



# Coordination complexes of the tungsten(VI) oxide fluorides $\text{WOF}_4$ and $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ with neutral oxygen- and nitrogen-donor ligands



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## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 8 January 2016

Received in revised form 12 February 2016

Accepted 13 February 2016

Available online 22 February 2016

### Keywords:

Tungsten

Oxide fluoride

Oxygen ligands

Nitrogen ligands

## ABSTRACT

$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$ , prepared from a 1:1 ratio of  $\text{WF}_6$  and  $\text{O}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  in MeCN, is a convenient synthon for the preparation of complexes of  $\text{WOF}_4$  and  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  with neutral N- or O-donor ligands. It reacts with monodentate ligands L (L =  $\text{OPPh}_3$ ,  $\text{OPMe}_3$ , dmsO, py) in a 1:1 ratio to form  $[\text{WOF}_4\text{L}]$ , whilst reaction of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$ ,  $\text{O}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  and L' (L' =  $\text{OPPh}_3$ , py, pyNO, dmsO) in 1:1:2 ratio affords  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2\text{L}'_2]$ . The synthesis of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{L-L})]$  (L-L =  $\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2$  or 1,10-phenanthroline) are also described. Similar complexes with arsines, thio- or seleno-ethers are not formed by these routes. The complexes have been characterised by microanalysis, IR,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectroscopy, and X-ray crystal structures are reported for  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$ ,  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$ ,  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2)]$  and  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$ .

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## 1. Introduction

The coordination chemistry of transition metal oxide chlorides and oxide bromides, has been examined in considerable detail [1], but that of the corresponding oxide fluorides has been little explored until recently and, whilst a range of related fluoroanions are known, complexes with neutral ligands are relatively rare [2–4]. In recent work we have prepared and characterised, both spectroscopically and by X-ray crystallography, complexes of  $\text{VOF}_3$  [5],  $\text{VO}_2\text{F}$  [6] and  $\text{NbOF}_3$  [7] with a range of neutral N- and O-donor ligands, although none formed complexes with softer P-donor ligands, and only  $\text{VOF}_3$  gave (unstable) thioether complexes. Here we report similar studies of the two oxide fluorides of tungsten(VI),  $\text{WOF}_4$  and  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ . Solid tungsten oxide tetrafluoride has a tetrameric structure with six-coordinate tungsten linked by fluoride bridges [8,9] but exists as a square pyramidal monomer in the gas phase [10]. For tungsten dioxide difluoride electron diffraction shows the expected distorted tetrahedral geometry for the gas phase molecule [11]. The structure in the solid state is unknown, spectroscopic characterisation is limited, and the purity of most samples is either doubtful or not stated [2,3].

Apart from early *in situ* solution studies using  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy [4,12], the known complexes of  $\text{WOF}_4$  are with heterocyclic N-donor ligands,  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{py})_n]$  ( $n = 1$  or  $2$ ) [13],  $[\text{WOF}_4(2\text{-F-py})]$  [14],  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{R-napy})]$  (R-napy = 1,8-naphthyridine or 2,7-dimethyl-1,8-naphthyridine) [15] and  $[\text{WOF}_4(2,2'\text{-bipy})]$

[16]. Less is known about the complexes of  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ , with  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPR}_3)_2]$  formed by adding  $\text{OPR}_3$  (R = Me or Ph) to  $\text{WO}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in aqueous HF [17], or from  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{OPR}_3)_2]$  and  $\text{Me}_3\text{SnF}$  [18].  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{diimine})]$  (diimine = 2,2'-bipy, 1,10-phen) were obtained by prolonged refluxing of the corresponding chlorides with a suspension of  $\text{Me}_3\text{SnF}$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  [18]. The structure of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(2,2'\text{-bipy})]$ , the only structurally characterised adduct of  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ , was determined on a crystal formed by decomposition of  $[\text{WOF}_4(2,2'\text{-bipy})]$  [16].  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  is inert and insoluble in common solvents [2], and even the corresponding  $\text{WO}_2\text{X}_2$  (X = Cl or Br) are strongly polymerised and very poor synthons [18]. Although a few complexes of  $\text{WOF}_4$  have been prepared directly from the oxide fluoride [14,16], we have developed a general route to complexes of both oxide fluorides based upon F/O exchange from  $\text{WF}_6$  using hexamethyldisiloxane,  $\text{O}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  (HMDSO).

## 2. Results and discussion

### 2.1. Synthons

$\text{WOF}_4$  is not commercially available and although it is readily prepared by fluorination of  $\text{WO}_3$  either in a flow system or an autoclave [9,10], the synthesis requires a metal vacuum line and elemental fluorine. As an alternative entry into the chemistry, we explored the reaction of commercially available  $\text{WF}_6$  with hexamethyldisiloxane and various donor ligands in either anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  or MeCN. Although the complex of  $\text{WOF}_4$  with, for example,  $\text{OPPh}_3$ , is formed in this way, obtaining pure single products and in high yield is problematic, not least due to the

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difficulties of accurately measuring small amounts of the volatile and highly reactive  $\text{WF}_6$  (b.p. 291 K). In other systems solid (molecular) nitrile or ether (especially thf) complexes have been found to be convenient synthons, since the neutral donor is often easily displaced [4,5,19], and thus similar species were investigated for tungsten complexes.

A convenient synthon for  $\text{WOF}_4$  adducts is  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$ , which is readily made from a 1:1 molar ratio of  $\text{WF}_6$  and HMDSO in anhydrous MeCN. The product is a colourless, very moisture sensitive powder, obtained in near quantitative yield (the reaction can be scaled up to form ~2 g at a time). The  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  can be stored for weeks in a glove box, and is readily soluble in anhydrous MeCN or  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Hydrolysis with traces of water generates  $[\text{W}_2\text{O}_2\text{F}_9]^-$ , easily identified by its characteristic  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum {in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\delta(^{19}\text{F}) = +62.0$  (d, [8F]),  $^2J_{\text{FF}} = 60$  Hz,  $-145.5$  (nonet, [F])} [15]. Evaporation of a solution of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  in anhydrous thf, results in a colourless wax, which from its IR  $\{\nu(\text{W}=\text{O}) = 1018 \text{ cm}^{-1}\}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra  $\{^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR:  $\delta = +63.3$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 64$  Hz)} is  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{thf})]$ . The waxy nature makes this complex difficult to manipulate and it darkens and decomposes in a few days. It is thus not a very convenient synthon.

