Structural Studies on the Phosphorus—Nitrogen Bond. V. The Crystal Structure of 4-Nitrobenzyl Tris(morpholino)-phosphonium Perchlorate and 4-Nitrobenzyl Tris(piperidino)-phosphonium Perchlorate

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The structures of the title compounds, 4-NO₂C₆H₄CH₂P⁺[N(CH₂CH₂)₂O]₃ClO₄, I, and 4-NO₂C₆H₄CH₂P⁺[N(CH₂CH₂)₂CH₂]₃ClO₄, II, have been determined from X-ray data. Full-matrix least squares refinements led to final conventional *R*-values of 0.045(3558) for I and 0.039 (3844) for II. (The numbers of observed reflections in parentheses.)

The compounds are monoclinic with the following unit cell dimensions (at -150 °C): I: a = 13.964(3) Å; b = 17.068(3) Å; c = 9.657(1) Å; $\beta = 93.88(2)$ °; space group $P2_1/n$. II: a = 28.059(7) Å; b = 10.018(2) Å; c = 20.603(5) Å; $\beta = 122.24(2)$ °; space group C2/c.

In I, the lone pair of one of the nitrogen atoms is *anti* with respect to the P-C bond; the two other morpholino groups are twisted in opposite directions. In II, the piperidino groups are all twisted in the same direction in a propeller-like arrangement. In both compounds the nitrogen atoms are essentially sp^2 hybridized; the P-N bonds are of equal length with a mean of 1.631(4) Å. The P-C bond is 1.81 Å in both compounds.

One of the morpholino rings of compound I is disordered in the crystal. The Cl-O bond length in the perchlorate ions is 1.464(8) Å.

In Parts I and II of this series the crystal and molecular structures of tris(morpholino)phosphine, Mor₃P, tris(piperidino)phosphine, Pip₃P, and their corresponding selenides, Mor₃PSe and Pip₃PSe, were described.^{1,2} The compounds were shown to be highly asymmetrical species with non-equal NPN bond angles, with nitrogen atoms of varying

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hybridization and with significantly different P-N bond lengths.

In the present study we have turned to phosphonium salts derived from the same aminophosphines in an attempt to examine the effect of a positive charge on the central phosphorus atom upon the P-N bond length. Furthermore, the question arises whether the asymmetric arrangement of the amino substituents as observed in the tervalent and in the pentacovalent species is retained when the phosphorus atom is tetrahedrally coordinated. In the present study we want to report the crystal and molecular structure of the 4-nitrobenzylphosphonium perchlorates, I and II, of tris(morpholino)-

phosphine and of tris(piperidino)phosphine. No structural studies of phosphonium salts derived from tris(dialkylamino)phosphines appear to have been reported so far.

The 4-nitrobenzylphosphonium perchlorates, I and II, were chosen in the present study for several reasons. All attempts to prepare satisfactory crystals of methylphosphonium salts, $(R_2N)_3P^+Me\ X^-$ with various anions failed, whereas suitable crystals of I and II were readily obtained from acetonitrile—diethyl ether mixtures. By employing the very weakly basic perchlorate anion 3 it was hoped that interactions between the phosphonium ions, particularly their fairly acidic benzylic methylene protons, 4 and the anions were to be negligible.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials. The 4-nitrobenzylphosphonium chlorides were made from the parent aminophosphines and a slight excess of 4-nitrobenzyl chloride in dry acetonitrile at room temperature. The products were precipitated in more than 80 yield with diethyl ether and carefully washed with benzene to remove traces of the intensely coloured phosphoranes. The perchlorates were precipitated in close to quantitative yield with excess sodium perchlorate in aqueous solution. Crystals suitable for the X-ray experiments were obtained from an acetonitrile—diethyl ether mixture at 0 °C.

I, faintly yellow, m.p. 271-272 °C (dec.). (Found: C 43.42; H 6.33; N 11.02. Calc. for $C_{19}H_{30}ClN_4O_9P$: C 43.47; H 5.76; N 10.67.) The specimen used for the X-ray experiment was cut to dimensions $0.15 \times 0.2 \times 0.3$ mm.

