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# A phosphoryl to spiro-bicyclophosphorane transformation via β-amidic proton elimination in phosphorylated hydrazides

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### ABSTRACT

The reaction between phosphoryl-containing reagents and hydrazides has been studied. The tetrahedral phosphoryl structure is transformed into a spiro-bicyclophosphorane system with trigonal bipyramidal geometry by the elimination of a  $\beta$ -amidic proton in the reaction between a hydrazide and phosphoryl reagents with at least two leaving groups (Cl) bound to the phosphorus atom, such as POCl<sub>3</sub> or PhPOCl<sub>2</sub>. In the spiro-bicyclophosphorane structure, the C=N imine bond is formed upon  $\beta$ -amidic proton elimination, leading to the conversion of the C=O into a C-O bond and the formation of a P-O bond. All of these structural rearrangements are supported by X-ray crystallography data, and NMR and IR experiments.

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The structures of cyclic pentacoordinate phosphoranes have attracted significant interest because they serve as models for biologically active compounds and intermediates.<sup>1-4</sup> Heterocyclic phosphoranes with a P-N-N=C-O unit have been previously prepared via the redox coupling of a trialkyl- or triarylphosphine (PR<sub>3</sub>) and a dialkyl azodicarboxylate (ROOCN=NCOOR).<sup>5,6</sup> Such N- and O-cycloadditions also occur in the reaction of a simple hydrazide (RCONHNH<sub>2</sub>) with phosphorus(III) mono- or triamides to form cyclophosphorane systems.<sup>7,8</sup> Moreover, there are reports on the synthesis and reactivities of phosphorus hydrazides  $[P(X)(NRNH_2)_2, X = 0 \text{ and } S]^{9-16}$  although these compounds do not transform into products with the phosphorane structure. To the best of our knowledge, phosphoryl-containing reagents have never been used for the formation of spiro-bicyclophosphoranes. Here, we present the synthesis of such compounds based on the reaction of simple hydrazides (benzhydrazide and 4-pyridinecarboxylic acid hydrazide) with phosphoryl-containing reagents (POCl<sub>3</sub>, PhPOCl<sub>2</sub> and Ph<sub>2</sub>POCl). The molecular geometry of the products depends on the number of appropriate leaving groups (Cl) bound to the phosphoryl functional group in the reactant. A simple acid-base reaction between benzhydrazide and a phosphoryl-containing reactant with only one chlorine atom (Ph<sub>2</sub>POCl) produces a product with tetrahedral structure at the phosphorus atom. On the other hand, products with a trigonal bipyramidal structure (spiro-bicyclophosphorane) are formed, when phosphoryl reagents with at least two chlorine atoms (PhPOCl<sub>2</sub> or POCl<sub>3</sub>) are used.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of 1.

Compound **1** was prepared by the reaction between a mixture of benzhydrazide, Ph<sub>2</sub>POCl, and triethylamine in acetonitrile<sup>17</sup> (Scheme 1). Figure 1 shows the X-ray crystal structure of 1. The P=O (1.489(2) Å), P1-N2 (1.659(2) Å), and C=O (1.235(2) Å) distances are similar to those in other well-known phosphoramides<sup>18</sup> and carbacylamidophosphates<sup>19</sup> with tetrahedral configurations at the phosphorus atom. The chemical shift of the  $\beta$ -amidic proton in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1** appeared at 10.17 ppm (Table 1), implying its high acidity and ability to undergo elimination in basic media. The chemical shifts of 21.80 and 166.93 ppm in the <sup>31</sup>P and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra, respectively, and the bands at 1198 (P=O) and 1655 (C=O) cm<sup>-1</sup> in the IR spectrum confirm the presence of P=O and C=O functional groups in **1**. We have recently shown that the  ${}^{2}J_{PNH}$  coupling constant increases when the P–N distance is shortened.<sup>20</sup> Here, the  ${}^{2}I_{PNH}$  value (21.9 Hz) in **1** is relatively high in magnitude compared with other phosphoramide compounds previously reported,<sup>18,20</sup> although the P1–N2 distance is not too short.

