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Publisher's version / Version de l'éditeur:

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00216-020-02896-y>

Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry, 2020-09-04

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Application of direct analysis in real time to study chemical vapour generation mechanisms. Reduction of dimethylarsinic(V) acid with aqueous NaBH₄ under non-analytical conditions.

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Abstract

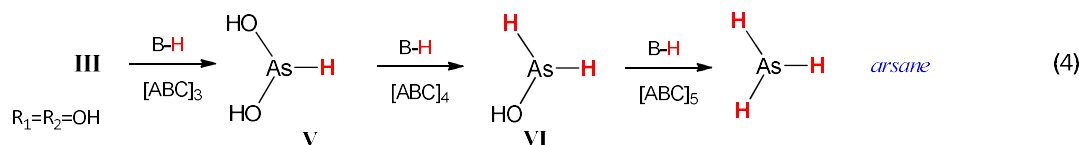
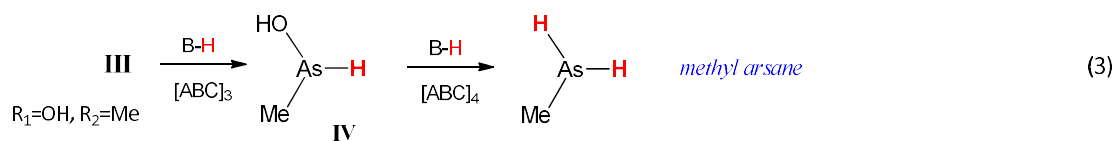
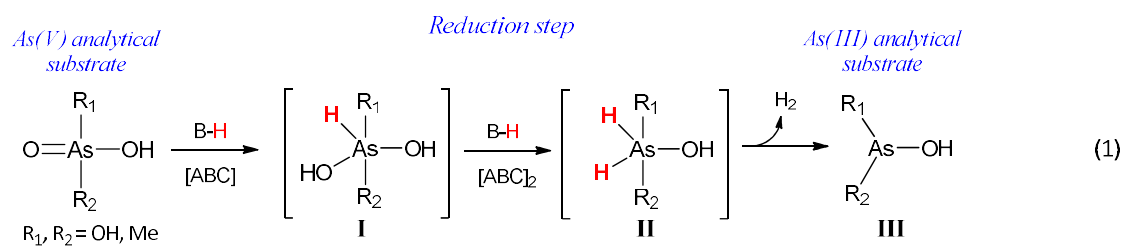
The aqueous phase reaction of dimethylarsinic acid (DMAs(V)) with NaBH₄ (THB) was studied under non-analytical conditions (1000 µg/mL As, 0.1 M HCl, 1% NaBH₄) with the aim of identifying intermediates and reaction products. The use of direct analysis in real time (DART) with high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS), in combination with two different chemical vapor generation systems, allowed the identification of some species not detected by GC-MS such as Me₂As-AsMe-AsMe₂ and the arsonium species [Me₃As-AsMe₂]⁺ and [Me₂As-AsMe₂-AsMe₂]⁺. Many other methylated species of arsenic containing up to four arsenic atoms have been observed. Unfortunately, the oxidation mechanism that took place in the DART source interfered with the identification of some of those species formed in solution following THB reduction.

The species identified by DART-HRMS, together with those previously identified by GC-MS (Me₂AsH, Me₂AsOH, Me₃As, Me₃AsO, Me₂AsAsMeH, Me₂AsAsMe₂ and Me₂As-O-AsMe₂) enabled the formulation of hypotheses on the possible reaction pathways and revealed an aqueous phase reactivity of DMAs(V) which cannot be explained on the basis of current knowledge.

Keywords: Chemical Vapor Generation, Tetrahydridoborate(1-), Arsenic, Mechanisms, Mass Spectrometry.