II, faintly yellow, m.p. 180-182 °C (dec.). (Found: C 51.40; H 6.67; N 10.80. Calc. for $C_{22}H_{36}ClN_4O_6P$: C 50.91; H 6.99; N 10.80.) The specimen used for the X-ray experiment was cut to dimensions $0.09 \times 0.3 \times 0.4$ mm.

X-Ray data. Data for the measurements of cell dimensions and intensity data were collected on a SYNTEX $P\bar{1}$ diffractometer using graphite crystal monochromated MoKα radiation (λ =0.71069 Å). The temperature at the crystal site was -150 °C. Cell parameters were determined by a least squares fit to the diffractometer settings of 15 general reflections with 2θ >30°. Intensities were collected with the θ -2 θ scan technique, scan speed 2-4° min⁻¹ depending on the peak intensity, scan width \pm 0.8° (I) and \pm 1.0° (II) up to a sin θ/λ value of 0.70 Å⁻¹ for I and 0.65 Å⁻¹ for II. Background counts were taken for 0.35 times the scan time at each of the scan limits. Three standard reflections were measured at regular intervals during the data

collection; variations of 2-3 % were observed and the data were accordingly adjusted. Out of the 4241 unique reflections recorded from I, 3558 with $I > 2.5 \sigma(I)$ were retained for the structure analysis; the corresponding numbers for II were 4385 and 3844. The standard deviations for the intensities were calculated as $\sigma(I) = [C_T + (0.02 \ C_N)^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}$, where C_T is the total number of counts and C_N is the scan count minus background count. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects but not for absorption.

A description of the computer programs applied for the structure determinations is given in Ref. 5. Atomic form factors were those of Doyle and Turner 6 for the heavy atoms and of Stewart, Davidson and Simpson 7 for the hydrogen atoms.

CRYSTAL DATA

I. 4-Nitrobenzyl tris(morpholino)phosphonium perchlorate, $C_{19}H_{30}ClN_4O_9P$, m.p. 271-272 °C (dec.). Monoclinic, a=13.964(3) Å; b=17.068(3) Å; c=9.657(1) Å; $\beta=93.88(2)$ °; V=2296.4 ų; (t=-150 °C); M=524.89; Z=4; F(000)=1104; $\mu(MoK\alpha)=3.0$ cm⁻¹; $D_x=1.518$ g cm⁻³. Absent reflections: (h0l) for h+l odd, (0k0) for k odd. Space group $P2_1/n$ (No. 14).

II. 4-Nitrobenzyl tris(piperidino)phosphonium perchlorate, $C_{22}H_{36}ClN_4O_6P$, m.p. 180-182 °C (dec.). Monoclinic, a=26.059(7) Å; b=10.018(2) Å; c=21.603(5) Å: $\beta=122.24(2)$ °; V=5136.2 ų; (t=150 °C); M=518.98; Z=8; F(000)=2208; $\mu(MoK\alpha)=2.6$ cm⁻¹; $D_x=1.345$ g cm⁻³. Absent reflections: (hkl) for h+k odd, (h0l) for l odd. Space group C2/c (No. 15).

STRUCTURE DETERMINATIONS

Both structures were determined by direct methods using the program assembly MULTAN and refined in the way described in Ref. 1. It turned out that one of the morpholino rings in I is disordered in the crystal. It was possible, however, to separate the atoms into two discrete "half" rings. The oxygen, nitrogen and one of the carbon atoms were each split between two positions separated by about 0.5 Å, and the positions of these atoms were refined with (fixed) isotropic thermal parameters. The corresponding separations for the other three atoms were all more than 0.8 Å and these were assigned anisotropic thermal parameters. The refinements converged to conventional *R*-factors of 0.045 (I) and 0.039 (II); the *R*_w-values

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates with estimated standard deviations for 4-nitrobenzyl tris-(morpholino)phosphonium perchlorate (I) and 4-nitrobenzyl tris(piperidino)phosphonium perchlorate (II).