$\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  is insoluble in organic solvents and unreactive towards neutral ligands [2] and reaction of  $\text{WF}_6$  with two molar equivalents of HMDSO in MeCN gave an insoluble white powder which contained only very small amounts of C and N, and which showed only traces of MeCN in the IR spectrum. It had very broad, ill-defined absorptions  $<1000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and is probably mostly “ $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ ”. However, an entry into complexes of  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  in the present study is possible via the  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{L})]$  complex, treated with more ligand (L) and HMDSO, or from a “one pot” reaction of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  and appropriate amounts of L and HMDSO (Scheme 1).

## 2.2. $\text{WOF}_4$ complexes

Monitoring the reaction of a 1:1 molar ratio of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$ :  $\text{OPPh}_3$  in anhydrous  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy, shows the substitution of MeCN by  $\text{OPPh}_3$  is rapid and clean, yielding  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$ . Using a  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$ :  $\text{OPPh}_3$  ratio of  $1:\geq 3$  also gave  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$ , but after several hours the solution had developed further resonances due to  $[\text{W}_2\text{O}_2\text{F}_9]^-$  [15],  $[\text{HF}_2]^-$ , and some unidentified products, and a white precipitate formed. However, even after one week no significant amount of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  was present, contrary to some early reports [12], although some of the latter was formed by hydrolysis of the solution, for example, by adding “wet”  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

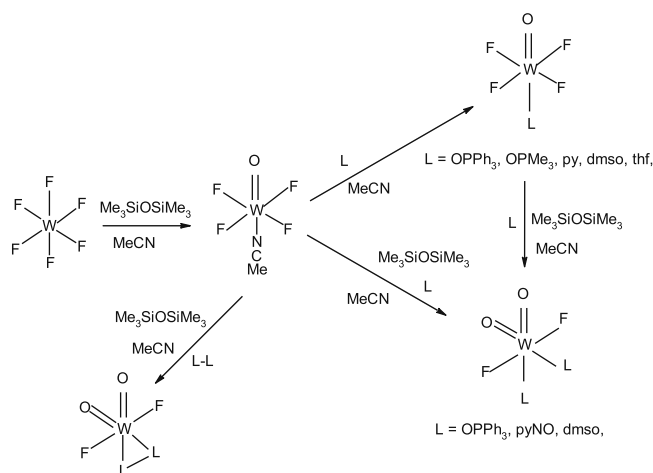
On a preparative scale, white  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$  was prepared in high yield from  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  and a stoichiometric amount of  $\text{OPPh}_3$  in either anhydrous MeCN or  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution. The product is a moisture sensitive white powder, which showed a singlet  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR resonance ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) at  $\delta = +67.4$ , with  $^{183}\text{W}$  satellites,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 69$  Hz. The corresponding  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR resonance is  $\delta = +47.3$  (s), a high frequency coordination shift ( $\Delta$ ) of +19.3. The (Nujol mull) IR spectrum shows  $\nu(\text{PO}) = 1087 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , shifted from  $1196 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the “free” phosphine oxide,  $\nu(\text{WO}) = 993$  (vs), and  $\nu(\text{WF}) = 628$  (m),  $597$  (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Theory for the  $\text{C}_{4v}$  molecule predicts one  $\text{W}=\text{O}$  ( $a_1$ ) and two  $\text{W}-\text{F}$  ( $a_1 + e$ ) IR active stretches.

Colourless, moisture sensitive crystals of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$  were obtained by evaporation from a solution in MeCN/ $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , and the structure (Fig. 1) shows a distorted octahedral arrangement with the  $\text{OPPh}_3$  *trans* to  $\text{W}=\text{O}$  and with the tungsten lying slightly out of the  $\text{WF}_4$  plane towards the oxido-ligand. The geometry of the  $\text{WOF}_4$  unit is very similar to those in  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{R-py})]$  (Rpy=py or 2-F-py) [13,14].

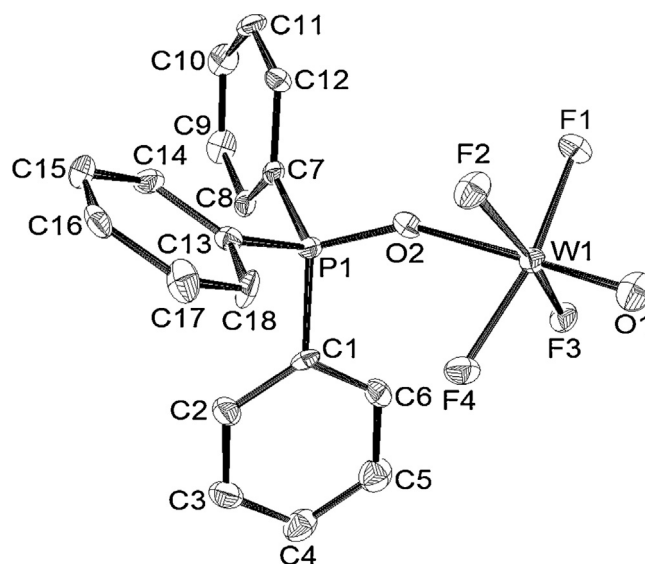
The new complexes,  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPMe}_3)]$  and  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OSMe}_2)]$  were made similarly, and show similar spectroscopic signatures (Table 1), but several attempts to isolate a pure sample of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{pyNO})]$  were unsuccessful. The initially isolated product had  $\delta(^{19}\text{F}) = +58.5$  consistent with the target complex, but the cream solid initially isolated turned into a brown sticky material overnight, and the NMR spectroscopic data of this material suggested  $[\text{pyNOH}]^+$  and  $[\text{W}_2\text{O}_2\text{F}_9]^-$  were present as the major components, hence the study was not pursued.

The complex  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{py})]$  was originally made from  $\text{WOF}_4$  and neat pyridine, which produced the seven-coordinate  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{py})_2]$ , followed by vacuum sublimation, when the six-coordinate  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{py})]$  formed [13]. The reaction of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  with 1 mol. equivalent of pyridine in MeCN solution, gave  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{py})]$  directly, which was spectroscopically identical to the literature sample. Unexpectedly, addition of an MeCN solution of 1,10-phenanthroline to an MeCN solution of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  in a 1:1 mol. ratio gave an immediate white precipitate which proved to be  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{phen})]$  (see below), and there was no evidence under these conditions for the expected  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{phen})]$ .

The  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{L})]$  complexes described above are generally moisture sensitive white powders, which hydrolyse readily in solution. The spectroscopic data show characteristic features (Table 1) in the IR spectra at  $\sim 970-1020 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{W}=\text{O}$ ), and  $\sim 570-660 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{WF}$ ), whilst the  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR resonances are singlets in the narrow range  $\delta = +55$  to  $+70$  with  $^1J(^{183}\text{W}-^{19}\text{F})$  satellites of 60–70 Hz.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of the tungsten oxide fluoride complexes.