1. Introduction

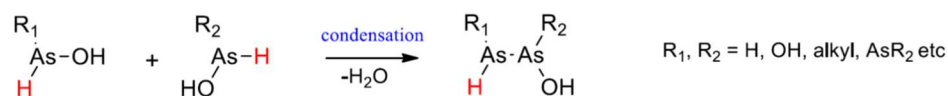
Chemical vapor generation (CVG) of volatile arsanes by reaction of inorganic As(III, V) and methylated As(V) acids with aqueous boranes (MBH₄, M=Na, K; R₃NBH₃, R=H, alkyl), besides its analytical relevance for trace arsenic determination and speciation [1–12], represents an useful tool for the investigation of the mechanisms controlling aqueous phase CVG [13–16]. The good stability of arsane and methylated arsanes, combined with the use of mass spectrometry and deuterated reagents allowed the identification of the mechanism of hydrogen transfer [13, 15, 17, 18] and reaction intermediates [13, 16, 17], taking place in CVG under various reaction conditions. The present state of knowledge can be outlined with the aids of Scheme 1 and 2. In general, an As(V) substrate, R₂AsO(OH) (R = OH, Me) is converted to the corresponding arsanes, R₂AsH (R=H, Me) by the stepwise, direct transfer of hydride from borane to arsenic substrate (Scheme 1). The hydride transfer takes place through the formation of analyte borane complexes, ABC, between the analytical substrate and the borane or a hydridoboron species, B-H. Reaction 1 (Scheme 1) represents the reduction step, which is common for all pentavalent arsenic species.



Scheme 1 – CVG of arsanes by aqueous boranes: hydride derivatization pathway.

In the case of trivalent arsenic species the derivatization reaction is described by reactions 2-4, where reaction 4 represents the classical arsane formation from arsenous acid. The stepwise replacement of hydroxyls by the hydride leads to formation of hydrido-metal(oid) complexes (HMC) intermediates **I-VI**, which contain both As-H and As-OH moieties.

The HMC can react among them, with the final arsane and with the analytical substrate through condensation reactions leading to formation of oligomers containing two or more arsenic atoms [14, 16, 17](Scheme 2):



Scheme 2 – Condensation pathway. Reactions between arsenic hydrido-metal(oid) complexes

The formation of arsane would be better described by a reaction scheme that takes into account the competition between the hydride formation pathway (Scheme 1) and the condensation pathway (Scheme 2) [16].

Under analytical conditions, where total concentration of THB is several orders of magnitude higher than the analytical substrates, the hydride derivatization pathway prevails. The mutual interaction among reaction intermediates I-VI, analytical substrate and final arsanes are negligible and all the arsenic species are quickly converted to final arsanes, the desired derivatization products.

When the arsenic concentration increases and/or the THB/As ratio decreases (non-analytical conditions) the occurrence of condensation reactions became increasingly important. In this case, the formation of arsane oligomers has been detected by various mass spectrometric techniques [13, 14, 17].

Under non-analytical conditions (up to 10 mM As) the volatilization efficiency of arsenic species dramatically decreased [17]. For inorganic As(III) about 65% of arsenic remains in the condensed phase (45% in solution and 20% as solid precipitate). For both $\text{MeAsO}(\text{OH})_2$ and $\text{Me}_2\text{AsO}(\text{OH})$, the amount fraction of the total As remaining in solution as non-volatile compounds is >98%. The identification of arsenic compounds which are present in the gas phase [13, 16, 17], liquid phase [14], together with the evidence obtained by deuterium labelled experiments [13, 15, 16], serve as a support of the mechanism of CVG depicted in Schemes 1 and 2.

In the case of reaction between $\text{Me}_2\text{AsO}(\text{OH})$ (DMAs(V)) and NaBH_4 (THB) under non analytical conditions, the current reaction model based on the competition between reduction (Scheme 1) and condensation (Scheme 2), which is followed by As(III) [16] and MMAs(V) [14] substrates, would have suggested that the major product was $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$, i.e. the condensation product of Me_2AsOH with Me_2AsH . Experimental evidences indeed indicate that most of arsenic remained in solution (>98%) at the end of reaction. Many transient volatile species were detected by GC-MS such as Me_2AsH (the desired analytical derivatives), Me_2AsX ($\text{X}=\text{OH}$, Cl), $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$ and $\text{Me}_2\text{AsOAsMe}_2$ during reaction and the only volatile species detected in the headspace at the end of reaction was Me_3As (< 2%) [17]. In spite of the high amount fraction of arsenic remaining in solution very little precipitate was observed [17], indicating formation of soluble arsenic species which remained unidentified. This paper reports a study performed by direct analysis in real time (DART) with high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS), devoted to the identification of volatile and non-volatile arsenic species formed by reaction of DMAs(V) with THB under non analytical conditions. The experimental evidences allowed clarifying the mechanism governing the reactivity of arsenic-THB reaction systems, to explain the anomalous behavior of DMAs(V) with respect to inorganic As and MMAs(V) and discloses a reactivity which is not reported previously in the literature.

