

METALLAIMINES $>M=N$ -, METALLAPHOSPHENES $>M=P$ - AND METALLAARSENES $>M=As$ -

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Abstract

All the stable metallaimines $>M=N$ -, metallaphosphenes $>M=P$ - and metallaarsenes $>M=As$ - (M: Si, Ge, Sn) prepared until now are reported with their synthetic routes and their characteristic physicochemical data (^{29}Si , ^{31}P , ^{119}Sn NMR, double bond lengths). The routes to transient species are also summarized.

Introduction

Many researches have been devoted to low coordinated species of groups 14 and 15 in the last 30 years. However, in the field of compounds with a double bond between two heavy elements of these groups, thus derivatives of the type $>M_{14}=M_{15}$ - (M_{14} : Si, Ge, Sn; M_{15} : N, P, As), it is only in 1984 that the first stable example of such new organometallic functions, the phosphasilene $Mes_2Si=PAr$ [1] (Ar: 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenyl), has been reported by Bickelhaupt. Since this date, many other $>M_{14}=M_{15}$ - derivatives have been successfully synthesized, and some of them stabilized owing to the use of bulky groups which prevent their oligomerisation (for reviews on $Si=X$ see ref 2-4, on $Ge=X$ see ref 4-6).

The main purpose of this review is to report in schemes, with only very brief comments, all the possible routes to such transient or stable compounds, and to present in the form of tables all the stable derivatives prepared until now with their characteristic physicochemical data (^{29}Si , ^{31}P , ^{119}Sn NMR, double bond lengths).

The reactivity of these species is not reviewed in this paper.

I TRANSIENT METALLAIMINES

a) Silaimines

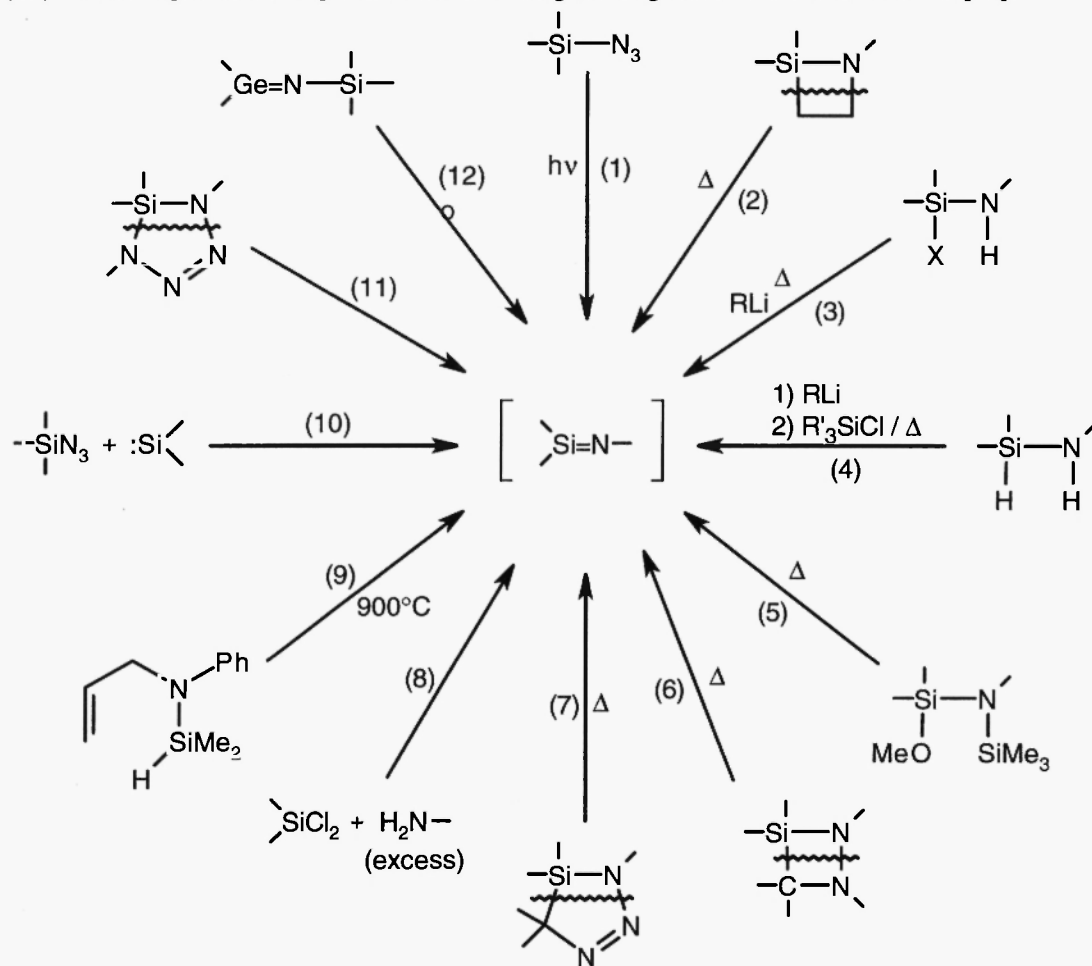
Many reactions have been described for the synthesis of transient silaimines. These species have only been characterized by trapping. The next scheme summarizes all the routes to these derivatives. Many of these reactions have already been reported in the very well documented review by G. Raabe and J. Michl [2]. Thus, in this paper, we give only the references corresponding to the papers published after this review.