**Fig. 1.** Crystal structure of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$  showing atom numbering scheme. Ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H-atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{W1} - \text{O1} = 1.682(5)$ ,  $\text{W1} - \text{F1} = 1.857(3)$ ,  $\text{W1} - \text{F2} = 1.863(3)$ ,  $\text{W1} - \text{F4} = 1.870(3)$ ,  $\text{W1} - \text{F3} = 1.871(3)$ ,  $\text{W1} - \text{O2} = 2.141(4)$ ,  $\text{P1} - \text{O2} = 1.511(4)$ ,  $\text{O1} - \text{W1} - \text{F1} = 98.0(2)$ ,  $\text{O1} - \text{W1} - \text{F2} = 96.90(18)$ ,  $\text{F1} - \text{W1} - \text{F2} = 89.62(17)$ ,  $\text{O1} - \text{W1} - \text{F4} = 96.0(2)$ ,  $\text{F2} - \text{W1} - \text{F4} = 90.95(16)$ ,  $\text{O1} - \text{W1} - \text{F3} = 96.35(18)$ ,  $\text{F1} - \text{W1} - \text{F3} = 88.20(16)$ ,  $\text{F1} - \text{W1} - \text{O2} = 83.18(16)$ ,  $\text{F2} - \text{W1} - \text{O2} = 82.74(15)$ ,  $\text{F4} - \text{W1} - \text{O2} = 82.81(16)$ ,  $\text{F3} - \text{W1} - \text{O2} = 84.02(15)$ ,  $\text{F4} - \text{W1} - \text{F3} = 88.00(16)$ ,  $\text{P1} - \text{O2} - \text{W1} = 147.3(3)$ .

**Table 1**  
Selected spectroscopic data.

Complex	$\delta(^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\})$ NMR <sup>a</sup> ( $^\circ\text{J}_{\text{WF}}/\text{Hz}$ )	$\nu(\text{W}=\text{O})$ $\text{cm}^{-1\text{b}}$	$\nu(\text{W}-\text{F})$ $\text{cm}^{-1\text{b}}$	Data from this work unless indicated
$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$	+67.4 (69)	1021 (vs)	664(m), 606(s)	
$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPMe}_3)]$	+58.3 (66)	979 (vs)	610(m), 582(m)	
$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$	+60.5 (69)	993 (vs)	597 (s,br)	
$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OSMe}_2)]$	+59.5(70)	1018(vs)	596(m), 572(s)	
$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{py})]$	+62.9(65)	996(vs)	610(s), 580(s)	
$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{bipy})]$	Insol.	968	638,580,527,494	Ref. [16]
$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{thf})]$	+63.0 (64)	1018(vs)	603(s,br)	
$[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$	-63.1 (91)	962, 919	588	
$[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPMe}_3)_2]$	-65.9 (110)	956,933,896 <sup>c</sup>	555	Ref. [18]
$[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2)]$	-67.1 (108)	969, 917	571	
$[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OSMe}_2)_2]$	-64.6 (103)	933, 900	556	
$[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$	-67.9 (~100)	959,913	568	
$[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{phen})]$	-69.6 (96) <sup>d</sup>	962, 933	578	
$[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{bipy})]$	-69.6 (95)	958, 918	575	Ref. [16,18]
$[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{py})_2]$	-69.0 (102)	961, 932	575	

<sup>a</sup> 293 K in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  relative to  $\text{CFCl}_3$  unless indicated otherwise.

<sup>b</sup> Nujol mull.

<sup>c</sup> Assignment unclear due to  $\nu(\text{PMe}_3)$  in the same region as  $\nu(\text{W}=\text{O})$ .

<sup>d</sup>  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

Attempts to prepare  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OAsPh}_3)]$  from  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  and  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  in either MeCN or  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  were unsuccessful. In the former solvent, a white powder formed, which was insoluble in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  or  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and the IR spectrum showed no  $\text{OAsPh}_3$ , with very broad absorptions  $< 1000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , assigned to polymeric  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ , indicative of O/F exchange. The supernatant solution gave a cream solid on evaporation, which was identified from its characteristic  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR chemical shift of  $\delta = -89$  as  $\text{Ph}_3\text{AsF}_2$ . The same reaction in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution gave the insoluble white solid, but in this case  $[\text{W}_2\text{O}_2\text{F}_9]^-$  was the major soluble tungsten species formed [15]. Fluorination of  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  to  $\text{Ph}_3\text{AsF}_2$  has been observed on reaction with  $\text{TeF}_4$  [20],  $\text{AsF}_3$  [21], although simple adduct formation occurs with  $\text{SnF}_4$ ,  $\text{GeF}_4$ ,  $\text{TiF}_4$  and  $\text{ZrF}_4$  [22–25]. Adduct formation and fluorination both occur with  $\text{NbF}_5$  and  $\text{SbF}_3$  [7,21], whilst  $\text{SiF}_4$  produced  $[\text{Ph}_3\text{AsOH}]_2[\text{SiF}_6]$  [26].

### 2.3. $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ complexes

Since we were unable to isolate  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{MeCN})_2]$  as a possible synthon for complexes of  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ , further O/F exchange from  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  in the presence of added ligand was explored. The reaction of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$  with a further molar equivalent of  $\text{OPPh}_3$  and HMDSO in MeCN solution gave a high yield of white  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$ . The complex can also be made directly from  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  and two molar equivalents of  $\text{OPPh}_3$  in MeCN solution, followed after  $\sim 1$  h by addition of one equivalent of HMDSO. If the HMDSO is added before or at the same time as the  $\text{OPPh}_3$ , mixtures result, including much insoluble precipitate that is assumed to be  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ . This confirms that coordination of the neutral ligand to tungsten is necessary before the second oxido-group is introduced, otherwise the “molecular  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ ”

intermediate" polymerises and precipitates, and is no longer available to coordinate to neutral ligands. The  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  has previously been prepared from  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  and  $\text{Me}_3\text{SnF}$  [18]. Similar syntheses using  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$ , two or more equivalents of  $\text{OSMe}_2$ , py or pyNO in MeCN, followed by addition of HMDSO, gave the corresponding  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2\text{L}_2]$  (L =  $\text{OSMe}_2$ , pyNO, py) as white powders. The  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2\{\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2\}]$  was made from  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$ ,  $\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2$  and HMDSO in a 1:1:1 ratio in MeCN. The phosphine oxide complexes and  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OSMe}_2)_2]$  are readily soluble in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  or MeCN, but  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$  and  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{py})_2]$  are very poorly soluble in these solvents. All five complexes appear air stable in the solid state, although slowly hydrolysed on exposure of the solutions in MeCN to air.

