

# Reversal of Stereoselectivity in the Reduction of *gem*-Dichlorides by Tributyltin Hydride and Tris(trimethylsilyl)silane. Synthetic and Mechanistic Implications

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Received July 21, 1994







The most useful reagent for the reduction of alkyl halides is probably  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ ,<sup>1</sup> but due to its high toxicity its use for pharmaceutical applications is generally unacceptable. It was recently discovered that  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$  reduces organic halides in high yields, and due to its low toxicity it is an attractive alternative to  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ .<sup>2</sup> The two reagents have different spatial shapes:  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  has flexible chain-type substituents while  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$  has a spherical and more rigid shape. In this paper we demonstrate that the different spatial shapes of  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  and  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$  can lead to different, even reversed, product stereoselectivities, an unprecedented finding of synthetic significance. In addition, our experimental results coupled with ab initio calculations suggest that a mechanistic assumption commonly used to interpret the reduction products by  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ <sup>3</sup> is not generally valid.

The *gem*-dihalides, **1–6** (Table 1) were reduced with both  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  and  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$ , and the ratios of the monoreduced stereoisomeric products are given in Table 1.<sup>4</sup> The accepted two-step radical chain mechanism for the reduction of halides by both  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ <sup>3</sup> and  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$ <sup>2</sup> is shown in Scheme 1 (for *gem*-dichlorocyclopropanes).

Reduction of 1,1-dichloro-*cis*-2,3-dimethylcyclopropane (**1**) and of *cis*-1,1,2,3-tetrachlorocyclopropane (**2**) with either of the two reagents yields similar product mixtures (Table 1). The preferred formation of the *cis* products (**1b** and **2b**, respectively) can be understood as resulting from a preferred approach of the reducing reagents,  $\text{M}-\text{H}$ , to the fast equilibrating<sup>3</sup> **R-cis**  $\rightleftharpoons$  **R-trans** radicals from the sterically less hindered side, i.e., anti to the  $\beta$ -R substituents. In contrast, reduction of the bicyclic systems **3**, **4**, and **5** or of 4-*tert*-butyl-1,1-dichlorocyclohexane, **6**, with  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  or with  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$  leads to different stereoselectivities (Table 1). Thus, the **3b/3a** product ratio is 2.6 with  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  and 7.1 with  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$ . Reduction of **6** with  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  leads to a **6a/6b** product ratio of 5.2, while with  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$  this ratio is only 1.4. The two reagents exhibit reversed stereoselectivities with **4** and **5**; e.g., the **5a/5b** product ratio is 1.3 with  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  but only 0.22 with  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$  (Table 1). Thus with  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ , H formally enters preferentially from the endo side, while with  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$ , H is introduced preferably from the exo side, leading predominantly to **4b** and **5b**.

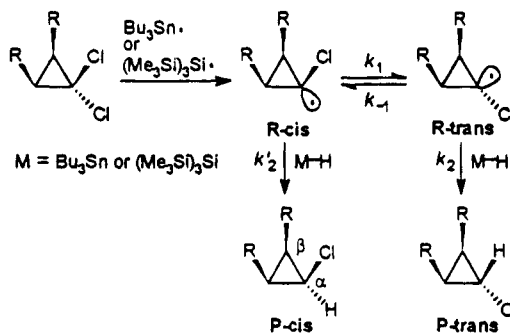
To gain information on the structures of the reduction reaction transition states (TS) we have carried out ab initio calculations<sup>5,6</sup> for the model reaction 1. Reaction 1 is calculated to be exothermic by 21.3 kcal/mol, and the activation enthalpy is 9.4

**Table 1.** Reduction Products with  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  and  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$  of Systems **1–6**

