

HETEROCYCLES, Vol. 86, No. 2, 2012, pp. 1253 - 1260. © 2012 The Japan Institute of Heterocyclic Chemistry
Received, 30th June, 2012, Accepted, 10th August, 2012, Published online, 24th August, 2012
DOI: 10.3987/COM-12-S(N)80

AZULENOPENTATHIEPIN: PREPARATION AND CONVERSION INTO AZULENES WITH SULFUR GROUPS AT THE 1- AND 2-POSITIONS

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Abstract – Azulenopentathiepin was prepared by the reaction of azulene with elemental sulfur in boiling pyridine. Bis(thiolate) generated from the pentathiepin reacted with electrophiles such as iodomethane, methyl chloroformate, *N,N'*-carbonyldiimidazole and *N,N'*-thiocarbonyldiimidazole to afford the corresponding azulene derivatives. Desulfuration of the pentathiepin and the successive reaction with DMAD or a Pd(0) reagent afforded a 1,4-dithiin compound or Pd complexes.

INTRODUCTION

Azulenenes are one of the most interesting classes in non-benzenoid aromatics and their chemical, physical and biological properties are of interest. Particularly, their electrochemical properties much attracted our attention and we had already reported azulene-based electron acceptors such as azulenequinones^{1a} and tetracyanoazulenequinodimethanes.^{1b,c} Our next interest is focused on azulene-based electron donors. For their construction, sulfur groups (*S*-groups) should be introduced into an azulene skeleton. However, synthetic methods for *S*-substituted azulene derivatives have not been much investigated,² and no method for direct introduction of *S*-groups at the 2-position is known so far as we are aware. [1,2,3,4,5]Pentathiepins³ are stable seven-membered ring compounds with five sulfur atoms and a carbon-carbon double bond. Various pentathiepins fused to aromatics such as benzene,^{4a} naphthalene,^{4b} phenanthrene,^{4b} thiophene,^{4c} pyrrole^{4c} and ferrocene^{4d} etc. were prepared, and they could be converted to 1,2-bis(*S*-substituted) aromatics.

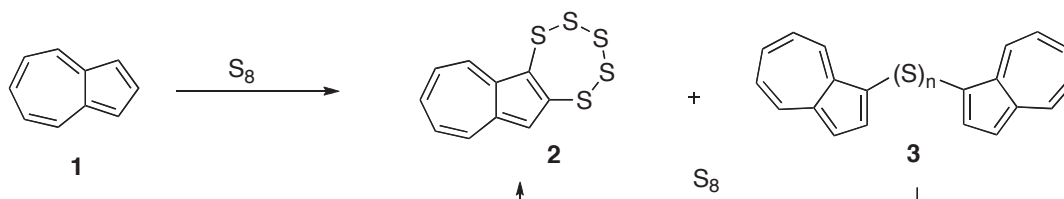
This paper is dedicated to Prof. Ei-ichi Negishi on the occasion of his 77th birthday.

We report herein the preparation of a new class of pentathiepin, azuleno[1,2-*f*][1,2,3,4,5]pentathiepin (**2**) by the sulfuration of azulene (**1**) with elemental sulfur in boiling pyridine, and its conversion into azulene derivatives with *S*-groups at the 1- and 2-positions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A reaction of azulene (**1**) with elemental sulfur in 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene (1,2,4-TCB) under thermal conditions afforded only bis(1-azulyl)sulfides (**3**) with an insoluble black solid and recovery of **1** (Table 1, Entry 1). **3** were a mixture of biazulenes connecting with one, two, three and more sulfur atoms ($n = 1,^{2d,e} 2,^{2c} 3$ and more) at a 1-position of both azulene moieties. The black solid might be a complex mixture of azulene oligomers and polymers networking with sulfur atoms at the 1-, 2- and/or 3-positions. In contrast, the reaction in boiling pyridine yielded a novel azulene-based cyclic pentasulfide, azulenopentathiepin (**2**) together with **3** and a black solid. The yield of **2** was improved owing to prevent intermolecular reactions in the diluted concentration (Entry 2: 6.0×10^{-2} M; Entry 3: 1.0×10^{-2} M). It is well known the low reactivity at a 2-position of azulenes⁵ in electrophilic substitutions. Nevertheless, the surprising sulfuration at the position would proceed on account of the generation of highly reactive species derived from S_8 -pyridine. Activation of elemental sulfur by using pyridine was reported in preparation of a trisulfane from a cycloheptatriene.⁶ **2** was also obtained by the reaction of **3** ($n_{ave.} = 4$, determined by elemental analysis, from the reaction in Entry 3) with elemental sulfur in pyridine (Entry 4). Although the yield of **2** was still not enough, the supply by successive reactions under the conditions in Entries 3 and 4 was somewhat effective, so far (total yield from **1**: 28 %).

