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"Reactions of Pentafluorosulfur Hypofluorite  
with Cl<sub>2</sub>, Br<sub>2</sub>, I<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub> and PF<sub>3</sub>"

by B. W. Tattershall and George H. Cady

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Contribution from the Department of Chemistry,  
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

REACTIONS OF PENTAFLUOROSULFUR HYPOFLUORITE  
(SF<sub>5</sub>OF) WITH Cl<sub>2</sub>, Br<sub>2</sub>, I<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub> and PF<sub>3</sub>.

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Some of the known reactions of pentafluorosulfur hypofluorite (SF<sub>5</sub>OF) give products containing one or more SF<sub>5</sub>O groups in the molecule. For example, SF<sub>5</sub>OF adds to ethylene to give F<sub>5</sub>SOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>F,<sup>1</sup> to COF<sub>2</sub> to give F<sub>5</sub>SOOCF<sub>3</sub>,<sup>2</sup> to SO<sub>3</sub> to give F<sub>5</sub>SOOSO<sub>2</sub>F<sup>2</sup> or to SOF<sub>4</sub> to give F<sub>5</sub>SOOSF<sub>5</sub>.<sup>3</sup> The reaction with N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub> gives F<sub>5</sub>SONF<sub>2</sub> and NF<sub>3</sub>.<sup>4</sup> The reaction of CO with SF<sub>5</sub>OF,<sup>1</sup> however, gives

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1. S. M. Williamson and G. H. Cady, *Inorg. Chem.*, **1**, 673 (1962).
  2. (a) C. I. Merrill, Thesis: "Synthesis, Physical Properties and Reactions of Some Pentafluorosulfur Compounds", University of Washington, 1962. (b) C. I. Merrill and G. H. Cady, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **85**, 909 (1963).
  3. C. I. Merrill and G. H. Cady, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **83**, 298 (1961).
  4. J. K. Ruff, *Inorg. Chem.* **4**, 1788 (1965).
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COF<sub>2</sub> and SOF<sub>4</sub> as products. In the present work, several new reactions of SF<sub>5</sub>OF have been investigated, in which SOF<sub>4</sub> is produced.

The defluorination of  $SF_5OF$  to  $SOF_4$  is a more general type of reaction than previously has been realized. Each of the substances,  $Br_2$ ,  $I_2$ ,  $NO$ ,  $NO_2$  and  $PF_3$  reacted at room temperature or below to give  $SOF_4$ . Chlorine was not found to react even at  $130^\circ$ . At  $160^\circ$  the substances  $SF_6$  and  $SOF_4$  were found as products, but these may have resulted from pyrolysis of  $SF_5OF^1$  rather than its reaction with  $Cl_2$ .

In the reactions of pentafluorosulphur hypofluorite with  $Br_2$ ,  $I_2$  and  $NO_2$ , the reaction products were examined when the reaction was only partially complete. In each case, a mixture of  $SOF_4$  and  $SF_5OF$ , but no other S - F compounds was found. In the reactions with the halogens, when only the more volatile part of the reaction mixture was examined at this stage, the number of moles of the  $SOF_4/SF_5OF$  mixture was about the same as that of the  $SF_5OF$  taken. Thus, only a very small quantity of new  $OSF_5$  compounds could have been present in the partly reacted mixture. It is concluded that if such compounds are intermediates in these reactions, they are unstable under the reaction conditions employed.

The supposition that  $SF_5O$  - M compounds may be unstable intermediates in these reactions is supported by the finding that the reactions studied produced  $SOF_4$  rather than  $SF_5O OSF_5$ . The apparent instability of the  $OSF_5$  group may be contrasted with the comparative stability of the  $OSO_2F$  group, of which many new compounds have recently been made.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Materials - Pentafluorosulphur hypofluorite was made by the reaction of fluorine with thionyl fluoride in the presence of excess cesium fluoride.<sup>5</sup> The reaction bomb was placed in an explosion shield and

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5. J. K. Ruff and M. Lustig, *Inorg. Chem.*, 3, 1422 (1964).

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held at 75° for about eight hours to ensure complete reaction. Other gaseous reagents, except nitrogen dioxide, were commercial samples purified by vacuum fractionation. Nitrogen dioxide was made by oxidation of a measured quantity of purified nitric oxide, with excess dry oxygen. Bromine was dried over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> before vacuum fractionation, and iodine (Baker Analysed Reagent) was dried by pumping on it at -23° for 20 minutes.

