

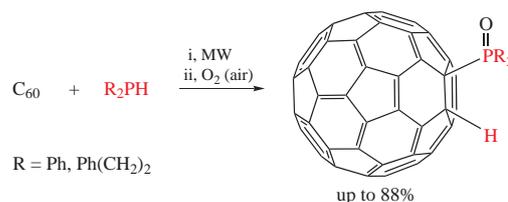
## Microwave-assisted catalyst-free addition of secondary phosphines to fullerene C<sub>60</sub>

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Secondary phosphines, R<sub>2</sub>PH (R = Ph, PhCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), react with fullerene C<sub>60</sub> under microwave irradiation at 200–270 °C for 1–2 h in the medium of substituted naphthalenes (1-Cl, 1-Me, 1-MeO) or without solvent to afford mono-adducts, HC<sub>60</sub>PR<sub>2</sub>, whose air oxidation gives the corresponding phosphine oxides, HC<sub>60</sub>P(O)R<sub>2</sub>, in up to 88% yield.



Over the last decades, functionalized fullerenes became a subject of sustainable interest due to their multifaceted potential for application in hi-tech materials,<sup>1</sup> and especially in nanotechnologies.<sup>2,3</sup> Despite the ever-growing stream of publications in this area, the papers devoted to phosphorus-containing derivatives of fullerenes occupy the modest place.<sup>3,4</sup> Among the pioneering syntheses of fullerenes bearing phosphorus-containing functionalities are those dealing with 1,3-cycloaddition reactions of phosphorylated nitrile oxides, azides,<sup>5</sup> and diazo compounds<sup>6</sup> to fullerene. The first synthesis of fullerenes with the C–P bond comprised addition of lithiated phosphine-borane (Ph<sub>2</sub>PLi-BH<sub>3</sub>) to C<sub>60</sub> followed by treatment with HCl and then with DABCO.<sup>7</sup> Addition of secondary phosphine oxides to fullerene in 20% DMSO–PhCl mixture at room temperature gives the adducts in 31–60% yield. Of particular interest was that DMSO played a role of the specific catalyst of this reaction, since in neat PhCl the reaction did not occur at all. The radical reaction of C<sub>60</sub> with phosphonates or Ph<sub>2</sub>P(O)H mediated by manganese(III) acetate afforded diverse C–P phosphorylated fullerenes.<sup>9</sup> As for secondary phosphines, to the best of our knowledge, no unambiguous data related to the addition to C<sub>60</sub> were published. Moreover, it was noted<sup>7</sup> that Ph<sub>2</sub>PH did not react with C<sub>60</sub> under heating in boiling toluene. This communication is the concise report of our investigation concerning the microwave-assisted (MW) addition of secondary phosphines to fullerene C<sub>60</sub>.

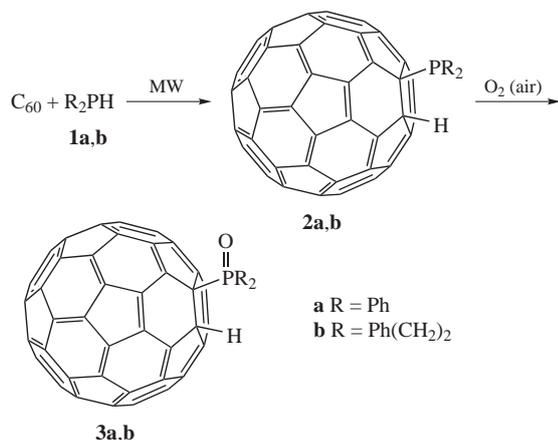
In our experiments, secondary phosphines **1a,b** react with C<sub>60</sub> under MW irradiation (200–270 °C, 1–2 h, in the medium of 1-chloro-, 1-methyl-, 1-methoxynaphthalenes or without solvent) to deliver tertiary phosphines **2a,b** (<sup>31</sup>P NMR data, Figure S1, see Online Supplementary Materials), which are easily oxidized in the presence of air to the corresponding phosphine oxides **3a,b** (Scheme 1, Table 1).<sup>†</sup> The highest yield (88%) of adduct **3a** was achieved, when the initial reagents (C<sub>60</sub> and phosphine **1a** in a molar ratio of 1:1.7) were MW-irradiated at 270 °C for 1 h in

