

**NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE STUDIES
OF SOME
1,1-DIFLUORO-3-PHENYLCYCLOBUTANE DERIVATIVES**

Thesis by

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ABSTRACT

1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane has been prepared by the cycloaddition of α -methylstyrene to 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloroethylene. A 2 cps long-range H-F spin-spin coupling has been observed over five consecutive saturated bonds in 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane, involving one of the fluorines at the 1-position and the protons of the 3-methyl group. Analysis of the spectrum and that of the stereospecifically labeled 4-deutero derivatives suggest that the fluorine involved is the one cis to the methyl group.

The n.m.r. studies of 1,1-difluoro-3-bromo-3-phenylcyclobutane which was obtained by bromination of 1,1-difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane with N-bromosuccinimide indicate that this molecule has on the average a more nearly planar cyclobutane ring than that of 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane. The four protons of the 2- and 4-positions are nearly magnetically equivalent, so that the spectrum of this compound is almost that of an ABX_4 system rather than an ABX_2Y_2 system. The theoretical calculations suggest that the chemical shift difference between X and Y is on the order of 1-2 cps. The chemical shift difference between the fluorines decreases in 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane and 1,1-difluoro-3-bromo-3-phenylcyclobutane with increasing temperature, suggesting that rapid ring-inversion is taking place.

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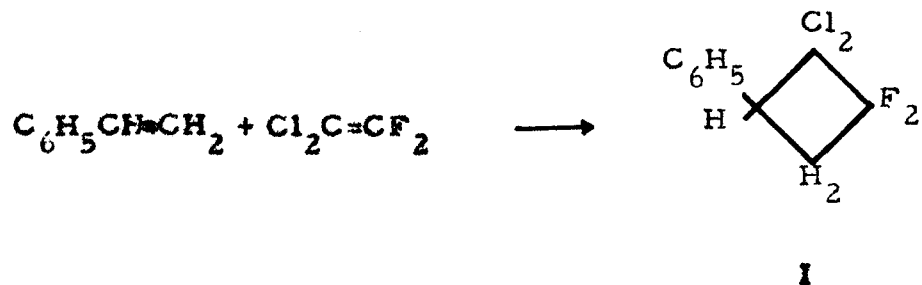
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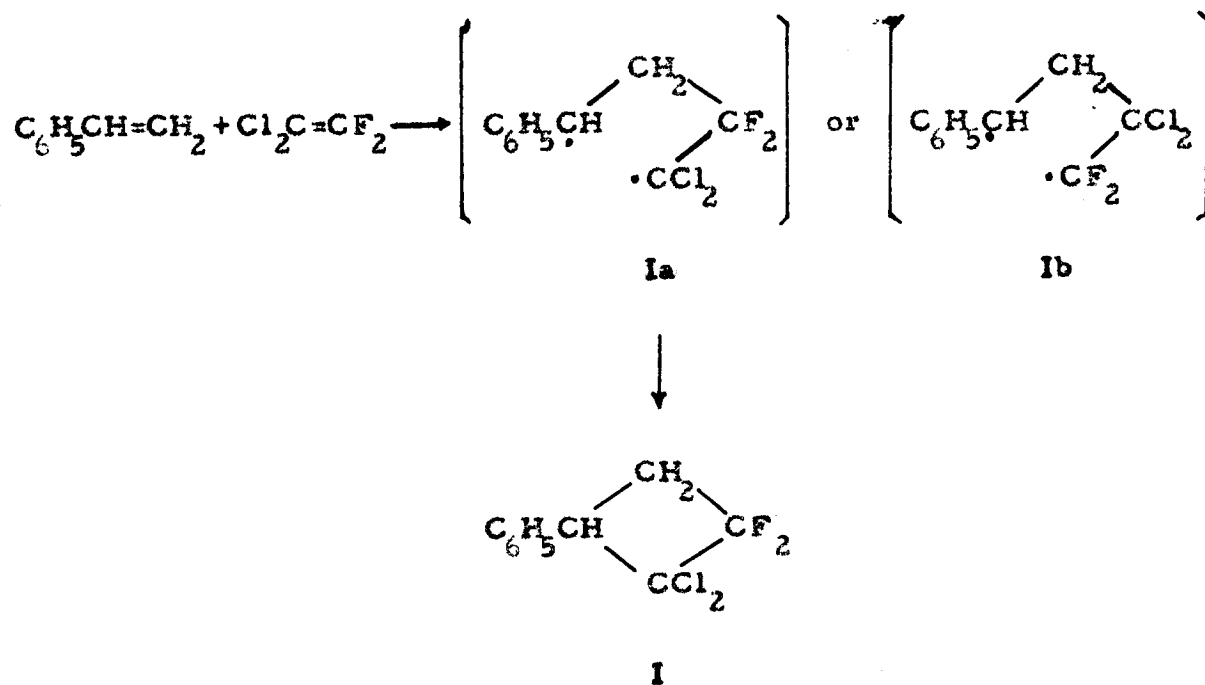
INTRODUCTION

Cycloaddition reactions of alkene to alkene and alkene to alkyne are important synthetic pathways to four-membered carbon ring systems (1, 2, 3).

Particularly, the cycloaddition of fluoroalkenes to alkenes give fluorinated cyclobutane derivatives that would be very difficult to synthesize by conventional methods (3, 4). 1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-phenylcyclobutane has been prepared by cycloaddition of styrene to 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloroethylene (4).

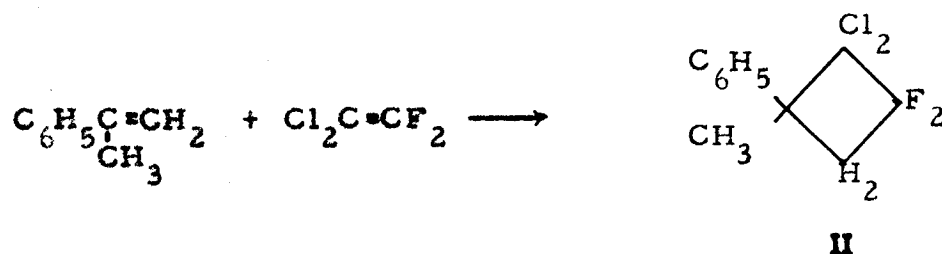


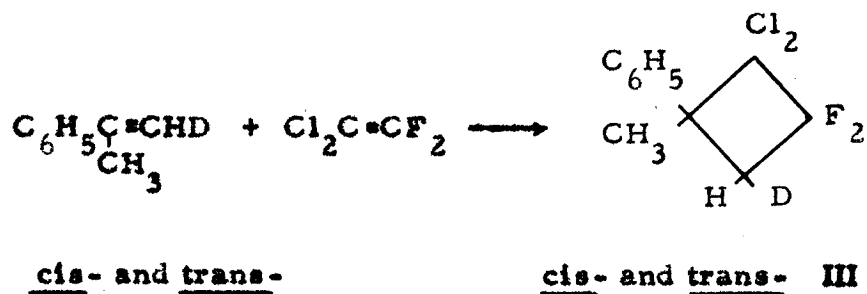
The structure of I for the adduct has been well established (3, 4). The orientation produced in this reaction has been explained on the basis of a diradical mechanism by Roberts and Sharts (3).