The phosphoryl structure is transformed into a spiro-bicyclophosphorane system by a dehydration–cyclization rearrangement, when at least two Cl leaving groups are bound to the P=O functional group in the starting material. The reaction between benzhydrazide and  $POCl_3$  (2:1), in acetonitrile under reflux conditions,





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**Figure 1.** ORTEP representation of compound **1**. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°): P1–N2, 1.6587(15); P1–O2, 1.4886(12); P1–C8, 1.7981(18); P1–C14, 1.7941(17); N1–N2, 1.4048(19); C1–N1, 1.346(2); C1–O1, 1.235(2); O1–P1–O2, 170.12(8); O2–P1–N2, 118.55(7); O2–P1–C14, 110.93(7); O2–P1–C8, 111.42(8); C8–P1–C14, 108.41(8); N2–P1–C14, 103.67(7); N2–P1–C8, 103.10(8).

leads to intermediate **I**. Compounds **2** and **3** were prepared by treatment of the appropriate amines (morpholine and *tert*butylamine) with intermediate **I** (2:1),<sup>21</sup> Scheme 2. The proposed synthetic pathway for products **2** and **3** (Scheme 2) indicates that cyclization of the initial phosphorylated hydrazide is started by elimination of the  $\beta$ -amidic proton followed by dehydration. Compound **2** was recrystallized from a mixture of methanol and acetonitrile (4:1) at room temperature to obtain crystals suitable for X-ray analysis.

Figure 2 shows the molecular structure of compound **2**. The phosphorus atom adopts a distorted trigonal bipyramidal geometry in spiro-bicyclophosphorane **2** with the oxygen atoms in axial and nitrogen atoms in equatorial positions. The C1–N2 distance (1.282(3) Å) in **2** is considerably shorter than a typical C–N single bond, while the C1–O1 distance (1.351(2) Å) in **2** is longer than the C=O bond in **1**. This is in good agreement with the  $\beta$ -amidic proton elimination and the changes in the C1–N2 and C1–O1 bond lengths upon cyclization. In the <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of **2**, a triplet of triplets appeared at –37.72 ppm. This splitting pattern arises from the spin couplings between the phosphorus nucleus and two NH<sub>α</sub> (<sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>PNH</sub> = 40.4 Hz) and two axial N–CH<sub>morpholine</sub> (<sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>PNCH</sub> = 8.9 Hz) protons. The spin couplings between the phosphorus nucleus and two

Table 1		
Selected	spectroscopic data of products	1-8



Scheme 2. Synthesis of compounds 2 and 3 and the proposed reaction mechanism.

 $NH_{\alpha}$  protons ( ${}^{2}J_{PNH}$  = 45.2 Hz) and one  $NH_{tert-butylamine}$ ( ${}^{2}J_{PNH}$  = 12.1 Hz) proton lead to a doublet of triplets for the  ${}^{31}P$ NMR signal in compound **3**. The  ${}^{2}J_{PNH}$  coupling constants in compounds **2** and **3** are larger than the corresponding values in **1**. The decrease in  $\delta$  ( ${}^{13}C$ ) values, from 166.93 ppm in **1** to 152.54 and 151.68 ppm, respectively, in compounds **2** and **3** (Table 1), confirms the formation of a CO–P connection between the carbonyl oxygen atom and the phosphorus atom upon cyclization. The CO–P bond leads to spin couplings for the phosphorus and carbon nuclei with  ${}^{2}J_{POC}$  values in the range of 14.1–14.6 Hz. The sharp bands at ~1330 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the IR spectra of compounds **2** and **3** confirm the decrease in the bond order from C=O to C–O on cyclization and that the oxygen atom is bound to the phosphorus atom.

Compounds **4–6** were synthesized by the reaction of a mixture of triethylamine and benzhydrazide or 4-pyridinecarboxylic acid

Product	$\delta^{a}$ ( <sup>31</sup> P) in ppm	<sup>1</sup> H: $\delta^{b,c} (ppm)/^2 J_{PNH} (Hz)$	<sup>13</sup> C: $\delta^{b,c} (ppm)/^2 J_{POC} (Hz)$	v(C=0) in cm <sup>-1</sup>
1	21.80	$H^{\alpha}$ :7.76/21.9	166.93/-	1655
		<sup>1</sup> H: $\delta^{b,c}/^{2}J_{PNH}$ (Hz)	<sup>13</sup> C: $\delta^{b,c}/^2 J_{POC}$ (Hz)	v (C=O/C-O) in cm <sup>-1</sup>
2	-37.72	8.57/40.4	152.54/14.1	-/1330
3	-43.31	3.69/12.1 8.17/45.2	151.68/14.6	-/1328
4	-36.19	8.85/36.9	154.20/10.9	-/1324
5	-47.40	7.15/13.4 8.58/39.9	152.52/15.1	-/1324
6	-46.92	7.32/13.3 8.99/40.9	150.71/15.4	-/1326
7	-45.23	6.75/36.6 8.48/39.6 9.88/	152.06/14.6 166.39/-	1669/1329
8	-45.31	7.12/37.3 8.98/41.1 10.38/-	150.41/15.4 164.91/-	1686/1323

<sup>a</sup> The <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were recorded for DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> solutions at 202.45 MHz.

<sup>b</sup> The <sup>31</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded for DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> solutions at 500.13 and 125.77 MHz, respectively.

<sup>c</sup> The chemical shifts for the amidic protons and carbonyl (or imine) carbon atoms are provided.

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