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Novel 1,3-Dichalcogeno-2-phospholanes with an Annelated 1,2-Dicarba-closododecaborane(12) Unit. Synthesis, Structures and Reactivity

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Novel 1,3-Dichalcogeno-2-phospholanes with an Annelated 1,2-Dicarba-closo-dodecaborane(12) Unit. Synthesis, Structures and Reactivity

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Abstract

The most efficient strategies for the synthesis of novel 1,3-dichalcogeno-2phospholanes (chalcogen E = O, S, Se, Te) are introduced, starting from 1,2dicarba-closo-dodecaborane(12) ("ortho-carborane"), 1,2-di-lithiated derivative, and various phosphorus halides. The annelation of the phospholane ring with the rigid three-dimensional carborane framework causes markedly different properties when compared with other phospholanes. Most noteworthy are the structural alternatives concerning the orientation of the lone pair of electrons at phosphorus, the instability of P-halides in particular for E = O, and the pronounced tendency for dimerization in the case of P-organo derivatives, which increases from E = Te < Se < S << O. The latter is a consequence of spatial proximity between P-R or electron density at phosphorus and the carborane skeleton. Direct structural evidence is provided for monomers and dimers by single crystal X-ray structural analysis. The solution-state structures follow from consistent sets of multinuclear magnetic resonance data (¹H, ¹¹B, ¹³C, ³¹P, ⁷⁷Se, ¹²⁵Te NMR). This is complemented by calculations leading to optimized gas-phase geometries at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) level of theory. Most NMR parameters (chemical shifts δ and indirect nuclear spin-spin coupling constants ⁿJ) are calculated at the same level of theory. These studies indicate that there are cases, for which important features of the solid-state structures may not be retained in solution. Examples are given for E = Se, showing that reactions with Lewis acids such as borane reagents (BH₃–D with D = THF, Me_2S) or $Cp*MCl_2$ (M = Rh, Ir) follow the same pattern, i. e. adduct formation, insertion and exchange.

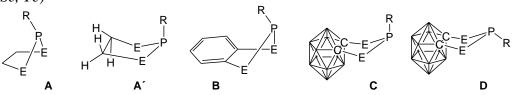
Keywords: Carboranes, Phosphorus, Diols, Sulfur, Selenium, Tellurium, Dimerization, Heterocycles, Lewis acids, NMR spectroscopy, DFT calculations, X-Ray analysis

Acknowledgments: Support of this work by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft is gratefully acknowledged.

Introduction

1,3-Dichalcogeno-2-phospholanes have been known for some time, in particular the 1,3-dioxa- (Arbuzov, 1948; Lucas, 1950; Burg, 1961; Fontal, 1966) and less so the 1,3-dithia derivatives (Arbuzov, 1952; Wieber, 1964; Peake, 1972; Albrand, 1973), by contrast to rare examples for 1,3-diselena-(Ogawa, 1995) and non-existent 1,3-ditellura compounds. These cyclic phosphines differ in many respects from their six-membered or non-cyclic counterparts. The carbon backbone frequently consists of the CH₂-CH₂ moiety (A) or is a benzo group (B). The typical structures, of which many have been determined by X-ray analysis, are presented in Fig. 1. Usually one finds an envelope structure with the phosphorus atom in the flap and the substituent at phosphorus in the axial position, leaving the equatorial space for the lone pair of electrons. In the solid state, the CH₂ units may be arranged as in A or twisted against each other (A'), to escape the maximum of steric repulsion exerted by the substituent at phosphorus. The latter alternative is unnecessary in the case of the benzo derivatives (B). A rigid three-dimensional unit instead of the CH₂-CH₂- or the benzo group could change the principal structure (see **D** as compared with C) and by this the properties of such compounds. Therefore, we have set out to synthesize and investigate 1,3-dichalcogeno-2-phospholanes with an annelated 1,2-dicarba-closo-dodecaborane(12) unit (C and/or D). Of particular interest is the behaviour of these phospholanes towards different Lewis acids, considering the presence of E and phosphorus as potential basic sites. In this respect we have focused on E = Se.