The intermediate diradical Ia is considered to be more favorable than Ib, since a difluoromethyl radical should be less stable than a dichloromethyl radical. (5).

Substituted styrenes also undergo cycloaddition reactions. In the present work, 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane and cis- and trans-4-deutero derivatives have been prepared by addition of α -methylstyrene and cis- and trans- β -deutero- α -methylstyrene to 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloroethylene.





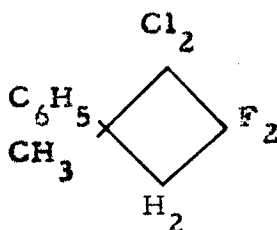
Structures II and III for the adducts have been assigned on the basis of n. m. r. spectra and analogy with the formation of 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-phenylcyclobutane.

The theoretical calculations of n. m. r. spectra have proved extremely useful for analysis of complex spectra. A program suitable for use with an IBM 7090 computer has been developed by Wiberg and Nist (6), which produces theoretical energies and intensities for all of the possible transitions corresponding to a given set of chemical shifts and coupling constants for up to seven nuclei with spin of 1/2. A satisfactory match between calculated and experimental spectra was achieved for 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane and 1,1-difluoro-3-bromo-3-phenylcyclobutane.

1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane

1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (II)

was prepared by heating a mixture of α -methylstyrene and 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloroethylene in a sealed tube at 130° for 24 hours. Structure II for the adduct rather than 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-4-methyl-4-phenylcyclobutane is in good agreement with the magnitudes of the coupling constants between the methylene protons and the gem-fluorines. It is also supported by analogy to formation of 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-phenylcyclobutane (3).



II

The fluorine n. m. r. spectrum of II shows the resonances of two non-equivalent fluorines (F_1 and F_2) with a chemical shift difference of 435 cps, each split by the F_1 - F_2 coupling ($J_{12} = 187$ cps) and couplings with the two nonequivalent methylene protons attached to the 4-carbon ($J_{HF_1} = 1.9$ and 9.5 cps, $J_{HF_2} = 13.2$ and 20.3 cps) (Fig. 1A). In addition, the higher field fluorine resonance shows further splitting into 1:3:3:1 quartets with $J = 2.0$ cps (Fig. 1C). This strongly implies a coupling with three equivalent protons, presumably with the protons

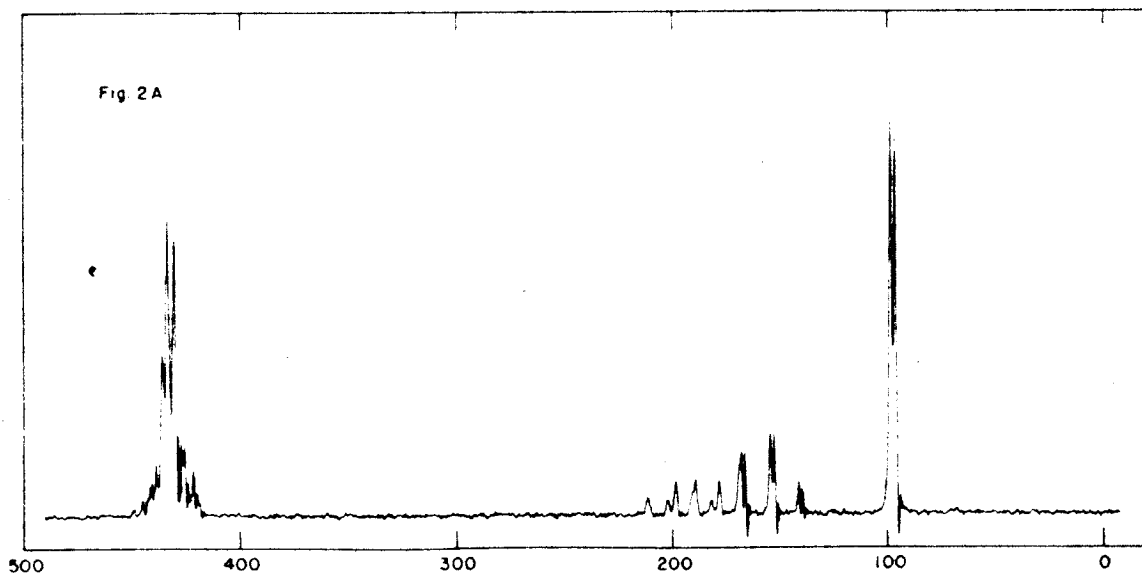
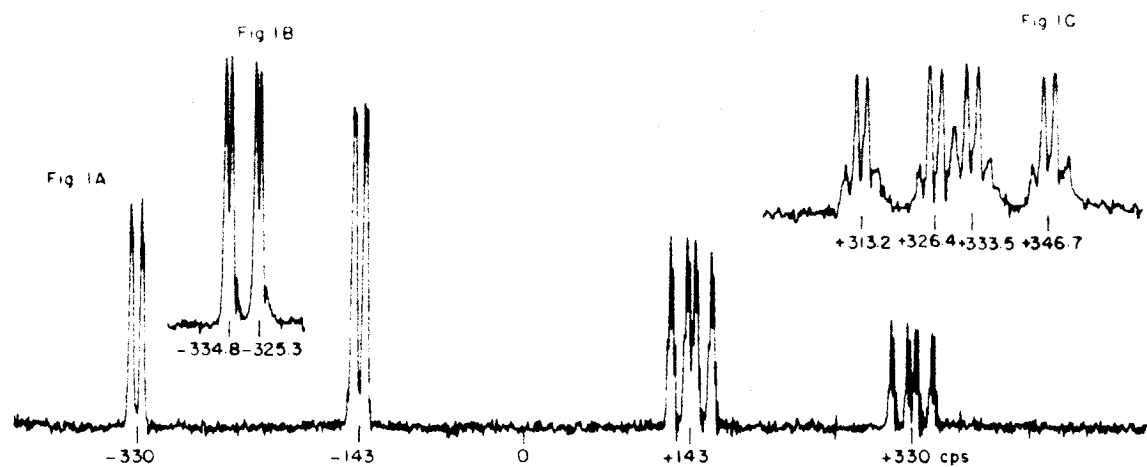


Fig. 1. Fluorine n. m. r. spectra (56.4 Mc.)