As noted above, reaction of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  with 1,10-phenanthroline in a 1:1 ratio in MeCN gave a modest yield of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{phen})]$ . Bougon et al. [16] reported the isolation of  $[\text{WOF}_4(2,2'\text{-bipy})]$  (from  $\text{WOF}_4$  and 2,2'-bipyridyl in MeCN, or  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ), and showed that in solution it disproportionated into  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{bipy})]$  and  $[\text{WF}_6(\text{bipy})]$ . A similar reaction, but with more rapid disproportionation, would account for the formation of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{phen})]$  in modest (37%) yield in the present case. Support for this conclusion comes from the fact that if the  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  + 1,10-phenanthroline (1:1) mixture in MeCN is treated with a further equivalent of HMDSO the yield of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{phen})]$  increases to ~93%.

The  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  complexes have characteristic spectroscopic fingerprints (Table 1) that are quite different from those of the  $\text{WOF}_4$  analogues. In the IR spectra the  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2\text{L}_2]$  (L = py, pyNO,  $\text{OSMe}_2$ ,  $\text{OPPh}_3$ ,  $\text{L}_2 = \text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2$ , phen) with  $\text{C}_{2v}$  symmetry exhibit two strong  $\nu(\text{W}=\text{O})$  in the range  $\sim 900 - 960 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the *cis* dioxo-group (theory  $a_1 + b_1$ ) and a single  $\nu(\text{WF}_2) \sim 550 - 590 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the *trans* F–W–F unit (theory  $b_2$ ). The  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR resonances

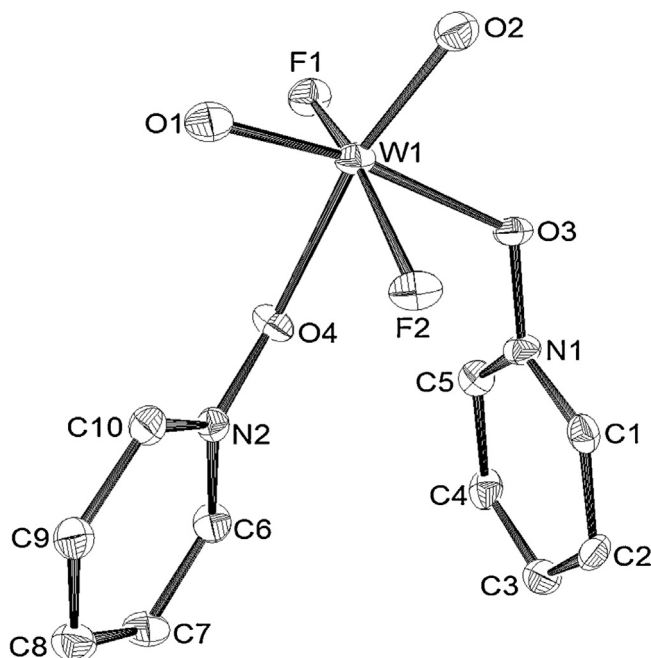
are singlets in the narrow range  $\delta = -63$  to  $-70$  which is  $\sim 120$  ppm to low frequency of the  $\text{WOF}_4$  analogues. The  $^1J(^{183}\text{W}-^{19}\text{F})$  satellites of 90–110 Hz in the  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  complexes are significantly larger than those of  $\text{WOF}_4$  complexes.

X-ray crystal structures were obtained for  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$ ,  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  and  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2\{\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2\}]$ .

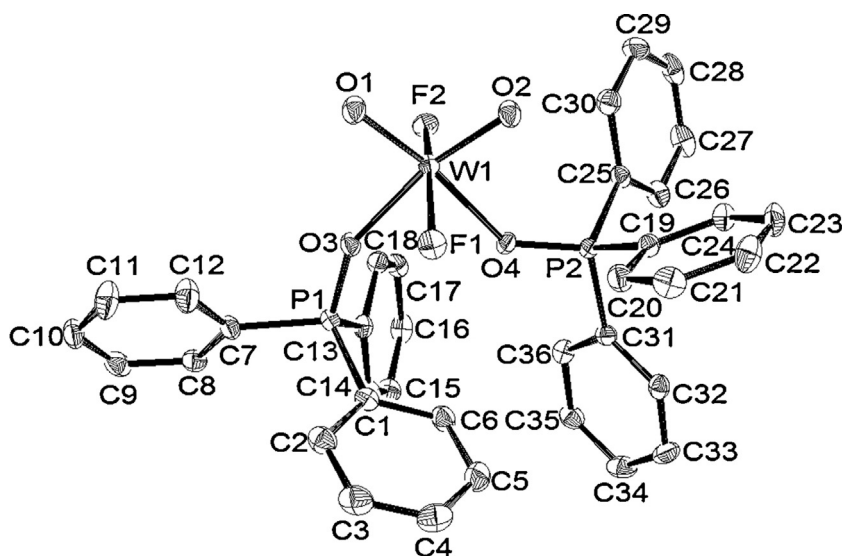
The structure of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$  contains distorted octahedral coordination at the tungsten (Fig. 2), with a wide  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(1) = 102.66(14)^\circ$ , with other angles involving the  $\text{W}=\text{O}$  groups greater than  $90^\circ$  and the remaining angles mostly  $< 90^\circ$ . The F–W–F unit also deviates significantly from linearity, at  $156.62(11)^\circ$ , with the unit bent away from the  $\text{WO}_2$  group towards the neutral ligands. The greater space around the central metal occupied by the dioxo-groups is found in other early transition metal oxide halides [4–6,16,18]. The pattern of bond lengths and angles found for  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$  closely resembles those in the only literature structure, that of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{bipy})]$  [16].

The structural features found in  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$  are replicated in  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  (Fig. 3). X-ray crystal structures have also been reported for  $[\text{WO}_2\text{X}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  (X = Cl or Br) [18,27],  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{OPMe}_3)_2]$  [18] and  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{OPMePh}_2)_2]$  [28]. Comparison of the geometries of these five phosphine oxide complexes shows very small changes as the halogen is changed. The  $\text{W}=\text{O}$  are essentially invariant (1.70–1.73 Å), as are the  $\text{O}-\text{W}-\text{O}$  angles ( $101 - 103^\circ$ ), whilst the  $\text{X}-\text{W}-\text{X}$  angle increases from  $157.5^\circ$  in  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  to  $163^\circ$  in  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  and  $167^\circ$  in  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Br}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$ . The  $\text{W}-\text{O}(\text{P})$  distances in the phosphine oxides also fall in a rather narrow range (2.13–2.22 Å).

