1,3,2-benzoxazaphosphinine-4-thione 4b*. Yield 0.85 g (25%), mp 158–159°C.  $^{31}P$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$  (ppm): 19.80.  $^1H$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta$  (ppm): 0.75 (t,  $J_{HH} = 6.6$  Hz, 6H,  $CH_3$ ), 2.21 (d,  $J_{HP} = 10.5$  Hz, 12H, Me), 2.78 (q,  $J_{HH} = 6.6$  Hz, 4H,  $CH_2$ ), 6.10 (d,  $J_{HH} = 2.7$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 6.24 (dd,  $J_{HH} = 9.3$  Hz,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 9.39 (d,  $J_{HH} = 9.3$  Hz, 1H, Ar).  $m/z$  340  $[M]^+$ . Found: P 9.19; S 9.38.  $C_{15}H_{25}N_4OPS$ . Calcd.: P 9.10; S 9.42.

#### *Aroxy(isothiocyanto)phosphonium Isothiocyanates 5a,b*

To a solution of aroxy(chloro)phosphonium chlorides **2c,d** (0.01 mol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL), a solution of  $Me_3SiNCS$  (3.28 g, 0.025 mol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  10 mL was added at 20°C, and the reaction mixture was held at this temperature for 5 min. After evaporating the solvent at a bath temperature not above 30–35°C, the residue was washed several times with  $Et_2O$ . Ether was then decanted, and the residue was dried under vacuum.

**Compound 5a**. Yield 3.27 g (85%), mp 76–78°C.  $^{31}P$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$  (ppm): 80.80.  $^1H$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.93 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 1.98 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 3.81 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.42 (d, 7.8 Hz, 1H, Ar), 6.52 (d,  $J_{HH} = 7.8$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 6.67 (d,  $J_{HH} = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.20 (s, 1H, Ar).

**Compound 5b**. Yield 3.01 g (85%), mp 85–89°C.  $^{31}P$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$  (ppm): 80.70.  $^1H$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.94 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 1.98 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 6.85 (t,  $J_{HH} = 7.8$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.07 (t,  $J_{HH} = 7.8$  Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.27 (d,  $J_{HH} = 7.8$  Hz, 2H, Ar).

#### *Cyanoiminophosphoranes 6a,b*

To a solution of aroxy(isothiocyanto)phosphonium salts **5a,b** in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL), triethylamine was

added (2.00 g, 0.02 mol). The reaction mixture was heated at 100°C in a hermetically sealed flask for 20 min and evaporated until the constant mass was achieved. After extracting the residue with  $Et_2O$  (4 × 20 mL), the solution was evaporated and the residue was recrystallized from  $Et_2O$ .

*3-Methoxyphenyl P,P-di(tert-butyl)-N-cyanophosphinimidoat 6a*. Yield 1.08 g (35%), mp 104–105°C.  $^{31}P$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$  (ppm): 65.40.  $^1H$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.18 (d,  $J_{HP} = 11.7$  Hz, 18H, *t*-Bu), 3.31 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.53 (d,  $J_{HH} = 7.8$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.00 (d,  $J_{HH} = 7.8$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.10 (d,  $J_{HH} = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.32 (s, 1H, Ar). IR (KBr)  $\Delta\nu = 2200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $C\equiv N$ ).

*Phenyl P,P-di(tert-butyl)-N-cyanophosphinimidoat 6b*. Yield 2.06 g (74%), mp 73–74°C.  $^{31}P$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta_P$  (ppm): 66.00.  $^1H$  NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ),  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.05 (d,  $J_{HP} = 15.9$  Hz, 18H, *t*-Bu), 6.82 (t,  $J_{HH} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.01 (t,  $J_{HH} = 8.1$  Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.22 (d,  $J_{HH} = 8.1$  Hz, 2H, Ar). IR (KBr)  $\Delta\nu = 2200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $C\equiv N$ ).

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