- 1A. 1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-phenyl-3-methylcyclobutane (II)
 1B. The low-field fluorine resonance of II.
 1C. The high-field fluorine resonance of II.

Fig. 2A. Proton n. m. r. spectrum of II (60 Mc.)

The calibration is cps downfield from tetramethylsilane

of the methyl group at the 3-position and, indeed, the proton n.m.r. spectrum of **II** shows a doublet methyl resonance with $\underline{J} = 2.1$ cps (Fig. 2A). Several long-range H-F spin-spin couplings have been reported (7,8) but couplings over five consecutive saturated single bonds appear to be previously unknown.

This five-bond, H-F coupling is indicated to be a cis-interaction by the following rather involved argument. First, the methylene resonances consist of sixteen peaks as shown in Figure 2B. The sum of relative areas of the eight low-field peaks is equal to that of the eight high-field peaks and, therefore, each group has been considered to represent separate methylene protons designated as H_3 (low-field) and H_4 (high-field), respectively.

Three different coupling constants are found for each proton; i. e., 13.1, 9.4, and 20.5 cps for H_3 and 13.1, 1.8, and 13.7 cps for H_4 . A series of theoretical calculations demonstrated that the spectrum is well fitted by taking $\underline{J}_{13} = 9.4$ cps, $\underline{J}_{14} = 1.8$ cps, $\underline{J}_{23} = 20.5$ cps, $\underline{J}_{24} = 13.7$ cps, and $\underline{J}_{34} = 13.1$ cps (Fig. 2C). The theoretical calculations were set up for the two protons and two fluorines as an ABXY system having different combinations of observed chemical shifts and coupling constants using the program described by Wiberg and Nist (6) on an IBM 7090 computer.

It is possible to draw two conformers of **II** (II_A and II_B) if it is assumed that the cyclobutane ring is nonplanar. These would be expected

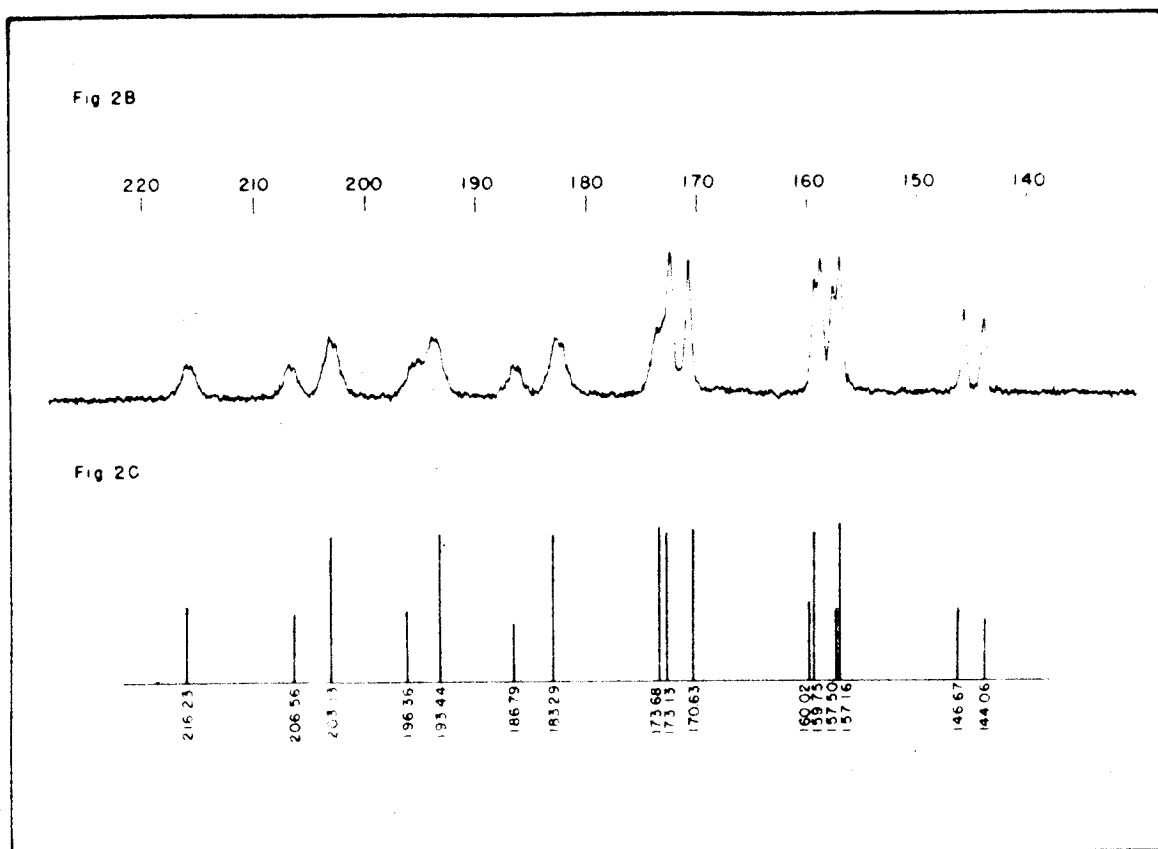
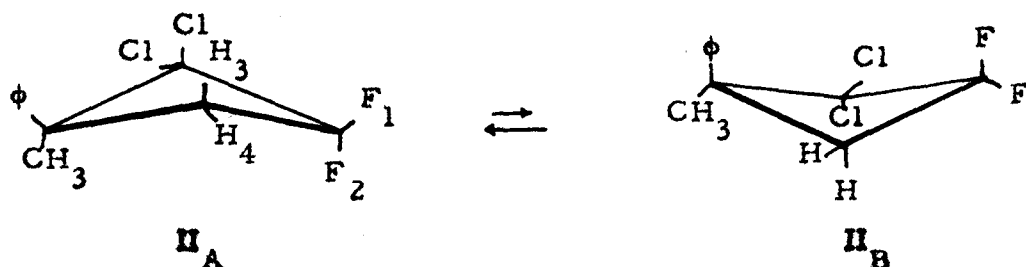


Fig. 2B. The methylene resonances of II (60 Mc.)
The calibration is cps downfield from tetramethylsilane
and the total chart width equal to 100 cps.

Fig. 2C. Calculated methylene resonances of II.