		1				Н	
ATOM	x	· •	Z	4104	x	*	ž
C L	.65626(4) .30354(4)	.07542(3) .09036(3)	.79961(6) .62585(6)	CL	.23211(2) .17593(2)	.44453(5) .48807(4)	.35459(2) .87678(2)
01	.8481(1)	.1803(1)	.3727(1)	01	-, a359(A)	,9495(2)	.0641(1)
02 04	.3040(1) .4370(1)	.1327(1) .4090(1)	1.0644(1) .1723(1)	02 03	0213(1) .2028(8)	.8321(2) .5526(1)	.1565(1) .3639(1)
05 06	.4813(2) .6388(2)	.4585(1) .1481(1)	.3699(2) .7383(2)	04 05	.2886(N) .2338(N)	.4391(2) .4658(2)	.4160(1) .2911(1)
07 08	.6053(2)	.0135(1)	.7268(2)	96	.2060(1)	3197(2) 4348(1)	.3495(1) .1855(8)
00	.6221(2) .7543(1)	.0817(1) .0564(1)	.8163(4)	N1 '12	.2392(8) .1385(8)	3715(1)	.0838(0)
N1 N2	.2144(1)	.1251(1) .1394(1)	.5263(2) .7705(1)	N3 74	.1427(0) 0092(0)	.5367(1) .8677(2)	0987(0) ,1122(1)
N4 C1	.4523(1) .4183(1)	.4044(1) .1034(1)	.2981(2) .5530(2)	C1 C2	.1855(A) .1338(A)	.6295(1) .6899(1)	.1348(1) .1279(1)
C2 C3	.4269(1)	.1837(1)	.4889(2)	C3	.1015(0)	.7843(2)	.0739(1) .0682(1)
G 4	.4640(1) .4699(1)	.2473(1) .3199(1)	.5646(2) .5032(2)	C4 C5	.0546(0) .0403(0)	.8413(2) .8039(2)	.1178(1)
C 5 C 6	.4398(1) .4023(1)	.3280(1) .2662(1)	.3645(2) .2866(2)	C 6 C 7	.0716(M)	.7120(2) .6556(2)	.1726(1) .1774(1)
C7 C11	.3967(1) .1911(1)	.1937(1) .2100(1)	.3495(2) .5196(2)	C11	.2828(B) .3378(A)	.4060(2) .4678(2)	.1835(1) .2837(1)
C12	.0843(1)	.2195(1)	.4966(2)	C13	.3568(D)	.4138(2)	.1543(1)
C13 C14	.0786(1) .1775(1)	.0991(1) .0859(1)	.3799(2) .3964(2)	C14 C15	.3111(1) .255J(0)	.4362(2) .3796(2)	.0742(1) .0561(1)
C21 C22	.2139(1) .2225(2)	.1478(1) .1049(2)	.8435(2) .9809(2)	C21 C22	.0788(0) .0663(0)	.3987(2) .3327(2)	.0588(1) .1137(1)
C23	.3892(1)	.1164(1)	.9965(2)	C23	.0840(1)	_1867(2)	.1295(1)
C24 C32A	.3885(1) .1846(3)	.1609(1) 1186(2)	.8610(2) .6314(7)	C24 C25	.1454(1) .1554(0)	.1695(2) .2290(2)	.1530(1) .0968(1)
C33A C34A	.3577(3) .3675(3)	1358(3) 0535(2)	.6514(6) .7022(5)	C31	.1685(S) .1895(1)	.6563(2) .7227(2)	0314(1) 0962(1)