2. Experimental

2.1. Reagents and materials

An aqueous standard solution of dimethylarsinic acid was prepared from cacodylic acid ($\text{Me}_2\text{As}(\text{O})\text{OH}$, 99.3% purity, Sigma Aldrich) in 0.1 M HCl at a mass fraction of 1000 $\mu\text{g/g}$ of As. A reducing solution of sodium tetrahydroborate (1% w/v) was prepared by dissolving the solid salt (NaBH_4 , 98% purity, Alfa Aesar) in aqueous 0.1 M NaOH.

2.2. Instrumentation and apparatus.

Direct analysis in real time (DART, IonSence, Saugus MA, USA) with a LTQ linear ion trap-Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Bremen, Germany) were used for identification of arsenic

intermediates. The DART source was placed 17 mm away from the orifice of the Orbitrap. The mass spectrometer was tuned in positive mode and calibrated according to the manufacturer's operating instructions. The DART was operated with a helium flow of 3.5 L/min at 100 °C. All other parameter were standard settings: needle current = 9990 mA; needle voltage = 3500 V; discharge electrode current = 7 mA; discharge electrode voltage = 150 V; grid electrode current = 10 mA; grid electrode voltage = 250 V.

The reaction between DMAs(V) and THB was carried out in a 4 mL borosilicate vial equipped with a screw cap and a silicone/teflon septum. The gaseous phase (Figure 1A) or the liquid phase (Figure 1B) were injected in a glass vessel (30 mm O.D., 90 mm length) containing a porous glass frit. The apparatus was equipped with a screw cap silicone/teflon septum for injection, and an outlet line for delivery of the sample to the DART source. The outlet line was connected to the DART source with a short Teflon tube (1.5 mm I.D., 25 cm length). A glass capillary was adapted at the end of the Teflon tube (a DIP-it™ glass stick, IonSense Inc., USA) and positioned into the DART source. The apparatus was flushed with argon (150 mL/min) and the injected sample were swept to the DART source.

2.3. Procedures

Reactions were carried out in batch mode (Figure 1) by mixing 1 mL volume of 1000 µg/g As as DMAs(V) in 0.1 M HCl with 200 µL of borohydride solution (1% w/w NaBH₄ in 0.1 M NaOH).

The reaction resulted in formation of dense white fumes. While such fumes formed, the headspace was sampled several times in the time interval from 1 to 12 minutes and injected into the apparatus (1 mL injection, Figure 1A). After about 20 minutes the white fumes evolution ended. The vial hosting the reaction was opened and the liquid phase sampled and injected into the apparatus (0.5 mL injection, Figure 1B).

DART-HRMS spectra collected at 30,000 resolution mode during the reaction between DMAs(V) and THB. The spectra of both headspace and liquid sample were background corrected. The spectrum of the sample is the result of averaging 13 spectra around peak apex for headspace (narrow peak) and 26 spectra for liquid phase (broad peak). Signal acquisition was performed with Xcalibur Thermo Tune Plus software (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

2.4. Safety considerations

Arsenic intermediates generated by reduction with THB must be considered highly toxic and volatile. All experiments were conducted in a vented lab with adequate PPEs.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. DART-HRMS spectra and identification of arsenic species

DART-HRMS spectra collected during the reaction between DMAs(V) and THB are reported in Figure 2. The spectrum in Figure 2A corresponds to the headspace after 1 min reaction time; headspace spectra recorded at higher times (*i.e.* 8, 10, 12 min) did not show remarkable differences. We only observed some ionic species disappearing over time (*i.e.* $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_8\text{AsO}_2]^+$ at $m/z = 138.9722$, and $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_{13}\text{As}_2\text{O}]^+$ at $m/z = 226.9375$), and a moderate change of relative signal intensity. Also the spectrum of the liquid phase, recorded after 20 min reaction (Figure 2B) are quite similar to the headspace one, with the only exception that the species below $m/z = 160$ are absent or reduced in intensity.

The list of all arsenic species detected by DART-HRMS with relative intensities $> 0.1\%$ are reported in Table 1. DART-HRMS confirmed some species that were already identified by GC-MS in previous works, such as Me_2AsH , Me_2AsOH , Me_3As , Me_3AsO , $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMeH}$, $\text{Me}_2\text{AsOAsMe}_2$ and $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$ [13, 17]. In addition, the data reported in Table 1 indicates a variety of intermediates containing two, three and also four arsenic atoms. Not all signals detected by HRMS corresponded to species generated in solution, but some could be formed within the DART ion source following one or more reactions comprising protonation, hydride abstraction, and oxidation [14, 19].