Figure 1. Principal Structures of 1,3-Dichalcogeno-2-phospholanes (E = O, S, Se, Te)



The chemistry of 1,2-dicarba-*closo*-dodecaborane(12) **1** (so called "*ortho*-carborane") in general is well developed (Grimes, 2011; Bregadze, 1992). One important step for derivatization involves di-lithiation (**2**), and for our purposes insertion of sulfur (Smith, 1966; Herberhold, 1999; Popescu, 2012), selenium (Herberhold, 1999; Jin, 2004) or tellurium (Herberhold, 1999; Wrackmeyer, 2013, 398-408) into the C–Li bonds (**3**). The oxygen derivatives **4** (Ohta, 2007) and **5** have to be prepared by a different route, and the silanes **6** (Wrackmeyer, 2010; Wrackmeyer, 2014, *Dalton Trans.*) turned out to be particularly useful for further transformations. Scheme 1 shows the starting materials which can be used in reactions with phosphorus halides to obtain the desired novel 1,3-dichalcogeno-2-phospholanes.

NMR spectroscopy (¹H, ¹³C, ¹¹B, ²⁹Si, ³¹P, ⁷⁷Se and ¹²⁵Te NMR) is the major analytical tool for the assessment of solution-state structures. These

measurements are accompanied by quantum-chemical analyses aiming for optimization [B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) level of theory (Becke, 1993; Lee, 1988, Stevens, 1994, McLean, 1980; Krishnan, 1980)] of gas-phase structures and calculation of NMR parameters [chemical shifts δX ($X = {}^{11}B$, ${}^{13}C$, ${}^{31}P$, ${}^{77}Se$) (Wollinski, 1990) and indirect nuclear spin-spin coupling constants ${}^{n}J(A,X)$ (Helgaker, 2008; Contreras, 2003)].

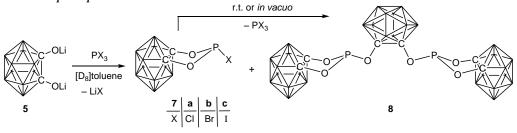
Scheme 1. The Most Useful Starting Materials for Reactions with Phosphorus Halides

Results & Discussion

1,3-Dioxa-2-phospholanes with an Annelated 1,2-Dicarba-closo-dodecaborane(12) Unit

Scheme 2 shows that the phosphorus halides **7** are formed as expected. However, after short time in the reaction solutions or in the course of work-up procedures disproportionation reactions towards phosphite derivatives **8** take place (Wrackmeyer, 2014, 233-246). Apparently, the phosphorus halides **7** are less stable than comparable halides of the type **A** or **B** (E = O; Fig. 1), some of which are commercially available. So far neither the parent phosphine compound with a P-H unit nor the fluoride has been obtained. According to calculated gas-phase structures, solely the unavailable parent phosphine adopts the structure **C**, and all others prefer structure **D** (E = O; Fig. 1) (Wrackmeyer, 2014, 233-246).

Scheme 2. Synthesis and Major Way of Decomposition of 2-Halogeno-1,3-dioxa-2-phospholanes



All monomeric P-organo derivatives **9a**–**d** and even the P-ethoxy- (**9e**) and P-diethylamino derivative (**9f**) tend to dimerize within hours or days (Wrackmeyer, 2014, 233-246). Again this is in contrast to **A** or **B** (E = O; Fig. 1) which dimerize very slowly or not at all (Dutasta, 1980; Pudovik, 1983). Figure 2 shows the molecular structure of the dimer **10c**, as determined by X-ray analysis. In the ten-membered ring the four oxygen atoms are in one plane (mean deviation 1.9 pm), and both phosphorus atoms are shifted out of this plane (88.8 pm, 88.5 pm).

Scheme 3. Synthesis and Dimerization of 2-R-1,3-dioxa-2-phospholanes

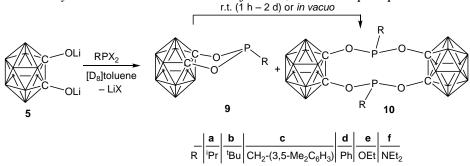


Figure 2. ORTEP Plot (50% Probability; Hydrogen Atoms are Omitted for Clarity) of the Molecular Structure of Dimer **10c**. Selected Bond Lengths (pm) and Angles (°):

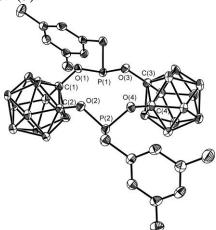
C(1)-C(2) 171.7(5), C(3)-C(4) 169.7(5),

C(1)-O(1) 136.9(5), P(1)-O(1) 167.0(2),

P(1)–C(5) 190.9(4);

O(1)-P(1)-O(2) 95.24(12),

C(2)-C(1)-O(1) 116.4(3).



