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METAL CATION MEDIATED HYDROLYSIS OF PHOSPHONO-FORMATE DIESTERS: CHEMOSELECTIVITY AND CATALYSIS Robert A. Moss, Hugo Morales-Rojas, and Saketh Vijayaraghavan

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PHOSPHONOFORMATES

Phosphonoformate trianion ("Foscarnet") is an antiviral agent active against herpes simplex and AIDS-related cytomegalovirus.

Poor membrane permeability. Phosphonoformate diesters and triesters of interest as "prodrugs."

Monoanionic phosphonoformate *diesters* exhibit antiviral activity in prodrug studies.

DIMETHYLPHOSPHONOFORMATE

How will metal cation cleavage of DMPF compare to that of DMP?

DMPF has 3 sites for cleavage: O-C, P-O, and C-P. What sort of *chemoselectivity* can be observed?

SUBSTRATES AND METAL CATIONS

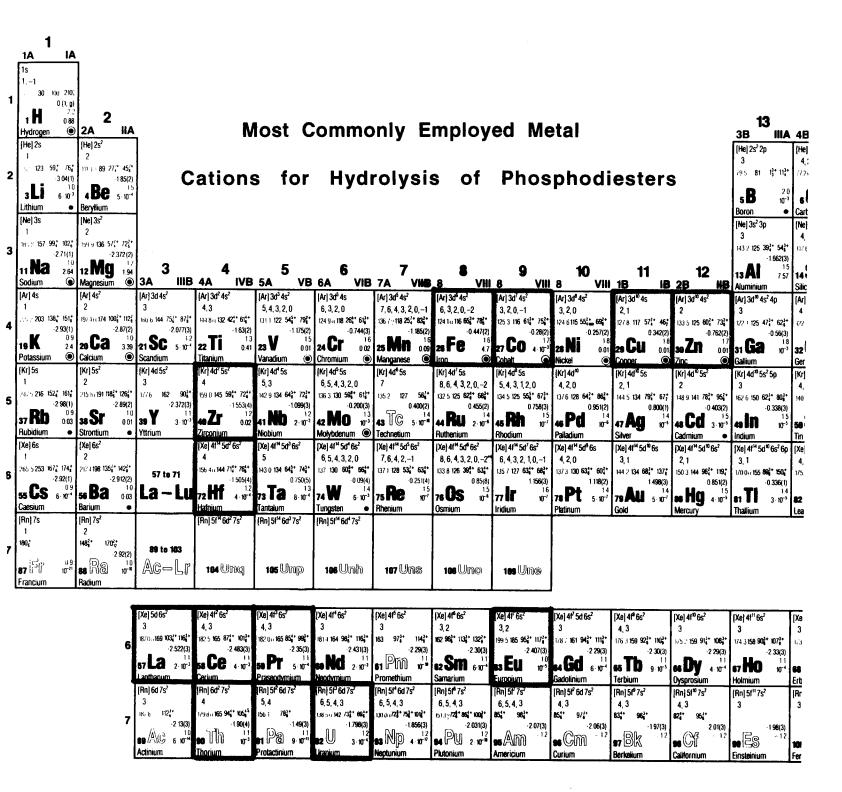
Ce⁴⁺ Th⁴⁺ Zr⁴⁺ Hf⁴⁺

Why these cations?

POLYVALENT METAL CATIONS CAN MEDIATE PHOSPHODIESTER HYDROLYSIS

Mⁿ⁺ provides electrophilic/nucleophilic catalysis. Require good Lewis acidity to bind P-O and to acidify H₂O of hydration to afford metal bound OH nucleophile. Turnover catalysis is possible in some cases.