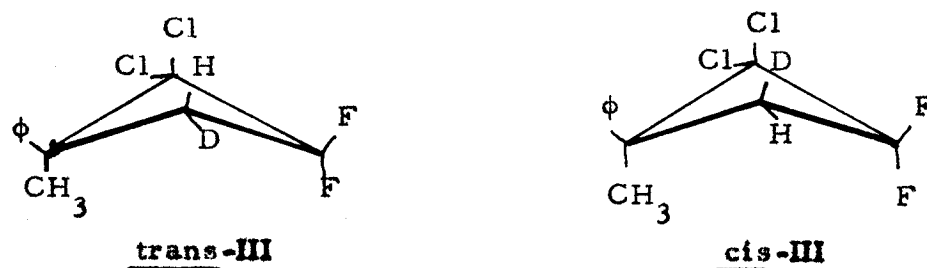
to have "axial" and "equatorial" groups like those of cyclohexane, and of the two, II_A with the phenyl group "equatorial" and the methyl group "axial" is likely to be favored. The degree of puckering of the ring is probably considerable since the chemical shift difference between the fluorines (435 cps) is about half of the 874 cps difference between the fluorines of 1,1-difluorocyclohexane when this substance undergoes slow ring-inversion at -80° (16).



It has been observed that trans (axial-axial) couplings between protons on neighboring carbon atoms in saturated ring systems are larger than gauche (axial-equatorial or equatorial-equatorial) couplings (9). Similar arguments appear to apply to H-F couplings (3). On this basis, one can take F_2 to be trans to H_3 . The whole argument hinges on this point, if further analysis should show that trans H-F couplings tend to be smaller than the corresponding gauche couplings, then the assignment here has to be reversed.

The stereochemical relationships of H_3 and H_4 with respect to the phenyl group have been established by substitution of deuterium at the 4-position. Mixtures of II and trans-4-deutero-1,1-difluoro-2,2-

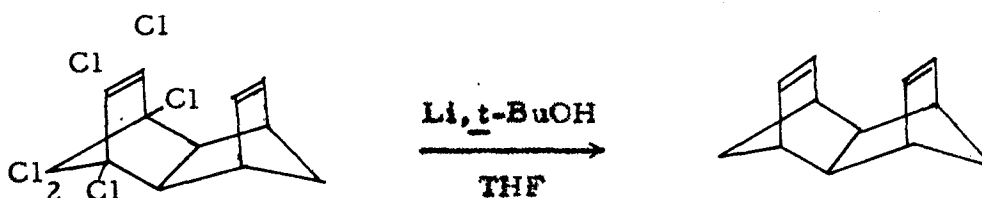
dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (trans-III) and cis-4-deutero-1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (cis-III) have been synthesized by addition of trans- and cis--*p*-deutero- α -methylstyrene (10) to 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloroethylene.



The total area of the low-field methylene peaks was larger than that of the high-field methylene peaks for the mixture in which trans-III predominated. The high-field methylene proton H_4 is therefore trans, and low-field methylene proton H_3 cis to the phenyl group. The complete assignment of chemical shifts is then as in Π_A and the long-range coupled fluorine (F_2) is cis to the methyl group. The five-bond H-F coupling may well be exerted through space (8,11) instead of through the bonds, particularly because groups involved are expected to be rather close together in space.

Reaction of 1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane
with Lithium and t-Butyl Alcohol

Winstein (12) has achieved smooth removal of chlorine in some cyclic systems by treating with lithium metal and t-butyl alcohol in tetrahydrofuran.



The method has been applied to 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (II) in hope of preparing 1,1-difluoro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (IV). Rather vigorous reaction occurred at 45°, and a colorless oil of b. p. 40-40.5° was obtained. This product gave a positive unsaturation test, and its infrared spectrum also suggested the presence of a double bond. The proton n. m. r. spectrum showed phenyl-, vinyl-, methylene-, and methyl resonances in the approximate ratio of 5:1:2:3 (Fig. 3A). The fluorine n. m. r. spectrum showed only one fluorine resonance which was split into a broad 1:3:3:1 quartet (Fig. 3B). On this basis, the product is considered to be 1-fluoro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutene-1 (V).

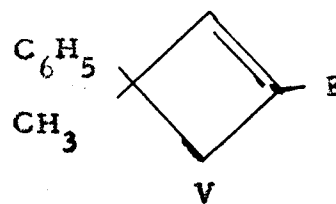
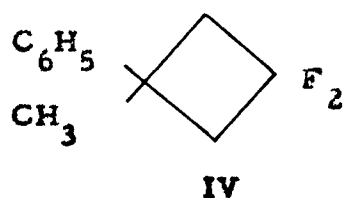