- (1) Curtius rearrangement with loss of nitrogen [2, 7-12].
- (2) thermal decomposition of a silaazetidine [13-14].
- (3) reaction of an alkyllithium with a halogenosilylamine, and elimination of LiX [2, 15].
- (4) reaction of an alkyllithium with a silylamine, followed by addition of chlorosilane in non polar solvents producing cyclodisilazanes via a silaimine intermediate [16, 17].
- (5) thermal elimination of trimethyl(methoxy)silane [2].
- (6) thermal elimination of imine from a siladiazetidine [2].
- (7) reaction of an azide with a transient silene leading to a silatriazole followed by a [2+3] decomposition [18, 19].
- (8) intermolecular dehydrochlorination between a dichlorosilane and a primary amine by an excess of amine [20].
- (9) elimination of propene from a hydrosilyl(allyl)amine by a retro-ene reaction [21].
- (10) reaction of a silylazide with a transient silylene, with intermediate formation of a silatriazetidine

and elimination of nitrogen [22].

(11) [2+3] decomposition of a silatetrazole [23].

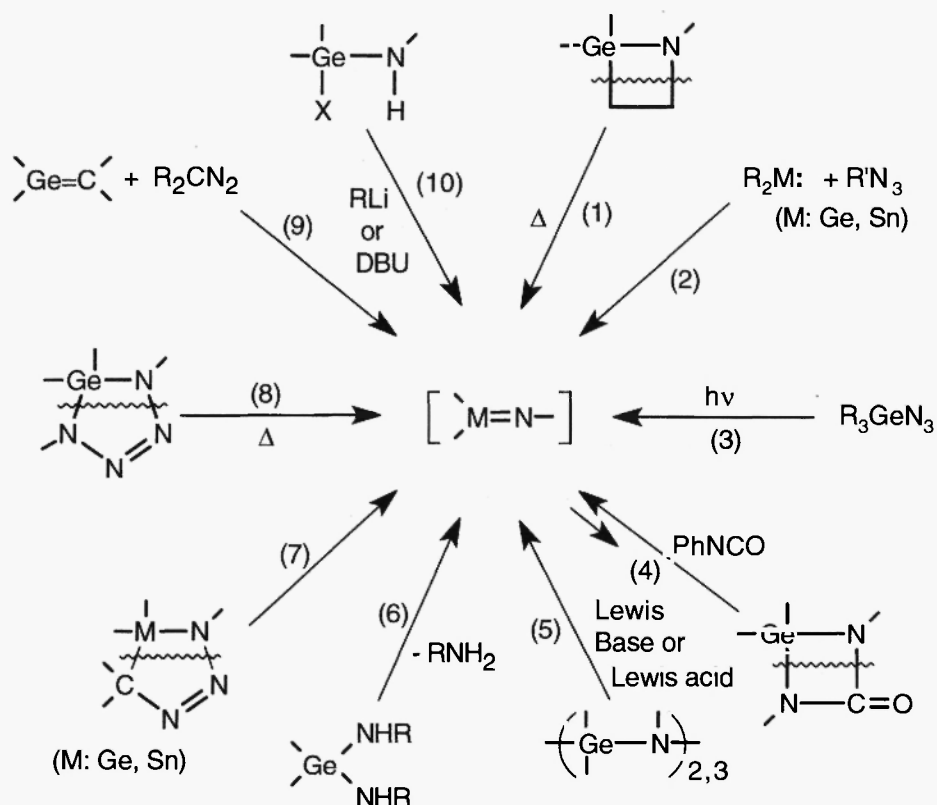
(12) rearrangement of a germaine involving the migration of the double bond [19].



b) Germa- and stannaimines

Some routes used for the synthesis of transient silaimines are also successful for transient germaines and two of them for stannaimines; moreover, specific routes have also been found.