1-methoxynaphthalene (1-MeONp); C<sub>60</sub> conversion was 64% (Table 1, entry 1). Without MW-assistance, efficiency of this reaction was significantly lower (entry 2). The yield of phosphine oxide **3a** and C<sub>60</sub> conversion were also reduced, when 1-chloronaphthalene (1-ClNp) and 1-methylnaphthalene (1-MeNp) were used as solvents as well as at lower temperatures (entries 3–6). Note that our attempt to implement phosphination of C<sub>60</sub> with secondary phosphine **1b** under the best conditions of adduct **3a** synthesis (entry 1) failed. In this case, no expected mono-adduct **3b** was formed (entry 7). However, the latter was obtained in 18% yield, when fullerene C<sub>60</sub> was MW-irradiated in the medium of phosphine **1b** (molar ratio C<sub>60</sub>: **1b** = 1:64). In this experiment, apart from phosphine oxide **3b**, a mixture of poly-adducts was also formed (entry 8).<sup>‡</sup>

The products **3a,b** were characterized by <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P NMR, UV-VIS, FT-IR spectroscopy and MALDI-TOF mass spectro-

*Diphenyl(C<sub>60</sub>H)phosphine oxide 3a (general procedure).* The mixture of Ph<sub>2</sub>PH and the solution of C<sub>60</sub> (100 mg, 139 μmol) in degassed solvent was MW-irradiated (Monowave 300W Anton Paar reactor, mean value 30–38 W power of irradiation) for a specified period (Table 1) under Ar atmosphere in a closed vial (10 ml). After irradiation, the mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, put onto a silica gel column (Alfa Aesar, 70–230 mesh), and eluted with CS<sub>2</sub>–toluene (1:9) for C<sub>60</sub> recovery, then with EtOAc–PhMe (1:9 up to 1:1) to afford product **3a** as a brown powder, yield 72 mg (56%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, CS<sub>2</sub>–CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.10 (d, 1H, HC<sub>60</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J 25.7 Hz), 7.63–7.71 (m, 6H), 8.50–8.55 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CS<sub>2</sub>–CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 57.03 [d, 1C, HC(C<sub>60</sub>), <sup>2</sup>J 2.4 Hz], 70.56 (d, 1C, PC<sub>60</sub>, <sup>1</sup>J 67.2 Hz), 128.82 (d, 4C, Ph, <sup>2</sup>J 12.0 Hz), 129.03 (d, 2C, Ph, <sup>1</sup>J 98.6 Hz), 132.94 (d, 2C, Ph, <sup>4</sup>J 2.0 Hz), 133.11 (d, 4C, Ph, <sup>3</sup>J 8.4 Hz); fullerene moiety: 135.55 (C<sub>60</sub>), 137.11 (d, C<sub>60</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J 4.9 Hz), 139.59, 140.40, 141.36, 141.40, 141.42, 141.66, 141.77, 141.99, 142.02, 142.47, 142.62, 143.20, 144.22, 144.66, 145.34, 145.39, 145.51, 145.72, 146.19, 146.26, 146.33, 146.42, 146.79, 147.12, 147.22 (all C<sub>60</sub>, 2C), 149.34 (d, 2C, C<sub>60</sub>, <sup>2</sup>J 6.9 Hz), 152.33 (d, 2C, C<sub>60</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J 4.6 Hz). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161.98 MHz, CS<sub>2</sub>–CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 34.18 (s). IR (ν/cm<sup>-1</sup>): 530, 556, 619, 696, 729, 751, 848, 1030, 1041, 1071, 1098, 1117, 1129, 1182, 1197, 1287, 1382, 1437, 1456, 1597, 1704, 1724, 2855, 2925, 2955, 3058. UV (hexane, λ/nm): 224, 256, 326, 404, 431. Found (%): C, 93.64; P, 3.28. Calc. for C<sub>72</sub>H<sub>11</sub>OP (%): C, 93.71; P, 3.36. In some cases, soluble oligo-adducts could be isolated (eluent 20% MeOH in CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