Procedure - Except for nitrogen dioxide (see above), the reagents were measured out by pressure in a calibrated volume of a conventional Pyrex vacuum system, and condensed into the reaction vessel. In the reactions of SF<sub>5</sub>OF with the halogens and with the oxides of nitrogen, the reaction vessel was a 30 ml. prefluorinated stainless steel bomb, fitted with a brass and stainless steel needle valve. In the reaction with phosphorus trifluoride, a 500 ml. Pyrex flask, fitted with a glass and Teflon grease-free valve,<sup>6</sup> was employed. Products were separated by vacuum

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6. Fischer and Porter "Lab Crest" 4 mm. Quick Opening In Line Valve, Cat. No. 795-120-0004.

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fractionation or fractional codistillation<sup>7</sup> and identified by their

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7. G. H. Cady and D. P. Siegwarth, *Anal. Chem.*, 31, 618 (1959).

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infrared spectra and vapor densities. In the cases of SF<sub>5</sub>OF and SOF<sub>4</sub>, the characteristic infrared absorptions used in identification were those at 935, 888, 614 and 585 cm<sup>-1</sup> for SF<sub>5</sub>OF, and those at 1383, 928, 821, 637 and 567 cm<sup>-1</sup> for SOF<sub>4</sub>.<sup>8</sup> Substances which

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8. F. B. Dudley, G. H. Cady and D. P. Eggers, Jr., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 78, 1553 (1956).

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attacked glass, such as the halogen fluorides and the nitrogen oxyfluorides, were handled in an all-metal transfer manifold, and their infrared spectra were examined in a nickel cell fitted with silver chloride windows.

Reaction of pentafluorosulfur hypofluorite with (a) bromine - Br<sub>2</sub> (0.1652 g, 1.034 mmole) and SF<sub>5</sub>OF (3.06 mmole) did not appear to react at 0° in 2 1/2 hours. After 2 hours at room temperature, a mixture (3.19 mmole) containing a little bromine was pumped from the reaction vessel at -82°. The infrared spectrum of this material was due only to SF<sub>5</sub>OF and SOF<sub>4</sub>. The mixture was recombined, and after 44 hours at room temperature the material transferable in vacuum at -82° (3.29 mmole) had the infrared spectrum of pure SOF<sub>4</sub>, and was slightly colored with bromine. The material involatile at -82° was pale yellow in color, and in contact with Pyrex glass, Br<sub>2</sub> and SiF<sub>4</sub> were rapidly generated. While this product almost certainly was BrF<sub>3</sub>, the infrared spectrum of BrF<sub>3</sub>

could not be detected, even when the glass-free manifold was used. Since  $\text{SiF}_4$  was observed in this case, the  $\text{BrF}_3$  must have reacted with a silicon-containing material in the grease<sup>9</sup> used to lubricate some metal-metal joints.

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9. Kel-F #90 Grease, supplied by the 3M Company.

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(b) With iodine -  $\text{I}_2$  (0.2685 g, 1.06 mmole) and  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$  (5.66 mmole) reacted partially in 2 hours at room temperature, and a mixture (5.44 mmole:  $M = 136$ ) of  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$  and  $\text{SOF}_4$  was separated. The recombined mixture was left for a further 18 hours at room temperature, when the material which could be transferred in vacuum at  $-84^\circ$  was  $\text{SOF}_4$  (5.33 mmole) with  $M = 125.7$ . (Calculated for  $\text{SOF}_4$ :  $M = 124.0$ . The material involatile at  $-82^\circ$  (0.4684 g.) showed the infrared spectrum of  $\text{IF}_5$ ,<sup>10</sup> and attacked glass to yield  $\text{SiF}_4$  and a white solid.

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10. R. C. Lord, M. A. Lynch, Jr., W. C. Schumb and E. J. Slowinski, Jr., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 72, 522 (1950).