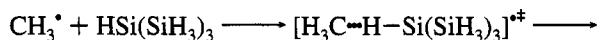
starting dichloride $\text{R}_1 = \text{R}_2 = \text{Cl}$	reducing agent	reduction product ratio <sup>a</sup>	$k_2/k_2^b$	
			$\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$	$(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$
	$\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$	<b>1a</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{H}, \text{R}_2 = \text{Cl}$ 1 : 1 1 : 1	<b>1b</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{Cl}, \text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ 4.0 5.2	6.0 7.8
	$\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$	<b>2a</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{H}, \text{R}_2 = \text{Cl}$ 1 : 1 1 : 1	<b>2b</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{Cl}, \text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ 2.9 2.9	5.8 5.8
	$\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$	<b>3a</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{H}, \text{R}_2 = \text{Cl}$ 1 : 1 1 : 1	<b>3b</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{Cl}, \text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ 2.6 7.1	10.9 29.8
	$\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$	<b>4a</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{H}, \text{R}_2 = \text{Cl}$ 1.9 1	<b>4b</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{Cl}, \text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ 1 1.3	3.4 8.3
	$\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$	<b>5a</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{H}, \text{R}_2 = \text{Cl}$ 1.3 1	<b>5b</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{Cl}, \text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ 1 4.6	— —
	$\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$ $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$	<b>6a</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{H}, \text{R}_2 = \text{Cl}$ 5.2 1.4	<b>6b</b> $\text{R}_1 = \text{Cl}, \text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ 1 1	1.6 <sup>c</sup> 6.1 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Determined by NMR. No significant changes in the product ratios were observed during the reaction course. <sup>b</sup> See Scheme 1. <sup>c</sup> Using chlorocyclohexyl radical as a model.

**Scheme 1.** Schematic Mechanism for the Reduction of *gem*-Dichlorocyclopropanes by  $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  and  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$



kcal/mol (MP3/6-31G\*\*//6-31G\*).



The transition structure for reaction 1 (characterized at 6-31G\*<sup>5,6</sup>) is essentially linear, and it occurs relatively “early” along the reaction coordinate; i.e., the calculated C–H, Si–H, and C–Si distances are 1.519 Å (1.084 Å in  $\text{CH}_4$ ), 1.683 Å (1.484 Å in  $(\text{H}_3\text{Si})_3\text{SiH}$ ), and 3.202 Å, respectively.

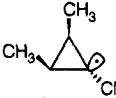

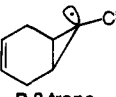
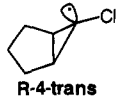

Examination of molecular models (and the results of force-field calculations) which use the ab initio calculated transition state geometry indicates that  $\gamma$ -substituents (not  $\beta$ -substituents as in **1** and **2**)<sup>7</sup> are required to induce steric differentiation between the two reagents, in agreement with the experimental results in Table 1. This results from the relatively long Si–H and Sn–H bonds and the relatively “early” TS, which make

(6) The Gaussian 92, Version C, program was used; Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Head-Gordon, M.; Gill, P. M. W.; Wong, M. W.; Foresman, J. B.; Johnson, B. G.; Schlegel, H. B.; Robb, M. A.; Replogle, E. S.; Gomperts, R.; Andres, J. L.; Raghavachari, K.; Binkley, J. S.; Gonzalez, C.; Martin, R. L.; Fox, D. J.; Defress, D. J.; Baker, J.; Stewart, J. J. P.; Pople, J. A. Gaussian, Inc.: Pittsburgh, PA, 1992.

(7) Examination of molecular models and force-field calculations show that increase in the size of the  $\beta$ -substituents (e.g., to *t*-Bu in **1**) would increase the **b/a** product ratio to the same extent, for the two reagents.

(1) For a recent review, see: Neumann, W. P. *Synthesis* **1987**, 665.  
(2) (a) Kanabus-Kaminska, J. M.; Hawari, J. A.; Griller, D.; Chatgililoglu, C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1987**, *109*, 5267. (b) Chatgililoglu, C.; Griller, D.; Lesage, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1988**, *53*, 3641. (c) Ballestri, M.; Chatgililoglu, C.; Clark, K. B.; Griller, D.; Giese, B.; Kopping, B. *J. Org. Chem.* **1991**, *56*, 678.  
(3) (a) Boche, G.; Walborsky, H. M. In *Cyclopropane Derived Reactive Intermediates*; Patai, S.; Rappoport, Z., Eds.; John Wiley & Sons: Chichester, 1990. (b) Walborsky, H. M. *Tetrahedron* **1981**, *37*, 1625.  
(4) The reductions were carried at 80 °C in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene in a vacuum-sealed NMR tube using a 1:1 ratio of the dichloride and of the reducing agent and a catalytic amount (5–10%) of AIBN. The product ratios were determined by NMR.  
(5) Hehre, W. J.; Radom, L.; Schleyer, P. v. R.; Pople, J. A. *Ab Initio Molecular Orbital Theory*; John Wiley & Sons: New York, 1986.