Desire highly charged, small Mⁿ⁺ ("hard" cation"), but also with high-lying vacant d or f orbitals to bind P-O⁻, *transition metals, lanthanides, or actinides.*



METAL ION CATALYZED CLEAVAGES OF PHOSPHONATE MONOESTERS

Substrate PNPMP: MePOPNP
O_

H₂O, pH 7.6, 30 °C, $k_{hydrol} = 2.0 \times 10^{-9} \text{ s}^{-1}$; $k_2 = 3.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$

M ⁴⁺	рН	Brij, mM	k _{obs} , s ⁻¹	k _{obs} /k _o
Zr ⁴⁺	3.5	0.0	0.11	5.5 x 10 ⁷
Ce ⁴⁺	4.0	2.0	0.036	1.8 x 10 ⁷
Th ⁴⁺	6.0	2.0	0.015	7.5 x 10 ⁶

With 0.05 mM PNPMP, 1.0 mM M⁴⁺, 37 °C.

Note enormous accelerations with Zr^{4+} , Ce^{4+} , and Th^{4+} . Polymer or resin-bound M^{4+} might be excellent materials for the degradation of phosphonate monoesters.

In the Zr^{4+} case, the half-life of PNPMP is reduced from 11 years to 6.3 seconds!

Zr(IV) or Hf(IV) CLEAVAGE OF DMPF

$$\begin{array}{c} O \ O \\ \parallel \ \parallel \\ MeOC\text{-POMe} \\ O \\ O \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} Zr(\text{IV}) \ \text{or} \\ Hf(\text{IV}), \ D_2O \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} O \ O \\ MeOC\text{-POD} \ (+ \ MeOD) \\ O \\ O \\ \end{array}$$

Kinetics are followed by monitoring released MeOD (¹H NMR); products are monitored by ³¹P NMR.

M(IV)	$10^4 k_{\rm obs} ({\rm s}^{-1})$	% P-OMe	% C-OMe	$k_{M(IV)}/k_{D}+$
Zr	4.4	79	21	3300
Hf	4.0	90	10	3100

Zr and Hf exhibit P-O chemoselectivity, with significant hydrolytic acceleration.

Ce(IV) or Th(IV) CLEAVAGE OF DMPF

$$\begin{array}{c|c} O & O \\ | & | & | \\ MeOC\text{-POMe} & \hline \\ \hline & Th(IV), D_2O \\ \hline \\ O \\ \hline \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O & O \\ | & | \\ DOC\text{-POMe} \\ \hline \\ O \\ \hline \\ O \\ \end{array} (+ MeOD) \\ \hline \\ O \\ \hline \\ MeOC\text{-POD} (+ MeOD) \\ \hline \\ O \\ \hline \\ O \\ \hline \end{array}$$

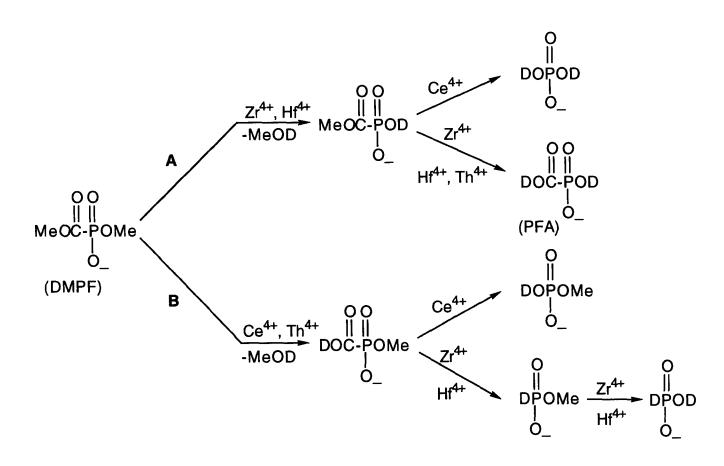
Kinetics are followed by monitoring released MeOD (¹H NMR); products are monitored by ³¹P NMR.

M(IV)	$10^4 k_{\rm obs} ({\rm s}^{-1})$	% P-OMe	% C-OMe	<i>k</i> _{M(IV)} / <i>k</i> _D +
Th	1.3		95	980
Ce	5.2	10	90	3900

Th and Ce exhibit C-O chemoselectivity, with significant hydrolytic acceleration.