³¹P NMR spectra show significant deshielding of the ³¹P nuclei in the fivemembered rings relative to those in the dimers. This mirrors partly the ring strain together with repulsive effects in the small rings. The structural assignments for the solution-state of monomers and dimers are strongly supported by a linear correlation between calculated [given for the shortcomings of the theoretical approach (van Wüllen, 2000)] and experimental δ^{31} P values.

The annelated carborane skeleton destabilizes monomeric 1,3-dioxa-2-phospholanes. Any gain in kinetical stabilization is more than counterbalanced by steric repulsion between the carborane skeleton and the lone pair of electrons at phosphorus in axial position. According to calculations, solely the hydrogen atom is tolerated in axial position, and all other substituents are forced into the equatorial position to avoid close contacts with the rigid carborane skeleton.

1,3-Dithia- and 1,3-Diselena-2-phospholanes with an Annelated 1,2-Dicarbacloso-dodecaborane(12) Unit

The best synthetic strategy starts from the silanes **6** (Scheme 4) (Wrackmeyer, 2012; Wrackmeyer, 2014, 1929-1948), although the di-lithium salts **3** (E = S, Se) can also be used (Wrackmeyer, 2007; Wrackmeyer, 2014, *Dalton Trans.*). However, the reactions of the silanes **6** with phosphorus halides afford the products in higher purity and much better yield.

Scheme 4. General Synthesis of 1,3-Dithia- and 1,3-Diselena-2-phospholanes

The phosphorus halides 11 are more stable than their oxygen analogues 7, since the disproportionation products analogous to 8 play a minor role for X = Cl and even less so for X = Br, I. Therefore, the halides can be used to generate the parent compound 13 (R = H) as well as the fluoride 14 (X = F, for E = S) (Scheme 5), at least in reaction solutions in order to measure the most relevant NMR data (Wrackmeyer, 2012; Wrackmeyer, 2014, *Dalton Trans.*).

Scheme 5. Synthesis of the Parent Compounds 13 and the Fluoride 14 for NMR Spectroscopy

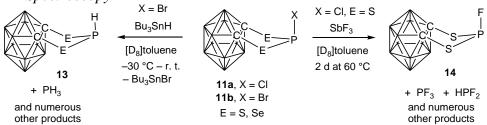
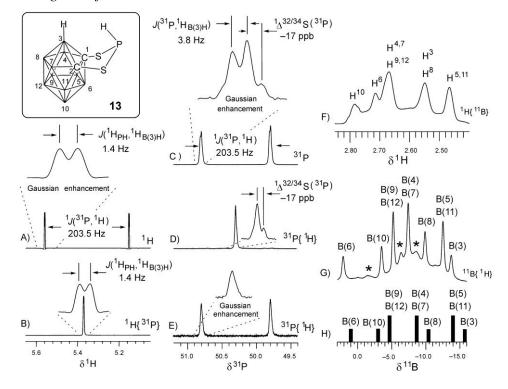


Figure 3 shows the results of some NMR spectroscopic measurements for 13 (E = S) as an instructive example (Wrackmeyer, 2014, *Dalton Trans.*). The NMR data for the corresponding 13 (E = Se) contain even more information, since the ⁷⁷Se NMR parameters are also accessible (Wrackmeyer, 2012). Of particular interest is the spin-spin coupling between 1 H(B-3) and 1 H(P) (Fig. 2(A)), which can be regarded as a "through-space" coupling. This is not resolved in the case of 13 (E = Se), most likely because of a slightly longer H. distance. We note reasonably good agreement between calculated and experimental NMR parameters (shown for example in Fig. 2(G, H) for δ^{11} B values). Calculated data were based on the optimized geometry corresponding to C (Fig. 1).