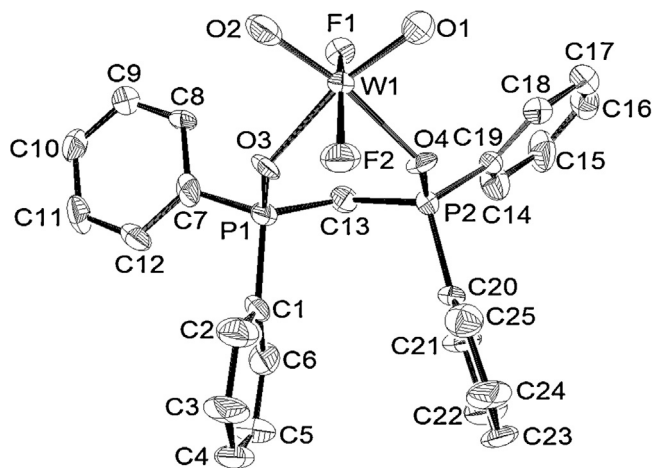
The structure of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2\{\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2\}]$  (Fig. 4) is also a distorted octahedral monomer, with a chelating diphosphine dioxide ligand. The pattern of bond lengths and angles is similar to those discussed above for the  $\text{OPR}_3$  complexes and are also similar to those reported for  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Cl}_2\{\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2\}]$  [28]. In the



**Fig. 2.** Crystal structure of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$  showing atom numbering scheme. Ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H-atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(2) = 1.709(3)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(1) = 1.722(3)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 1.896(2)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 1.910(3)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 2.179(3)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 2.190(3)$ ,  $\text{O}(3) - \text{N}(1) = 1.351(4)$ ,  $\text{O}(4) - \text{N}(2) = 1.348(4)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(1) = 102.66(14)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 97.43(13)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 97.60(13)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 98.51(13)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 95.46(13)$ ,  $\text{F}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 156.62(11)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 92.20(12)$ ,  $\text{F}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 78.27(11)$ ,  $\text{F}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 81.95(11)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 86.49(13)$ ,  $\text{F}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 82.43(11)$ ,  $\text{F}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 81.60(11)$ ,  $\text{O}(4) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 78.73(11)$ ,  $\text{N}(1) - \text{O}(3) - \text{W}(1) = 122.8(2)$ ,  $\text{N}(2) - \text{O}(4) - \text{W}(1) = 128.2(2)$ .



**Fig. 3.** Crystal structure of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$  showing atom numbering scheme. Ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H-atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(1) = 1.714(2)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(2) = 1.723(2)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 1.906(2)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 1.9209(19)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 2.144(2)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 2.223(2)$ ,  $\text{P}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 1.508(2)$ ,  $\text{P}(2) - \text{O}(4) = 1.510(2)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(2) = 102.07(11)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 98.32(11)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 96.86(10)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 96.39(10)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 96.65(10)$ ,  $\text{F}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 157.47(9)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 91.25(10)$ ,  $\text{F}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 81.29(9)$ ,  $\text{F}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 81.41(8)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 88.15(10)$ ,  $\text{F}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 83.91(9)$ ,  $\text{F}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 88.58(8)$ ,  $\text{O}(3) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 78.54(8)$ ,  $\text{P}(1) - \text{O}(3) - \text{W}(1) = 152.58(15)$ ,  $\text{P}(2) - \text{O}(4) - \text{W}(1) = 136.97(13)$ .



**Fig. 4.** Crystal structure of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2)]$  showing atom numbering scheme. Ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H-atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(2) = 1.687(9)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(1) = 1.720(9)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 1.899(8)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 1.919(8)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 2.187(8)$ ,  $\text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 2.200(8)$ ,  $\text{P}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 1.500(9)$ ,  $\text{P}(2) - \text{O}(4) = 1.509(9)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(1) = 102.7(4)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 98.0(4)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(2) = 98.4(4)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 96.3(4)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 97.4(4)$ ,  $\text{F}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{F}(1) = 155.8(3)$ ,  $\text{O}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 90.0(4)$ ,  $\text{F}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 80.4(3)$ ,  $\text{F}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(3) = 80.2(3)$ ,  $\text{O}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 88.3(4)$ ,  $\text{F}(2) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 82.0(3)$ ,  $\text{F}(1) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 80.3(3)$ ,  $\text{O}(3) - \text{W}(1) - \text{O}(4) = 79.0(3)$ .

latter  $\text{W}=\text{O} = 1.69(1) - 1.73(1)$  Å and  $\angle \text{O}-\text{W}-\text{O} = 101 - 102^\circ$  (there are two crystallographically independent molecules in the unit cell).

#### 2.4. Reactions with neutral sulfur, selenium and arsenic ligands

Excess  $\text{SMe}_2$  did not react with a solution of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  in MeCN or  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , removal of the solvent *in vacuo* after 1 h recovered  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$ . After several hours the reaction mixture in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , turned blue and a blue precipitate formed. Similar *in situ* monitoring of solutions of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  and  $\text{MeSCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SMe}$  or  $\text{MeSeCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SeMe}$  in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  by  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectroscopy showed no evidence for displacement of the nitrile, although the diselenoether solution decomposed, turning dark green overnight. Since the  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  adducts of O— or

N—donor ligands were more robust (see above), freshly prepared solutions of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  and  $\text{MeSCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SMe}$  or  $\text{MeSeCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SeMe}$  were treated with HMDSO in MeCN, resulting in immediate white precipitates, which appeared to be “ $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$ ” from their IR spectra, whilst the filtrates showed only free dichalcogenoether. Hence neither  $\text{WOF}_4$  nor  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  seem able to form complexes with neutral sulfur or selenium ligands under these conditions. Extremely moisture sensitive yellow crystals of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{RSCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SR})]$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Me}$  or  $^i\text{Pr}$ ) have been prepared previously from  $\text{WCl}_6$  or  $\text{WOCl}_4$ , HMDSO and the dithioether in MeCN/ $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution, and found by X-ray crystallography to have six-coordinate tungsten with the dithioether *trans* to the *cis*  $\text{WO}_2$  unit [29,30]. Similar complexes with  $\text{WO}_2\text{Br}_2$  are known [29],

The addition of  $\text{AsMe}_3$  to a solution of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  in MeCN or  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  monitored by  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy showed no reaction occurred, with the soft arsine unable to displace the nitrile. On standing for a few hours a pale blue precipitate formed in the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution and the solution showed the presence of  $[\text{W}_2\text{O}_2\text{F}_9]^-$  and unusually also  $[\text{WOF}_5]^-$   $\{\delta(\text{F}) = +47.6$  (d, [4F]),  $^2J_{\text{FF}} = 53$  Hz,  $-83.0$  (m, [F]) $\}$  [15]. The reaction of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  with tertiary phosphines under similar conditions is dependent upon the R-group and the solvent (cf. the  $\text{NbF}_5$ - $\text{PR}_3$  systems [31]) and will be the subject of further study.

