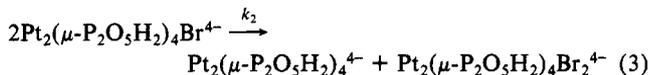


**Figure 1.** Transient difference spectra (absorbance vs. wavelength) for the laser pulse photolysis (Nd-YAG laser operating at 355 nm) of  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{4+}$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_5\text{Br}$  in aqueous methanol. Time after pulse ( $\mu\text{s}$ ): A = 0.1, B = 0.4, C = 1, D = 2.2, E = 6.5, F = 13.5.

or 1,2- $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Br}_2$  gives, in each case, conversion to  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4\text{Br}^{4+}$  within 1  $\mu\text{s}$  after the pulse (eq 2). The complex  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{4+*} + \text{RBr} \rightarrow \text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4\text{Br}^{4+} + \text{R}^{\cdot}$  (2)

$\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4\text{Br}^{4+}$  then disproportionates to  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{4+}$  and  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4\text{Br}_2^{4-}$  with a second-order rate constant  $k_2 = 9.5 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (eq 3).<sup>8</sup> In each case we observe a rapid rise



in the 340-nm absorption band of  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4\text{Br}^{4+}$  to maximum concentration within 1  $\mu\text{s}$ , and we detect no growth in this absorption band subsequent to the laser pulse.

It is particularly significant that  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4\text{Br}^{4+}$  is formed rapidly in the reaction with  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_5\text{Br}$ . Saveant has shown that there is an approximate linear correlation between the rate constant for halide ion cleavage from the haloaromatic radical anion and the standard potential of the aromatic halide.<sup>9</sup> For bromobenzene ( $E = -2.3 \text{ V vs. SCE}$ ) we anticipate  $k_1$  in reaction 4 to be ap-



proximately  $10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , but for bromopentafluorobenzene ( $E = -0.93 \text{ V vs. SCE}$ ), we expect  $k_1$  to have the much smaller value of  $10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .<sup>10,11</sup> Since our laser photolyses are carried out in solutions which have  $[\text{C}_6\text{F}_5\text{Br}] \approx 10^{-2} \text{ M}$ , this rate constant  $k_1$  of  $10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  is some 8-9 orders of magnitude too slow for the  $\text{S}_{\text{RN}}1$  pathway to be operative. The reaction with  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_5\text{Br}$ , therefore, follows a pathway analogous to that proposed for the reaction of  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{4+*}$  with isopropyl alcohol.<sup>3</sup> Our results support a mechanism where the diradical triplet excited state abstracts a bromine atom directly from bromopentafluorobenzene.

For the case of  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Br}$  and 1,2- $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Br}_2$  the case is less clear. If, however, the  $\text{S}_{\text{RN}}1$  pathway is followed, it is unlikely that diffusion outside the solvent cage occurs, especially since the final recombination step between  $\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4^{3-}$  and  $\text{Br}^-$  involves two negatively charged ions.

**Acknowledgment** is made to the donors of the Petroleum Research Fund, administered by the American Chemical Society, for partial support of this research. The Center for Fast Kinetics Research is supported jointly by the Biotechnology Branch of the

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Department of Chemistry  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

D. Max Roundhill\*

Center for Fast Kinetics Research  
University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, Texas 78712

Stephen J. Atherton

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## Discrete Metal-Sulfide-Thiolate Complexes of an Early 3d Transition Metal

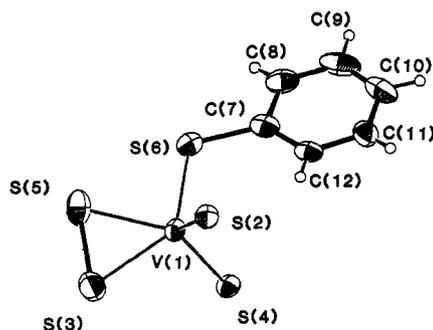
Sir:

We have recently initiated a program directed toward the development of discrete vanadium-sulfide-thiolate chemistry. Such work is designed to provide soluble mechanistic and structural models for polymeric vanadium sulfides, which, together with the sulfides of the other group 5 metals Nb and Ta, display interesting magnetic and electrical properties.<sup>1</sup> Of additional and particular stimulus to our work is the involvement of vanadium sulfides in crude oil refining. These sulfides act both as poisons of the Mo/Co hydrodesulfurization (HDS) fixed-bed catalysts<sup>2</sup> and also, because of their own intrinsic activity,<sup>3</sup> as in situ generated HDS catalysts in a moving-bed system (the Aurabon process).<sup>4</sup> Both of the above are particularly topical as the requirement to process the heavier crudes, which contain large amounts of vanadium, becomes necessary with increasing depletion of lighter crudes. In addition, of course, such studies should provide interesting comparisons with both 4d Mo/S and 5d W/S chemistry, which have been extensively explored.<sup>5,6</sup> We herein report the preparation of some unusual and sulfur-rich products, which represent initial progress toward a better understanding of soluble V/S chemistry and which display features not seen in Mo or W chemistry.

Oxidation of V(III) by elemental sulfur in a reaction mixture comprising  $\text{VCl}_3 \cdot \text{NaSPh} : \text{S} : \text{NET}_4\text{Br}$  in a molar ratio of 1:7:3:2 in MeCN<sup>7</sup> yielded an intensely dark green solution and some purple powder. After being stirred for 18 h, the reaction mixture was filtered and  $\text{Me}_3\text{NBzCl}$  (2 equiv) added to the filtrate. The solution was refiltered and ether added to initiate the crystallization of  $(\text{Me}_3\text{NBz})_2[\text{VS}_2(\text{S}_2)(\text{SPh})]$  (1). After overnight storage, black well-formed plates were collected by filtration and washed with MeCN/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (1:3).<sup>8</sup> Yields are typically 30-40%. (With product identity established, we have employed a V:S ratio of 1:4, attempting to improve the yield, but instead obtained a completely different product currently under investigation. Consequently, we continue to employ the 1:3 ratio, which gives adequate yields reproducibly.) The structure<sup>9,10</sup> of the anion of 1 is depicted in

- (1) Hullinger, F. *Struct. Bonding (Berlin)* **1968**, *4*, 83.
- (2) Rankel, L. A.; Rollman, L. D. *Fuel* **1983**, *62*, 44. Galiasso, R.; Blanco, R.; Gonzalez, C.; Quinteros, N. *Fuel* **1983**, *62*, 817.
- (3) Harris, S.; Chianelli, R. R. *J. Catal.* **1986**, *98*, 17; **1984**, *86*, 400.
- (4) Hutchings, E. L. U.S. Patent 4 139 453, 1979.
- (5) Coucouvanis, D.; Hadjikyriacou, A.; Draganjac, M.; Kanatzidis, M. G.; Ieperuma, O. *Polyhedron* **1986**, *5*, 349.
- (6) Müller, A. *Polyhedron* **1986**, *5*, 323.
- (7) All reactions and manipulations were performed under an inert atmosphere employing freshly distilled solvents.
- (8) Complex 1 is soluble to any significant extent only in DMF in which it has limited stability. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{S}_5\text{V}$ : C, 53.03; H, 6.33; N, 4.76; V, 8.65. Found: C, 53.60; H, 6.40; N, 4.85; V, 9.50.
- (9) Structures were solved by a combination of direct methods (MULTAN) and Fourier techniques and refined by full-matrix least squares.
- (10) Monoclinic space group  $P2_1/n$ ,  $a = 18.178$  (8) Å,  $b = 8.843$  (2) Å,  $c = 18.852$  (7) Å,  $\beta = 107.06$  (2)°, and  $Z = 4$ , for 2807 unique data with  $F > 3\sigma(F)$ ; non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, and hydrogen atoms were readily located and refined isotropically; final  $R$  ( $R_w$ ) = 5.65 (5.63).