Figure 3. Compound **13** (E = S) (in $[D_8]$ toluene, at 23 °C), showing Long Range or through-space ${}^{1}H^{-1}H$ and ${}^{31}P^{-1}H$ Spin-Spin Coupling, and Assignment of ${}^{11}B$ and ${}^{1}H(BH)$ NMR Signals. (A) 500.13 MHz ${}^{1}H$ NMR Spectrum. (B) 500.13 MHz ${}^{1}H^{(31}P)$ NMR Spectrum. (C) 202.5 MHz ${}^{31}P$ NMR Spectrum. The Isotope-induced Chemical Shift ${}^{1}\Delta^{32/34}S({}^{31}P)$ (Bjorholm, 1989) is observed. (D) 202.5 MHz ${}^{31}P\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR Spectrum with ${}^{1}H$ Broad-band Decoupling. (E) 202.5 MHz ${}^{31}P\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR Spectrum with Selective Decoupling of ${}^{1}H$ at 2.55 ppm. (F) 500.13 MHz ${}^{1}H\{{}^{11}B\}$ NMR Spectrum of **13** with Side Product (Marked by Asterisks), Assigned by Selective ${}^{1}H\{{}^{11}B\}$ Experiments. (G) 160.5 MHz ${}^{11}B\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR Spectrum of **13**. (H) Stick Diagram of calcd. ${}^{11}B$ NMR Signals of **13**.



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The P-organo derivatives 12a-d stay as monomers in solution for a sufficient length of time to measure all important NMR parameters. Any tendency for dimerization is more pronounced for E = S than for E = Se. Thus, for R = Ph, 12d (E = S) dimerizes, whereas 12d (E = Se) does not. By contrast, for $R = {}^{t}Bu$ both 12b (E = S, Se) dimerize readily. Also in contrast to 10c (E = O), 12c (E = S, Se) do not dimerize. Similarly, dimers are not formed in the cases of the P-OEt- and P-NEt₂ derivatives 12e, f.

In the cases of **12b** with $R = {}^{t}Bu$ and **12f** with $R = NEt_2$, calculations predict minima in energy for structure **D** (E = S, Se; Fig. 1), and the calcd. NMR parameters are in agreement with the experimental data (Wrackmeyer, 2014, *Dalton Trans.*; Wrackmeyer, 2014, 1929-1948). The delicate balance between the structures **C** and **D** (Fig. 1) becomes obvious by comparing the solid-state structure of **12d** (E = Se) (Wrackmeyer, 2007), corresponding to **D**, with that in solution (Wrackmeyer, 2014, 1929-1948), corresponding to **C**, inferred by NMR spectroscopic data and quantum-chemical analysis (Fig. 4).

Figure 4. The Solid-State Structure of **12d** Leads to calcd. NMR Parameters at Drastic Variance with Experimental Data. The Latter are Almost Exactly Reproduced by Calculations Based on the Optimized Structure Shown.

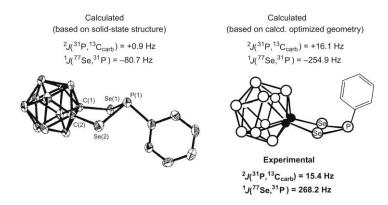
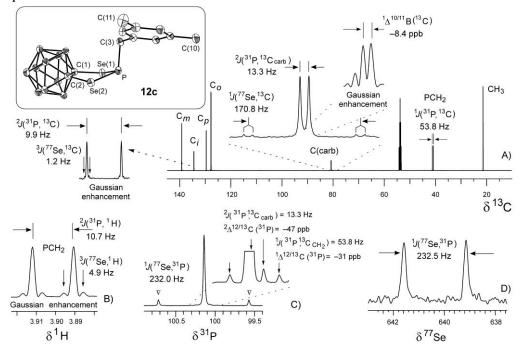


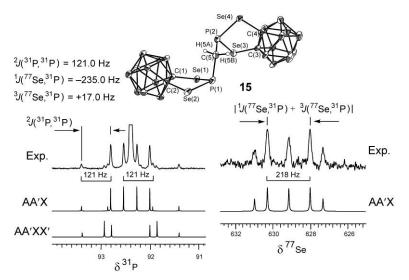
Figure 5. Compound **12c** (E = Se) (in CD_2Cl_2 , at 23 °C). (A) 125.8 MHz $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR Spectrum. (B) 500.13 MHz $^1H(PCH_2)$ NMR Spectrum. (C) 202.5 MHz $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ NMR Spectrum. The ^{77}Se Satellites for $^1J(^{77}Se,^{31}P)$ are Marked by V. The ^{13}C Satellites for $^nJ(^{31}P,^{13}C)$ (n = 1, 2) are Marked by Arrows; Isotope-Induced Chemical Shifts $^n\Delta^{12/13}C(^{31}P)$ $(n = 1, 2; \pm 1 \text{ ppb})$ are given; Note that the Effect for n = 2 is Larger than for n = 1. (D) 95.4 MHz ^{77}Se NMR Spectrum.