C32R C33R	.1918(4) .3564(4)	0991(3) 1207(3)	.7508(7) .7312(7)	C33 C34	.0767(1) .0606(0)	.6260(3) .5031(3)	-,1589(1) -,1333(1)
C348	.3601(4)	- ,0657(3)	.6128(6)	C 35	.1126(Я)	4385(2)	-,0690(1)
03A 03B	.2613(3) .2641(3)	1658(2) 1577(2)	.6894(3) .7345(3)	H1C1 H2C1	.2062	.6954 .5974	.1271 .1842
43A 438	.2864(3) .2853(3)	0029(3) 0056(3)	.6502(3) .6148(4)	HC3 HC4	.1128	8099 9078	.0422 .0306
C31A	.1940(3)	0344(3)	,6881(5)	HC6	. 4593	.6893	,2036
C318 H1C1	.1898(3) .4193	0407(3) .0653	.6323(5) .4830	HC7 H111	.1411	.5926 .3078	,2154 ,1908
42C1 4C3	.4621 .4876	0900 2402	.6131 .6507	H151	.2695 .3643	.4430 4580	.2162 .2525
HC4 HC6	.4921 .3813	3627 2740	.5532 .1937	4172	.3345	.5633 .3282	.1979 .1637
HC7	. 3724	.1514	.2997	H131 H132	.3647 .3901	4518	.1661
H111 H112	.2191	.2349 .2332	.4389 .6040	H141 H142	.3218 .3049	3952 5292	.0438 .0649
H121 H122	.0709	.2769 1957	.4607 .5852	H151 H152	.2593 .2250	2826 3978	.0620 .0048
H131 H132	.0492	.0796	.2959	H211	.0541	3473 4860	.0093
H141	.3388 .2090	.0743 .1079	.4601 .3136	H212 H221	.9684 .9266	.3425	.0487 .0932
H142 H211	.1894 .1601	.0306 .1294	.4038 .7834	H222 H231	.0874 .0596	.3833 .1332	.1600 .0861
H212 H221	.2050 .2275	2024 0411	.8667 .9584	H232 H241	.0760 .1554	.1526 .0760	.1645 .1569
⊣222	.1691	1207	1.0321	H242	.1699	.2146	.2005
H231	.3967 .4415	.0595 .1344	.9742 1.0556	H251 H252	.1334 .1940	.1819 .2198	.0498
H241 H242	.4467 .3863	.1506 .2214	.8157 .8815	H311 H312	.1878 .1796	.6308 .7176	0457 .0086
A311	.1418	0007	.6375	H321	. 1226	. 7969	1101
A312 A321	.1891	0334 1187	.7857 .5242	H322 H331	. 0856 . 0995	.7567 .5957	-,0818 -,1785
A322 A331	.1224 .3584	1414 1363	.6508 .5462	4332 4341	.0417	.6666 .4376	1970
A332	4836	- 1701	,6898	H342	.3329	.5255	1710 1230
4341 4342	.4283 .3728	0327 0528	.6653 .8046	H351 H352	.1374	.4092 .3616	0056 0500
8311 8312	.1684 .1434	- 9684 - 9024	.5448 .6503				
8321 8322	1265 2063	1247 0711	.7551				
8331	.4758	⇒.1624	.8428 .7225				
B332 B341	.3688 .3523	0915 0949	.8190 .5222				
8342	.4250	0392	.6175				

