# **NEW PHOSPHORUS CONTAINING BIS-SULFONE LIGANDS**

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**ABSTRACT.** Derivatives of bis-sulfone 1,3-bis{(*p*-tolyl)SO<sub>2</sub>}-5-*tert*butylbenzene **1**, containing P(III) and P(V) were obtained and characterized in solution by multinuclear NMR spectroscopy. For two of the compounds ([2,6-{(*p*-tolyl)SO<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>4-*t*-Bu-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>]PCl<sub>2</sub> **2** and [2,6-{(*p*-tolyl)SO<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>4-*t*-Bu-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>]P(O)(H)OEt) **4** the crystal and molecular structures in solid state were also determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction.

Keywords: bis-sulfone, phosphorus derivatives, dichlorophosphine

# INTRODUCTION

The study of phosphorus containing organic and organometallic derivatives has been a topic of interest for a long time, continuously expanding with numerous interesting results surfacing regularly. In the last decades, the chemistry of phosphines and low valent phosphorus containing compounds also came in focus. In the case of all these species the organic moieties play a very important role in the stabilization and the particular properties. Several types of ligands used to obtain low valent phosphorus derivatives are described in the literature,[1–4] like bulky organic groups (Mes, Mes\*, Tip, etc),[1,5] or ligands containing electron donating heteroatoms (N, O, etc).[3] The synergic effect of both the bulkiness of the ligand and its electron donating properties was also proven several times.[1,2,5,6].

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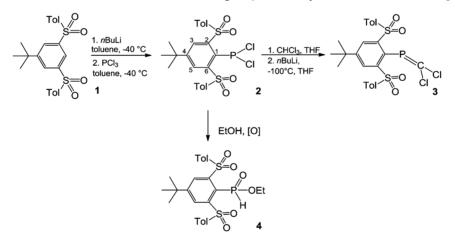
Since the stabilization of the first species containing low valent phosphorus atoms [7–9] the chemistry of these derivatives experienced a great development, becoming a versatile field of study. A large number of studies were reported over the years on the stability, reactivity and applications of P(III) containing derivatives, where the importance of these compounds was highlighted for their role as ligands in organometallic chemistry [1,3,10,16], in catalytic processes,[3] or compounds containing p-block elements.[5,6] The investigation of some derivatives containing phosphaalkenyl –P=C< moieties, their synthesis, characterisation and applications in organometallic and coordinative compounds, represents one of our research interests. [6,10–15]

In this study we investigated the connecting behaviour of the bissulfone 1,3-bis{(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl}-5-*tert*-butylbenzene **1** as a ligand towards phosphorus *tri*-chloride PCl<sub>3</sub> in order to obtain new derivatives that can be used as building blocks in today's chemistry. The importance of bissulfone as ligands was recently highlighted as they function as pincer-type ligands for the stabilization of metallylenes and have an important effect in their reactivity.[17–19]

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSIONS**

Based on the good results obtained with the bis-sulfone **1** in the stabilization of low valent group 14 elements and their reactivity,[18,19] the synthesis of phosphorus containing derivatives was also realised. A new dichlorophosphine was obtained with bis-sulfone **1**, as shown in Scheme 1, using a slightly modified method from literature.[7,20,21]

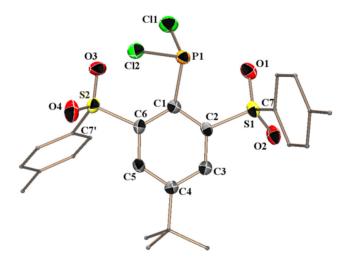
*Tri*-chlorophosphine was added at low temperature to the carbanion of the bis-sulfone **1**, obtained according to previously described methods.[18]



Scheme 1. Synthesis of phosphorus containing derivatives

The new (1.3-bis{(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl}-5-tert-butylphenyl)dichlorophosphine 2 was characterized in solution by NMR spectroscopy. The singlet signal in the <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum at 139 ppm (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) confirms the formation of derivative 2, the value of the chemical shift being in the range of chemical shifts characteristic for organo-dichlorophosphines.[22,23] In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 2 the disappearance of the multiplet signal at 8.90 ppm (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>,  ${}^{4}J_{HH}$  = 1.64 Hz), assigned for H1 of bis-sulfone **1**, can be observed, that confirms the connection of the -PCl<sub>2</sub> fragment to the C1 atom (see Scheme 1). The downfield shift of the meta protons H3 and H5 on the central aromatic ring from 8.25 ppm (in bis-sulfone **1**, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, d,  ${}^{4}J_{HH}$  = 1.64 Hz) to 8.47 ppm (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, d,  ${}^{4}J_{HH}$  = 1.74 Hz) also suggests the formation of the new compound. The signal for the C1 atom in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **2** appears at 137.3 as a doublet ( ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ = 104.3 Hz), because of the bonding with the phosphorus atom, with a downfield shift from 124.6 ppm for bis-sulfone 1, characteristic shift and coupling constant for such derivatives.[22.24]

