Molecular Structure and Reactivity of Tri(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)amine, $N(C_7H_7)_3$

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Compared with the tertiary phosphane $P(C_7H_7)_3$ (1), the amine $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) possesses the structure of a flattened trigonal pyramid with a sum of CNC angles of 350.0° (*cf.* 300.2° (av.) in 1). The heteroatom (with the lone pair) is situated 27.0 pm above the C_3 basal plane in 2, but 86.4 pm in 1. The amines $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2), $NH(C_7H_7)_2$ (2a) and $N(Ph)(C_7H_7)_2$ (2b) react with tropylium tetrafluoroborate, $[C_7H_7]BF_4$, to give N-tropylidene-(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)-immonium tetrafluoroborates, $[(C_7H_6)N(R)(C_7H_7)]BF_4$ 3 (R=H, from 2 and 2a), 4 (R=Ph, from 2b), which have been characterized by their IR and NMR (1H , ^{13}C) spectra.

Key words: Cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl Amines, Tropylium Tetrafluoroborates, X-Ray

Introduction

Numerous transition metal complexes of the olefinic ligand tri(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl) phosphane, $P(C_7H_7)_3$ (1), have been synthesized recently (for typical examples see, *e.g.*, [1-6]). In nearly all cases the phosphorus atom with its lone pair of electrons acts as the primary contact to the metal, although additional support may come from the olefinic cycloheptatrienyl substituents [5].

Attempts to use the amine $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) in a similar manner as a ligand in transition metal complexes were essentially unsuccessful. Although interactions of 2 with the metal complex were occasionally indicated by colour effects, no defined products could be isolated.

The missing tendency of $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) towards coordination was tentatively ascribed to its molecular structure which is described below.

Results and Discussion

X-ray crystal structure of $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2)

The molecular structure and the numbering scheme are shown in Fig. 1; relevant bond distances and angles are given in Table 1.

The tertiary amine **2** crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group $P2_12_12_1$ with 4 molecules in the unit

cell. In the crystal all cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl substituents have the boat conformation and are all connected to nitrogen in an equatorial position. Compared with the analogous tertiary phosphane, $P(C_7H_7)_3$ (1), which contains the C₇H₇ substituents both in equatorial and in axial connection (ratio 2:1) [7], the amine 2 has a relatively flat pyramid NC₃ with C-N-C angles of $116.7 \pm 2^{\circ}$ (av.) and N-C bond lengths of 145.9 pm (av.); the corresponding parameters for 1 are C-P-C angles of $100.05 \pm 3^{\circ}$ (av.) and P-C bond lengths of 187.2 pm (av.) [7]. The sum of the angles around N and P, respectively, is 350.0° in 2 and 300.2° (av.) in 1, the height of the pyramid (i.e. the distance of the heteratom from the C(1)C(8)C(15) plane) is 27.0 pm in 2 but 86.4 pm in 1. The lone pair at N in 2 which is necessary for complexation is therefore less exposed than the lone pair at P in the versatile ligand 1.

The bond distances and bond angles of the three cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl substituents in $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) are comparable (Fig. 1), both among each other and with the corresponding values of the phosphane, $P(C_7H_7)_3$ (1). The bending of the boat-shaped rings can be characterized by the dihedral angles α and β , as defined in Fig. 2.

The parameters $\alpha = 54.2^{\circ}$ (av.) and $\beta = 26.5^{\circ}$ (av.) in N(C₇H₇)₃ (2) have the typical values of equatorial C₇H₇ substituents (*cf.* $\alpha = 55.7^{\circ}$ (av.) and $\beta = 27.0^{\circ}$ (av.) in P(C₇H₇)₃ (1), $\alpha = 58.3^{\circ}$ (av.) and $\beta = 28.7^{\circ}$