3.1.1. Species with one arsenic atoms

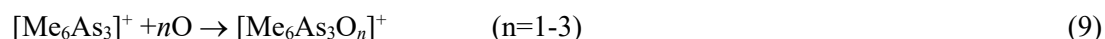
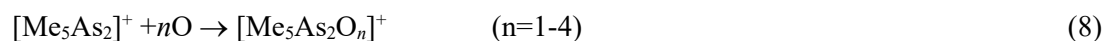
The dimethylarsenic species identified by DART-HRMS (Table 1) could be originated, in principle, by Me_2AsH through reactions taking place into the DART source through the pathway of hydride abstraction:

Due to the gas phase reactivity taking place in the ion source, a single molecular structure can produce several m/z signals, and these effects need to be considered when identifying arsenic intermediates by DART-HRMS. In this regard, certain ion signals could arise from gas phase reaction of different precursors: as reported in Table 1, the ions $2j$ and $2m$ could have been obtained by hydride abstraction from other species, such as $\text{H}(\text{OH})(\text{Me}_2)\text{AsAsMe}_2$, that could be condensation production of intermediates I or II (Scheme 1) with Me_2AsH or Me_2AsOH .

3.1.4. Arsonium species

Fully methylated arsonium ions, $2h$ and $3c$, are among the most abundant species detected. The structure $[\text{Me}_3\text{AsAsMe}_2]^+$ can be assigned to the species $2h$, while two isomeric structures - $[\text{Me}_3\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2]^+$ and $[\text{Me}_2\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})_2\text{AsMe}_2]^+$ - can be assigned to species $3c$. It seems unlikely that these arsonium species are formed into the DART source, but they rather seem to be ions generated by aqueous reaction of DMA and THB. Being permanently charged cationic species, these arsonium ions do not require further ionization. Similar behavior was observed in the hydrolysis products of dimethylamine borane, where the boronium species $[(\text{Me}_2\text{N})_2\text{BH}_2]^+$ were detected by DART-HRMS [20].

Many other oxidized arsonium species were detected ($2l$, $2o$, $2r$, $2s$, $3e$, $3f$, $3m$), some of them with relatively high abundance. There are some doubts that these species were formed in the reaction media and not in the DART ion source by oxidation of $[\text{Me}_5\text{As}_2]^+$ ($2h$) and $[\text{Me}_6\text{As}_3]^+$ ($3c$) :



It is reasonable that the oxidized cationic species do not undergo further process, as protonation or hydride abstraction, which would lead to the formation of double charge ionic species.

3.1.5. Arsenic species containing oxygen

As in the previous work [14], uncertainty remains whether the detected arsenic species containing oxygen are species actually formed in solutions from chemical reactions, or they are generated by oxidation in the DART

source or the MS interface region. In this case, however, we know from independent GC-MS experiment that $\text{Me}_4\text{As}_2\text{O}$ (2j, Table 1) is formed during reaction and in this case is detected as a protonated species $[\text{Me}_4\text{As}_2\text{OH}]^+$ according to mechanism (c). For most polyarsanes containing two or more oxygen atoms, the reducing environment of the reaction suggest that it is unlikely that the arsenic species remained in the higher oxidation state. Therefore, the arsenic species containing high number of oxygen atoms are probably formed in DART source. For the above reason the species containing oxygen atoms must be considered with cautions in the individuation of reaction pathways leading to the formation of non-volatile or less volatile arsenic species.

3.2. Reaction of DMAs(V) with THB

In order to explain the reactivity of DMAs(V) with THB under non analytical conditions, the starting point is represented by the evidence of the species that have been identified with reliability in this work by DART-HRMS, and previously by GC-MS (Table 2) [17]. With the exception of $\text{Me}_2\text{AsOAsMe}_2$, oxidized polyarsanes were not included because they could also be formed in the DART source as discussed in section 3.1.

Apart from condensation reactions, which can explain the formation of some polyarsanes:



the formation of trimethylarsanes (Me_3As and Me_3AsO), arsonium species ($[\text{Me}_3\text{AsAsMe}_2]^+$ and $[\text{Me}_6\text{As}_3]^+$), and trimethyldiarsane ($\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMeH}$), cannot be explained on the base of current knowledge of the reactivity of methylarsanes and polymethyl arsanes.