Complexes of type  $[\text{WF}_6(\text{E}t_2)]$  (E = S or Se) have been reported [31], although characterisation is very limited, but two seven coordinate  $[\text{WF}_6(\text{PR}_3)]$ , ( $\text{R}_3 = \text{Me}_3$  or  $\text{Me}_2\text{Ph}$ ) have been synthesised and their structures determined [32].

### 3. Experimental

Infrared spectra were recorded as Nujol mulls between CsI plates using a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 100 spectrometer over the range  $4000$ – $200$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker AV-II 400 spectrometer and are referenced to the protio resonance of the solvent, external  $\text{CFCl}_3$  and 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  respectively. Microanalyses were undertaken by London Metropolitan University. Solvents were dried prior to use: THF and  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  by distillation from sodium benzophenone ketyl, MeCN and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  from  $\text{CaH}_2$ .  $\text{OPMe}_3$  and pyNO were freshly sublimed *in vacuo*,  $\text{OPPh}_3$ ,  $\text{OAsPh}_3$  and 1,10-phen were heated *in vacuo*, dmsO, pyridine,  $\text{SMe}_2$ ,  $\text{MeSCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SMe}$  and  $\text{MeSeCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SeMe}$  were dried over molecular sieves.  $\text{WF}_6$  (Fluorochem), HMDSO (Aldrich) and  $\text{AsMe}_3$  (Strem) were used as received.  $\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Ph}_2$  was made by the literature method [33]. All preparations were undertaken using standard Schlenk techniques under a  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere, and samples were manipulated in a dry nitrogen filled glove box.

#### 3.1. $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$

A mixture of MeCN (20 mL) and HMDSO (0.16 g, 1.0 mmol) were frozen in liquid nitrogen and then  $\text{WF}_6$  (0.3 g, 1.0 mmol) condensed in under vacuum. The mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature and stirred for 12 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to leave a white powder. Yield: 0.3 g, 94%. The reaction can be scaled up readily to produce  $\sim 2$  g batches. Anal: Required for  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{F}_4\text{NOW}$  (316.9): C, 7.6; H, 0.9; N, 4.4. Found: C, 7.5; H, 0.9; N, 4.2%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 2.37$  (s).  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = +67.4$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 69$  Hz); ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 293 K):  $\delta = +65.9$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 69$  Hz). IR (Nujol/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2319 (m, C=N), 1021 (vs, W=O), 644 (m, WF).

#### 3.2. $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPMe}_3)]$

Freshly sublimed  $\text{OPMe}_3$  (0.09 g, 1.0 mmol) was added to an MeCN solution (10 mL) of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  (0.32 g, 1.0 mmol) and stirred for 5 h. The colourless solution was concentrated to  $\sim 2$  mL resulting in precipitation of a white powder which was separated by decanting off the solvent, and drying *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.30 g, 81%. Anal: Required for  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_9\text{F}_4\text{O}_2\text{PW}$  (367.92): C, 9.8; H, 2.5. Found: C, 10.0; H, 2.7%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 1.75$  (d,  $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 17$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = +58.3$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 66$  Hz).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 66.9$  (s). IR (Nujol/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1095 (s, PO), 979 (vs, W=O), 610 (m, WF), 582 (m, br WF).

#### 3.3. $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OPPh}_3)]$

was made similarly, except that the  $\text{OPPh}_3$  was dried by melting *in vacuo* before use. Yield: 85%. Anal: Required for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_4\text{O}_2\text{PW}$

(554.12): C, 39.0; H, 2.7. Found: C, 39.1; H, 2.9%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 7.93$ – $7.40$  (m).  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = +60.5$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 69$  Hz).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K): 47.3 (s). IR (Nujol/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1087 (s, PO), 993 (vs, W=O), 628 (m, WF), 597 (m, WF).

#### 3.4. $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{thf})]$

$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  (0.32 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in dry thf (10 mL), stirred for 3 h, and then all volatiles removed *in vacuo*, leaving a waxy colourless material which decomposed, turning black, in a few days.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 2.09$  (s, [4H]), 4.15 (m, [4H]); (200 K):  $\delta = 2.02$  (s, [4H]), 4.12 (s, [4H]).  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = +63.3$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 64$  Hz); (200 K):  $\delta = +63.3$ . IR (Nujol/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1040 (COC), 1018 (vs, W=O), 877 (s, COC), 633 (s, WF) 607 (br, WF).

#### 3.5. $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{py})]$

$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  (0.32 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in dry MeCN (10 mL) and dry pyridine (0.08 g, 1.0 mmol) added producing a very pale green solution. After 3 h, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to  $\sim 3$  mL and the bluish-white precipitate filtered off, rinsed with dichloromethane (2 mL) and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.25 g, 71%. Anal: Required for  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{F}_4\text{NOW}\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (439.9): C, 16.3; H, 1.6; N, 3.2. Found: C, 16.3; H, 2.0; N, 3.4%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 7.6$ – $8.9$  (m), 5.3 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 293 K):  $\delta = +62.9$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 65$  Hz). IR (Nujol/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 995 (s, W=O), 610 (s, br, WF), 580 (br, WF).

#### 3.6. $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{OSMe}_2)]$

$[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  (0.32 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in dry MeCN (10 mL) and dry  $\text{OSMe}_2$  (0.08 g, 1.0 mmol) added, producing a clear solution. After 3 h, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to  $\sim 3$  mL, diethyl ether (5 mL) was added slowly and the cream precipitate was filtered off, rinsed with diethyl ether (2 mL) and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.22 g, 62%. Anal: Required for  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{F}_4\text{O}_2\text{SW}$  (354.0): C, 6.8; H, 1.8. Found: C, 7.1; H, 2.4%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 2.74$  (s).  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 293 K):  $\delta = +59.2$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 70$  Hz). IR (Nujol/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1018 (s, W=O), 1000 (br s,SO), 596 (m, WF), 572 (s, WF).