<sup>†</sup> Fullerene C<sub>60</sub> (>99%) was purchased from 'High-tech industry' (St. Petersburg, Russia) and used without further purification. 1-Methylnaphthalene, 1-chloronaphthalene (Alfa Aesar) and 1-methoxynaphthalene were distilled, deaerated *in vacuo* and saturated with Ar prior to use. All reactions were performed under dry argon atmosphere.



Scheme 1

**Table 1** Phosphination of  $C_{60}$  with secondary phosphines under MW.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	$R_2PH$	Molar ratio $C_{60}:1$	Solvent (volume/ml)	$T/^\circ C$	t/h	Conversion of $C_{60}$ (%)	Product	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>1a</b>	1:1.7	1-MeONp (5.0)	270	1	64	<b>3a</b>	56 (88)
2 <sup>c</sup>	<b>1a</b>	1:2	1-MeONp (5.0)	270	1	14	<b>3a</b>	7 (50)
3	<b>1a</b>	1:1.17	1-CINp (4.0)	270	1	40	<b>3a</b>	27 (66)
4	<b>1a</b>	1:1	1-CINp (2.5)	260	1	25	<b>3a</b>	20 (80)
5	<b>1a</b>	1:1	1-MeNp (5.0)	245	2	99	<b>3a</b>	17 (17)
6	<b>1a</b>	1:1	1-MeNp (5.0)	200	2	10	<b>3a</b>	4 (42)
7	<b>1b</b>	1:1.7	1-MeONp (2.5)	270	1	36	— <sup>d</sup>	—
8 <sup>e</sup>	<b>1b<sup>e</sup></b>	1:64	not used	270	2	100	<b>3b</b>	18 (18) <sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions:  $C_{60}$  (100 mg, 139  $\mu$ mol), argon. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield after purification by column chromatography. That in parentheses was based on consumed  $C_{60}$ . <sup>c</sup> The experiment was carried out without MW-irradiation. <sup>d</sup> No mono-adduct **3b** was formed. In the reaction mixture, bis(2-phenylphosphine) oxide, bis(2-phenyl)phosphonic acid and poly-adducts of **2b** with fullerene  $C_{60}$  were identified (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>31</sup>P NMR, elemental analysis). <sup>e</sup> The solubility of  $C_{60}$  in the phosphine at 200  $^\circ C$  is  $\sim 50$  mg ml<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>f</sup> A mixture of mono- and poly-adducts of phosphine **2b** with fullerene  $C_{60}$  was formed (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>31</sup>P NMR, FT-IR, elemental analysis).

metry, which proved the addition of the phosphine to the 6,6-ring junction in the synthesized compounds. Spectral characteristics of the phosphine oxide **3a** were identical to those previously described in the literature.<sup>7</sup>

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3b** (Figure S2) reveals the multiplet signals corresponding to the ethane-1,2-diyl protons ( $\sim 2.75$ – $3.57$  ppm), whereas the H atom at  $C_{60}$  core appears as a doublet at  $\delta$  7.44 ppm ( $J_{PH}$  23.9 Hz) vs. those in **3a** at 7.10 ppm ( $J$  25.7 Hz). This assignment for **3b** has been proved by 2D H-P HMBC spectrum (Figure S3). The high-field region of the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **3b** (Figure S4) demonstrates two signals at 28.73 ( $J$  3.2 Hz) and 29.59 ppm ( $J_{CP}$  61.4 Hz) for the  $CH_2CH_2$  group