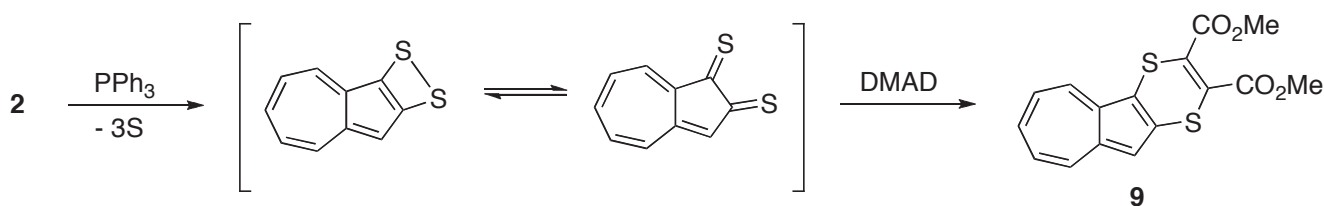
Table 1. Reaction of azulene (**1**) or bis(1-azulyl)sulfides (**3**) with elemental sulfur



Entry	Substrate	S_8 / atoms	Solvent	Concentration / mol·L ⁻¹	Temperature	Time	Yield		
							2	3	1
1	1	8	1,2,4-TCB	4.0×10^{-2}	130 °C	33 h	-	50 wt.% ^a	42 %
2	1	14	pyridine	6.0×10^{-2}	reflux	19 h	3 %	73 wt.% ^a	29 %
3	1	14	pyridine	1.0×10^{-2}	reflux	79 h	23 %	49 wt.% ^a	-
4	3 ($n_{ave.} = 4$)	15	pyridine	2.0×10^{-2}	reflux	63 h	23 wt.% ^a	75 wt.% ^a	-

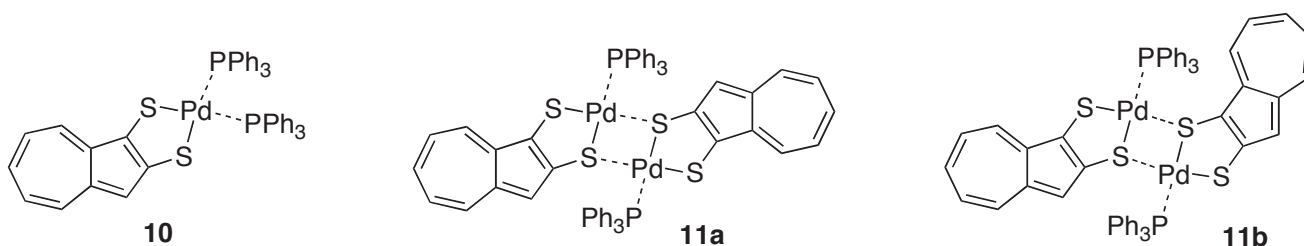
^a Percent by weight

PPh_3 in THF would generate azuleno-1,2-dithiet and -1,2-dithione as an equilibrium mixture (Scheme 1). The latter carried out a [4 + 2] cycloaddition with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) to produce azuleno-1,4-dithin (**9**, 56 %), which was a yellowish green powder (mp 90-91 °C). Its structure was confirmed by the measurement of instrumental analysis data (^1H and ^{13}C NMR, UV-VIS, IR and MS spectra and elemental analysis). In the case without DMAD, the reaction mixture was too complicated to define the structures.



Scheme 1.