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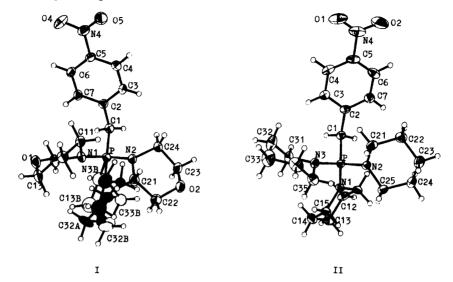


Fig. 1. ORTEP drawings of the phosphonium ions.

were 0.048 (I) and 0.042 (II) and the standard deviation of an observation of unit weight, $[w\Delta F^2/(m-n)]^{\frac{1}{2}}$, was 1.75 and 1.46, respectively. The overdetermination ratios were 11.0 (I) and 9.0 (II).

Final atomic parameters are listed in Table 1. Tables of observed and calculated structure factors with standard deviations and of thermal parameters are available from the authors.

ORTEP drawings of the molecules are shown in Fig. 1, where the numbering of the atoms is also indicated. In Table 2 are listed bond lengths, bond angles, torsion angles and other structural data. Estimated standard deviations are calculated from the correlation matrices.

Analyses of the rigid body vibrations of the ions were carried out. The perchlorate ions showed fairly large librational motion, amounting to r.m.s. amplitudes of up to 15.1° in I and 13.0° in II. For the phosphonium ions the best description of the thermal motion seems to be a translational vibration of the ions and an oscillation of each of the four substituents mainly about directions close to the axes of least inertia. The r.m.s. amplitudes of oscillation of the morpholino moieties were found to be 4.1 and 6.9° for the ordered rings 1 and 2, respectively, and 7.7° for the p-nitrobenzyl moiety in I. In compound II the corresponding figures are 5.9, 5.5 and 6.5° for the piperidine rings 1, 2

and 3, respectively, and 8.4° for the 4-nitrobenzyl part. The corrected bond lengths given in Table 2 refer to this analysis.

The disordered morpholino substituent. As mentioned above, one of the morpholino substituents (ring 3) in I is disordered between two distinct sites A and B, cf. Fig. 1. One position is related to the other by a rotation of about 160° around an axis near the N-O direction. A perhaps physically more probable way of transfer from one site to the other is the combination of inversion of the ring, a small rotation about N-O and a small tilt which brings the lone pair direction of the nitrogen atom nearly to coincide with its original direction (cf. Fig. 3).

The potential energy through a rotation was simulated using the energy calculation program written by Shmueli and Goldberg.⁸ The ring in position A was rotated through 360° about an axis defined by the points midway between N3A and N3B and between O3A and O3B. For every 6° of rotation the sum of interatomic potentials between the ring atoms and the atoms of surrounding molecules, including atoms of the rest of the molecule, was calculated. The resulting potential curve showed two distinct minima separated by 158° of rotation (Fig. 2), corresponding closely to the two positions found for the ring. The two minima were calculated to nearly the same energy value, suggesting the population factor for the sites to be

Table 2. Structural data.

Bond lengths (A) Bond angles (°)										
	I	corr.		II	corr.		1			II
	1, 423(2) 1, 423(2) 1, 415(3) 1, 415(3) 1, 1517(3) 1, 389(4) 1, 3814(4) 1, 388(4) 1, 388(4) 1, 388(4) 1, 388(4) 1, 388(4) 1, 388(4) 1, 388(4) 1, 488(3) 1, 468(3) 1, 422(4) 1, 424(7) 1, 501(8) 1, 424(7) 1, 501(8) 1, 424(7) 1, 501(8) 1, 424(7) 1, 501(8) 1, 428(8) 1, 428(8) 1, 428(8) 1, 428(8) 1, 438(8) 1, 438(8) 1, 483(9) 1, 465(8)		C1	2 1.515(3) 3 1.524(3) 3 1.528(3) 1.508(3) 1.477(3) 1.632(2) 1.72(3) 1.524(3) 1.524(3) 1.524(3) 1.632(2) 1.632(2) 1.524(3) 1.524(3) 1.632(3) 1.636(2) 1.479(3) 2 1.520(3) 3 1.513(4) 4 1.513(4) 5 1.527(3) 1.486(3)	1. 456 1. 465 1. 465 1. 465 1. 465 1. 406 1. 393 1. 383 1. 383 1. 383 1. 383 1. 406 1. 476 1. 276 1. 276 1. 278 1. 278 1. 278 1. 523 1. 523 1. 523 1. 523 1. 523 1. 525 1.	06 06 07 07 08 07 07 08 07 07 08 08 07 07 08 08 08 08 08 08 08 08 08 08 08 08 08	No. No.	112.7(1) 109.0(1) 109.0(1) 109.0(1) 109.0(1) 109.10(1) 109.10(1) 109.10(1) 109.10(1) 109.10(1) 109.10(1) 109.10(1) 109.10(1) 109.10(1) 110.10(1) 1	03 C1 03 C1 03 C1 04 C1 04 C1 05 C1 N1 P N1 P N2 P N2 P N3 P C1 C2 C3 C3 C3 C4 C5 C5 C6 C6 C6 C7 C7 C2 C4 C5 C5 M4 O1 NH N1 C1 C11 C12 C12 C13 C14 C15 C15 C15 C15 C15 C16 C5 C5 C6 C6 C7 C7 C2 C4 C5 C5 M4 O1 NH N1 C1 C11 C12 C12 C13 C14 C15 C15 N1 C15 C15 C15 N1 C16 C15 C17	OH 109.5(1) O5 109.9(1) O5 109.9(1) O5 109.9(1) O5 108.2(1) O5 118.3(1) O5 108.3(1) O5 118.3(1) O5 118
N×		N1 N2	N3A N3I	8 N1 N2	N3	P 1	изв сз			
N-C (A) C-C (A) C-O (A) Deviation of from plane	PCC (A)	1.508 1.52 1.432 1.43	7 1.476 1.47 1 1.520 1.50 6 1.422 1.43	00 1.524 1.52 38 3 0.11 0.13	9 1.527	N3B C31B C32B C32B	N3B C3 C31B C3 C32B O3 D3B C3 C33B C3	2B 112.4(5) B 110.6(5) 3B 109.5(5) 4B 111.9(5)		
from plane PCC (Å) Sum of Nx bond angles (°) Torsion angle Cl-P-Nx-Lone pair (Nx) (°)		355.2 358.	1 353.9 359.	.1 358.4 358.	0 354.6		C34B N3 N3B C3	B 111.8(5) 1B 111.5(5)		