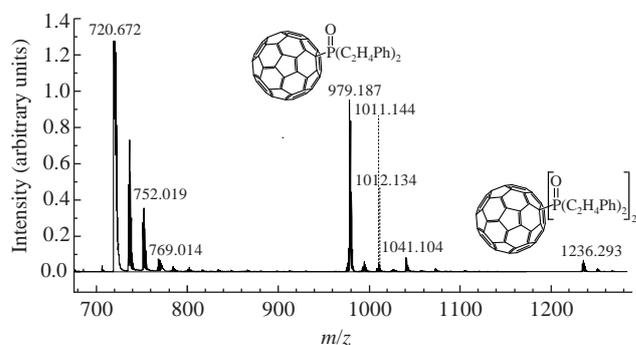
† Bis(2-phenylethyl)( $C_{60}H$ )phosphine oxide **3b**. A mixture of  $C_{60}$  (100 mg, 139  $\mu$ mol) and bis(2-phenylethyl)phosphine (2147 mg, 8.861 mmol) was stirred and MW-irradiated under Ar atmosphere in a closed vial (10 ml) at 270  $^\circ C$  for 2 h. During the heating  $C_{60}$  was dissolved in hot bis(2-phenylethyl)phosphine (the solubility of  $C_{60}$  in the phosphine at 270  $^\circ C$  is  $\sim 50$  mg ml<sup>-1</sup>). In 2 h, the reaction mixture represented an orange suspension with orange-brown residue. In addition, along with the mono-adducts, unsolved residue, likely a mixture of poly-adducts, was formed. The residue was diluted with  $CHCl_3$  (1 ml) and purified by column chromatography using silica gel (Alfa Aesar, 70–230 mesh, eluent  $Et_2O$ ) to give unreacted bis(2-phenylethyl)phosphine (505 mg). Further elution with  $CHCl_3$  gave bis(2-phenylethyl)phosphine oxide (1146 mg), then elution with 10–20% EtOAc in toluene gave mono-adduct **3b** (24 mg). Elution with MeOH afforded bis(2-phenylethyl)phosphinic acid (382 mg). The fraction containing mixture of poly-adducts remained at the top of the column.

and two  $sp^3$  signals in the  $C_{60}$  core [55.93 and 69.35 ppm ( $J_{PC}$  59.9 Hz)]. The low-field part of the spectrum shows 34  $sp^2$  signals in the  $C_{60}$  core (135.38–152.04 ppm) and three signals for Ph rings (126.75, 128.21 and 128.86 ppm). The FT-IR spectrum of **3b** contains a strong absorption at 1170  $cm^{-1}$  belonging to the P=O group (Figure S6). The bands at 527, 579, 1180 and 1428  $cm^{-1}$  are attributed to  $C_{60}$  skeleton absorption peaks. The aromatic ring stretching vibration bands are present at 1377, 1406, 1454 and 1496  $cm^{-1}$ . The stretching vibration bands of the CH,  $CH_2$  moieties are observed at 2850, 2921 and 2955  $cm^{-1}$ .

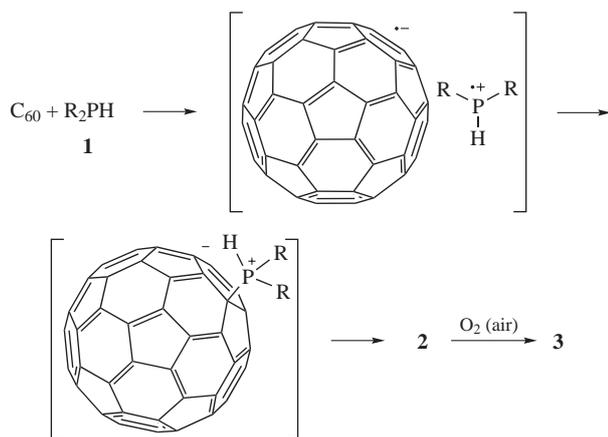
The MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of monoadduct **3b** ( $C_{76}H_{19}OP$ ) displays a peak at  $m/z$  979 as well as one for  $C_{60}$  at  $m/z$  720, which arise from loss of  $C_{16}H_{18}OP$  fragment. There are three peaks higher than  $m/z$  720, i.e. at  $m/z$  979 (monoadduct), 1237 (diadduct), and 1495 (triadduct) (Figure 1). The UV-VIS absorptions are typical of the 1:1 adduct at the 6,6-bond. The electronic absorption spectra of the monoadduct in cyclohexane are similar to that of  $C_{60}$ . Thus, three strong absorption bands at 211, 257 and 329 nm are observed. However, they are different from weak absorption bands of the UV and visible region. New band with a shoulder at 229 nm is detected, while two new weak absorptions at 405 and 409 nm almost disappear (Figure S7). A  $C_{60}$ -mono-adduct absorption peak is also present at 430 nm.