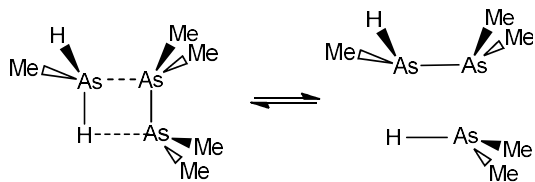
Previous investigations performed in organic media (benzene, toluene and diethylether) [21–23] indicated the lability of As-As and As-H bonds, and a non-ionic, four centered redistribution mechanism was considered the most likely to explain, for example, the D-H exchange in dialkylarsanes [23]:



and the reaction of MeAsH_2 with $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$ [22]:



According to the redistribution mechanism proposed for the above reaction,



there is no methyl transfer and there is no breakage of As-C bond involved in the formation of Me_2AsH from MeAsH_2 . The redistribution mechanism observed in organic media [21–23] cannot therefore explain the formation of $\text{Me}_2\text{As}-\text{AsMeH}$ following reaction of Me_2AsH with $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$, as well as it cannot explain the formation of species containing the trimethylarsenic group such as Me_3As , Me_3AsO , $[\text{Me}_3\text{As}-\text{AsMe}_2]^+$, $[\text{Me}_3\text{As}-\text{AsMe}-\text{AsMe}_2]^+$, and $[\text{MeAs}_2-\text{AsMe}_2-\text{AsMe}_2]^+$.

The investigated reaction system took place in aqueous solvent, and it is composed by many different arsenic species (Table 2) which can undergo mutual interaction among them and with the intermediate I and II of the reduction step (Scheme 1). The aqueous solvent at different acidities can favor reaction pathways forming ionic intermediates and reaction products.

We believe that a primary role in the investigated DMAs(V)-THB reaction system is played by reaction intermediates I, II and Me_2AsOH with the other species which are present in the reaction environment, in particular $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$. Hypothesis on some of the possible reaction pathways bringing to the formation of trimethylarsanes and arsonium species can be drawn as reported below.

Considering the evidence on the methylating properties of the reaction solution [17], trimethylarsane could be formed by methyl transfer from $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$:



and $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMeOH}$ undergoes both reduction with hydridoboron species (B-H) or condensation with dimethylarsane [16]:

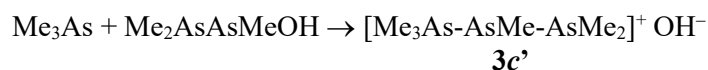




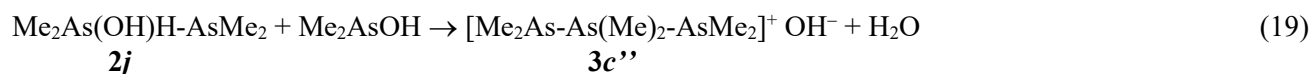
Arsonium species **2h** could be formed by reaction:



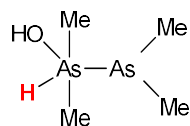
The two possible isomers of the arsonium species $[\text{Me}_6\text{As}_3]^+$, **3c**, termed here **3c'** and **3c''**, could be formed by two different reactions. The first reaction is similar to reaction 18:



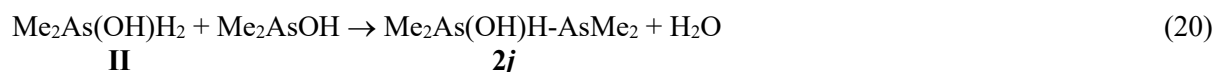
In the second reaction, the formation of the other isomer **3c''** could be based on condensation among one of the possible specie **2j** (see Table 1) and Me_2AsOH ,



Where **2j** correspond to the structure (Table 1):



That can could be formed by condensation reaction between Me_2AsOH and the intermediate **II** (Scheme 1):



The discussion reported above, although it has a certain speculative aspect, is based on hypotheses of reactions involving species for which experimental evidence exists (Table 1 and 2). It is possible that other species containing oxygen may also be involved in other reaction pathways, but at the moment there is no reliable evidence they are actually real species formed in the reacting solution.