(8) As required for a second order decay, the half life of the reaction is dependent on  $[\text{Pt}_2(\mu\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5\text{H}_2)_4\text{Br}]_0$ .  
(9) Andrieux, C. P.; Saveant, J. M.; Zann, D. *Nouv. J. Chim.* **1984**, *8*, 107-116.  
(10) von Stackelberg, M.; Stracke, W. Z. *Elektrochem.* **1949**, *53*, 118-125.  
(11) Petrov, V. P. *Izv. Sib. Otd. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Ser. Khim. Nauk* **1966**, *74-78*; *Chem. Abstr.* **1967**, *67*, 17163m.

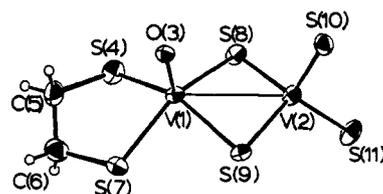


**Figure 1.** ORTEP projection of the anion of **1** showing the atom-labeling scheme. Non-hydrogen atoms are depicted as 50% probability ellipsoids; hydrogen atoms are depicted as spheres of arbitrary size. V-S(2) = 2.092 (2), V-S(3) = 2.355 (2), V-S(4) = 2.099 (2), V-S(5) = 2.323 (2), and V-S(6) = 2.367 (2) Å; S(2)-V-S(4) = 111.52 (8), S(2)-V-S(6) = 106.14 (8), S(4)-V-S(6) = 101.08 (8), S(3)-V-S(5) = 50.97 (8), and V-S(6)-C(7) = 111.67 (3)°.

Figure 1. The mononuclear vanadium(V) center is ligated by three types of sulfur, viz. one  $\text{PhS}^-$ , one persulfido ( $\text{S}_2^{2-}$ ), and two sulfido ( $\text{S}^{2-}$ ) groups, to yield a  $\text{VS}_5$  core of idealized  $C_3$  symmetry. The coordination geometry is best described as tetrahedral with the  $\text{S}_2^{2-}$  considered as occupying one site. The S-S bond length in the latter (2.013 (3) Å) is similar to that in the V(IV) monomer  $\text{Cp}_2\text{V}(\text{S}_2)$  (2.028 (4) Å);<sup>11</sup> such values are typical of this unit as a ligand and are consistent with  $\pi$ -donation from  $\text{S}_2^{2-} \pi^*$  orbitals into empty vanadium d orbitals (free  $\text{S}_2^{2-}$ ; S-S = 2.13 Å).<sup>5</sup> The V=S(2) and V=S(4) distances are 2.092 (2) and 2.099 (2) Å, respectively, somewhat shorter than those in  $\text{VS}_4^{3-}$  (2.135–2.175 (1) Å),<sup>12</sup> the only other known vanadium(V) monomer with sulfide ligation. The vanadium(V)-thiolate bond in **1** is the first occurrence of such a linkage at this oxidation level, having been observed up to now only with the lower oxidation states in compounds such as  $[\text{VO}(\text{edt})_2]^{2-}$ ,<sup>12</sup>  $\text{Cp}_2\text{V}(\text{SPh})_2$ ,<sup>13</sup>  $\text{Cp}_2\text{V}(\text{SPh})$ ,<sup>13</sup> and  $[\text{V}_2(\text{edt})_4]^{2-}$  (edt = ethane-1,2-dithiolate).<sup>14</sup> The overall structure of **1** has no counterpart in isoelectronic Mo(VI) or W(VI) chemistry.

The variety of sulfur ligation around the vanadium(V) center of **1** suggested that it might display extensive reactivity chemistry. Reactions with elemental sulfur or selenium,  $\text{CS}_2$ , activated acetylenes,  $\text{edt}^{2-}$ , or monomeric vanadium complexes such as  $[\text{VS}(\text{SPh})_4]^{2-}$  and  $\text{VS}_4^{3-}$ <sup>15</sup> support this belief and yield soluble products currently being investigated. There is no doubt in our minds that **1** will prove to be a convenient and versatile synthetic reagent in higher oxidation state V/S chemistry.