#### 3.7. $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{OPPh}_3)_2]$

An MeCN solution (10 mL) of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) was treated with  $\text{OPPh}_3$  (0.28 g, 1.0 mmol) and the clear solution stirred for 1 h, followed by addition of HMDSO (0.08 g, 0.5 mmol). On stirring overnight, a quantity of white solid precipitated. This was filtered off, rinsed with MeCN (5 mL) and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.13 g, 32%. Anal: Required for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{30}\text{F}_2\text{O}_4\text{P}_2\text{W}$  (810.4): C, 53.4; H, 3.7. Found: C, 53.2; H, 3.6%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 7.46$ – $7.70$  (m).  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = -63.1$  (s,  $^1J_{\text{WF}} = 90$  Hz); (200 K):  $-63.8$  (s).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 41.7$  (s). IR (Nujol/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1164 (s, PO), 1081 (s, PO), 962 (vs, W=O), 919 (vs, W=O), 588 (s, WF). Crystals were grown from an MeCN/ $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution by slow evaporation.

#### 3.8. $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{pyNO})_2]$

An MeCN solution (10 mL) of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) was treated with a solution of pyNO (0.09 g, 1.0 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , and the clear solution stirred for 1 h, followed by addition of HMDSO (0.08 g, 0.5 mmol). On stirring overnight, a quantity of white solid precipitated. This was filtered off, rinsed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 mL) and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.22 g, 85%. Anal: Required for

$C_{10}H_{10}F_2N_2O_4W \cdot CH_2Cl_2$  (529.0): C, 25.0; H, 2.3; N, 5.3. Found: C, 25.1; H, 2.4; N, 5.8%.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CD_3CN$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 7.73$  (s, [2H]), 7.98 (s, [H]), 8.56 (s, [2H]), 5.3 ( $CH_2Cl_2$ ).  $^{19}F\{^1H\}$  NMR ( $CD_3CN$ , 293 K):  $\delta = -67.9$  (br, s,  $^1J_{WF} = \sim 100$  Hz). IR (Nujol/ $cm^{-1}$ ): 1300 (m, br NO), 959 (vs, W=O), 913 (vs, W=O), 568 (vs, WF). Crystals were grown from MeCN solution.

### 3.9. $[WO_2F_2\{Ph_2P(O)CH_2P(O)Ph_2\}]$

An MeCN solution (10 mL) of  $[WOF_4(MeCN)]$  (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) was treated with  $Ph_2P(O)CH_2P(O)Ph_2$  (0.21 g, 0.5 mmol) dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) and stirred for 1 h, followed by addition of HMDSO (0.08 g, 0.5 mmol). The solution was stirred for 15 h, during which time some white solid deposited. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to 5 mL, the white solid filtered off, rinsed with MeCN (2 mL) and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.28 g, 79%. Anal: Required for  $C_{25}H_{22}F_2O_4P_2W \cdot 1/2CH_2Cl_2$  (712.5): C, 43.0; H, 3.25. Found: C, 43.0; H, 3.1%.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CD_2Cl_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 3.85$  (t, [2H],  $^2J_{PH} = 13$  Hz), 7.38–7.97 (m, [20H]), 5.3 ( $CH_2Cl_2$ ).  $^{19}F\{^1H\}$  NMR ( $CD_2Cl_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = -67.1$  (s,  $^1J_{WF} = 108$  Hz); (200 K):  $-63.8$  (s).  $^{31}P\{^1H\}$  NMR ( $CD_2Cl_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 41.7$  (s). IR (Nujol/ $cm^{-1}$ ): 1156 (s, PO), 1102 (s, PO), 969 (vs, W=O), 917 (vs, W=O), 603 (sh, WF), 571 (vs, WF). Crystals were grown from MeCN solution.

### 3.10. $[WO_2F_2(1,10-phen)]$

**Method 1.** An MeCN solution (10 mL) of  $[WOF_4(MeCN)]$  (0.162 g, 0.5 mmol) was treated with 1,10-phen (0.095 g, 0.5 mmol) dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) and stirred for 1 h, producing a white precipitate. HMDSO (0.08 g, 0.5 mmol) in MeCN (25 mL) was added and the mixture stirred for 24 h. The pale blue-white powder was filtered off, washed with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 mL) and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.19 g, 93%. Anal: Required for  $C_{10}H_8F_2N_2O_2W$  (410.0): C, 29.2; H, 2.0; N, 6.8. Found: C, 28.1; H, 2.0; N, 6.4%.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CD_3CN$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 8.24$  (m, [4H]), 8.94 (m, [2H]), 9.24 (m, [2H]).  $^{19}F\{^1H\}$  NMR ( $CD_3CN$ , 293 K):  $\delta = -69.6$  (s,  $^1J_{WF} = 95$  Hz). IR (Nujol/ $cm^{-1}$ ): 962 (s, W=O), 933 (s, W=O), 585 (s, WF).

**Method 2.**  $[WOF_4(MeCN)]$  (0.32 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in dry MeCN (10 mL) and dry 1,10-phenanthroline (0.16 g, 1.0 mmol) as a solution in MeCN (5 mL) added, producing an immediate white precipitate. The solution was stirred for 3 h, and then the precipitate filtered off, rinsed with MeCN (2 mL) and dried *in*

*vacuo*. Yield: 0.15 g, 37%. Anal. Required  $C_{10}H_8F_2N_2O_2W$  (410.0): C, 29.2; H, 2.0; N, 6.8. Found: C, 29.3; H, 1.9; N, 6.4%. The spectroscopic data were identical to that from the sample from method 1.

### 3.11. $[WO_2F_2(OSMe_2)_2]$

An MeCN solution (10 mL) of  $[WOF_4(MeCN)]$  (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) was treated with  $OSMe_2$  (0.16 g, 2.0 mmol) and the clear solution stirred for 1 h, followed by addition of HMDSO (0.08 g, 0.5 mmol). On stirring overnight, a quantity of white solid precipitated. This was filtered off, rinsed with MeCN (5 mL) and dried *in vacuo*. Refrigeration of the filtrate produced more precipitate. Yield: 0.23 g, 64%. Anal: Required for  $C_4H_{12}F_2O_4S_2W$  (410.1): C, 11.7; H, 3.0. Found: C, 11.6; H, 3.2%.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CD_2Cl_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 2.56$  (s).  $^{19}F\{^1H\}$  NMR ( $CD_2Cl_2$ , 293 K):  $\delta = -64.7$  (s,  $^1J_{WF} = 103$  Hz). IR (Nujol/ $cm^{-1}$ ): 1004 (br s, SO), 933 (vs, W=O), 900 (m, W=O), 556 (s, WF).