**Table 2.** Calculated Energy Differences ( $\Delta E$ ), Equilibrium Constants ( $K_{eq}$ ), Energies of Activation ( $\Delta E^\ddagger$ ), and Inversion Rates ( $k_i$ ) for Various Cyclopropyl Radicals and Chlorocyclohexyl Radical at 6-31G\*

radical <sup>a</sup>	$\Delta E$ <sup>b</sup> kcal/mol	$K_{eq}$ <sup>c</sup> (80 °C)	% <sup>d</sup>	$\Delta E^\ddagger$ <sup>e</sup> kcal/mol	$k_i$ <sup>f</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
cyclopropyl	0.0	0.0	50	3.9	$8.7 \times 10^9$
$\alpha$ -chloro- cyclopropyl	0.0	0.0	50	7.9	$1.1 \times 10^7$
 <b>R-1-trans</b>	0.3	1.5	60	7.6	$1.7 \times 10^7$
 <b>R-2-trans</b>	0.5	2.0	67	4.5	$3.1 \times 10^9$
 <b>R-3-trans</b>	1.0	4.2	81	7.6	$1.7 \times 10^7$
 <b>R-4-trans</b>	1.3	6.4	87	7.7	$1.4 \times 10^7$
	1.5	8.5	90	2.5	$9.1 \times 10^{10}$

<sup>a</sup> The more stable structure of the radical is shown. <sup>b</sup> Calculated energy differences between the isomeric radicals. <sup>c</sup> Calculated from  $\Delta E$  at the reaction temperature. <sup>d</sup> Percentage of the more stable radical at equilibrium. <sup>e</sup> Calculated inversion barriers starting from the more stable structure. <sup>f</sup> At 25 °C. Calculated from  $\Delta E^\ddagger$  and the Eyring equation. <sup>g</sup> The experimental value (ESR) of  $10^{11} < k_i \leq 10^{12}$  s<sup>-1</sup> at 71 °C (Johnston, L. J.; Ingold, K. U. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1986, 108, 2343) is somewhat higher.

the spatial differences between the chain-like *n*-butyl groups and the spherical (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH become important only in interactions with groups which are located at relatively remote positions (e.g.,  $\gamma$ -position) from the radical center which is being approached at the TS for H transfer. As expected,  $\gamma$ -substituents have larger steric interactions at the TS with the spherical (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH than with the more flexible Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH. Consequently, (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH shows a higher selectivity than Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH in transferring its H atom from the least sterically hindered side leading in general to higher *b/a* product ratios (Table 1).

The above results also have important mechanistic implications. A recent comprehensive review on the reduction of cyclopropyl halides has reached the following conclusions (Scheme 1):<sup>3</sup> (1) The intermediate cyclopropyl radicals, **R-cis** and **R-trans**, isomerize faster than they abstract an H atom from M-H (i.e.,  $k_1, k_{-1} \gg k_2, k'_2$ ). (2) The rates of H atom transfer from Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH to both sides of the cyclopropane ring are equal (i.e.,  $k_2 = k'_2$ ). It was therefore concluded that the product ratios are determined *only* by the **R-cis**  $\rightleftharpoons$  **R-trans** equilibrium. Consequently product ratios were used to determine unknown equilibrium constants of isomeric radicals,<sup>3</sup> i.e., eq 2.

$$[\text{P-cis}]/[\text{P-trans}] = [\text{R-cis}]/[\text{R-trans}] \quad (2)$$

Our finding that Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH and (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH give *different product ratios with the same precursor contradicts the above assumptions*. Thus, if the radicals indeed reach equilibrium before their trapping ( $k_1, k_{-1} \gg k_2, k'_2$ ), then at least for one of the reagents  $k_2 \neq k'_2$ , in contrast to assumption 2 above.

To gain independent information on the above assumptions, we have calculated at 6-31G\*/6-31G\*<sup>6</sup> inversion barriers,  $\Delta E^\ddagger$  and the corresponding inversion rates,  $k_i$ , for several radicals (Table 2). Comparison of the calculated  $k_i$  values (all  $> 1.4 \times$

$10^7$  s<sup>-1</sup>) with experimentally known rates of H abstraction<sup>8</sup> (e.g.,  $1.85 \times 10^6$  and  $2.55 \times 10^5$  M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for the reaction of tertiary alkyl radicals with Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH and (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH, respectively, at 25 °C<sup>9</sup>) supports the assumption<sup>3</sup> that  $\alpha$ -chlorocyclopropyl radicals interconvert faster than they abstract a hydrogen.<sup>10</sup>