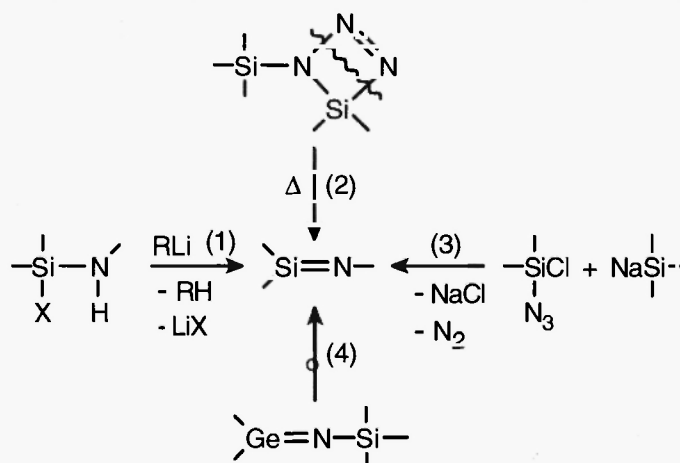
- (1) thermal decomposition of a germaazetidine: first route to a transient germaine [24].
- (2) reaction of a germylene or a stannylene with an azide, followed by loss of nitrogen [25].
- (3) Curtius rearrangement in a germylazide under photolysis followed by loss of nitrogen [26].
- (4) reaction of a cyclodigermazane with two moles of phenylisocyanate finally leading to a germadiazetidine in equilibrium with a germaine and phenylisocyanate [27].
- (5) monomerisation of a dimer or a trimer of a germaine (digermazane or trigermazane) by a Lewis base or a Lewis acid [27-30].
- (6) elimination of RNH_2 from a diaminogermene obtained by intermolecular dehydrochlorination between a dichlorogermene and a primary amine [27].
- (7) [2+3] decomposition of a germa- or stannatriazole obtained by reaction of an azide with a transient germene or stannene [19, 31].
- (8) [2+3] decomposition of a germatetrazole [32, 33].
- (9) reaction of a germene with diazofluorene or diphenyldiazomethane leading to a transient germaine and fluorenyl- or diphenylcarbene [36].
- (10) dehydrochlorination of a chlorogermine by an alkyl lithium or by DBU [34, 35].



II STABLE METALLAIMINES

a) Silaimines

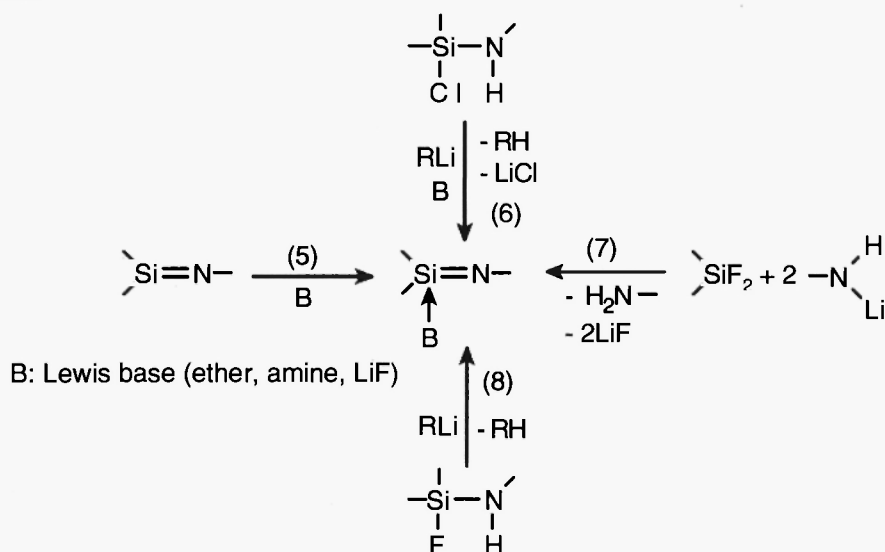
- (1) dehydrochlorination (or fluorination) from a chloro- (or fluoro)silylamine by a lithio compound.
- (2) decomposition (loss of nitrogen) from a silatriazetidine.
- (3) reaction between a silylsodium and a chlorosilylazide with rearrangement involving the migration of a silyl group on a nitrogen.
- (4) multi-step rearrangement of a germaine $\text{Ge}=\text{N}$ - substituted on nitrogen by a silicon group.



Transient or stable silaimines can be stabilized by inter- or intramolecular coordination with Lewis bases:

- (5) direct complexation of a stable silaimine by a Lewis base.
- (6) dehydrochlorination of a chlorosilylamine by an alkyl lithium in the presence of a Lewis base. Without complexation, silaimines substituted on silicon by methyl groups are not stable.

- (7) reaction of 2 equivalents of a lithium amide with a difluorosilane substituted by a CH_2NMe_2 group involving an intramolecular coordination of silicon by nitrogen.
 (8) reaction of methyl lithium with a fluorosilylamine leading to a silaimine complexed by lithium fluoride.