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(c) With nitric oxide -  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$  (1.00 mmole) when mixed with 2.01 mmole of  $\text{NO}$  reacted completely in 23 hours at room temperature. (In a preliminary small-scale experiment, it was established that reaction of  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$  was complete in 30 minutes at room temperature.) The infrared spectrum of the product indicated  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{SOF}_4$ . No other S - F compounds were detected, nor was  $\text{NOF}$ .<sup>11</sup>

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11. P. J. Wolter, E. A. Jones and A. H. Nielsen, J. Chem. Phys. 20, 378 (1952).

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$\text{SOF}_4$  was not completely isolated from the mixture. The fraction passing a trap at  $-112^\circ$  (1.32 mmole;  $M = 107.9$ ) was chiefly  $\text{SOF}_4$ , and an infrared spectrum of this mixture, measured in a 10 cm. cell at ca. 200 mm. pressure, showed unidentified absorptions at about  $1800 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , but no absorptions other than for  $\text{SOF}_4$  in the S - F stretching region. It is highly probable that NOF was initially formed, but subsequently destroyed by reaction with the apparatus.

(d) With nitrogen dioxide -  $\text{NO}_2$  (2.04 mmole) and  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$  (1.00 mmole) reacted partially in 4 hours at room temperature. There was then 2.47 mmole of product, whose infrared spectrum indicated  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$ ,  $\text{SOF}_4$  and  $\text{NO}_2\text{F}$ .<sup>12</sup> The recombined mixture was left for

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12. R. E. Dodd, J. A. Rolfe and L. A. Woodward, Trans. Farad. Soc. 52, 145 (1956).

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a further 20 hours at room temperature. The products were then  $\text{SOF}_4$  and  $\text{NO}_2\text{F}$ . The latter slowly attacked glass, to yield  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{SiF}_4$ .  $\text{SOF}_4$  (1.0 mmole;  $M = 129.5$ ) slightly contaminated with  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$ , was separated.

(e) With phosphorus trifluoride -  $\text{PF}_3$  (1.02 mmole) and  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$  (1.04 mmole) reacted with a bright, slightly bluish flash about 2 minutes after the reaction flask had been removed from a liquid oxygen cooling bath. The mixture was left at room temperature for 45 minutes. There was then 2.02 mmole of product, whose infrared spectrum indicated  $\text{SOF}_4$  and  $\text{PF}_5$ .<sup>13</sup> Codistillation of the mixture

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13. J. P. Pemsler and W. G. Planet, Jr., J. Chem. Phys., 24, 920 (1956).

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yielded  $\text{SOF}_4$  (0.951 mmole;  $M = 123$ ), while the  $\text{PF}_5$  reacted with the apparatus to yield some  $\text{POF}_3$ .

(f) With chlorine -  $\text{Cl}_2$  (1.01 mmole) and  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$  (3.06 mmole) did not react appreciably in various periods of heating, up to 15 hours at  $100^\circ$ . After 90 hours at  $130^\circ$ , the mixture (4.04 mmole) had an infrared spectrum which indicated the presence of some  $\text{SOF}_4$ , but a great deal of  $\text{SF}_5\text{OF}$  remained. The mixture was finally heated for 6 1/2 days at  $160^\circ$ . Volatile products were then pumped from the reaction bomb at  $-112^\circ$ . These (3.97 mmole;  $M = 120.2$ ) had the color of chlorine and gave the infrared spectrum of  $\text{SOF}_4$  and  $\text{SF}_6$ . The chlorine was determined by Volhard's method after alkaline hydrolysis of the mixture. 10 ml. of 3%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  solution was added to each 10 ml. aliquot of hydrolysis mixture to reduce hypochlorite to chloride. The chloride found represented 1.860 mg. atom Cl. The bomb, containing the material retained at  $-112^\circ$ , weighed 0.0490 g. more than it had weighed empty, before the experiment, and it lost only 0.0115 g. on pumping at room temperature

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None

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12. ABSTRACT  
Pentafluorosulfur hypofluorite (SF<sub>5</sub>OF) is reduced to thionyl tetra-  
fluoride (SOF<sub>4</sub>) at room temperature or below by Br<sub>2</sub>, I<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, or  
PF<sub>3</sub>. Chlorine does not react with SF<sub>5</sub>OF at temperatures up to 130°C.

KEY WORDS	LINE A		LINE B		LINE C	
	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT
Pentafluorosulfur hypofluorite						
Chlorine						
Bromine						
Iodine						
Nitric oxide						
Nitrogen dioxide						
Phosphorus trifluoride						