Azulenopentathiepin (**2**) should be a precursor for an azuleno-1,2-dithiolate ligand having coordination abilities toward soft metal ions such as Pd, Pt, Hg and so on. Treatment of **2** with $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ in CH_2Cl_2 produced mono Pd complex (**10**, a dark green solid, 6 %) and dinuclear complexes (**11a** and **11b**, dark brown needles, 27 %) as an inseparable mixture of regioisomers (**11a** : **11b** = 1 : 1). **10** was rather unstable and gradually converted into **11a** and **11b** in CH_2Cl_2 at rt. FAB-MS spectra of **10** and **11** gave each molecular ion peaks (**10**: m/z 821 (MH^+), 820 (M^+), $\text{M} = \text{C}_{46}\text{H}_{36}\text{P}_2^{106}\text{PdS}_2$; **11**: m/z 1117 (MH^+), 1116 (M^+), $\text{M} = \text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{42}\text{P}_2^{106}\text{Pd}_2\text{S}_2$) together with their isotopic peaks for ^{104}Pd , ^{105}Pd , ^{108}Pd and ^{110}Pd . In ^{31}P NMR spectra, **10** and the unsymmetrical isomer (**11b**) showed two peaks with a P-P coupling constant arising from different kinds of phosphines, respectively [**10**: δ 25.3 (d, $J = 31.4$ Hz), 27.6 (d, $J = 31.4$ Hz); **11b**: δ 33.2 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 33.9 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz)]. In contrast **11a** with a center of symmetry gave only one peak at δ 32.8 (s). This reaction involves the following steps: the extrusion of three sulfur atoms from **2** in the presence of PPh_3 arising from $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (generation of azuleno-1,2-dithiet, see in Scheme 1), the oxidative addition of Pd(0) into a S-S bond of the dithiet (formation of **10**) and the successive dimerization of **10** with elimination of PPh_3 (formation of **11a** and **11b**). It was reported that an oxidative addition of Pd(0) to a thiophene-fused 1,2-dithiin, which was dimerized to give a dinuclear Pd complex.⁸



In conclusion, we have succeeded in the preparation of a new azulene-fused pentathiepin, azulenopentathiepin, and found that it could be a useful precursor for the conversion into azulenes with *S*-groups at the 1- and 2-positions. Further work, aimed at the construction of novel azulene-based electron donors from *S*-substituted azulenes, is in progress.

EXPERIMENTAL

Mps were determined with a Mitamura air-bath apparatus and are uncorrected. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra (SiMe_4 as the internal standard) were obtained with Bruker AV500, AM400, AV300, AC300 and/or AC200 spectrometers. IR spectra were obtained with a Perkin Elmer System 2000 FT instrument and electronic spectra (UV-VIS) with a JASCO V-560 spectrophotometer. MS spectra were obtained with a JEOL JMS700AM spectrometer and CV with an ALS-600 electrochemical measuring apparatus. Unless otherwise stated the spectra were taken in the following solvents/media: IR, KBr; UV-VIS, CH_2Cl_2 ; $^1\text{HNMR}$ (500, 400, 300 and 200 MHz), CDCl_3 ; MS spectra were taken at 70 eV by electron impact (EI) and/or fast atom bombardment (FAB) method; CV, V vs. Ag/Ag^+ , GC, Pt wire, 0.1 M TEAP in acetonitrile. The progress of reactions was followed by TLC method using Merck Silica gel 60F₂₅₄.

General procedure for the reaction of azulene (1) or bis(1-azulyl)sulfides (3) with elemental sulfur.

A solution of **1** or **3** with elemental sulfur in the solvent was stirred for the time at the temperature under Ar. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 . The soluble component was purified by SiO_2 column chromatography to give azulenopentathiepin (**2**) and/or bis(1-azulyl)sulfides (**3**, an inseparable mixture of sulfides). Atoms of elemental sulfur, solvents, concentrations, times, temperatures and yields were indicated in Table 1.

Azulenopentathiepin (2): a bluish green powder; mp 142-143 °C (dec.); ^1H NMR δ 7.42 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.77 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 123.5, 127.1, 127.2, 127.4, 139.3 (2C), 140.3, 141.3, 142.4, 151.3; UV-VIS ($\log \epsilon$) λ_{max} 605 (2.72), 293 (4.49), 232 (4.25), 223 (4.25); CV (V vs. Ag/Ag^+) ($E^{\text{red}}_{\text{pa}}$) -2.72, -2.40, -2.03, ($E^{\text{ox}}_{\text{pc}}$) +0.97, +1.29, +1.85, +2.05; MS (FAB, NBA) m/z 287 (MH^+), 286 (M^+); MS (EI) m/z 286 (M^+), 222 ($\text{M}^+ - 2\text{S}$). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{S}_5$: C, 41.92; H, 2.11. Found: C, 41.73; H, 2.01.