The transient silaimine $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}=\text{NtBu}$ has been stabilized by complexation with a transition metal according to the two following processes:

- (9) elimination of tetramethylsilane from a N-zirconium silylamine.
 (10) exchange of ligand on zirconium from a complexed silaimine.

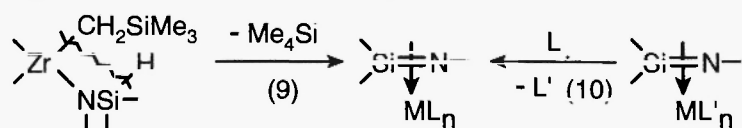
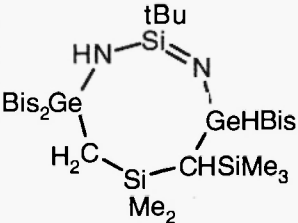


Table 1: stable silaimines

Silaimines	Synthetic routes	$\delta^{29}\text{Si}$ (ppm)	$d(\text{Si}=\text{N})(\text{\AA})$	Ref.
$\text{tBu}_2\text{Si}=\text{NSitBu}_3$	2,3	+78.3	1.568(3)	22,37,38
$\text{iPr}_2\text{Si}=\text{NAr}$	1	+60.3		39,40
	4	+38.4		41

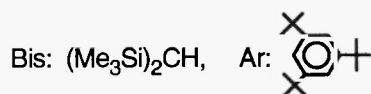
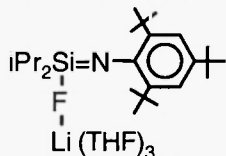
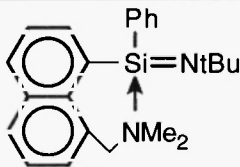


Table 2: complexed silaimines

complexed silaimines	Synthetic routes	$\delta^{29}\text{Si}$ (ppm)	d(Si=N)(Å)	Ref.
$\text{tBu}_2\text{Si}=\text{NSitBu}_2$ ↑ THF	5	+1.0	1.588(9)	38
$\text{tBu}_2\text{Si}=\text{NSitBu}_3$ ↑ NMe ₂ Et	5	+18.1		42
$\text{tBu}_2\text{Si}=\text{NSitBu}_3$ ↑ O=CPh ₂	5	+54.2	1.601(2)	43
$\text{Me}_2\text{Si}=\text{NSitBu}_3$ ↑ B (B: Et ₂ O, THF, NEt ₃ , NMe ₂ Et)	6	B	δ	44
Et ₂ O		-1.5		
THF		-4.4		
NMe ₂ Et		-8.8		
NEt ₃		-11.2		
 Li (THF) ₃	8	-26.9	1.619(5)	40
 NMe ₂	7	-9.6		45
$\text{tBu}_2\text{Si}=\text{NSiMe}_2\text{tBu}_2$ ↑ THF	6	-14.6 ¹⁴ N: -329.08	1.596(2)	46
$\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr} \leftarrow \text{SiMe}_2$ PMe ₃ NtBu	9		1.687(3)	47
$\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr} \leftarrow \text{SiMe}_2$ CO NtBu	10	-69.9		47

b) Germamines

- (1) reaction of a germylene with a diazomalonate ester. This was the first route to a stable germamine.
- (2) reaction of a germylene with an azide, followed by loss of nitrogen with, in some cases, complexation by a Lewis base.
- (3) photolysis of a germylazide involving a Curtius rearrangement.
- (4) intermolecular dehydration between GeH₄ and RNO.
- (5) reaction of an hydrogermaine with HCl or bis(trifluoromethyl)nitroxyl R₂NO involving the replacement of hydrogen by Cl or R₂NO.

(6) dehydrohalogenation of a halogenogermylamine by an alkyllithium.