According to the known data,<sup>8,10</sup> the following mechanism for the reaction of  $C_{60}$  with  $R_2PH$  can be proposed (Scheme 2). The first stage involves one-electron transfer from the phosphine **1** to  $C_{60}$  molecule to give ion-radical pair. Then recombination of phosphine cation-radical and  $C_{60}$  anion-radical occurs. The proton transfer from phosphorus to  $C_{60}$  carbon atom affords neutral adduct **2**, which is readily oxidized in the presence of air to the relative phosphine oxide **3**. The study of the scope of this reaction is underway.

In conclusion, the catalyst-free, convenient and atom-economic method for synthesis of diorganyl( $C_{60}H$ )phosphines (isolated as the corresponding phosphine oxides) has been developed. The method is based on the mono-addition of secondary phosphines to

**Figure 1** MALDI-TOF/TOF mass spectrum of **3b** (positive ion, reflectron mode, matrix S8, toluene as solution).

**3b**: brown powder, isolated yield 24 mg (18%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz,  $CS_2-CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 2.75–2.85 (m, 2H,  $CH_2P$ ), 3.14–3.25 (m, 2H,  $CH_2P$ ), 3.36–3.46 and 3.47–3.57 (m, 4H,  $CH_2Ph$ ), 7.11–7.37 (m, 10H, Ph), 7.44 (d, 1H,  $HC_{60}$ , <sup>3</sup>J 23.9 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz,  $CS_2-CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 28.73 (d, 2C,  $CH_2Ph$ , <sup>2</sup>J 3.2 Hz), 29.59 (d, 2C,  $CH_2P$ , <sup>1</sup>J 61.4 Hz), 55.93 (1C,  $HC_{60}$ ), 69.35 (d, 1C,  $PC_{60}$ , <sup>1</sup>J 59.9 Hz), 126.75 (2C, Ph), 128.21 (4C, Ph), 128.86 (4C, Ph); fullerene moiety: 127.53, 130.41, 135.38, 136.51, 136.55, 140.31, 140.45, 140.58, 140.66, 141.56, 141.60, 141.61, 141.75, 141.85, 141.95, 142.06, 142.59, 142.70, 142.97, 143.30, 144.23, 144.69, 145.41, 145.46, 145.57, 145.75, 146.29, 146.33, 146.45, 146.59, 146.93, 147.17, 149.20 (d, 1C,  $PC_{60}$ , <sup>2</sup>J 5.7 Hz), 152.02 (d, 1C,  $PC_{60}$ , <sup>2</sup>J 4.0 Hz). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161.98 MHz,  $CS_2-CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 51.26 (s). IR ( $\nu/cm^{-1}$ ): 527, 565, 579, 753, 1142, 1170, 1180, 1214, 1428, 1453, 1495, 1602, 2850, 2920, 2955, 3025, 3061, 3085. UV (cyclohexane,  $\lambda/nm$ ): 211, 229, 257, 329, 405, 409. MS (MALDI-TOF),  $m/z$ : 720.672 [ $C_{60}$ ], 979.187 [M,  $C_{76}H_{19}OP$ ].



Scheme 2

fullerene  $C_{60}$  under MW irradiation. The compounds synthesized are promising building blocks for drug design and advanced materials.

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#### Online Supplementary Materials

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi:10.1016/j.mencom.2017.03.031.

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