Bis(1-azulyl)sulfides [3 ($n_{\text{ave.}} = 4$), from Entry 3 in Table 1]: a green solid; Selected ^1H NMR of **3** ($n = 1^{\text{d}}$) δ 7.15 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.78 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H); Selected ^1H NMR of **3** ($n = 2$) δ 6.80 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz, 2H), 8.26 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H); Selected MS (FAB, NBA) m/z 383 [MH^+ ($n = 4$)], 382 [M^+ ($n = 4$)], 351 [MH^+ ($n = 3$)], 350 [M^+

($n = 3$), 319 [MH^+ ($n = 2$)], 318 [M^+ ($n = 2$)], 287 [MH^+ ($n = 1$)], 286 [M^+ ($n = 1$)]. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{S}_4$ ($n = 4$): C, 62.79; H, 3.69. Found: C, 62.71; H, 4.02.

The preparation of 1,2-bis(methylthio)azulene (5): To a solution of **2** (16 mg, 5.6×10^{-2} mmol) in dry chlorobenzene (4.5 mL) and *abs.* EtOH (4.5 mL), 10 mol *eq.* of NaBH_4 was added at rt under N_2 . The solution was stirred for 15 min at rt and then 200 mol *eq.* of iodomethane was added and stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with 2 N HCl and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether. The organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by SiO_2 column chromatography to give **5** (7.8 mg, 63 %); a reddish violet viscous oil; ^1H NMR δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.24 (dd, $J = 9.6, 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, $J = 9.8, 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, $J = 9.8, 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H); UV-VIS ($\log \epsilon$) λ_{max} 535 (2.18), 405 (3.74), 388 (3.64), 317 (4.43), 253 (4.06); MS (FAB, NBA) m/z 221 (MH^+), 220 (M^+); MS (EI) m/z 220 (M^+); HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{S}_2$: 220.0380. Found: 220.0383.

The preparation of bis(thiocarbonate) (6), 2-oxo-1,3-dithiole (7) or 2-thioxo-1,3-dithiole (8). To a solution of **2** in dry THF (concentration: 1.8×10^{-2} mM), 10 mol *eq.* of LiAlH_4 was added at 0 °C under Ar. The solution was stirred for 30 min at rt and then 20 mol *eq.* of methyl chloroformate, *N,N'*-carbonyldiimidazole or *N,N'*-thiocarbonyldiimidazole was added and stirred for 10 min at rt. The reaction mixture was quenched with 2 N HCl and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether. The organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by SiO_2 column chromatography to give **6** (80 %), **7** (99 %) or **8** (81 %), respectively.

Bis(thiocarbonate) (6) : a purple viscous oil; ^1H NMR δ 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 7.38 (t like, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t like, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t like, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d like, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d like, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H); UV-VIS ($\log \epsilon$) λ_{max} 555 (2.18), 375 (3.58), 345 (3.70), 310 (4.45), 299 (4.45); IR ν 1727; MS (FAB, NBA) m/z 309 (MH^+), 308 (M^+); MS (EI) m/z 308 (M^+); HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$: 308.0177. Found: 308.0181.

2-Oxo-1,3-dithiole (7): a blue solid; mp 136-137 °C (dec.); ^1H NMR δ 7.26 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.65 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H); UV-VIS ($\log \epsilon$) λ_{max} 585 (2.11), 386 (3.08), 372 (3.40), 355 (3.36), 312 (4.29), 303 (4.23), 251 (3.71); IR ν 1708; MS (FAB, NBA) m/z 219 (MH^+), 218 (M^+). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_6\text{OS}_2$: C, 60.52; H, 2.77. Found: C, 60.31; H, 2.89.

2-Thioxo-1,3-dithiole (8): green needles; mp 187-187.5 °C (dec.); ^1H NMR δ 7.30 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.71 (t like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d like, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H); UV-VIS ($\log \epsilon$) λ_{max} 602 (2.60), 436 (3.68), 415 (4.36), 399 (4.30), 355 (4.07), 344 (4.08), 325 (4.30), 278 (4.28), 253 (4.01); IR ν 1074; MS (FAB, NBA) m/z 235 (MH^+), 234 (M^+). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_6\text{S}_3$: C, 56.37; H, 2.58. Found: C, 56.39; H, 2.57.