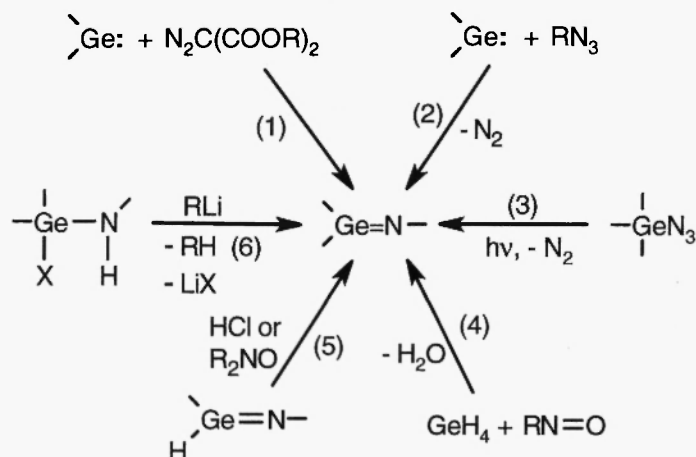


Table 3: stable germainines

Germaines	Synthetic routes	d(Ge=N) (Å)	Ref.
$[(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_2\text{N}]_2\text{Ge}=\text{N}-\text{N}=\text{CRR}'^*$ $\text{R}=\text{R}': \text{COOMe}$ $\text{R}: \text{COOMe}, \text{R}': \text{COOEt}, \text{SO}_2\text{Tol}, \text{COPh}$ $\text{R}, \text{R}': \text{COCH}_2\text{CMe}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}$	1		48 ----- 49
$[\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_2\text{N}]_2\text{Ge}=\text{NSiX}_3$ $\text{X}: \text{C}_2\text{H}_5; \text{OtBu}$	2		50b
$\text{Mes}_2\text{Ge}=\text{NMes}$	3		51,52
$\text{CF}_3\text{N}=\text{GeH}_2$	4		53,54
$\text{CF}_3\text{N}=\text{Ge}(\text{H})\text{ON}(\text{CF}_3)_2$	5		
$\text{CF}_3\text{N}=\text{Ge}[\text{ON}(\text{CF}_3)_2]_2$	5		
$(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{NO}-\text{N}=\text{GeH}_2$	4		
$(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{NO}-\text{N}=\text{Ge}(\text{H})\text{Cl}$	5		
$(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{NO}-\text{N}=\text{Ge}(\text{H})\text{ON}(\text{CF}_3)_2$	5		
$\text{CF}_3\text{N}=\text{Ge}(\text{H})\text{Cl}$	5		
$\text{CF}_3\text{N}=\text{GeCl}_2$	5		
	2	1.703(2)	55

*However, in this reaction Meller *et al.* did not observe this free germainine but do not exclude its formation as a short-lived intermediate [50a].

**The germainines formed in this case are not stable and rearrange due to the presence of an enolisable function on the diazo compound.

Table 3 followed

	2		55
$[(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})(\text{Mes})\text{N}]_2\text{Ge}=\text{NMes}$	2	1.691(3)	55
	6		56
	6		57,58
	6		59
$\text{Bis}_2\text{Ge}=\text{NSi}(\text{N}_3)\text{R}_2$ R: tBu ----- R: Mes	2	1.704(3) -----	41
$\text{Bis}_2\text{Ge}=\text{N}-\text{Si}(\text{R})_2-\text{N}=\text{GeBis}_2$ R: tBu ----- R: Mes	2	----- 1.681(8)	41
	2	1.688(9)	60
$\text{Mes}_2\text{Ge}=\text{NMes}$ ↑ Me_3N	2		51

Bis: $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_2\text{CH}$ **c) Metastable stannaimine**

reaction of a stannylene with an azide with loss of nitrogen. The stannaimine obtained by this route is stable only below -30°C , but has nevertheless been characterized by ^{119}Sn NMR and X-ray diffraction.

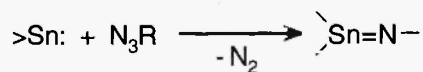


Table 4: stannaimine

Stannaimine	$\delta^{119}\text{Sn}(\text{ppm})$	$d(\text{Sn}=\text{N})(\text{\AA})$	Ref.
$[(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_2\text{N}]_2\text{Sn}=\text{N}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{N}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$	-3.5	1.921(2)	61