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Bond lengths					
N-C(1)	145.3(5)	N-C(8)	147.2(5)	N-C(15)	145.3(4)
C(1)-C(2)	148.9(5)	C(8)-C(9)	149.5(5)	C(15)-C(16)	149.6(5)
C(1)-C(7)	147.9(5)	C(8)-C(14)	147.0(5)	C(15)-C(21)	150.4(5)
C(2)-C(3)	133.6(6)	C(9)-C(10)	134.7(6)	C(16)-C(17)	133.8(6)
C(3)-C(4)	143.5(7)	C(10)-C(11)	143.2(6)	C(17)-C(18)	142.2(7)
C(4)-C(5)	132.7(7)	C(11)-C(12)	133.0(7)	C(18)-C(19)	134.8(6)
C(5)-C(6)	143.0(7)	C(12)-C(13)	140.5(6)	C(19)-C(20)	142.5(6)
C(6)-C(7)	132.8(6)	C(13)-C(14)	133.0(6)	C(20)-C(21)	133.7(5)
Bond angles					
C(1)-N-C(8)	116.1(3)	C(8)-N-C(15)	115.1(4)	C(1)-N-C(15)	118.8(4)
N-C(1)-C(2)	110.9(4)	N-C(8)-C(9)	116.6(4)	N-C(15)-C(16)	112.1(4)
N-C(1)-C(7)	117.5(4)	N-C(8)-C(14)	111.5(4)	N-C(15)-C(21)	118.0(4)
C(2)-C(1)-C(7)	106.2(4)	C(9)-C(8)-C(14)	106.9(4)	C(16)-C(15)-C(21)	105.3(3)
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	122.6(5)	C(8)-C(9)-C(10)	120.6(5)	C(15)-C(16)-C(17)	120.6(5)
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	125.0(6)	C(9)-C(10)-C(11)	125.7(5)	C(16)-C(17)-C(18)	124.8(5)
C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	124.6(7)	C(10)-C(11)-C(12)	125.0(5)	C(17)-C(18)-C(19)	125.8(5)
C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	126.6(7)	C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	126.6(6)	C(18)-C(19)-C(20)	125.0(5)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	124.7(5)	C(12)-C(13)-C(14)	124.8(5)	C(19)-C(20)-C(21)	125.2(5)
C(6)-C(7)-C(1)	123.1(5)	C(13)-C(14)-C(8)	122.4(5)	C(20)-C(21)-C(15)	121.2(4)
Dihedral angles (Fig.2) ^a				
α_1 52.5		α_8 54.2		α_{15} 55.8	
$\beta_1 \ 26.6$		$\beta_8 \ 25.8$		β_{15} 27.2	

Table 1. Atomic distances (pm) and angles (°) for tri(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)-amine, N(C₇H₇)₃ (2).

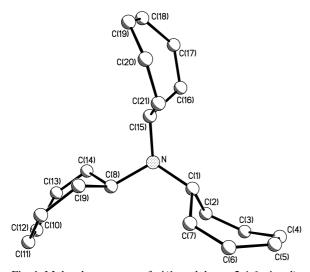


Fig. 1. Molecular structure of tri(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)-amine, $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2).

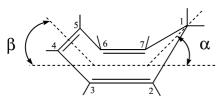


Fig. 2. Conformation of the 1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl substituent ([7]).

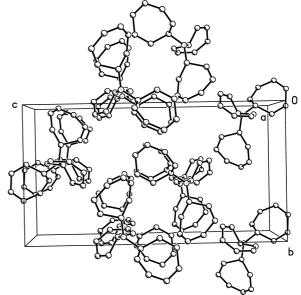


Fig. 3. Packing diagram of tri(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)-amine, $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2).

(av.) in [P(C₇H₇)₄]BF₄ [7]). Axial C₇H₇ substituents which are necessary for π -complexation have significantly smaller α and β parameters [7].

The packing diagram (Fig. 3) shows the arrangement of the $N(C_7H_7)_3$ molecules in the crystal, which leads to the formation of channels along axis a.

 $[^]a$ The numbering of the dihedral angles α and β (Fig. 2) for the 3 cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl substituents refer to the N-bonded carbon atom.

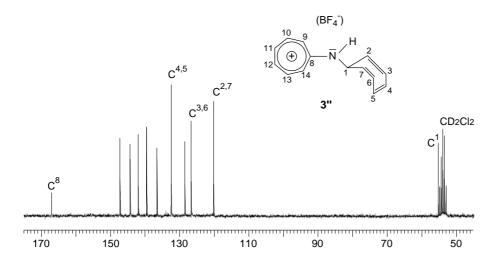


Fig. 4. 13 C NMR Spectrum of $[(C_7H_6^+)NH_6^-)$

Reaction of $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) with $[C_7H_7]BF_4$

Whereas $P(C_7H_7)_3$ (1) reacts with tropylium tetrafluoroborate, $[C_7H_7]BF_4$, in tetrahydrofuran or dichloromethane solution to give the phosphonium salt $[P(C_7H_7)_4]BF_4$ in quantitative yield [7], the corresponding reaction of $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) with $[C_7H_7]BF_4$ (1:1) leads to the N-tropylidene-N-(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)-immonium salt, $[(C_7H_6)-N(H)(C_7H_7)]BF_4$ (3), for which two canonical structures (3' and 3'') can be formulated [8]:

The use of $[C_7H_7]BF_4$ for the abstraction of a hydride ion from (1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)amines, (C_7H_7) -N(R)(R') (R = R' = Me [8], Et [9]; R = H, R' = Me [8], Pr [9], C_7H_7 [8]) had been described earlier [8,9], and **3** had been obtained [8] with NH(C_7H_7)₂ (**2a**) as the educt. The formation of the secondary amine derivative **3** from the reaction of N(C_7H_7)₃ (**2**) with $[C_7H_7]BF_4$ can be ascribed to the facile hydrolytic splitting of N- C_7H_7 bonds. Thus, N(C_7H_7)₃ (**2**) dissolves easily in diluted acids such as HCl and HBF₄ to give tropylium salts, as shown by the characteristic singlet of the tropylium ion, $[C_7H_7^+]$, in the 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra, *e.g.* $\delta(^1H) = 9.2$ and $\delta(^{13}C) = 155.4$ (in D₂O), after treatment of **2** with diluted HBF₄ acid.

The 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra (Table 2) clearly demonstrate that the products **3** obtained from the reactions of either N(C₇H₇)₃ (**2**) or NH(C₇H₇)₂ (**2a**) with [C₇H₇]BF₄ are essentially identical. In both cases the NMR spectra indicate the presence of a normal (bent) 1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl substituent (as in N(C₇H₇)₃ (**2**) and NH(C₇H₇)₂ (**2a**)) and a "more aromatic" seven-membered ring system. The observation of 7 different ^{13}C NMR signals for the "aromatic" ring (Fig. 4) can be rationalized on the assumption that the rotation around the N-C(8) bond is restricted due to partial double bond character.

The N-H group in 3 is indicated by a broad 1 H NMR signal ($\delta(^1\text{H}) = 9.44$ in CD₂Cl₂ solution) and a broadened absorption ($\nu(\text{N-H}) = 3277 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) in the IR solution spectra (CH₂Cl₂), although the corresponding band was not observed using CsI pellets.

A preliminary X-ray structure analysis of **3** (which suffers from severe disorder, in particular of the BF₄⁻ anions) leads to the conclusion that the cation is best described by the amino-substituted tropylium structure **3**" (*cf.* [8]). It is known that alkylamino substituents increase the stability of tropylium ions [10, 11].

The (1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)amino substituent in the cation of **3** corresponds to the geometry found

Table 2. NMR spectra^a.

-	N(C ₇ H ₇) ₃	$NH(C_7H_7)_2$	N(Ph)(C ₇ H ₇) ₂	$[(C_7H_6^+)N(H)(C_7H_7)]BF_4$ (3)		$[(C_7H_6^+)N(Ph)(C_7H_7)]BF_4$
	2	2a	2b	\mathbf{A}^{b}	\mathbf{B}^{b}	4
¹ H NMR ^c	(CDCl ₃)	(CDCl ₃)	(CDCl ₃)	(CD ₂ Cl ₂)	(CD ₂ Cl ₂)	(CD ₂ Cl ₂)
$\delta(\mathrm{H}^1)$	3.07t (3H)	3.03t (2H)	2.79t (2H)	3.72t (1H)	3.74br (1H)	2.85t (1H)
$\delta(\mathrm{H}^2,\mathrm{H}^7)$	5.52dd (6H)	5.38dd (4H)	5.37dd (4H)	5.57m (2H)	5.57m (2H)	5.42m (2H)
$\delta(\mathrm{H}^3,\mathrm{H}^6)$	6.10m (6H)	6.16m (4H)	6.27m (4H)	6.42m (2H)	6.43m (2H)	6.28m (2H)
$\delta(\mathrm{H}^4,\mathrm{H}^5)$	6.61m (6H)	6.66t (4H)	6.72t (4H)	6.89t (2H)	6.88m (2H)	6.76m (2H)
δ (NH)		1.84s (1H)		9.45br (1H)	9.34br (1H)	
$\delta(Ph)$			7.41 - 7.60 m (5 H)			7.40 - 7.74 m (11 H)
$\delta(\mathrm{C_7H_6}^+)$				7.32m,	7.28/7.32m,	
				7.63 – 7.95m (6H)	7.63 – 7.89m (6H)	
¹³ C NMR ^c	(CDCl ₃)	(CDCl ₃)	(CDCl ₃)	(CD_2Cl_2)	(CD_2Cl_2)	(CD ₂ Cl ₂)
$\delta(C^1)$	58.2	54.6	44.7	55.1	54.9	45.2
$\delta(\mathrm{C}^2,\mathrm{C}^7)$	122.4	123.8	125.2	120.1	120.0	125.2
$\delta(C^3, C^6)$	127.0	126.2	125.0	126.5	126.5	125.3
$\delta(C^4, C^5)$	130.8	130.9	131.1	132.2	132.2	131.4
$\delta(\mathrm{Ph})^c)$			123.7 (o)			124.9 (o)
			129.2 (m); 122.7 (p)			130.0 (m); 133.6 (p)
			145.4 (i)			146.3 (i)
$\delta(\mathrm{C_7H_6}^+)$				128.3, 136.3, 139.4,	128.3, 136.1, 139.6,	129.3, 136.4, 140.6,
				141.8, 144.2, 147.1,	141.8, 144.2, 147.2,	141.8, 145.1, 146.7,
				166.8	166.8	166.6
¹¹ B NMR	•	•	•	2.14	2.14q [J(B,F) 1.0 Hz]	