The structure of the bis-sulfone-dichlorophosphine **2** was confirmed in solid state by single crystal X-ray diffraction; the molecular structure together with some important geometrical parameters is presented in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Molecular structure of compound 2 the solid state (50 % probability level for the thermal ellipsoids). For clarity, hydrogen atoms are omitted, tolyl and t-butyl groups are simplified. Selected bond distances [Å] and bond angles [deg]: S1-O1 1.441(3), S1-O2 1.435(3), S2-O3 1.434(3), S2-O4 1.432(3), P1-C1 1.859(3), Cl1-P1 2.050(1), Cl2-P1 2.057(1), C1-P1-Cl1 104.37(11), C1-P1-Cl2 99.57(11), Cl1-P1-Cl2 102.80(6), C6-S2-C7' 102.91(16), C2-S1-C7 106.64(15), P1-C1-C2 115.1(2), P1-C1-C6 129.1(3)

The solid state molecular structure of compound 2 shows that the phosphorus atom adopts a pseudo-tetrahedral geometry, considering the lone pair of electrons, with the angles C1-P1-Cl1 of 104.37(11)°, C1-P1-Cl2 of 99.57(11)° and CI1-P1-Cl2 of 102.80(6)°. The C1-P1 bond length of 1.859(3) Å and P-CI bond lengths of 2.050(1) and 2.057(1) Å, are close to values found in the literature for other organo-dichlorophosphines.[20,25] The tolyl groups are situated on opposite sides of the central aromatic ring; the S=O bonds are close to values observed in the case of the previously reported metallylenes with bis-sulfone ligands.[17-19] The O1-P1 distance in the dichlorophosphine 2 is of 2.754(3) Å, value between the sum of the covalent radii (1.73 Å)[26] and the sum of the van der Waals radii (3.38 Å),[27,28] while the O3-P1 distance of 3.367(3) Å is almost equal to the sum of the van der Waals radii (3.38 Å).[27,28] The orientation of the sulfonyl groups (the O1, O3) and the phosphorus atom does not make possible an interaction, moreover, in the case of the phosphorus(III) atom, the presence of the lone pair of electron could lead to repulsions with the lone pair of electron on the oxygen atom. However, the bulkiness of the bis-sulfone ligand 1 makes possible the stabilization of the dichlorophosphine 2. It is to note, that in the literature there are only a few examples for phosphines stabilized by pincer ligands.[21,29–32]

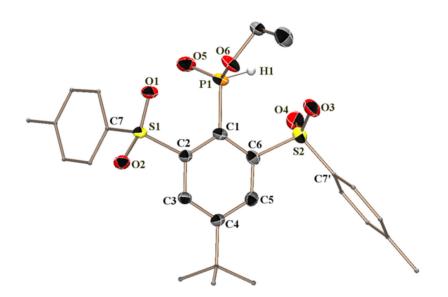
The bis-sulfone-*di*chlorophosphine **2** was also used as precursor in the synthesis of the  $(1,3-bis\{(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl\}-5-tert-butylphenyl)$ *di*chlorophosphaalkene**3**. The formation of compound**3**was evidenced in solution by NMR spectroscopy, mainly through the <sup>31</sup>P NMR, where the presence of a singlet signal at a the chemical shift 201.6 ppm, downfield shifted compared to the*di*chlorophosphine**2**, is characteristic for derivatives containing the –P=C< moiety.[3,8,10-12,33] The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra also confirm the formation of the expected compound**3**, data are presented in experimental part. The*di*chlorophosphaalkene**3**is stable under inert atmosphere, and presents low stability at air, after a few days decomposition can be observed with the formation of the bis-sulfone ligand**1**.