Fig. 3A

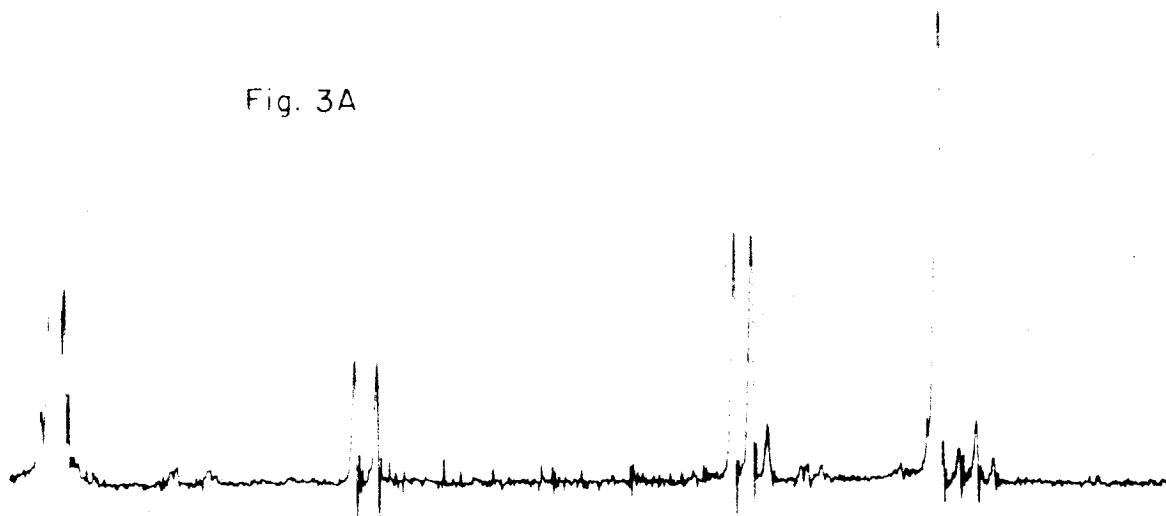


Fig. 3B

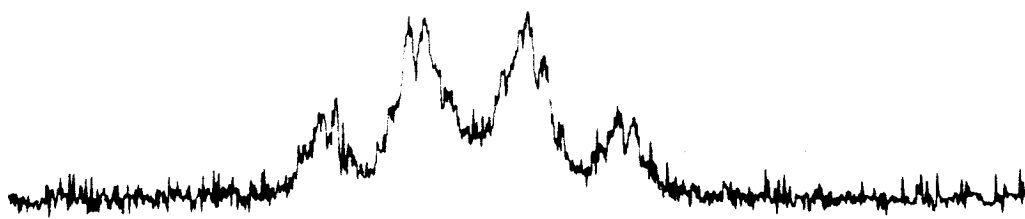
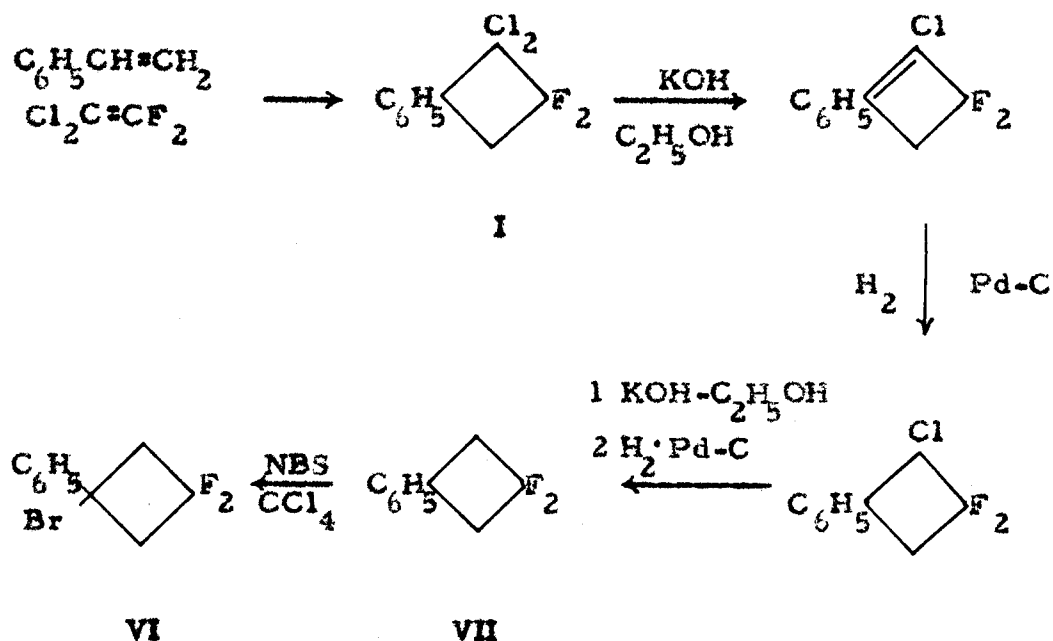


Fig. 3A. The proton n. m. r. spectrum of V (60 Mc.)

Fig. 3B. The fluorine n. m. r. spectrum of V (56.4 Mc.)

1,1-Difluoro-3-bromo-3-phenylcyclobutane

Knutsen (13) and Vogel (14) attempted the synthesis of 1,1-difluoro-3-bromo-3-phenylcyclobutane (VI) by bromination of 1,1-difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane (VII) with *N*-bromosuccinimide in carbon tetrachloride, but they were unable to isolate VI in pure form. A successful preparation was later achieved by Manatt (15).



The n. m. r. spectrum of VI has not been carefully analyzed heretofore. Manatt (15) only reported that the proton spectrum showed broad triplet methylene peaks. The fluorine n. m. r. spectrum was not taken.

In the present research, both proton and fluorine n. m. r. spectra of VI have been taken of pure samples under high resolution. The proton spectrum shows 1:1:1:1 quartet methylene resonances with the two

different coupling constants of 10.1 cps and 12.4 cps (Fig. 4A). The fluorine spectrum shows two pairs of quintets corresponding to two non-equivalent fluorines (F_1 and F_2) with a chemical shift difference of 225 cps. Each resonance is split by the F_1 - F_2 coupling ($J = 192$ cps) and coupling with the four nearly equivalent methylene protons of the 2- and 4- positions ($J_{\text{HF}_1} = 10.2$ cps and $J_{\text{HF}_2} = 12.2$ cps) (Fig. 4B).

The n.m.r. spectrum of VI was expected to be that of an ABX_2Y_2 system, such that A,B represent the two nonequivalent fluorines F_1 and F_2 , and X_2Y_2 represent two pairs of nonequivalent protons. However, the actual spectrum suggests that the chemical shift difference between X and Y is so small that the spectrum is very nearly that of an ABX_4 system.

A series of theoretical calculations has been made on the basis of an ABX_2Y_2 system varying the coupling constants and chemical shifts. Comparison of calculated and experimental spectra suggests that the degree of nonequivalence of X,Y is small and, since the H-F coupling constants are close to one another, the methylene resonances appear as quartets consisting of many closely spaced bands which cannot be resolved in the actual spectrum. The quintet splitting of the fluorine spectrum can be explained on the same basis. The chemical shift difference between X and Y is considered to be the order of 1-2 cps; e.g. the spectrum is well fitted by taking $J_{\text{AX}} = 9.9$ cps, $J_{\text{AY}} = 10.3$