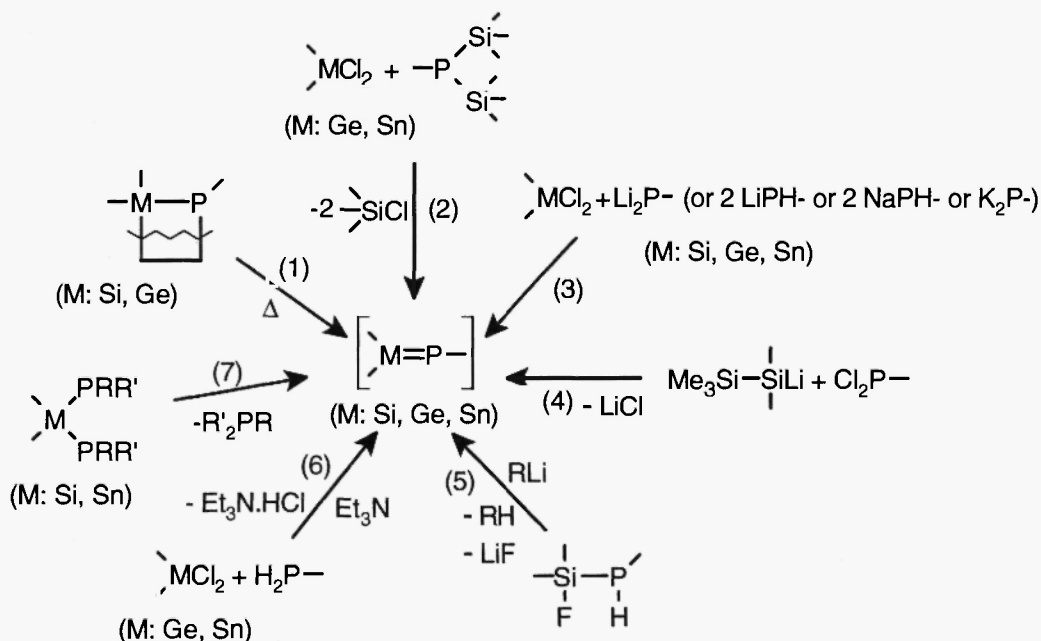
III TRANSIENT METALLAPHOSPHENES >M=P-

- (1) thermal decomposition of a sila- [62] or germaphosphetane [63].
- (2) dechlorosilylation reaction of a compound obtained by reacting a dichlorogermane or a dichlorostannane with a disilylphosphane [64, 65].

Transient sila-, germa- and stannaphosphenes obtained by routes (1) and (2) have been characterized by trapping [62-64] or by formation of their dimers [65].

Routes (3) to (7) could also involve the transient formation of metallaphosphenes, but only their dimers or trimers are obtained:

- (3) reaction of a dilithium (or dipotassium) phosphanide or of a twofold excess of lithium phosphanide or sodium phosphanide with a dihalogenosilane [66-72], -germane [67, 73, 74] or -stannane [75].
- (4) reaction between a disilanyllithium and a dichlorophosphane followed by elimination of trimethylchlorosilane [76].
- (5) dehydrofluorination of a fluorosilylphosphane by an alkyl lithium [77-83].
- (6) intermolecular dehydrochlorination between a primary phosphane and a dichlorogermane or -stannane by an amine [67, 84].
- (7) thermal elimination of $\text{R}'_2\text{PR}$ from a diphosphasilane [85, 86] or -stannane [87, 88].



IV STABLE METALLAPHOSPHENES

Derivatives of the type $>M=P-$ (M: Si, Ge, Sn) are called metallaphosphenes (for ex: germaphosphenes). However, since phosphorus has an atomic number greater than silicon, derivatives with a $Si=P$ double bond are named phosphasilenes.

a) Phosphasilenes

- (1) dehydrochlorination of a chlorosilylphosphane by an alkyllithium.
- (2) dehydrofluorination of a fluorosilylphosphane by an alkyllithium.
(Routes (1) and (2) are the most widely used).
- (3) reaction of water or of an alkyl halide with a diphosphasilanide.
- (4) addition of two equivalents of butyllithium to a mixture of primary phosphane and dichlorosilane.
- (5) reaction of a dilithium phosphanide with a dichlorosilane substituted by a CH_2NMe_2 group, involving an intramolecular coordination of silicon by nitrogen.

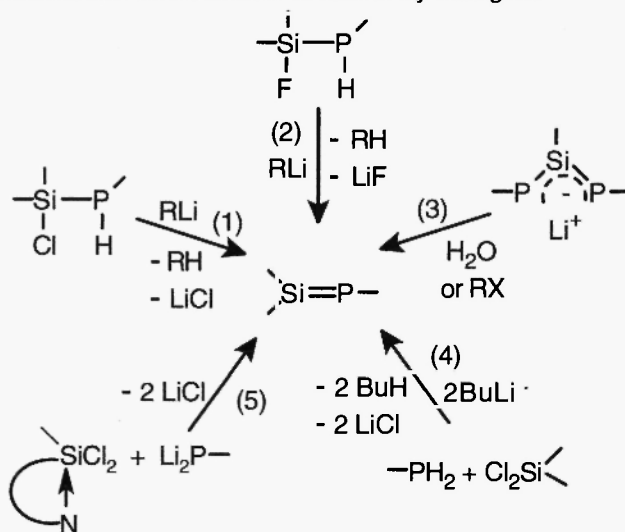
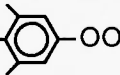
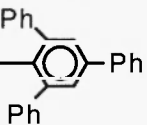
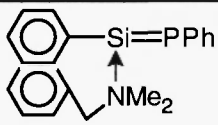
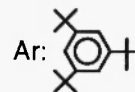
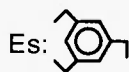
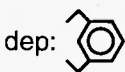
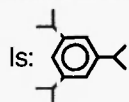