The reactivity of the derivative **2** was also tested in the presence of ethanol and oxygen, the oxidation state of phosphorus atom switch from P(III) to P(V), together with the substitution of the chlorine atoms, the formation of ethyl(1,3-bis{(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl}-5-*tert*-butylphenyl)-phosphinate **4** was observed, as shown in Scheme 1.

The <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of derivative **4** exhibits a doublet signal at 12.60 ppm ( ${}^{1}J_{PH}$  = 615.4Hz), with an upfield shift compared to *di*chlorophosphine **2** (139 ppm), found in the characteristic region for P(V) phosphorus atom containing derivatives.[10,13,22] The coupling constant of 615 Hz suggests the presence of a hydrogen atom linked to the phosphorus atom.[22] In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **4** slight downfield shifts can be observed for

the signals for the methyl and *tert*-butyl group and the aromatic protons of the bis-sulfone ligand compared to the compound **2**. At 1.11 ppm a triplet and at 4.13-4.35 ppm multiplet signals can be seen for the ethoxy group linked to the phosphorus atom.

Single crystals, suitable for X-ray analysis, were obtained and the molecular structure of compound **4** in solid state is presented in Figure 2 as well as some representative geometrical parameters.



**Figure 2.** Molecular structure of compound 4 the solid state (50 % probability level for the thermal ellipsoids). For clarity, hydrogen atoms are omitted, tolyl and t-butyl groups are simplified. Selected bond distances [Å] and bond angles [deg]: S1-O1 1.434(1), S1-O2 1.442(1), S2-O3 1.439(1), S2-O4 1.438(1), P1-C1 1.828 (1), P1-O5 1.458(1), P1-O6 1.572(1), P1-H1 1.295(18), C1-P1-O5 113.55(6), C1-P1-O6 102.53(6), C1-P1-H1 106.9(8), P1-C1-C2 123.15(10), P1-C1-C6 121.67(10).

The solid state molecular structure of compound **4** shows a similar geometrical arrangement to derivative **2**. The tolyl groups are situated on opposite sides of the central aromatic ring. The O1-P1 distance is of 3.195(1) Å, the O3-P1 is 2.924(1) Å, values between the sum of the covalent radii (1.73 Å)[26] and the sum of the van der Waals radii (3.38 Å).[27,28] The P-O5 and P-O6 distances are in the range of values found in the literature for P=O bonds.[35]

Compound **4** is stable in the presence of moisture and oxygen.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The synthesis and characterization of three new organophosphorus derivatives containing bis-sulfone ligand **1** is presented. All compounds were characterized in solution by multinuclear NMR spectroscopy; for compounds **2** and **4** the solid state molecular structure was also determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction.

The P(III) containing derivatives show good stability under inert atmosphere of argon, while the P(V) containing derivative proved to be stable under air too.

The newly obtained organophosphorus derivatives are good candidates as precursors for organometallic compounds because of the stability of these derivatives under controlled atmosphere and the existence of multiple connecting points: lone pair of electrons of the phosphorus atom in compound **2**, P=C double bond in compound **3**, oxygen atom of the P=O bond in compound **4** and the oxygen atoms of the bis-sulfone ligand in all the cases.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

All syntheses were realized under dry and oxygen free argon atmosphere by using Schlenk-line and glove-box techniques; all solvents were purified using MBRAUN SBS-800 purification system. Bis-sulfone 1 was prepared according to literature procedures.[18] The NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance II 300 MHz apparatus: <sup>1</sup>H (300.13 MHz, reference TMS), <sup>13</sup>C (75.48 MHz, reference TMS), <sup>31</sup>P (121.51 MHz, reference H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>) at 298 K and Bruker Avance 400 MHz apparatus: <sup>1</sup>H (400.13 MHz, reference TMS), <sup>13</sup>C (100.61 MHz, reference TMS), <sup>31</sup>P (161.92 MHz, reference H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>) at 298 K. The signals in the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were assigned by COSY (<sup>1</sup>H), HSQC (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C), and HMBC (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C) experiments. The X-ray data were collected at 193(2) K on a Bruker - AXS PHOTON100 D8 VENTURE diffractometer using MoKa radiation (wavelength = 0.71073 Å). Phi- and omega- scans were used. The data were integrated with SAINT[36] and an empirical absorption correction with SADABS[36] was applied. The structures were solved by direct methods with SHELXS-97[37] or by intrinsic phasing method (SHELXT)[38] and refined using a least-squares method on F<sup>2</sup>.[37] All non-H atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. CCDC 1587350 (2), CCDC 1587350 (4) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data request/cif.

