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Synthetic and X-ray diffraction studies of borosiloxane cages $[R'Si(ORBO)_3SiR']$ and the adducts of $[Bu^tSi\{O(PhB)O\}_3SiBu^t]$ with pyridine or N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylenediamine

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Abstract

Eleven borosiloxane [R'Si(ORBO)₃SiR'] compounds where R' = Bu' and R = Ph (1), 4-PhC₆H₄ (2), 4-Bu'C₆H₄ (3), 3-NO₂C₆H₄ (4), 4-CH(O)C₆H₄ (5), CpFeC₅H₄ (6), 4-C(O)CH₃C₆H₄ (7), 4-ClC₆H₄ (8), 2,4-F₂C₆H₃ (9), and R' = *cyclo*-C₆H₁₁ and R = Ph (10), and 4-BrC₆H₄ (11) have been synthesized and characterized by spectroscopic (IR, NMR), mass spectrometric and, for compounds where R' = Bu' and R = 4-PhC₆H₄ (2), 4-Bu'C₆H₄ (3), 3-NO₂C₆H₄ (4), CpFeC₅H₄ (6) and 2,4-F₂C₆H₃ (9), X-ray diffraction studies. These compounds contain trigonal planar RBO₂ and tetrahedral R'SiO₃ units located around 11-atom "spherical" Si₂O₆B₃ cores. The dimensions of the Si₂O₆B₃ cores in compounds 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 are remarkably similar. The reaction between [Bu'Si{O(PhB)O}₃SiBu'] (1), and excess pyridine yields the 1:1 adduct [Bu'Si{O(PhB)O}SiBu']. NC₅H₅ (12) while the reaction between 1 and *N*,*N*,*N'*,*N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine in equimolar amounts affords a 2:1 borosiloxane:amine adduct [Bu'Si{O(PhB)O}₃SiBu']₂ · Me₂NCH₂CH₂NMe₂ (13). Compounds 12 and 13 were characterised with IR and (¹H, ¹³C and¹¹B) NMR spectroscopies and the structure of the pyridine complex 12 was determined with X-ray techniques.

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1. Introduction

The chemistry of three-dimensional cage species containing only main group elements bonded by two centertwo electron bonds is notable for the large number of silesesquioxanes $[(RSi)_8O_{12}]$ which have been reported [1]. For cages containing main group 13 elements, aluminium systems are perhaps the most studied with aluminiumnitrogen compounds predominant [2]. Boron containing species are relatively rare [3] but previously reported borosiloxane cage compounds that have been structurally characterised include $[Bu'Si{O(4-BrC_6H_4B)O}_3SiBu']$ which contains the 11-atom "spherical" $B_3Si_2O_6$ core [4], $[B(OSiPh_2SiPh_2O)_3B]$ with a "cylindrical" $B_2Si_6O_6$ core [5], "cube-based" $[(Bu'Si)_4(4-RC_6H_4B)_4O_{10}]$ species where $R = (CH_2=CH)$ [6] or Br [7] which have $B_4Si_4O_{10}$ cores, and silesesquioxane-based species which contain "cubebased" BSi_7O_{12} units [8]. One overall intention of the work carried out by our group [3–7] was to synthesise a variety of three-dimensional structures which could be reacted further to produce new molecular scaffolds in a controlled way. We now report the extension of the chemistry of the

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"spherical" cage borosiloxanes with the syntheses of 11 analogues of $[R'Si(OBRO)_3SiR']$ with a wide variety of R groups, Diagram 1.

The details of the structures of five of these compounds have been determined with X-ray crystallography. Additionally, we have studied the reactions between $[Bu'Si{O(PhB)O}_3SiBu']$ (1) and (a) pyridine or (b) N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-ethylenediamine and established the solid-state structure of the adduct $[Bu'Si{O(PhB)O}Si-Bu'] \cdot NC_5H_5$ (12).

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Syntheses and structural studies of [R'Si(ORBO)₃SiR'] borosiloxanes 1 to 11

All the borosiloxane cages with the formulae [R'Si-(ORBO)₃SiR'] were synthesised in a Dean-Stark apparatus by water elimination reactions between R'Si(OH)₃ (R' = Bu' or *cyclo*-C₆H₁₁) and boronic acids RB(OH)₂ in a 2:3 molar ratio in toluene solution heated at the reflux temperature, Eq. (1). In general the *tert*-butyl compounds were isolated in 30–40% higher yields than the corresponding *cyclo*hexyl derivatives with the same R groups.

$$2R'Si(OH)_3 + 3RB(OH)_2 \rightarrow [R'Si(ORBO)_3SiR']$$
(1)

where R' = Bu' and R = Ph (1), 4-PhC₆H₄ (2), 4-Bu'C₆H₄ (3), 3-NO₂C₆H₄ (4), 4-CH(O)C₆H₄ (5), CpFeC₅H₄ (6), 4-C(O)CH₃C₆H₄ (7), 4-ClC₆H₄ (8), 2,4-F₂C₆H₃ (9), and R' = cyclo-C₆H₁₁ and $R = C_6H_5$ (10), and 4-BrC₆H₄ (11).