Table 5: stable phosphasilenes

Phosphasilenes	Synthetic routes	$\delta^{29}Si$ (ppm) ($^1J_{P-Si}$ Hz)	$\delta^{31}P$ (ppm)	$d(Si=P)$ (Å)	Ref
$Mes_2Si=PAr$	1	151.0 (149)	136		1
$Es_2Si=PAr$	1	150.1 (152)	133.7		89
$Is(Ph)Si=PAr$	1	153.0 (E) (151)	93.5		89
$Is(Mes)Si=PAr$	1	148.7 (E) (152)	122.7		89
$Is(tBu)Si=PAr$	1, 4	175.9 (E) (155)	105.7		89
$[Ar(H)P](tBu)Si=PAr$	3		142		90
$[Ar(SiMe_3)P](tBu)Si=PAr$	3		83.3		90
$Es(dep)Si=PAr$ Z and E	1	149.2 (153) 149.0 (153)	134.2 135.8		91

Table 5 followed

Is(tBu)Si=PIs	1	190.3 (E) (153)	66.2		91
Is(tBu)Si=PEs	1	194.1 (E) (153)	65.8		91
Is(tBu)Si=PMes	1	196.8 (E) (153)	69.0		91
Is(tBu)Si=P-  -OOct	1	199.0 (E) (154)	69.7		91
Is(tBu)Si=PSi(iPr) ₃	2	213.2 (Z) (161)	-29.9	2.062(1)	92
[Ar(PPh ₂)P](tBu)Si=PAr	3	180.2 (203.0)	128.7	2.094(3)	93
Is ₂ Si=P-SiMe ₂ tBu	2	178.4 (149)	17.7		94
Is ₂ Si=P-P(tBu) ₂	2	184.6 (158)	72.2		94
Is(tBu)Si=P- 	1	180.0 (E) (151)	86.7		91
Is ₂ Si=P-Si(iPr) ₃	2	167.8 (160)	11.1		94
	5	-6.4 (Z) (24.1) -2.7 (E) (9.2)	-116.5 (Z) -97.2 (E)		45



b) Germaphosphenes

- 1) dehydrofluorination of a fluorogermylphosphane by tert-butyllithium: the best route to germaphosphenes giving nearly quantitative yields.
- (2) dehydrochlorination of a chlorogermylphosphane by a phosphorus ylide.
- (3) dehydrochlorination of a chlorogermylphosphane by DBU. (2) and (3) give the corresponding germaphosphene in low yields (< 20%).
- (4) thermal Z/E isomerisation of a germaphosphene.
- (5) reaction of a difluorogermene with a dilithium phosphanide.

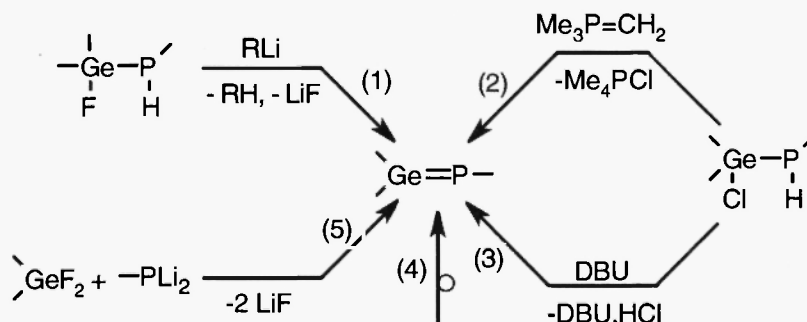
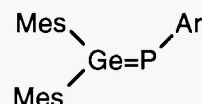
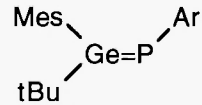
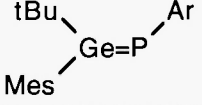
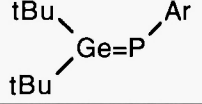
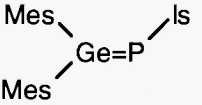


Table 6: stable germaphosphenes

Germaphosphenes	Synthetic routes	$\delta^{31}\text{P}$ (ppm)	d(Ge=P) (Å)	Ref.
	1, 2, 3	175.4		95, 96
			2.139(3)	97
	1	169.2	2.143(4)	98
	4	157.4		98
	1	156.6		98
	5	145.3		99, 102



c) Stannaphosphenes

- (1) dehydrofluorination of a fluorostannylphosphane by tert-butyllithium: nearly quantitative route to stannaphosphenes.
- (2) defluorosilylation of a fluorostannyl(silyl)phosphane.

