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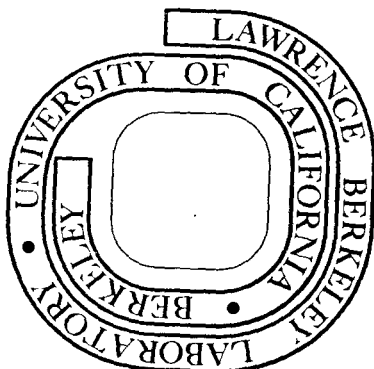
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A SIMPLE SYNTHESIS OF DEUTERATED
1.2.4.5 TETRACHLOROBENZENE

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Single crystals of 1.2.4.5-tetrachlorobenzene (TCB) are particularly interesting because of their basically one-dimensional exciton transport system.¹ Deuterated TCB-d₂ was used as single crystals to study shallow traps in TCB by optical, EPR and Optical Detection of Magnetic Resonance (ODMR) experiments.²⁻⁵ TCB is the first substance where both zero-field and high-field ODMR of free excitons can be observed.⁶ Therefore, there is a considerable interest to have a simple procedure to prepare the deuterated starting material TCB with high chemical and isotopic purity.

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Polychlorinated benzenes undergo an exchange with deuteriumsulfate, but particularly in the case of symmetrical tetrachlorobenzene (TCB) there is a simultaneous sulphonation at the required temperature of 150° C as reported by Leitch et al.⁷

In this study an easy and fast exchange with sodiummethoxide in ethanole-OD with high chemical yield and high chemical and isotopic purity is reported.

A kinetic investigation⁸ of a nucleophilic displacement in the reaction of 1.2.4.5 TCB with sodiumethoxide in absolute ethanole was made at 180° C in an autoclave. The reaction products were 2.4.5-trichlorophenetole, 2.4.5-trichlorophenole and 1.3-diethoxy-4.6-dichlorobenzene. This reaction does not occur at reflux conditions in an Et-OD solution mixed with benzene. The two hydrogens in 1.2.4.5 TCB show a remarkable acidity and therefore a solution of sodiummethoxide in ethanole-OD can be used as a very efficient hydrogen-deuterium exchange source.

After the first exchange the isotopic purity was determined by mass-spectroscopy, found $\approx 90\%$ TCB-d₂ and $\approx 10\%$ TCB-d₁. After a second exchange TCB was completely deuterated. No significant side-reactions were observed. With the same method and under similar conditions also 1.2.4.5-tetrabromobenzene-d₂ was synthesized.

DEUTERATION OF TCB

The deuterated TCB can also be recommended as high temperature solvent (mp = 138 - 140° C) for NMR-measurements. The thermal stability and its solubility properties are excellent. Traces of the protonated material show a singlet at 7.67 ppm (ref. cyclosilane). At 19000 scans, 200° C with a 360 MHz spectrometer, there were no additionally detectable hydrogen-containing impurities.

EXPERIMENTAL PART

1.2.4.5-tetrachlorobenzene-d₂

1.26 gr (0.055 m) sodium was added slowly to 46 gr (1 m) ethanole-OD (99.5 % Aldrich Chem.). After the sodium was dissolved, the solution was mixed with 30 ml benzene (stored over sodium) to increase the solubility of TCB and to prevent side-reactions. To this stirred mixture 7 gr (0.032 m) of 1.2.4.5 TCB (FLUKA, purum) were added and refluxed for 12 hours. The solution was cooled and the resulting crystallized deuterated TCB filtered off. This product was used to exchange a second time under the same conditions and yielded 5.1 gr (71%) TCB-d₂ ≈ 99 % after sublimation under reduced pressure. m.p. 138 - 140° C.

As already found by Güttler et al.⁹ the commercial grade TCB, even after extensive zone refining, contains impurities, mainly trichlorobenzene and tetrachlorobenzene-isomers detectable by gas-chromatography (GLC). The deuterated TCB was analysed by GLC after 100 zone-refining cycles. (Carbowax 20 M, 100° C carrier gas = N₂FID):

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solvent	5	$\cdot 10^{-5}$	Mol/Mol
monochlorobenzene	3	$\cdot 10^{-5}$	" "
dichlorobenzene	1	$\cdot 10^{-5}$	" "
1.3.5 trichlorobenzene	1.5	$\cdot 10^{-4}$	" "
1.2.4+1.2.3 trichlorobenzene	3	$\cdot 10^{-4}$	" "
1.2.3.4 tetrachlorobenzene	3.5	$\cdot 10^{-4}$	" "

No detectable amounts of penta and hexachlorobenzene

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