An alternative route via the reactions between *tert*-butyltrichlorosilane or *cyclo*hexyltrichlorosilane and boronic acids in the presence of an amine, either Et₃N or aniline, afforded the products **1** to **9** in 5–10% lower yields and compounds **10** and **11** in ca. 30% lower yields. Attempts to use phenyl- or tolyltrichlorosilane reagents afforded boroxines as the only characterisable products.

Initial characterisation of 1–11 by chemical analysis was followed by spectroscopic (FT-IR, NMR) and, in some cases, mass spectrometric analysis. For the compounds with R' = Bu' and R = 4-PhC₆H₄ (2), 4-Bu'C₆H₄ (3), 3-NO₂C₆H₄ (4), CpFeC₅H₄ (6), and 2,4-F₂C₆H₃ (9), single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies were carried out. A summary of crystal data for these compounds is given in Section 4.

2.2. Crystal and molecular structures of $[Bu^{t}Si-{O(4-PhC_{6}H_{4}B)O}_{3}SiBu^{t}]$ (2), $[Bu^{t}Si\{O(4-Bu^{t}C_{6}H_{4}B)-O]_{3}SiBu^{t}]$ (3), $[Bu^{t}Si\{O(3-NO_{2}C_{6}H_{4}B)O]_{3}SiBu^{t}]$ (4), $[Bu^{t}Si\{O(CpFeC_{5}H_{4}B)O]_{3}SiBu^{t}]$ (6), and $[Bu^{t}Si-{O(2,4-F_{2}C_{6}H_{3}B)O}_{3}SiBu^{t}]$ (9)

Comparison of the structures of compounds [Bu'Si(O-BRO)₃SiBu'] where R = 4-PhC₆H₄ (2), 4-Bu'C₆H₄ (3), 3-NO₂C₆H₄ (4), CpFeC₅H₄ (6) and 2,4-F₂C₆H₃ (9) reveals that the structural details of the Si₂O₆B₃ cages are remarkably similar, Table 1.

All five compounds contain two tetrahedral Bu'SiO₃units and three trigonal planar RBO₂-units held together by an 11-atom Si(OBO)₃Si framework. Figs. 1–3 show ORTEP views of molecules with R = 4-PhC₆H₄ (2), 4-Bu'C₆H₄ (3) and CpFeC₅H₄ (6) from a general perspective.

The structures of compounds 2 and 6 are shown viewed along the axes passing through both silicon atoms in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. The *tert*-butyl groups attached to the silicon atoms in compounds 2 and 6 are in "eclipsed" arrangements. The same structural motif is found in 3, 4, 6 and 9.

The C_6 -rings attached to the boron atoms in 2 and 3 are arranged in a "paddlewheel" formation, see Fig. 4, and are almost co-planar with the adjacent Si-O-B-O-Si bonded sequence. The same structural motif was observed in 3, 4, and 9, and in the compound $[Bu^tSi{O(4-BrC_6H_4B)O}_3Si-$ Bu^t [4]. A similar situation is observed in the ferrocenyl compound $[Bu^tSi{O(CpFeC_5H_4B)O}_3SiBu^t]$ (6), where the C₅H₄ ring is almost co-planar with the attached borosiloxane group, Fig. 5. The reason for the preference for co-planarity may reside in a partial overlap of the π system of the aromatic C₆-ring and some delocalised bonding in the Si-O-B-O-Si sequence. However, it is also possible that the co-planarity is due to "crystal packing" forces. It is interesting to note that in the case of 6 the ferrocenyl groups are not all arranged to give a pseudo- D_{3h} molecular symmetry. The reasons are unclear but may be due either to weak intramolecular $H \cdots \pi - C_5 H_5$ ring interactions or more general "crystal packing" forces.

The B–O lengths in **2**, **3**, **4**, **6** and **9** range from 1.348(5) to 1.380(4) and are at the upper end of the reported range for trigonal boron species with Si–O–B bonds i.e. 1.313(2) in $(OBF)(OSiBu_2^t)_2(OSiMe_2)$ (13) [9] to 1.374(7) Å in $[B(OSiPh_2SiPh_2O)_3B]$ (14) [5]. They are similar to B–O distances in the previously reported spherical cage $[Bu'Si\{O-(4-BrC_6H_4B)O\}_3SiBu']$ (15) [4], which were

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