Reaction of  $\text{VCl}_3 \cdot \text{Na}_2\text{edt} \cdot \text{S} \cdot \text{NEt}_4\text{Br}$  in a molar ratio of 1:2.5:2:2 in MeCN<sup>7</sup> followed by stirring for 24 h yielded an intense red-brown solution and some brown solid. The mixture was filtered and an equal volume of ether added to the filtrate to yield a black oil, which solidified on storage in a freezer. The product was collected by filtration, dissolved in MeCN, and refiltered, and the filtrate layered with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . This procedure yielded black microcrystalline  $(\text{NEt}_4)_2\text{Na}[\text{V}_2\text{S}_5(\text{edt})]$  (**2**) and very large purple crystals of  $(\text{NEt}_4)_2\text{Na}[\text{V}_2\text{OS}_4(\text{edt})]$  (**3**); the two materials are readily separable manually and are obtained in 30% and 20% yields, respectively, based on available vanadium. The structure<sup>9,16</sup> of



**Figure 2.** ORTEP projection of the anion of **3** showing the atom-labeling scheme. The comments in the caption to Figure 1 apply to this figure also. V(1)-O = 1.626 (3), V(1)-S<sub>(av)</sub> = 2.370, V(1)-S<sub>b(av)</sub> = 2.375, V(2)-S<sub>b(av)</sub> = 2.207, and V(2)-S<sub>i(av)</sub> = 2.116 Å; S(4)-V(1)-S(7) = 84.81 (7), S(8)-V(1)-S(9) = 92.04 (7), S(8)-V(2)-S(9) = 101.47 (7), and S(10)-V(2)-S(11) = 111.63 (7)°.

the anion of **3** is shown in Figure 2. The two vanadium atoms are 2.977 (1) Å apart and bridged by two  $\mu\text{-S}^{2-}$  atoms to yield a nonplanar  $\text{V}_2\text{S}_2^{5+}$  core. A terminal  $\text{edt}^{2-}$  and multiply bonded O(3), S(10), and S(11) complete coordination to the metals to yield idealized  $C_3$  symmetry. The trianionic nature of the anion necessitates a mixed-valence V(IV)V(V) description. V(1) and V(2) are formally assigned as the V(IV) and V(V) centers, respectively, based on (i) the square-pyramidal geometry at V(1) characteristic of  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  species; (ii) the V=O bond length (1.626 (3) Å) identical with that in  $[\text{VO}(\text{edt})_2]^{2-}$  (1.625 (3) Å)<sup>12</sup>, and (iii) the tetrahedral geometry at V(2) as seen in  $\text{VS}_4^{3-}$ .<sup>17</sup> With the identity of **3** established, we believe **2** to be isostructural with V(1)=S instead of V(1)=O. The separated complexes have identical IR spectra except for the presence of a band at  $915 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in **3** assignable to a V=O stretch. Further evidence for the identity of **2** is available from electronic spectroscopy in MeCN solution; the spectra of **2** and **3** are very similar<sup>18</sup> except for a blue shift in the bands of the latter on conversion of V=S to V=O, behavior paralleling that seen in the  $[\text{VE}(\text{edt})_2]^{2-}$  (E = O, S) pair.<sup>12</sup> In an attempt to optimize the formation of **2**, an increased S:V ratio of 5:2 was employed in a reaction mixture comprising V:  $\text{Na}_2\text{edt}:\text{S}:\text{NEt}_4\text{Br}$  in a molar ratio of 2:4.5:5:3 in MeCN, followed by workup similar to that described above. This procedure yielded analytically pure black microcrystalline **2** as the sole product; IR and electronic spectra were identical with those of the manually separated material from the original reaction. We have yet to develop a cleaner synthesis of **3** but its extreme crystallinity makes its present means of isolation adequate and reproducible.