3.3. A comparison of the behavior of DMAs(V) with respect to As(III) and MMAs(V)

From the results shown in the present and previous studies [13–17], it is possible to draw some conclusions about the behavior of the different arsenic species. In all cases, under analytical conditions, As(III) and As(V), MMAs(V) and DMAs(V) are converted to arsanes by direct transfer of hydrogen from THB to arsenic. The hydrogen transfer takes place through analyte-borane complex intermediates (ABC) and it is also confirmed recently in the reaction of As-sugar with THB [24]. Arsanes are formed stepwise, passing through the formation of intermediate hydrido metal complexes (HMC) (Scheme 1). A more recent work of Marschner et al [9] reported that at trace level the derivatization of methylated arsenic species can proceed with some degree of demethylation. The extent of demethylation depends on solution composition and seems to decrease in the order Me_3AsO , $\text{Me}_2\text{AsO}(\text{OH})$, $\text{MeAsO}(\text{OH})_2$.

Increasing the analyte concentration slows down the final hydride formation and the HMC intermediates can live for a longer time with respect to analytical conditions. Under these conditions we observed the formation of new arsenic species due to reactions involving HMC intermediates. Condensation reactions among HMC intermediates, final arsanes and analytical substrates are predominant for inorganic arsenic and MMAs; they led to formation of dimeric, trimeric and oligomeric arsanes, depending on THB/As ratio [13, 17] (Scheme 2). When the As concentration increases, some reactions of demethylation and methylation occurs, but they of little relevance and the main products remains MeAsH_2 . Increasing the As concentration increase the extent of condensation reactions, whereas the generation efficiency of arsane and methylarsane drops down due to formation of high molecular weight oligomers. The dimers, trimers and oligomers formed from MMAs(V) reaction have been characterized by DART-HRMS [14], and monomers, dimers and trimers also by GC-MS [13, 17]. In the case of inorganic As, monomers, dimers and trimers have been identified by GC-MS [13, 17] whereas no arsenic species could be detected by DART-HRMS at high As concentration. According to literature, the nature of this solid phase is not elemental As but rather a solid arsenic hydrides [25].

For DMAs(V), high analyte concentration should bring to formation of the dimeric species $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$, the terminus of condensation reaction. On the opposite, the dimers of inorganic arsenic (H_2AsAsH_2) and MMAs, (HMeAsAsMeH) are open to further condensation. Notably, the highly reactive tetramethyldiarsane further

interacts with the other As intermediate species, also through gaseous phase reactions giving rise to methyl transfer reactions and formation of water soluble arsonium species. The complex of transient arsenic species found both in the gas and liquid phase – such as Me_2AsH , Me_2AsOH , $\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMe}_2$, $\text{Me}_2\text{AsOAsMe}_2$ - constitutes a reactive mixture that can evolve into stable, water soluble arsonium species.

Previous studies demonstrated that the generation pathways of different arsanes (reaction 2, 3, 4, Scheme1) can interact among them and with the formation pathways of other hydrides [17]. In the reduction of Sb(III) in the presence of As(III) or DMAs(V), $\text{H}_2\text{As-SbH}_2$ and MeSbH_2 were identified, respectively, indicating that these condensation and methyl transfer reactions can be source of interference in the speciation of As and other hydride forming elements.

4. Conclusion

The use of DART-HRMS in the study of the aqueous phase reaction of DMAs(V) with THB, in non-analytical conditions, led to the detection of some arsenic species which have not been previously identified by GC-MS [13, 16] and allowed to clarify the anomalous behavior of DMAs(V) with respect to inorganic As and MMAs(V).. The main limitation of the DART source is the potential formation of oxidized species which could complicate the interpretation of arsenic species formation. The formation of some arsonium species, not containing oxygen, could be confirmed with certainty. Their formation is in agreement with the evidence that in this reaction system a fraction $\geq 98\%$ of total arsenic remains in solution as soluble species [16]. The observed reactivity cannot be explained in the light of previous studies based on organic phase reactions of methylated arsanes and polyarsanes [21–23, 26], where the lability of As-As and As-H bonds, and a non-ionic redistribution mechanism were considered to control the observed reactivity. It is reasonable that in aqueous phase reactions, pathways passing through ionic intermediates are most favored and contribute to a reactivity that is not entirely known.