OVERVIEW OF DMPF REACTIONS

Cleavages of the monoesters are 10-100 times slower than cleavages of DMPF



CLEAVAGE OF C-OMe/P-OPh PHOSPHONOFORMATE

1. For Pathway A at pD 1.7 or 2.2:

$$k_{\text{Zr}} = 2.3 \text{x} \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$
; $k_{\text{Hf}} = 0.65 \text{x} \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Faster than DMPF cleavage.

Selectivity for Zr⁴⁺ and Hf⁴⁺ is >95% P-OPh cleavage.

- 2. For Pathway B, Th⁴⁺ is >95% selective for C-OMe cleavage; $k_{\text{Th}} = 1.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$.
- 3. Chemoselectivity seen with DMPF is preserved.

CLEAVAGE OF C-OPh/P-OMe PHOSPHONOFORMATE

With the better PhO leaving group now at C, the P-chemoselectivity of Zr^{4+} or Th^{4+} is lost. Here, C-OPh cleavage > P-OMe cleavage by 90:10 (Zr) or 79:21 (Hf): $k_{Zr} = 1.79 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, $k_{Hf} = 0.61 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Th⁴⁺ gives >95% C-OPh cleavage, as expected: $k_{\text{Th}} = 0.18 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

CLEAVAGE OF C-OPh/P-OPh PHOSPHONOFORMATE

- 1. Cleavage by Zr^{4+} was >95% P-selective; $k_{Zr} = 1.3 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in 1:1 D₂O/CD₃CN at pD 1.7.
- 2. Cleavage by Th⁴⁺ was 90:10 C-selective: $k_{\text{Th}} = 4.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at pD 3.1 in D₂O/CD₃CN.
- 3. Chemoselectivity here is analogous to DMPF.

SOURCE OF CHEMOSELECTIVITY

At pH 2-3, Ce(IV) and Th(IV) will be mainly dimeric or monomeric.

OH- attack at C=O involves a 5-membered cyclic TS; OH- attack at P-OMe involves a 4-membered cyclic TS.

Attack at *trigonal* C in 5-membered cyclic TS (addition-elimination) is kinetically preferred to attack at *tetrahedral* P (S_N2) in 4-membered cyclic TS.

Ce(IV) and Th(IV) afford C-O chemoselectivity.

P-O CHEMOSELECTIVITY

At pH ~ 2, Zr(IV), and presumably Hf(IV), exist as octamers or tetramers:

Cleavage at P can now occur via a 6-membered cyclic TS and lead directly to a tripodal phosphonate product with the same structure as the lamellar Zr phosphonates. Zr(IV) and Hf(IV) give P-O chemoselectivity.

P-O CHEMOSELECTIVITY LINKED TO M(IV) OCTAMERS

	P-O		C-O	
	Zr	Hf	Zr	Hf
M(IV)	79	90	21	10
M(IV) + Tris (1:1)a	40	66	60	34
M(IV) + Tris(1:2)a	15	19	85	81
M(IV) + NaOD (1:1) ^b	50	58	50	42

^aTris forms 1:1 complexes with Zr(IV). ^b OH⁻ promotes formation of Zr oligomers.

Destruction of M(IV) octamers/tetramers shifts P-O to C-O chemoselectivity.

SUMMARY

- 1. Ce⁴⁺, Th⁴⁺, Zr⁴⁺, and Hf⁴⁺ ions accelerate the hydrolysis of phosphonoformate diesters.
- 2. With identical C-OR and P-OR leaving groups, Zr⁴⁺ and Hf⁴⁺ direct scission to the P-O ester site, whereas Ce⁴⁺ and Th⁴⁺ mediate attack at the C-O site.
- 3. Leaving group efficiency (PhO > MeO) can modulate the chemoselectivity.
- 4. P-O selectivity is associated with tetrameric or octameric forms of Zr⁴⁺ or Hf⁴⁺ aqueous complexes.
- 5. C-O selectivity is associated with dinuclear or mononuclear forms of Ce⁴⁺ or Th⁴⁺.