^a The amines **2**, **2a** and **2b** were measured in CDCl₃, the tetrafluoroborates **3** and **4** in CD₂Cl₂; ^b **A** was obtained by the reaction of **2** with [C₇H₇]BF₄ in CH₂Cl₂, **B** by the reaction of **2a** with [C₇H₇]BF₄ in CH₂Cl₂; ^c for comparison: [C₇H₇]Br: δ (¹H) 9.20 s; δ (¹³C) 155.4 (in D₂O); [C₇H₇]BF₄: δ (¹H) 9.17s; δ (¹³C) 155.3, δ (¹¹B) 1.59 (in D₂O); NPh₃: δ (¹H) 6.97 (1H), 7.13 (2H), 7.23 (2H); δ (¹³C) 122.6(p), 124.1(o), 129.1(m), 147.8(i) (in CDCl₃) [16].

in N(C₇H₇)₃ (**2**) with an equatorial attachment of the boat-shaped seven-membered ring to nitrogen ($\alpha = 56.9^{\circ}$, $\beta = 25.9^{\circ}$, N-C(1) 146.9(7) pm; *cf.* Table 1). The angle C(1)-N-C(8) (126.8(4)°) is also in the range expected for a flat pyramid; however, the hydrogen atom attached to the central nitrogen could not be located. The N-C(8) bond (130.9(6) pm) indicates some multiple bond character, the calculated bond lengths are 147 pm for the C-N single and 122 pm for the C=N double bond [12].

At first sight, the tropylium ring (C(8)-C(14)) appears to be nearly planar (with an average deviation of the carbon atoms of $\Delta=3.5$ pm), and the C(8)=N bond protrudes by an angle of 6.1° from this plane. However, the cationic ring is actually present in a very shallow boat conformation (with $\alpha=7.4^\circ$ and $\beta=3.6^\circ$). This form had been observed earlier for the salt $[O(C_7H_6)_2](CF_3SO_3)_2$ [13] containing an ether dication in which two substituted tropylium rings $(C_7H_6^+)$ are connected through an oxo bridge. Comparable with the situation in 3, the dication $[O(C_7H_6)_2]^{2+}$ contains a bent C-O-C system (125.3(4)°) and shortened C-O bond lengths (135.6(3) pm), the calculated values are 143 pm for the C-O single bond and 119 pm for the C=O double bond [12]). The very shallow boat confor-

mation appears to be also characteristic of tropone and simple tropone derivatives [13].

As expected, the (so far unreported) tertiary amine $N(Ph)(C_7H_7)_2$ (**2b**) reacted with $[C_7H_7]BF_4$ to give the dark-red salt **4**.

The spectroscopic data of the amines 2, 2a and 2b and of the tetrafluoroborate salts 3 and 4 are compared in Table 2.

Experimental Section

An atmosphere of dry argon was routinely used for the synthetic work and for the handling of the samples; the solvents were dry and saturated with argon.

The tropylium compounds, C_7H_7Br [14] and $[C_7H_7]BF_4$ [15], were prepared on the basis of the established literature methods. Aniline, PhNH₂, is commercially available.

Instrumentation: NMR spectra: Bruker ARX 250; IR spectra: Perkin Elmer 983G.

Tri(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)amine, $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) [15]

The suspension of 1.026 g (6 mmol) of tropylium bromide, C_7H_7Br , in 100 ml of dry ether was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath, then saturated with NH₃ gas and stirred for 40 min while NH₃ was slowly passed through the reaction mixture. Ammonium bromide was filtered off and the solution was concentrated and cooled to give light-yellow crystals. The product **2** was twice recrystallized from diethylether. White prisms, yield 370 mg (64.4%), m.p. 122 °C (cf. 124–125 °C [15]).