The preparation of azuleno-1,4-dithiin (9): Into a mixture of **2** (20 mg, 7.0×10^{-2} mmol) and 130 mol *eq.* of DMAD in dry THF (7.0 mL), 5.0 mol *eq.* of PPh₃ was added by portions over a 2 h period at rt under N₂. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by SiO₂ column chromatography to give **9** (13 mg, 56 %); a yellowish green powder; mp 90-91 °C; ¹H NMR δ 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.05 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 53.3, 53.4, 109.3, 113.8, 125.0, 126.0, 127.2, 131.9, 132.1, 133.0, 134.7, 137.6, 137.7, 143.5, 163.1, 163.9; UV-VIS (log ε) λ_{max} 620 (2.74), 340 (4.62), 270 (4.59); IR ν 1735, 1716; MS (FAB, NBA) *m/z* 333 (MH⁺), 332 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂O₄S₂: C, 57.81; H, 3.64. Found: C, 57.64; H, 3.56.

The reaction of azulenopentathiepin (2) with Pd(PPh₃)₄: To a solution of **2** (15 mg, 5.2×10^{-2} mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (3.0 mL), 1.0 mol *eq.* of Pd(PPh₃)₄ was added at 0 °C under Ar and stirred for 15 min at the same temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by short SiO₂ column chromatography to give **10** (2.4 mg, 6 %) and an inseparable mixture of regioisomers, **11a** and **11b** (16 mg, **11a** : **11b** = 1 : 1, 27 %). **10** was rather unstable and gradually converted to **11a** and **11b** in CH₂Cl₂ (concentration: 10⁻²-10⁻³ mM) at rt.

Mononuclear Pd complex (10): a dark green solid; ¹H NMR δ 6.69 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 7.07 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.38 (m, 18H), 7.42-7.60 (m, 13H), 7.62 (d like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H); ³¹P NMR δ 25.3 (d, *J* = 31.4 Hz, 1P), 27.6 (d, *J* = 31.4 Hz, 1P); UV-VIS (log ε) λ_{max} 641 (1.95), 446 (3.28), 428 (3.43), 369 (4.20), 352 (4.20), 294 (3.89); MS (FAB, NBA) *m/z* 825 (MH⁺+4), 824 (M⁺+4), 823 (MH⁺+2), 822 (M⁺+2), 821 (MH⁺), 820 (MH⁺-1, M⁺), 819 (MH⁺-2, M⁺-1), 818 (M⁺-2), M = C₄₆H₃₆P₂¹⁰⁶PdS₂.

Dinuclear Pd complexes (11a and 11b, a mixture of regioisomers): dark brown needles; Selected ¹H NMR of **11a** δ 6.10 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 2H), 6.39 (s, 2H), 6.72 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.38 (m, 20H), 7.49-7.66 (m, 14H); Selected ¹H NMR of **11b** δ 6.10 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 6.49 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.93 (m, 3H), 7.10 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.38 (m, 18H), 7.46 (d like, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.66 (m, 13H); Selected ³¹P NMR of **11a** δ 32.8 (s, 2P); Selected ³¹P NMR of **11b** δ 33.2 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1P), 33.9 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1P); UV-VIS (log ε) λ_{max} 606 (2.90), 441 (3.76), 363 (3.80), 337 (3.89), 228 (4.05); MS (FAB, NBA) *m/z* 1125 (MH⁺+8), 1124 (M⁺+8), 1123 (MH⁺+6), 1122 (M⁺+6), 1121 (MH⁺+4), 1120 (M⁺+4), 1119 (MH⁺+2), 1118 (MH⁺+1, M⁺+2), 1117 (MH⁺, M⁺+1), 1116 (MH⁺-1, M⁺), 1115 (MH⁺-2, M⁺-1), 1114 (MH⁺-3, M⁺-2), 1113 (MH⁺-4, M⁺-3), 1112 (M⁺-4), M = C₅₆H₄₂P₂¹⁰⁶Pd₂S₄. Anal. Calcd for C₅₆H₄₂P₂Pd₂S₄: C, 60.16; H, 3.79. Found: C, 60.57; H, 4.15.

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