Complex **3** displays a reversible one-electron reduction at  $-1.23 \text{ V}$  vs. NHE;<sup>19</sup> complex **2** yields an identical cyclic voltammogram and we believe this extremely sensitive material is scavenging adventitious  $\text{O}_2$  or  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in the electrochemical cell to convert to **3**.<sup>20</sup> As for **1**, the anion of **3** has no exact counterpart in known Mo or W chemistry with the  $\text{edt}^{2-}$  ligand, the closest related complexes being  $[\text{M}_2\text{S}_4(\text{edt})_2]^{2-}$  (M = Mo, W).<sup>21,22</sup> However, the anion of **3** is similar to some non-thiolate-containing Mo and W complexes in its overall structure, such as  $[(\text{MS}_4)\text{MO}(\text{MS}_4)]^{2-}$  (M = Mo, W)<sup>23</sup> and  $[(\text{MoS}_4)\text{MoO}(\text{S}_2\text{MoO}(\text{S}_2))]^{2-}$ .<sup>23</sup>

The complexes described above undoubtedly presage an extensive new area of discrete early-transition-metal sulfur chemistry,

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(16) Monoclinic space group  $P2_1/c$ ,  $a = 12.955$  (6) Å,  $b = 15.963$  (8) Å,  $c = 15.338$  (8) Å,  $\beta = 109.83$  (2)°, and  $Z = 4$  for 3112 unique data with  $F > 3\sigma(F)$ ; non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically; hydrogen atoms were readily located and refined isotropically; final  $R$  ( $R_w$ ) = 4.34 (4.37).

(17) Do, Y.; Simhon, E. D.; Holm, R. H., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1983**, *105*, 6731.

(18) Complex **2**:  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon_m$ ) = 756 (1125), 558 (6380), 440 (sh, 4720), 328 (sh, 11730) nm. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{44}\text{N}_2\text{S}_7\text{NaV}_2$ : C, 33.86; H, 6.90; N, 4.39. Found: C, 33.68; H, 6.79; N, 4.70. Complex **3**:  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon_m$ ) = 728 (808), 528 (6425), 380 (10155), 312 (sh, 14510) nm. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{44}\text{N}_2\text{OS}_6\text{NaV}_2$ : C, 34.77; H, 7.13; N, 4.15. Found: C, 34.55; H, 7.15; N, 4.48.

(19) Measurements were made in the cyclic voltammetry mode in MeCN solution with 0.1 M TBAP employed as supporting electrolyte and a carbon working electrode, referenced to the NHE by using ferrocene (+0.400 V vs. NHE) as a standard.

(20) Similarly, in the absence of enough S to yield only **2** when the V:S reaction ratio is 1:2, we believe adventitious  $\text{O}_2$  or  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  most likely supplies the O atom to form significant amounts of **3**.

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(23) For these and other complexes with some structural relation to **3**, see ref 5 and additional references therein.

being developed here for the first time for an early 3d metal. Differences between the behaviors of V and the heavier metals Mo and W are already apparent, but further work is necessary before any trends can be established. Variation of reaction stoichiometries is in progress and other products are being characterized. Further results in this rich new area will be reported in due course.

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**Supplementary Material Available:** Tables of atomic coordinates and isotropic and anisotropic thermal parameters (4 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Department of Chemistry and Molecular  
Structure Center  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405

Joanna K. Money  
John R. Nicholson  
John C. Huffman  
George Christou\*

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## Articles

Contribution from the Department of Chemistry,  
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Y6

### Synthetic, Spectroscopic, and Solution NMR Studies of Dimethyltin(IV) Fluorosulfate Derivatives

S. P. Mallela, S. Yap, J. R. Sams, and F. Aubke\*

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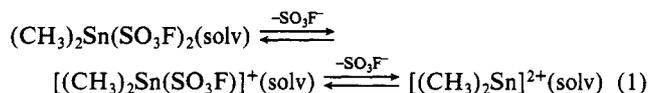
The ability of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$  to act as a  $\text{SO}_3\text{F}^-$  ion acceptor is illustrated by the synthesis and subsequent characterization of the new complexes  $\text{Cs}[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_3]$ ,  $\text{Li}_2[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$ ,  $\text{Ba}[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$ , and  $\text{Sn}[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$ . In addition a new structural form of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$  is produced with distinctly different thermal and spectroscopic properties. The  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  Mössbauer spectra with the isomer shift  $\delta = 1.8\text{--}1.9\text{ mm s}^{-1}$  and the quadrupole splitting  $\Delta E_Q = 5.4\text{--}5.5\text{ mm s}^{-1}$  suggest octahedral coordination in all instances, with the electronic structure of the dimethyltin group invariant in all complexes. A similar common electronic structure is found for these species in  $\text{HSO}_3\text{F}$  solution as probed by  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , and  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  NMR.