### 3.12. $[WO_2F_2(py)_2]$

An MeCN solution (15 mL) of  $[WOF_4(MeCN)]$  (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) was treated with pyridine (0.20 g, 2.5 mmol) and the solution stirred for 1 h. Some cream precipitate was filtered off and discarded, and the filtrate treated with HMDSO (0.08 g, 0.5 mmol). On stirring overnight, a quantity of white solid precipitated. This was filtered off, rinsed with MeCN (5 mL) and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.20 g, 90%. The isolated complex is very poorly soluble in MeCN and insoluble in  $CH_2Cl_2$ . Anal: Required for  $C_{10}H_{10}F_2N_2O_2W$  (412.1): C, 29.1; H, 2.5; N, 6.8. Found: C, 29.3; H, 2.4; N, 6.6%.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CD_3CN$ , 293 K):  $\delta = 7.5$ –8.8 (m).  $^{19}F\{^1H\}$  NMR ( $CD_3CN$ , 293 K):  $\delta = -69.0$  (s,  $^1J_{WF} = 102$  Hz). IR (Nujol/ $cm^{-1}$ ): 961 (vs, W=O), 932 (m, W=O), 575 (br s, WF).

### 3.13. X-ray experimental

Details of the crystallographic data collection and refinement parameters are given in Table 2. Crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis were obtained as described above. Data collections used a Rigaku AFC12 goniometer equipped with an enhanced sensitivity (HG) Saturn724+ detector mounted at the window of an FR-E+ SuperBright molybdenum ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) rotating anode generator with VHF Varimax optics (70  $\mu m$  focus) with the crystal held at 100 K ( $N_2$  cryostream). Structure solution and refinements

**Table 2**  
X-ray crystallographic data.<sup>a</sup>

Compound	$[WO_2F_2(pyNO)_2]$	$[WO_2F_2(OPPh_3)_2]$	$[WO_2F_2(Ph_2P(O)CH_2P(O)Ph_2)]$	$[WOF_4(OPPh_3)]$
Formula	$C_{10}H_{10}F_2N_2O_4W$	$C_{36}H_{30}F_2O_4P_2W$	$C_{25}H_{22}F_2O_4P_2W$	$C_{18}H_{15}F_4O_2PW$
<i>M</i>	444.05	810.39	670.22	554.12
Crystal system	Triclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group (no.)	P-1 (2)	P-1 (2)	$P2_1/n$ (14)	$P2_1/c$ (14)
<i>a</i> /Å	6.9581(10)	9.4140(10)	10.623(2)	10.282(3)
<i>b</i> /Å	7.1272(10)	10.3851(10)	18.628(3)	8.526(2)
<i>c</i> /Å	12.3851(10)	17.950(2)	12.830(3)	20.477(4)
$\alpha$ /°	84.866(5)	78.437(2)	90	90
$\beta$ /°	80.576(3)	81.523(2)	103.535(5)	94.650(6)
$\gamma$ /°	80.709(4)	64.119(3)	90	90
<i>U</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	596.71(13)	1543.2(3)	2468.3(8)	1789.0(8)
<i>Z</i>	2	2	4	4
$\mu$ (Mo-K $\alpha$ )/mm <sup>-1</sup>	9.718	3.899	4.854	6.595
<i>F</i> (000)	416	800	1304	1056
Total number reflns	5243	15781	41782	7805
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0348	0.0280	0.2172	0.0401
Unique reflns	2351	6051	4840	3526
No. of params, restraints	172, 0	406, 0	307, 1	235, 0
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )] <sup>b</sup>	0.0199, 0.0477	0.0239, 0.0632	0.0759, 0.1470	0.0367, 0.0842
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> (all data)	0.0227, 0.0485	0.0275, 0.0645	0.1324, 0.1710	0.0489, 0.0901

<sup>a</sup> Common items: *T* = 100 K; wavelength (Mo-K $\alpha$ ) = 0.71073 Å;  $\theta$ (max) = 27.5°.

<sup>b</sup>  $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ ;  $wR_2 = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \sum wF_o^4]^{1/2}$ .

were performed with either SHELX(S/L) 97 or SHELX(S/L) 2013 [34] and were straightforward. H atoms bonded to C were placed in calculated positions using the default C–H distance and refined using a riding model.

Crystallographic data in cif format have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) and given numbers 1443047–1443050. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK, fax: +44 1223 366033, email: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk) or on the web at <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk>.

#### 4. Conclusions

A convenient entry into the neutral N- or O-donor ligand complexes of  $\text{WOF}_4$  and  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  has been developed, and several examples of each type prepared and characterised. Softer donor ligand complexes (S, Se or As donors) do not form in similar reactions. The complexes of  $\text{WOF}_4$  are of limited stability and very readily hydrolysed, but those of  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  are more robust. Comparison of the spectroscopic and crystallographic data on comparable complexes of  $\text{WO}_2\text{X}_2$  (X = F, Cl or Br) shows surprisingly little differences with changing the halogen present. However, whilst for X = Cl or Br it is possible to isolate complexes with neutral thioether or arsine ligands [29,30,35], similar complexes have not been isolated with X = F. It is likely that the cause here is less the inherent lower affinity for soft donor ligands in the fluorides, but rather the formation of much stronger W–F–W bridges that compete successfully for coordination sites on the tungsten [4]. Similar differences are observed in the chemistries of  $\text{NbOF}_3$  and  $\text{NbOCl}_3$  [7]. The precipitation of  $\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2$  rather than formation of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{F}_2(\text{MeCN})_2]$  from an MeCN solution of  $[\text{WOF}_4(\text{MeCN})]$  and HMDSO, contrasts with the ready isolation of  $[\text{WO}_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{MeCN})_2]$  [36] and is also explicable in terms of the greater strength of fluoride over chloride bridges. The formation of  $\text{WF}_6$  complexes with  $\text{SEt}_2$  and  $\text{SeEt}_2$  [31,32], whereas analogues with  $\text{WOF}_4$  were not found in the present study, shows that  $\text{WF}_6$  is a stronger Lewis acid than  $\text{WOF}_4$ . Similar conclusions were drawn between  $\text{NbF}_5$  and  $\text{NbOF}_3$  [7], which can be rationalised by the increased  $\pi$ -donation from the oxido-group reducing the electron deficit at the metal centre. A recent review [37] summarises structural data on tungsten(VI) oxide halide complexes; the complexes reported in the present manuscript accord with those described.

#### Acknowledgements.

We thank EPSRC for support (EP/I033394/1). The SCFED Project ([www.scfed.net](http://www.scfed.net)) is a multidisciplinary collaboration of British universities investigating the fundamental and applied aspects of supercritical fluids.

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