close to 0.5. This was indeed used during the structure refinement as a fixed value because of its correlation with the thermal parameters. The half-widths of the two energy wells at a height of kT

(0.22 kcal/mol) above the minima were found to be 7.4° and 6.3°, respectively, which agrees well with the r.m.s. amplitudes for the oscillation about corresponding axes of the other two morpholino moieties of the ion.

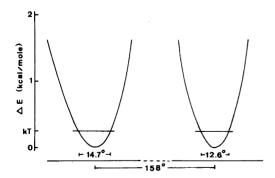


Fig. 2. Potential curve calculated for a rotation of the disordered morpholino ring.

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DISCUSSION

The perchlorate ions. In both structures the perchlorate ions appear to be at sufficient distances from the cations to allow one to conclude that they are to be considered as discrete and uncoordinated ions. The OCIO bond angles (in the range $107.4-112.9^{\circ}$) in the perchlorate ions and, similarly, the chlorine—oxygen bond lengths of 1.464 ± 0.008 Å, are of the expected magnitude for non-coordinated perchlorate ions ³ and seem to substantiate this conclusion.

Fig. 3. Newman projections along the P-N bonds. The broken lines indicate torsion angles as defined in Ref. 1.

Conformational considerations. Newman diagrams of the conformation about the P-N bonds are presented in Fig. 3. The significant difference in the structure of the cations in I and II is the arrangement of the amino substituents. In I, the lone pair of one of the nitrogen atoms (N1) is anti with respect to the P-C bond; the two remaining morpholino groups are twisted in opposite directions. The directions of the nitrogen lone pairs in the latter two groups are roughly orthogonal to the P-C bond and to each other (angles in the range $50-80^\circ$). The arrangement of the amino substituents in I is thus quite analogous to what has previously been observed in the parent aminophosphine 1 and its selenide. 2

In II, however, all the piperidino groups are twisted and in the same direction with Cl-P-N- lone pair (N) torsion angles of -47, -33 and -55° , respectively, forming a propeller-shaped arrangement of the amino substituents. The arrangement of two twisted piperidino groups and one in the *anti* position as observed in the tervalent ¹ and in the pentacovalent ² species is thus not retained in II. The nitrogen lone pair directions ¹ form angles in the range $83-102^{\circ}$ with each other.

In both I and II all nitrogen atoms are essentially sp^2 hybridized. Apparently, owing to the predominant s-character of the nitrogen lone pairs and thus their lower directionality combined with the larger NPN angles, phosphonium cations derived from tris(dialkylamino)phosphines, $(R_2N)_3P$, may have either of the structures observed in I and II.

Bond angles around the phosphorus atoms. Because of the poor accuracy in the determination of the atomic position of the atoms of the disordered

morpholino substituent, these are left out of the following discussion.