Of course, as it is frequently true, we also find that major structural features of the solid state are retained in solution, as shown for both **12c** (E = Se) and **15**, for which relevant experimental NMR parameters (Fig. 5) are reproduced by calculations (Fig. 6) (Wrackmeyer, 2014, 1929-1948).

The 13 C NMR spectrum of 12c (E = Se) [Fig. 5(A)] shows the doublet for the 13 C_{carb} nuclei, and the signals are further split by isotope-induced chemical shifts $^{1}\Delta^{10/11}$ B(13 C) (Wrackmeyer, 2009). An interesting observation concerns exceptionally large isotope-induced chemical shifts $^{2}\Delta^{12/13}$ C_{carb}(31 P) = -47 ppb (Fig. 5(C)). This appears to be a property of the five-membered ring. Isotope-induced chemical shifts $^{1}\Delta^{12/13}$ C(31 P) are known to cover a substantial range (Tattershall, 1990; Heckmann, 1999), whereas effects $^{2}\Delta^{12/13}$ C(31 P) are usually regarded as extremely small or negligible. We have observed the large effects $^{2}\Delta^{12/13}$ C_{carb}(31 P) for all 1,3-dichalcogeno-2-phospholanes studied here for E = S, Se, Te (Wrackmeyer, 2014, 1929-1948).

Figure 6. ³¹P and ⁷⁷Se NMR Spectra of **15**. Relevant Coupling Constants have to be Extracted by Simulation of the Complex Experimental Spectra using the Spin Systems as Shown.



There are notable differences between the sulfur and selenium compounds studied here. Thus, the P–Se bonds are more reactive than the P–S bonds, as shown by oxidative additions (Wrackmeyer, 2007). Even the apparently simple addition of selenium to prepare phosphorus selenides (e.g. **16a**) turned out to be accompanied by insertion of selenium into the P–Se bonds (**17a**) (Scheme 6). With the ⁱPr group (E = Se; **12a**) a single isomer is formed, whereas two isomers **17d** are observed for R = Ph, starting from **12d** (Wrackmeyer, 2013, 140-147). Again, a single isomer **17c** is formed starting from **12c** (Wrackmeyer, 2014, 1929-1948). The solid-state structure of **17a** could be characterized by X-ray structural analysis (Fig. 7), and its formation was conveniently monitored by ³¹P and ⁷⁷Se NMR spectroscopy (Fig. 8) (Wrackmeyer, 2013, 140-147).

Scheme 6. Reaction of 12a with Selenium via the Expected 16a towards 17a

Figure 7. ORTEP Plot (50 % Probability; Hydrogen Atoms are Omitted for Clarity) of the Molecular Structure of **17a**. Selected Bond Lengths (pm) and Angles(°):

C(1)–C(2) 171.1(1), C(1)–Se(1) 194.6(1), Se(1)–Se(3) 231.1(2), Se(3)–P 225.1(3), P–Se(5) 207.4(4), P–C(3) 184.4(1); Se(3)–P–Se(4) 111.4(1).

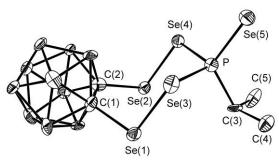
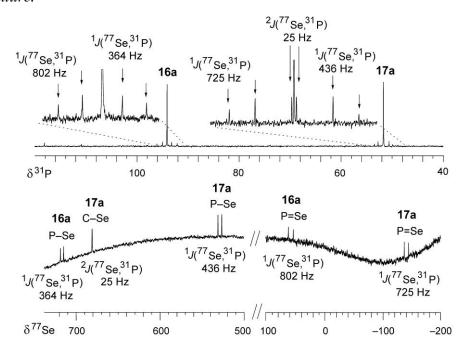


Figure 8. NMR Spectra of the Reaction Solution Obtained from the Reaction of **12a** with Se (Scheme 6). Upper Trace: 202.5 MHz ³¹P{¹H} NMR Spectrum after 24 h at 55 °C in CD₂Cl₂, the Mixture of **16a** and **17a**; ⁷⁷Se Satellites are Marked by Arrows. Lower Trace: 95.4 MHz ⁷⁷Se NMR Spectrum of the Same Mixture.