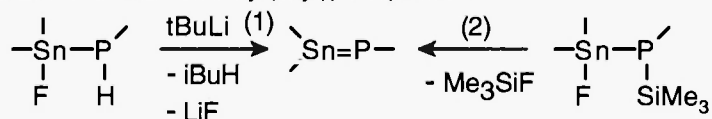
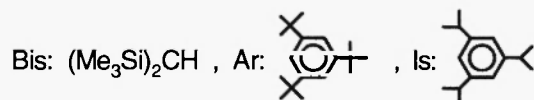


Table 7: stable stannaphosphenes

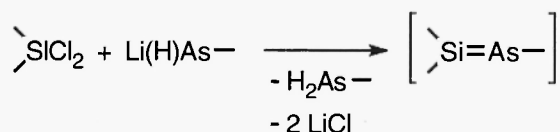
Stannaphosphenes	Synthetic routes	$\delta^{31}\text{P}$ (ppm)	$\delta^{119}\text{Sn}$ (ppm)	$^1\text{J}_{\text{P-}^{119}\text{Sn}}$ $^1\text{J}_{\text{P-}^{117}\text{Sn}}$ (Hz)	Ref.
$\text{Bis}_2\text{Sn=PAr}$	1	204.7	658.3	2295 2191	96, 100
$\text{Is}_2\text{Sn=PAr}$	1	170.7	499.5	2208 2110	101, 102
$\text{Is}_2\text{Sn=P}^*\text{Is}$	2	124.6 at -80°C	600.6 at -80°C	2182 2110	103
$\text{Is}_2\text{Sn=PBis}$	2	168.9	606.0	2264 2163	103

* decomposes at room temperature



V TRANSIENT ARSILENES

The reaction of a dichlorosilane with an excess of lithium arsanide leads to the four-membered ring 1,3-disiladiarsetane, probably via an arsilene intermediate [104].



VI STABLE ARSILENES

- (1) The reaction of butyllithium with a fluorosilyl(silyl)arsane followed by elimination of lithium fluoride leads to stable arsilenes.

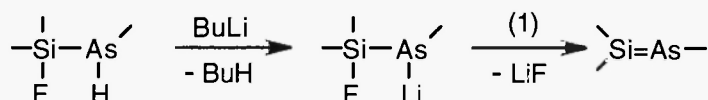
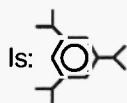


Table 8: stable arsilenes

Arsilenes	Synthetic routes	$\delta^{29}\text{Si}$ (ppm)	d(Si=As) (Å)	Ref.
$\begin{array}{c} \text{Is} \\ \diagdown \\ \text{Si=AsSiPr}_3 \\ \diagup \\ \text{tBu} \end{array}$	1	228.8 (Z)	2.164 (1) (Z)	92, 105
$\begin{array}{c} \text{Is} \\ \diagdown \\ \text{Si=AsSiPr}_3 \\ \diagup \\ \text{Is} \end{array}$	1	179.1		92, 105



Conclusion

As one can see from the tables, many $\text{M}_{14}=\text{M}_{15}$ derivatives have now been prepared and isolated. Most of them are stabilized by the large steric hindrance by the use on both sides of the double bond of very bulky groups which prevent the oligomerisation. Substituted aryl groups appear to be as the best ones for the stabilization, probably because of a conjugation between the aromatic rings and the $\text{M}_{14}=\text{M}_{15}$ double bond. In contrast, germaines prepared by Ang and Lee do not dimerize although substituted by very small groups: this very surprising behaviour is probably due to the important electronic effect of the CF_3 groups.

Some metallaimines or metallaphosphenes have also been stabilized by complexation by a Lewis base or a transition metal.

Doubly-bonded silicon compounds are of course more abundant than doubly-bonded germanium (except for germaines) or tin derivatives (see table 9). For the latter, isolable stannaphosphenes have been obtained whereas the sole stannamine prepared was characterized only below -30°C .

In the series $M_{14}=M_{15}$, no compounds of lead or antimony are known and only two arsilenes have been obtained, whereas compounds with a double bond between arsenic and germanium or tin are still unknown.

The doubly-bonded derivatives of phosphorus, silicon and tin can be easily evidenced by their characteristic low field shifts in ^{31}P , ^{29}Si and ^{119}Sn NMR, except when the metal is complexed: in this case much higher field shifts are observed closer to those found in trivalent phosphorus or tetravalent silicon compounds.

The $M_{14}=M_{15}$ double bond is much shorter than the corresponding single bond (7-9%). Structural determinations by X-ray diffraction show that the double bond skeleton is generally completely planar.

All these derivatives present, despite the large steric hindrance, a very important reactivity. Thus, besides their interest in academic research, these new organometallic functions should be useful in organic and organometallic synthesis.

Table 9: number of stable (or at least characterized by ^{29}Si or ^{119}Sn NMR) $>M_{14}=M_{15}$ - derivatives, including complexed compounds. Z and E isomers are considered as different compounds

metallaimines	$>M=N-$	$>Si=N-$	15
		$>Ge=N-$	24
		$>Sn=N-$	1
metallaphosphenes	$>M=P-$	$>Si=P-$	21
		$>Ge=P-$	5
		$>Sn=P-$	4
metallaarsenes	$>M=As-$	$>Si=As-$	2

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