Fig. 4A

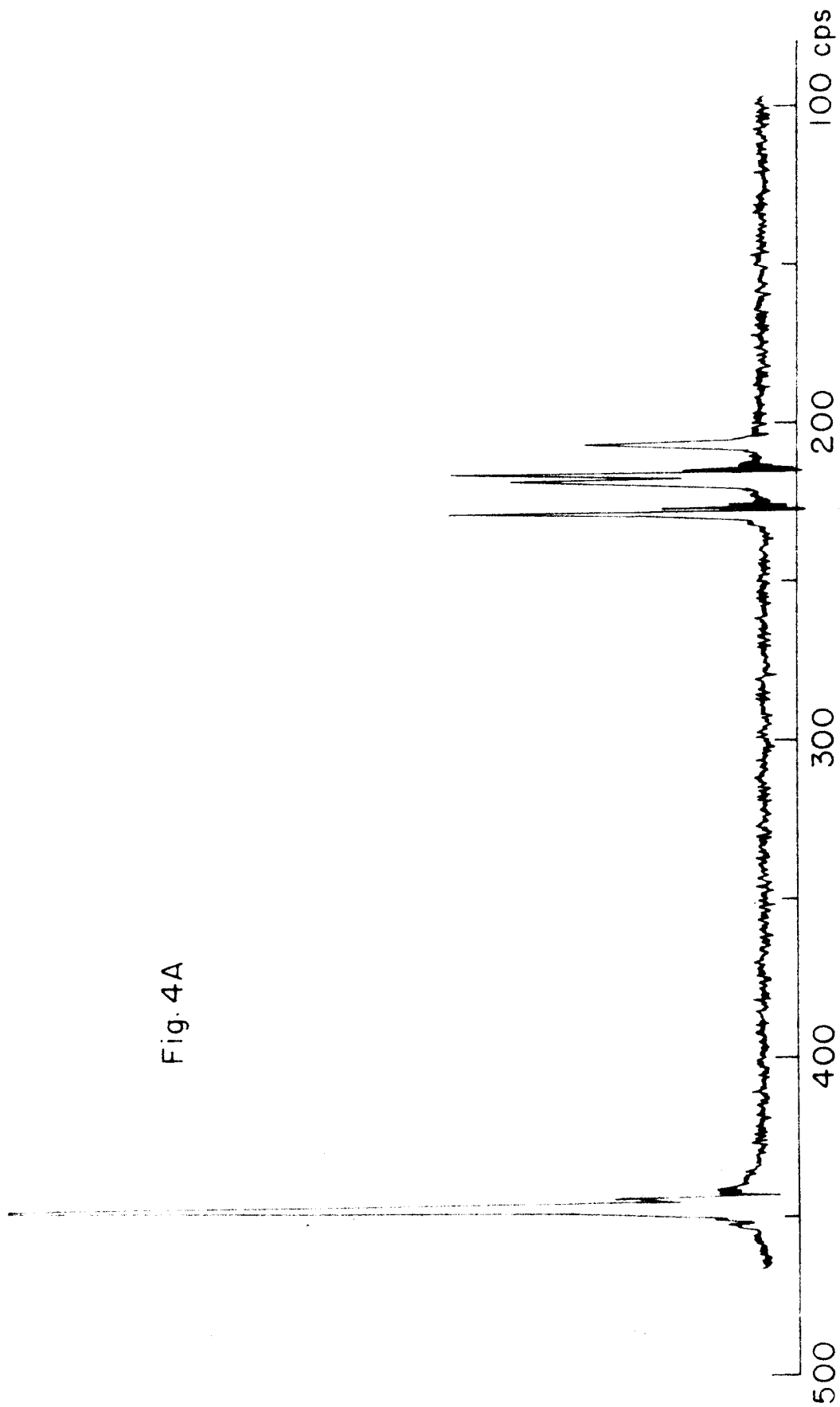


Fig. 4A. The proton n. m. r. spectrum of VI (60 Mc.)
The calibration is cps downfield from tetramethylsilane.

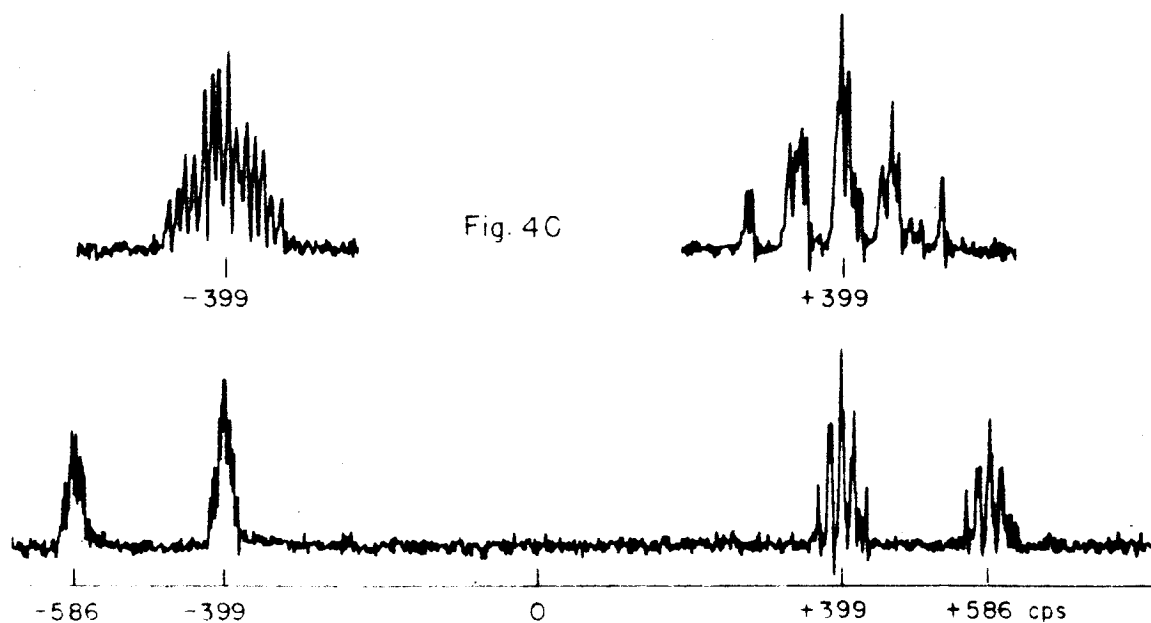
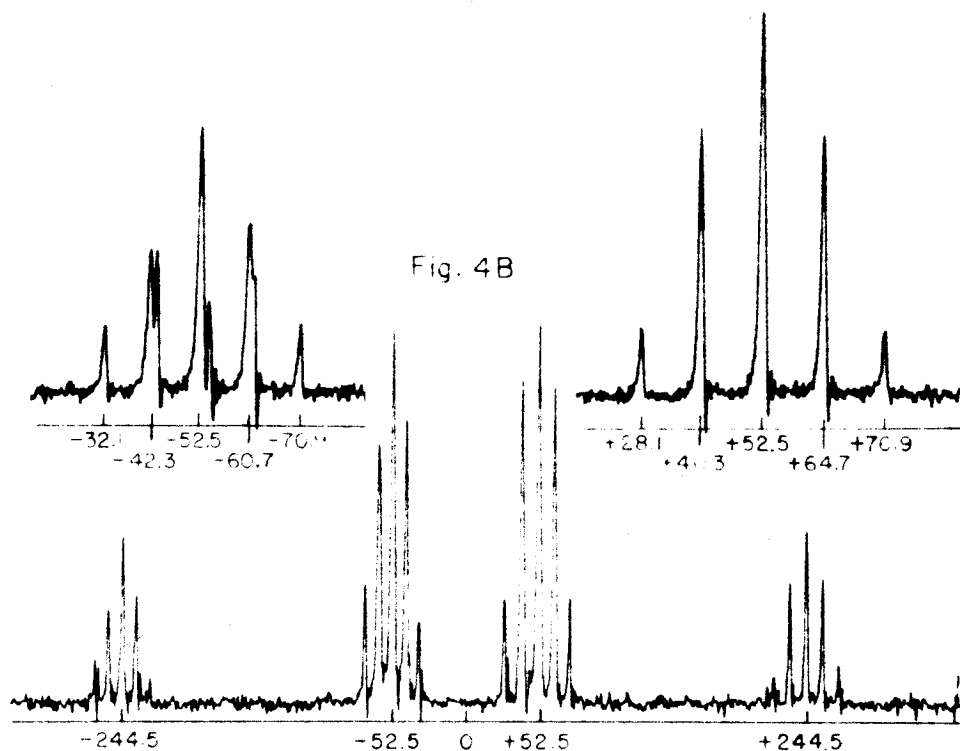


Fig. 4B. The fluorine n. m. r. spectrum of VI (56.4 Mc.)