1,3-Ditellura-2-phospholanes with an Annelated 1,2-Dicarba-closo-dodecaborane(12) Unit

Since the silane with E = Te analogous to $\mathbf{6}$ is not accessible so far (Wrackmeyer, 2013, 398-408), the di-lithium salt $\mathbf{3}$ (E = Te) is used in reactions with phosphorus halides (Scheme 7). Problems are encountered because the nature of $\mathbf{3}$ depends in an unpredictable way on experimental conditions (Herberhold, 2006; Wrackmeyer, 2013, 398-408). Therefore, the

desired products **18** are formed, readily shown by ^{31}P and ^{125}Te NMR spectroscopy, accompanied by numerous side-products which are difficult to separate (Wrackmeyer, 2014, 1929-1948). NMR data indicate that, except of **18e**, all others adopt the structure of type **C** (Fig. 1), even **18b**, for which the sulfur and selenium analogues (**12b**) prefer **D** (Fig. 1). The 1,3-ditellura-2-phospholanes **18** do not dimerize. In constrast to their analogues with E = O, S, Se, compounds **18** are light-sensitive in solution as well as in the solid state.

Scheme 7. *Synthesis of 1,3-Ditellura-2-phospholanes*

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ &$$

Reactions of 1,3-Diselena-2-phospholanes with Lewis Acids

Expectedly, the first strong interaction of borane reagents with 1,3-diselena-2-phospholanes (Scheme 8) involves adduct formation (19). The compounds 12a,d were selected for these studies, because they stay mainly as monomers in solution and their solution-state structures are comparable, both with R in axial position. The adducts 19 rearrange into ring insertion products 20, depending on conditions, and finally exchange takes place (21, 22) accompanied by decomposition. Monitoring of the reactions using ¹H, ¹¹B, ¹³C, ³¹P and ⁷⁷Se NMR spectroscopy enabled to assign the proposed structures for 19 to 22 on the basis of consistent NMR parameters (chemical shifts and coupling constants), confirmed by quantum-chemical calculations. Moreover, these calculations also showed that the relative energies of the isomers decrease markedly in going from 19 to 20 and finally to 21 (R = ⁱPr) (Wrackmeyer, 2014, DOI:10.1002/ejic.201402486).

Scheme 8. Reaction of Borane Reagents with 1,3-Diselena-2-phospholanes

excess
$$H_3B-D$$
 $D = THF \text{ or } SMe_2$

$$C = \frac{12}{R} \frac{|a|}{|Pr|} \frac{|d|}{|Ph|}$$
and decomposition
$$C = \frac{12}{R} \frac{|a|}{|Pr|} \frac{|d|}{|Ph|}$$

$$EXCESS = \frac{12}{R} \frac{|a|}{|Pr|} \frac{|a|}{|Ph|}$$

$$EXCESS = \frac{12}{R} \frac{|a|}{|Pr|} \frac{|a|}{|Pr|} \frac{|a|}{|Ph|}$$

$$EXCESS = \frac{12}{R} \frac{|a|}{|Pr|} \frac{|a$$

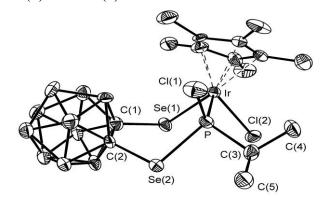
Similar to boranes, Lewis acids containing transition metal centers are expected to prefer the phosphorus atom as a Lewis base. Thus [Cp*MCl₂]₂ (M = Rh, Ir; Cp* = pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) will be split into the monomer

and give the phosphine adduct **23** (Scheme 9). The next step can be insertion into the ring, giving various isomers (24 - 26), and finally, as for borane, exchange leads to **27**. The relative energies of conceivable isomers were calculated, and only geometries with a minimum in energy are shown in Scheme 9. The energies decrease significantly from the adduct **23**, to the ring insertion products **24** to **26** to the exchange product **27** [calculated for $R = {}^{i}Pr$ at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p), Rh, Ir (LANL2DZ) level of theory]. In all cases, relevant NMR spectroscopic data, in particular ${}^{31}P$ NMR data, helped with structural assignments, and crystal structures were determined for major products such as **24** (M = Ir, R = ${}^{i}Pr$; Fig. 9) and **27** (M = Rh, R = ${}^{i}Pr$; Fig.10) (Wrackmeyer, 2014, DOI:10.1002/ejic.201402486).