Di(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)amine, $NH(C_7H_7)_2$ (2a) [15]

A solution of 1.026 g (6 mmol) of tropylium bromide, C_7H_7Br , in 5 ml of water was added dropwise under vigorous stirring to 60 ml of ice-cooled, concentrated aqueous ammonia. The oily product **2a** was isolated by extraction with pentane. From the concentrated pentane solution light-yellow crystals were obtained which were recrystallized twice from pentane to give **2a** as colorless crystals. Yield 300 mg (76%), m.p. 30 °C (*cf.* 28 – 30 °C [15]).

 $Di(1-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)phenylamine, N(Ph)(C_7H_7)_2$ (2b)

PhNH₂ (93 mg, 1 mmol) was added to a solution of 342 mg (2 mmol) of tropylium bromide, C_7H_7Br , in 20 ml of ethanol. The solution was stirred for 2 h at r. t. Evaporation of ethanol left a yellow-brown solid, PhN(C_7H_7)₂ (**2b**), which was crystallized from ethanol/pentane and dried under high-vacuum. Yield 210 mg (77%), dec. 150 °C. EI-MS; *m/e* (%): 273 (16%) [M⁺], 183 (100%) [N(H)(Ph)(C_7H_7)], 182 (33%) [(C_7H_7)₂].

(N-1-Cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)amino-tropylium tetrafluoroborate, $\lceil (C_7H_6^+)NH(C_7H_7)\rceil BF_4^-$ (3)

A solution of 287 mg (1 mmol) of $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) was added dropwise to a suspension of 178 mg (1 mmol) of tropylium tetrafluoroborate, $[C_7H_7]BF_4$, in 10 ml of CH_2Cl_2 . The mixture was stirred at room temperature and became a homogeneous solution after ca. 30 min. Evaporation of the solvent left an orange solid which was washed repeatedly with diethylether. Recrystallization from CH_2Cl_2 afforded orange-yellow crystals of 3, dec. above 95 °C, yield 123 mg (43.5%). The salt 3 is soluble in water, ethanol and CH_2Cl_2 .

The analogous (1:1) reaction of 197 mg (1 mmol) of NH(C_7H_7)₂ (**2a**) with [C_7H_7]BF₄ gave **3** as yellow crystals in slightly better yield (155 mg, 54.8%). $C_{14}H_{14}$ BF₄N

(283.07): calcd. C 59.40, H 4.98, N 4.95, B 3.82, F 26.85; found C 58.42, H 4.90, N 4.98, B 3.96, F 26.10.

(N-1-Cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)(N-phenyl)amino-tropylium tetrafluoroborate, $[(C_7{H_6}^+)N(Ph)(C_7{H_7})]BF_4^-$ (4)

A solution of 273 mg (1 mmol) of $N(Ph)(C_7H_7)_2$ (2b) in 5 ml of CH_2Cl_2 was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of 178 mg (1 mmol) of $[C_7H_7]BF_4$ in 10 ml of CH_2Cl_2 . After 30 min the homogeneous solution was brought to dryness in a vacuum. The dark-red residue was washed several times with small portions of diethylether and then crystallized from CH_2Cl_2 . Dark-red crystals, m.p. 113 °C, yield 210 mg (58.5%).

Crystal structure analysis of $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2)

The reflection intensities were collected on a STOE Image Plate Diffraction System (Mo- K_{α} -radiation, $\lambda=71.073$ pm, graphite monochromated). Structure solution and refinement were carried out with the program package SHELXTL-PLUS V.5.1. The measuring temperature was 293 K.

All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. The hydrogen atoms are in calculated positions. All hydrogen atoms were refined applying the riding model with fixed isotropic temperature factors.

 $C_{21}H_{21}N$, colorless plate with dimensions $0.16 \times 0.14 \times 0.06$ mm, crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group $P2_12_12_1$ with the lattice parameters a=899.11(18), b=1010.3(2), c=1873.5(4) pm, V=1701.8(6) 10^6 pm³, Z=4, $\mu=0.064$ mm⁻¹; 13400 reflections collected in the range $2.17^{\circ} \leq 2\theta \leq 26.18^{\circ}$; 3351 reflections independent, 906 assigned to be observed $[I>2\sigma(I)]$, full-matrix least squares refinement on F^2 with 199 parameters converged at R1/wR2-values of 0.0412/0.0676; the max./min. residual electron density was 0.188/-0.082 10^{-6} e pm⁻³.

Supplementary material

Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for $N(C_7H_7)_3$ (2) have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication, no CCDC-225012. Copies of the data may be obtained free of charge from CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (Fax: +44-1223-336033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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