Fig. 4C. The fluorine n. m. r. spectrum of
1, 1-difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane (56.4 Mc.)

cps, $J_{\text{-BX}} = 12.3$ cps, $J_{\text{-BY}} = 12.5$ cps, $J_{\text{-XY}} = 13.0$ cps, and
 $\Delta\nu_{\text{XY}} = 1.0$ cps.

From these observations, it may be deduced that the cyclobutane ring of VI is likely to be on the average nearly planar. This seems to be reasonable since the chemical shift difference between the fluorines (225 cps) is small compared with the 966 cps difference between the fluorines of 1,1-difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane (Fig. 4C). If we assume that the chemical shift difference between the fluorines is independent of whether a 3-bromine or 3-hydrogen is present in 1,1-difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane except insofar as they might affect the conformational equilibria, then if the compound with the 3-hydrogen exists almost exclusively with the phenyl equatorial, the 3-bromo compound has the phenyl equatorial an average of 60% of the time.

Temperature Dependence of the Fluorine Chemical Shift in

1,1-Difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane Derivatives

The variation of the n. m. r. spectra with temperature can often distinguish between the slow and rapid ring-inversion of cyclic conformers. Thus if the apparent chemical shifts are temperature dependent, rapid ring-inversion is indicated. (17)

The temperature dependence of the fluorine chemical shift in 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (II) and 1,1-difluoro-3-bromo-3-phenylcyclobutane (VI) has been investigated. In the both compounds, the chemical shift difference between the fluorines decreases considerably with increasing temperature. However, the fluorine-fluorine coupling constants are almost unchanged with temperature. Table 1 shows the chemical shift differences between the fluorines of several gem-difluoro compounds at various temperatures.

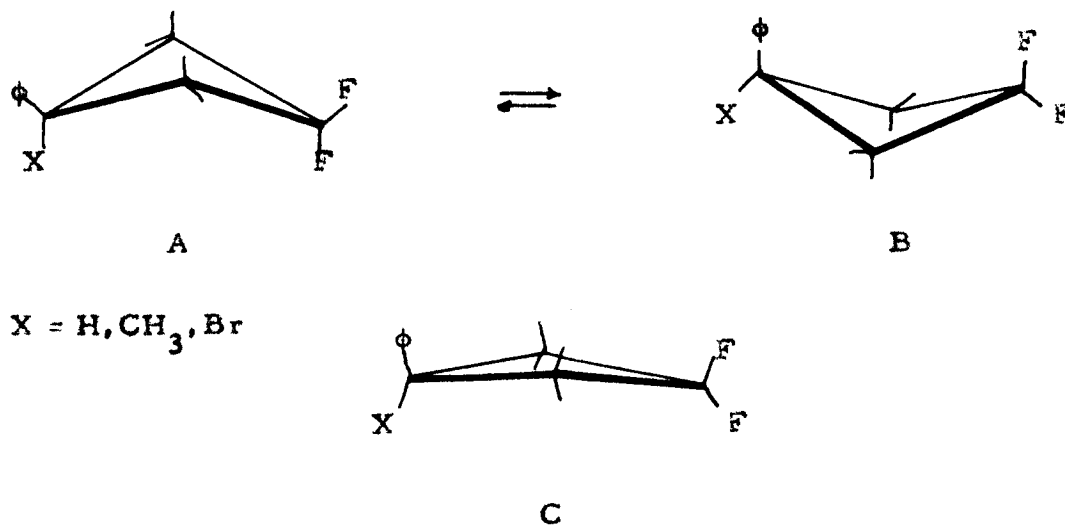
Unsymmetrically substituted cyclobutane systems, for example, 1,1-difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane derivatives, are likely to be nonplanar; there exists a ring-inversion between the two conformers, A and B. However, if the ring-inversion frequency is sufficiently high to average the environment of the fluorine atoms, one can only observe an average structure C in the fluorine n. m. r. spectrum.

Table 1

| <u>Compound</u> | <u>Temperature, °C</u> | <u>Fluorine Chemical Shift Difference (cps)*</u> |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| 1,1-Difluorocyclohexane | -80 | 874 |
| 1,1-Difluoro-3-phenyl- cyclobutane (VII) | 25 | 966 |
| 1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro- 3-methyl-3-phenyl- cyclobutane (II) | 31 | 435 |
| | 194 | 383 |
| 1,1-Difluoro-3-bromo-3- phenylcyclobutane (VI) | 31 | 225 |
| | 99 | 168 |
| 1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3- phenylcyclobutane (I) | 25 | 550** |

* at 56.4 Mc

** calculated from the fluorine spectrum of I taken at 40 Mc



Then the chemical shift will be averaged over the two conformers,

$$\delta = c_1 \delta_1 + c_2 \delta_2$$

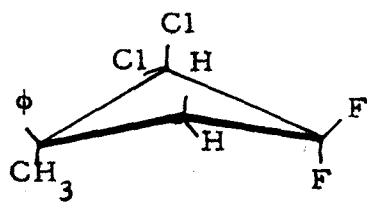
where c_1 , c_2 are the fractional populations. If the two conformers have different energies, E_1 and E_2 ,

$$\frac{c_1}{c_2} = \frac{ae^{-E_1/kT}}{be^{-E_2/kT}}$$

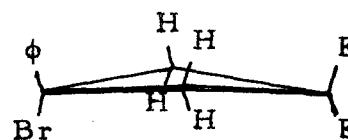
where a, b are temperature independent coefficients. If it is assumed that $E_1 \ll E_2$ so that $c_1 \approx 1.0$ and $c_2 \approx 0$ in 1,1-difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane, one can calculate approximate fractional populations of II and VI taking $\nu_1 = 966$ cps, $\nu_2 = -966$ cps for VI and $\nu_1 = 550$ cps, $\nu_2 = -550$ cps for II.

On this basis, there exist 90% of conformer A and 10% of conformer B in II, and 60% of conformer A and 40% of conformer B in VI at the room temperature. Thus the degree of nonplanarity of the average structure IIC is likely to be considerable, and, on the other hand, the average structure VIC appears as nearly planar.