Scheme 9. Some Products from the Reactions of $Cp*MCl_2$ (M = Rh, Ir) with 1,3-Diselena-2-phospholanes

There are no comparable structures to **24** in the literature. The shape of the six-membered folded ring (Fig. 9) is however typical (Wrackmeyer, 2010; Wrackmeyer, 2013, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.*), and the structural parameters correspond closely to expectations.

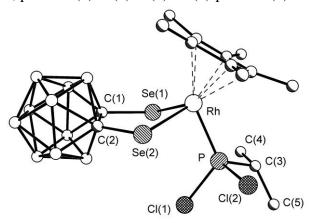
Figure 9. The Molecular Structure of the Ring Insertion Product **24** (M = Ir, $R = {}^{t}Pr$; Major Isomer); ORTEP Plot (50% Probability; Hydrogen Atoms are Omitted for Clarity). Selected Bond Lengths (pm) and Angles (°): Ir–P 226.0(2), Ir–Se(1) 248.41(10), Ir–Cl(2) 239.6(2), P–Cl(1) 206.7(3), P–Se(2) 226.1(2) Se(1)–Ir–P 92.96(6), Se(2)–P–Ir 120.56(10), C(1)–Se(1)–Ir 110.2(3), C(2)–Se(2)–P 103.9(3).



In the case of **27** (M = Rh, R = 1 Pr; Fig. 10), comparable complexes, namely (B₁₀H₁₀C₂Se₂)M(Cp*)–PMe₃ (M = Rh, Ir), have been structurally characterized previously, prepared via different routes (Herberhold, 1999, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.*; Herberhold 1999, *J. Organomet. Chem.*). The structural parameters found for **27** (M = Rh, R = i Pr) are in good agreement with reported data. (Wrackmeyer, 2014, DOI:10.1002/ejic.201402486).

Figure 10. Molecular Structure of **27** $(M = Rh, R = {}^{i}Pr)$. Selected Bond Lengths (pm) and Angles $({}^{\circ})$:

C(1)–C(2) 167.9, C(1)–Se(1) 199.5, C(2)–Se(2) 190.2, Se(1)–Rh 248.0, Se(2)–Rh 246.2, Rh–P 221.5; Se(1)–Rh–Se(2) 90.8, Se(1)–Rh–P 92.0, Se(2)–Rh–P 87.8, Rh–Se(1)–C(1) 102.5, Rh–Se(2)–C(2) 101.7, Se(1)–C(1)–C(2) 118.7, Se(2)–C(2)–C(1) 123.5, Se(1)–Rh–Cp*(Z) 122.5, Se(2)–Rh–Cp*(Z) 124.2, P–Rh–Cp*(Z) 128.6, plane Se(1)–C(1)–C(2)–Se(2)/plane Se(1)–Rh–Se(2) 152.4°.



Conclusions

In principle, 1,3-dichalcogeno-2-phospholanes with an annelated 1,2dicarba-closo-dodecaborane(12) unit are accessible taking advantage of the availability of starting materials shown in Scheme 1 and their reactions with phosphorus halides. The annelated rigid three-dimensional carborane skeleton causes repulsive interactions either with the substituent at phosphorus or with the electron density of the lone pair of electrons at phosphorus, depending on the respective structure (C or D; Fig. 1). This destabilizes the five-membered rings, in particular if E–P and E– C_{carb} distances are short, as for E = O, and for many P-organo derivatives, even for E = S and E = Se, dimerization is the way out. All dimers studied so far possess analogous structures, in which the four chalcogen atoms are in one plane leaving room for the complexation or even encapsulating of various cations. It was shown that multinuclear magnetic resonance methods (¹H, ¹¹B, ¹³C, ³¹P, ⁷⁷Se and ¹²⁵Te NMR spectroscopy) together with quantum-chemical analyses were suitable to unravel the solutionstate structures which sometimes were found to be at variance with those in the solid state. Apparently, the derivatives with E = Se react with greatly different

Lewis acids first by adduct formation, expectedly, followed by insertion of the Lewis acid into the five-membered ring, and finally by exchange forcing the phosphorus out of the ring.

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