#### Introduction

Strong protonic acids like fluorosulfuric acid,  $\text{HSO}_3\text{F}$ , and related monosubstituted sulfuric acids have been used in the past to synthesize a variety of alkyltin(IV) chlorosulfonates by the solvolysis of alkyltin(IV) chlorides.<sup>1-6</sup> In these studies  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  Mössbauer spectroscopy has played a pivotal role in the structural characterization of the produced materials with support from the reported crystal structure of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$ ,<sup>7</sup> revealing a sheetlike polymer, similar to the one found for  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SnF}_2$ ,<sup>8</sup> with a linear C-Sn-C grouping in a trans-octahedral coordination environment for tin due to bidentate-bridging fluorosulfate groups.

The observed bond parameters as well as the unusually large quadrupole splitting,  $\Delta E_Q$ , of  $5.54\text{ mm s}^{-1}$ ,<sup>1,4-6</sup> for  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$  has suggested the presence of a cationic  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}$  moiety in this compound.

A very recent study by us<sup>9</sup> has focused attention more narrowly on the possible existence of the  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}^{2+}$  cation. If  $\text{HSO}_3\text{F}$  and the related superacid systems  $\text{HSO}_3\text{F}/\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4$ <sup>10</sup> and  $\text{HSO}_3\text{F}/\text{Pt}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4$ <sup>11</sup> are employed, materials containing not only this cation but also  $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})]^+$ , both stabilized by  $[\text{M}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_6]^{2-}$  with  $\text{M} = \text{Sn}$  or  $\text{Pt}$ , are obtained and stepwise, acidity dependent dissociation of  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$  is postulated,<sup>9</sup> according to

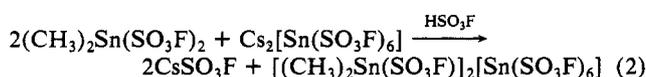


to explain the synthetic results.

In the basic region of  $\text{HSO}_3\text{F}$ , generated by dissolution of  $\text{CsSO}_3\text{F}$ , dimethyltin(IV) bis(fluorosulfate) acts as an acid, or  $\text{SO}_3\text{F}^-$  acceptor, and in the presence of 2 mol of  $\text{CsSO}_3\text{F}$ , the compound  $\text{Cs}_2[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$  forms, while with  $\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$  as donor a material tentatively identified as  $\text{Sn}[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$  forms.<sup>9</sup>

The present study is intended to complement our earlier work<sup>9</sup> in several ways. Synthetic efforts are aimed primarily at the anionic dimethyltin(IV) fluorosulfate derivatives. The product of the reaction of equimolar amounts of  $\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$  and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$  produces a complex  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  Mössbauer spectrum with partly overlapping lines due to two different tin environments. Support for the suggested formulation as  $\text{Sn}^{II}[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$  should come from the synthesis and characterization of the corresponding barium salt  $\text{Ba}[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$ .

The thermal stability of the anion  $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]^{2-}$  is probed by the synthesis of  $\text{Li}_2[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$  and a spectroscopic comparison to the previously reported  $\text{Cs}_2[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_4]$ . The attempted metathesis of this cesium salt with  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$  follows a recent precedent<sup>9</sup> involving  $\text{Cs}_2[\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_6]$



A corresponding dimethyltetrakis(fluorosulfato)tin(IV) derivative with either  $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})]^+$  or  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}^{2+}$  as counterion would constitute a structural or ionization isomer of the polymeric  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$ .<sup>1,7</sup> Its identification is expected to present a challenge.

Finally, the addition of  $\text{SO}_3\text{F}^-$  to  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_3\text{F})_2$ , just like its dissociation in acidic medium, reaction sequence 1, is expected

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