# Synthesis of compound 2

To a solution of bis-sulfone **1**[18] (300 mg, 0.678 mmol) in 12 mL of toluene cooled to -40°C, *n*-butyl lithium (0.44 mL, 0.711 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise. The deep red solution was stirred 20 minutes at this temperature then was added over a solution of freshly distilled PCl<sub>3</sub> (0.118 mL, 1.356 mmol, 2eq) in 2 mL of toluene at -40°C. The dark red reaction mixture slowly turned white while it was allowed to warm to room temperature then it was stirred for 18 hours. After the evaporation of the volatiles, the solid was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O and the lithium salts were eliminated by centrifugation in toluene. The compound was obtained as a white powder (185 mg, yield=50%). Colourless crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained in toluene solution.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 0.86 (s, 9H, *t-Bu*), 1.78 (s, 6H, Me), 6.67 (d, 4H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.97 Hz, *m*-CH Tol), 7.78 (d, 4H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.17 Hz, *o*-CH Tol), 8.47 (d, 2H, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.74 Hz, *m*-CH Ph).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)** δ = 21.2 (Me), 30.1 (*t*-Bu), 35.3 (C *t*-Bu), 128.3 (d,  $J_{C-P}$  = 4.47 Hz, o-CH Tol), 130.0 (*m*-CH Tol), 132.2 (*m*-CH Ph), 137.3 (d,  ${}^{1}J_{C-P}$  = 104.3 Hz, C1), 140.1(*ipso*-Tol), 144.5 (*p*-Tol), 149.0 (d,  $J_{C-P}$  = 22.7 Hz, C2, C6) 157.1 (C4).

<sup>31</sup>**P NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)** δ = 139.1

Note: The numbering for carbon atoms in all compounds is according to Scheme 1.

#### Synthesis of compound 3

To a solution of bis-sulfone **1** (300 mg, 0.678 mmol) in 12 mL of toluene cooled to -40°C, n-butyl lithium (0.44 mL, 0.711 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise. The deep red solution was stirred 20 minutes at this temperature then was added over a solution of freshly distilled PCl<sub>3</sub> (0.118 mL, 1.356 mmol, 2eq) in 2 mL of toluene at -40°C. The dark red reaction mixture slowly turned white while it was allowed to warm to room temperature then it was stirred for 18 hours. All volatiles were evaporated, the white solid was solubilized in 12 mL of THF and freshly distilled CHCl<sub>3</sub> (55  $\mu$ L, 0.678 mmol) was added to this solution. The mixture was cooled down to -100°C and *n*-BuLi (0.89 mL, 1.42 mmol, 2eq, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise. The red reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and slowly became transparent. The mixture was stirred 18 hours at room temperature. After evaporating all volatiles the compound was washed with pentane and obtained as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCI<sub>3</sub>) δ = 1.46 (s, 9H, *t-Bu*), 2.37 (s, 6H, Me), 7.26 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.08 Hz, *m*-CH Tol), 8.54 (s, 4H, *m*-CH Ph), 7.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.31 Hz, *o*-CH Tol).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  = 21.8 (Me), 31.1 (*t*-Bu), 35.9 (C *t*-Bu), 128.9 (*o*-Tol), 129.9 (*m*-Tol), 131.7 (*m*-CH Ph), 137.0 (*ipso*-Tol *and C2, C6*), 136.3 and 144.9 (*p*-Tol), 146.3 (d, *J*<sub>C-P</sub> = 3.06 Hz, *C1*), 156.0 (*C4*), *C*=P not seen.

<sup>31</sup>**P NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)** δ = 201.6

Characterization of compound 4

To a solution of dichlorophosphine **2** in  $C_6D_6$ , 10  $\mu$ L distilled EtOH was added. Transparent crystals were obtained in  $C_6D_6$  and separated through filtration.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 0.94 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 1.76 (s, 6H, Me), 1.11, (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.96 Hz -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.13 and 4.35 (m, 2H, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>) 6.71 (d, 4H, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.90 Hz, *m*-CH Tol), 8.02 (d, 4H, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.82 Hz, *o*-CH Tol), 8.89 (d, 2H, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.62 Hz, *m*-CH Ph).

<sup>31</sup>P (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)  $\bar{\delta}$  = 12.6 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>P-H</sub> = 615.4 Hz) <sup>31</sup>P{H} (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)  $\bar{\delta}$  = 12.6

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