This is all wrong.



IIC



VIC

EXPERIMENTAL

1,1-Difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (II).—

A mixture of 59 g. (0.50 mole) of α -methylstyrene and 74 g. (0.55 mole) of 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloroethylene (Genetron 1112, General Chemical Division) was heated in a sealed glass tube at 130° for 24 hr. The tube was cooled with Dry Ice, opened, and the light-yellow oil distilled through a 10-cm. Vigreux column. The yield of crude adduct was 66 g. (61%) of b. p. 91-98° (2.5-3.0 mm) was collected. Redistillation through a 20-cm. Vigreux column gave 56 g. (52%) of product of b. p. 84-86° (1.5 mm).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{11}H_{10}F_2Cl_2$: C, 52.50; H, 3.98; Cl, 28.30.

Found: C, 52.58; H, 4.01; Cl, 28.20.

trans- β -Deutero- α -methylstyrene (10).— In a 200-ml. round-bottomed three-necked flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, helium inlet and dropping funnel, was placed 75 ml. of anhydrous ether. A flow of helium was passed through the flask and 1.7 g. (0.25 mole) of lithium wire was added, followed by 21 g. (0.12 mole) of trans- β -bromo- α -methylstyrene (prepared from α -methylstyrene dibromide) (10). After a few minutes, the solution became cloudy red brown. The flask was then cooled and maintained between -30° - -40° for 40 min. A solution of 7.3 g. (0.12 mole) of deuteroacetic acid in 25 ml. anhydrous ether was

then added until the color disappeared. About 50% of the calculated amount of acid was required. The reaction mixture was poured into a beaker and combined with 100 ml. of pentane. The excess lithium was decomposed by water. The solution was separated from the solution of lithium salts and dried overnight over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After the removal of solvent by evaporation, the residue was diluted with 2 g. of pentane and chromatographed on 150 g. of acid-washed alumina using pentane as eluent. The first 50 ml. of eluent was collected. After removal of the pentane, the product was distilled through a 10-cm. Vigreux column. There was collected 5.0 g. (42%) of colorless oil, b. p. 82-85°, 61-62 mm.), which consisted of 18% of α -methylstyrene, 55% of trans- β -deutero- α -methylstyrene, and 27% of cis- β -deutero- α -methylstyrene, as judged by electronic integration of the appropriate peaks in its n. m. r. spectrum.

cis- β -Deutero- α -methylstyrene was prepared from cis- β -bromo- α -methylstyrene (obtained by photo-isomerization of trans- β -bromo- α -methylstyrene) (10). The procedure was the same as for the trans-isomer. Analysis by n. m. r. of the product gave 36% of α -methylstyrene, 21% of trans- β -deutero- α -methylstyrene, and 43% of cis- β -deutero- α -methylstyrene.

trans-4-Deutero-1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (trans-III).— A mixture (5.0 g., 0.04 mole) consisting of 18% α -methylstyrene, 55% of trans- β -deutero- α -methylstyrene and

27% of cis- β -deutero- α -methylstyrene was heated with 6.2 g. (0.05 mole) of 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloroethylene at 130° for 20 hr. Distillation gave 4.8 g. (45%) of adduct of b.p. 83-86° (1.5 mm). Integration of the n.m.r. peaks indicated that 45% of **II**, 36% of trans-III, and 18% of cis-III were formed.

cis-4-Deutero-1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutane (cis-III).— A mixture of 0.4 g. (0.03 mole) of 36% of α -methylstyrene, 21% of trans- β -deutero- α -methylstyrene and 43% of the cis isomer was heated with 1,1-difluoro-2,2-dichloroethylene and gave 0.5 g. (59%) of adduct with b.p. 83-85° (1.5 mm) which by electronic integration of its n.m.r. spectrum was indicated to be 56% **II**, 12% trans-III, and 32% cis-III.

1-Fluoro-3-methyl-3-phenylcyclobutene-1 (V).— In a clean, dry 500-ml. three-necked flask fitted with a condenser, stirrer and helium inlet were placed 150 ml. of dry tetrahydrofuran, 25.0 g. (0.10 mole) of **II**, and 14.8 g. (0.20 mole) of anhydrous t-butyl alcohol. A flow of helium was started and 2.8 g. (0.40 g. atom) of lithium wire was added to the flask. No reaction occurred at the room temperature for 5 min. so the flask was warmed to 45° and then to 60°. The mixture began to reflux and became slightly cloudy. After 2 hr., the product was treated with a mixture of ice and water in order to decompose excess lithium. The solution was acidified with conc. hydrochloric acid and extracted four times with pentane. The pentane layer was washed with water and

dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate overnight. After the removal of pentane and tetrahydrofuran, the residue was fractionated under reduced pressure and gave:

| <u>Frac.</u> | <u>b. p., °C (1 mm.)</u> | <u>Wt., g.</u> |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 36-40 | 0.5 |
| 2 | 40-40.5 | 1.9 |
| 3 | 42-65 | 1.5 |
| 4 | 65-83 | 7.1 |

Fractions 3 and 4 were identified as unreacted II. Fraction 2 amounted to a 12% yield of dehalogenation product, which gave a positive permanganate test and also showed C=C in its infrared spectrum. The proton n. m. r. spectrum (Fig. 3A) showed four signals assigned as phenyl, vinyl, $-\underline{\text{C}}\underline{\text{H}}_2-$, and $\underline{\text{C}}\underline{\text{H}}_3-$ protons. Integration of the peaks gave ratios of 5.4:1.0:1.92:2.92, respectively. The fluorine n. m. r. spectrum showed only one fluorine resonance split into broad quartet of 1:3:3:1.

1,1-Difluoro-3-bromo-3-phenylcyclobutane (VI).— 1,1-Difluoro-3-phenylcyclobutane (VII) was prepared from I by elimination of hydrogen chloride followed by catalytic hydrogenation essentially as described by Manatt.(15). VI was prepared from VII as follows.

In a dry 100-ml. round-bottomed flask fitted with a reflux condenser were placed 10 g. (0.06 mole) of VII, 10.6 g. (0.06 mole) of N-bromosuccinimide, 50 ml. of reagent grade carbon tetrachloride, and 0.5 g. of benzoyl peroxide. When the mixture was heated a vigorous

exothermic reaction started, following which the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1.5 hr. The succinimide was removed by filtration, and the carbon tetrachloride distilled under reduced pressure. The residue was distilled through a 10-cm. Vigreux column using a magnetic stirrer to prevent pumping. The yield of VI was 10.5 g. (71%); b. p. 87-88° (1.5 mm).

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