The coordination of the phosphorus atoms is essentially tetrahedral. All the CPN and NPN angles have values in the 105.3-112.7° range. The deviation from the tetrahedral angle does not seem to indicate that the benzylic substituent is unique in the way found for the phosphorus lone pair in the parent tris(dialkylamino)phosphines ¹ and for the double bonds in their selenides ² and tellurides. ⁹ We have to conclude that the deviations are mainly dependent on the bulkiness of the substituents combined with the tendency of the nitrogen lone pair directions to be orthogonal.

Bond angles around the nitrogen atoms. In both I and II all nitrogen atoms are essentially sp2 hybridized as viewed from the sum of the bond angles around these atoms, cf. Table 2. It may be noted that in I, even the nitrogen atom (N1) with its lone pair anti relative to the P-C bond is essentially sp² hybridized. In the tellurium(II) complex, bromophenyl (trismorpholinophosphine)selenide tellurium(II), Mor₃P-Se-Te(Ph)(Br), ¹⁰ the one sp^3 hybridized nitrogen atom of the selenide2 is transferred into an essentially sp2 hybridized one. Presumably, with only some positive formal charge on the central phosphorus atom, none of the nitrogen atoms retain their sp3 hybridization as observed in noncharged tervalent 1 and pentacovalent^{2,9} species. Apparently, the $p_N - d_p$ transfer 11 is more efficient in ionic tetrahedrally coordinated phosphonium cations and even in pentacovalent species containing only some fractional positive charge 10 than in non-charged pentacovalent phosphorus compounds.

The N-P direction is about midway between an axial and an equatorial direction with regard to the morpholino and the piperidino rings. For most of the rings the direction is on the equatorial side, but for N2 in I it is slightly closer to the axial direction.

The phosphorus—nitrogen bond lengths. In the tervalent 1 and the pentacovalent 2 species the P-N bond lengths were found within the ranges 1.65-1.73 Å. All bond lengths may in principle be considered as P-N single bond lengths, but the variation apparently depends upon charge and oxidation state of the central phosphorus atom and the torsion angle of the P-N bond with its consequences for the hybridization of the nitrogen atom.

In the present phosphonium cations all P-N bonds to the ordered rings are of equal length,

mean value 1.631 Å, with a sample standard deviation of 0.004 Å. Apparently the P-N bond length is independent of whether the nitrogen lone pair is gauche or anti relative to the P-C bond, and the P-C bond does thus not exert the same influence on the geometry as does a lone pair or a double bond. The results in Refs. 1 and 2 and from the present investigation indicate that the shortening of the P-N bonds is dependent on $p_N \rightarrow d_P$ transfer; the P-N bond lengths in I and II are significantly shorter than in Mor_3PSe^2 and also in the tellurium(II)complex ¹⁰ in which Mor_3PSe acts as a selenium donor.

The phosphorus-carbon bond length. A number of structures of various salts of alkyltriphenylphosphonium cations, RP^+Ph_3 , have been determined in recent years. The P-C(n-alkyl) bond length is known to fall in the 1.78-1.82 Å range ¹¹ and is not significantly dependent upon the alkyl group. Apparently dialkylamino substituents in phosphonium cations have about the same influence as phenyl groups on the P-C (alkyl) bond lengths.

The 4-nitrobenzyl moieties. The coordination of the nitrogen atom in the nitro groups is planar in both compounds. The plane of the nitro group in I forms an angle of 7° with the benzene ring, in II they are coplanar. As in numerous other nitro-substituted benzene derivatives, 12 the internal phenyl CCC bond angle at the nitro group is significantly larger than 120°.

An interesting problem arises with regard to the PCC bond angles, 111.6(2)° in I and 117.8(1)° in II, both being significantly greater than the tetrahedral angle. The bond angle increment may solely be due to short intramolecular distances between atoms of the benzene ring and the morpholino and piperidino protons, and in both compounds there are also short intramolecular separations of the benzylic protons and the methylene protons in the α positions to the nitrogen atoms. However, in several 4-nitrobenzylsubstituted phosphorus compounds with highly varying steric conditions, bond angles of corresponding magnitude are found; this may indicate that the methylene carbon atom has some sp² character, which may be partly the cause of the high acidity of the methylene hydrogen atoms in this class of compounds.4

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