Calculations at 6-31G\* show that the radicals **R-1** to **R-4** prefer the conformation in which the  $\alpha$ -Cl is directed anti to the larger substituent on the cyclopropyl ring; e.g., **R-3-trans** and **R-4-trans** are calculated to be by 1.0 and 1.3 kcal/mol, respectively, more stable than the isomeric **R-3-cis** and **R-4-cis**, and thus their equilibrium constants,  $K_{eq}$ , at 80 °C are 4.2 and 6.4, respectively (Table 2). As the observed product ratios [3a]/[3b] (0.38 with Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH and 0.14 with (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH (Table 1)) are different from the [R-3-trans]/[R-3-cis] value of 4.2, it is clear that eq 2 is not obeyed, in contrast to previous suggestions.<sup>3</sup> The discrepancy between the experimentally observed product ratios and those expected from the calculated equilibrium constants of the radicals leads to the conclusion that the rates of trapping of the isomeric radicals are different, i.e.,  $k'_2 \neq k_2$  (Scheme 1). Combination of the calculated  $K_{eq}$  values of the isomeric radicals (Table 2) with the experimentally determined product ratios (Table 1) allows estimation of the  $k'_2/k_2$  ratios (Table 1). As expected from molecular models, the estimated  $k'_2/k_2$  ratios show that there is a stronger preference for (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH than for Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH to transfer an H atom from the less hindered side of the ring. For example, for 3,  $k'_2/k_2$  is  $2.6 \times 4.2 = 10.9$  for Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH, but it is  $7.1 \times 4.2 = 29.8$  for (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH.

A similar analysis clarifies why the reduction of 4 by Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH produces mainly 4a, apparently suggesting that H is introduced preferably from the more hindered side of the cyclopropyl ring. In this case the estimated  $k'_2/k_2$  is 3.4, indicating that Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH indeed prefers to transfer its H atom from the sterically least hindered side; the observed [4a]/[4b] ratio of 1.9 results from the significantly higher stability of **R-4-trans** relative to **R-4-cis** ( $K_{eq} = 6.4$ ). With (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH, the larger  $k'_2/k_2$  of 8.3 overwhelms the radical equilibrium of 6.4 and 4b is the major product despite the fact that **R-4-trans** dominates the radical equilibrium.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, the preferred reduction of 6 from the more hindered axial direction (less so for (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH) results from the fact that  $K_{eq}$  for the radical (8.5) is larger than the  $k'_2/k_2$  of 1.6 (8.5/5.2) for Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH and of 6.1 (8.5/1.4) for (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH.

In summary, we have shown that in properly designed systems (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH and Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH lead to a different and even reversed reduction stereoselectivity. These findings may prove to be of special importance in the reduction of prochiral centers. We have also shown unequivocally that in general product ratios cannot be equated with the stereochemical preferences of the intermediate radicals.

**Acknowledgment.** This research was partially supported by the Israel Science Foundation administered by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Fund for the Promotion of Research at the Technion.

(8) (a) Chatgililoglu, C.; Dickhaut, J.; Giese, B. J. *Org. Chem.* 1991, 56, 6399. (b) Johnston, L. J.; Luszyk, J.; Wayner, D. D. M.; Abeywickreyma, A. N.; Beckwith, A. L. J.; Scaiano, J. C.; Ingold, K. U. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1985, 107, 4594.

(9) The concentrations of the reducing agents were ca. 1 M so that the first- and second-order rate constants can be compared directly.

(10) Experimental rates of H abstraction from Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH or (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH by  $\alpha$ -chlorocyclopropyl radicals are not available. However, supporting this conclusion is the fact that reduction with Ph<sub>3</sub>SnH of either *endo*- or *exo*-7-bromo-7-chlorobicyclo[4.1.0]heptane yields an identical product mixture (Altman, L. J.; Baldwin, R. C. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1971, 2531). As Ph<sub>3</sub>SnH transfers H to radicals ca. 17 times faster than Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH (Carlsson, D. J.; Ingold, K. U. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1968, 90, 1055) and ca. 170 times faster than (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH,<sup>8a</sup> it is expected that  $\alpha$ -chlorocyclopropyl radicals isomerize faster than they abstract H from Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH or (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH.

(11) A fast H transfer before radical equilibrium is reached can be excluded because (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH transfers H ca. 10 times slower than Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH.<sup>8a</sup>