The hypotheses of possible reaction pathways, based on the reactions of identified species and reaction products, constitute a working hypothesis for further investigations aimed to clarify the mechanisms that govern the aqueous phase reaction of methylarsenate-THB. It remains confirmed the conclusion of previous studies [17] about possible interference behavior of DMAs(V) in the speciation of arsenic and other hydride forming elements.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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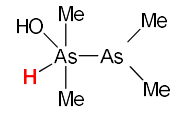
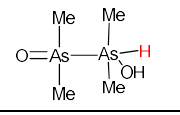
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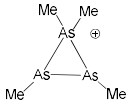
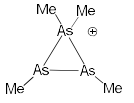
Figure 1 – Schematic representation of the experimental apparatus employed for the investigation of DMAs(V)-THB reaction (see section 2.2 for details).

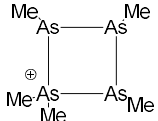
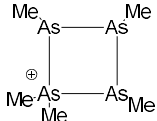
Figure 2 – DART-HRMS spectra of reaction products detected during the DMAs(V)-THB reaction under the conditions reported in section 2.3. Resolution 30,000. The signals with relative abundance <1% were filtered out.

Table 1- Reaction of DMAs(V) with THB under non-analytical conditions: Detected ions and assigned species by DART-HRMS

	Detected Ion	Detected Mass	Exact Mass	$\Delta m/m$ (ppm)	Relative abundance (%)		Assigned Ion Structure	Assigned Species, [M]	Ionization
					Liquid Phase (*)	Gas Phase (*)			
Number of As atoms = 1									
1a	[C ₂ H ₄ As] ⁺	102.9507	102.9523	-16	1.5	n.d.	[H ₂ C=As=CH ₂] ⁺	Me ₂ AsH	[M-H] ⁺ - H ₂
1b	[C ₂ H ₆ As] ⁺	104.9666	104.9680	-13	3.5	n.d.	[Me ₂ As] ⁺	Me ₂ AsH	[M-H] ⁺
1c	[C ₃ H ₉ As] ⁺	119.9918	119.9920	-2	< 1	n.d.	[Me ₃ As] ⁺	Me ₃ As	M ⁺
1d	[C ₂ H ₆ AsO] ⁺	120.9632	120.9634	-2	< 1	< 1	[Me ₂ AsO] ⁺	Me ₂ AsH	[(M+O)-H] ⁺
1e	[C ₃ H ₁₀ As] ⁺	120.9996	120.9998	-2	< 1	< 1	[Me ₃ AsH] ⁺	Me ₃ As	[M+H] ⁺
1f	[C ₂ H ₈ AsO] ⁺	122.9789	122.9791	-2	< 1	< 1	[Me ₂ As(OH)H] ⁺	Me ₂ AsOH	[M+H] ⁺
1g	[C ₃ H ₁₀ AsO] ⁺	136.9929	136.9942	-10	8	88	[Me ₃ AsOH] ⁺	Me ₃ AsO Me ₃ As	[M+H] ⁺ [M+O+H] ⁺
1h	[C ₂ H ₈ AsO ₂] ⁺	138.9722	138.9735	-9	17	61	[Me ₂ AsO(OH)H] ⁺	Me ₂ AsO(OH) Me ₂ AsOH	[M+H] ⁺ [M+O+H] ⁺
1i	[C ₃ H ₁₀ AsO ₂] ⁺	152.9875	152.9891	-10	n.d.	11	[Me ₂ As(O)OMeH] ⁺	Me ₃ As Me ₃ AsO	[M+2OH] ⁺ [M+O+H] ⁺
Number of As atoms = 2									
2a	[CH ₃ As ₂] ⁺	164.8644	164.8662	-11	< 1	1.0	[H ₂ C=As=As-H] ⁺	CH ₃ loss from 2e	Methyl loss
2b	[C ₂ H ₅ As ₂] ⁺	178.8799	178.8818	-10	2.0	3.0	[H ₂ C=As=As-Me] ⁺	CH ₃ loss from 2e	Methyl loss
2c	[C ₂ H ₆ As ₂] ⁺	179.8879	179.8896	-9	< 1	< 1	[H ₂ C=As-AsH-Me] ⁺ [MeAs=AsMe] ⁺	CH ₃ loss from 2e or 2f	Methyl loss
2d	[C ₂ H ₇ As ₂] ⁺	180.8957	180.8974	-10	< 1	< 1	[Me-As-AsH-Me] ⁺ [Me ₂ -As-AsH] ⁺	CH ₃ loss from 2e	Methyl loss
2e	[C ₃ H ₉ As ₂] ⁺	194.9115	194.9131	-8	50	36	[Me ₂ As-AsMe] ⁺	Me ₂ AsAsMeH [2f-CH ₃]	[M-H] ⁺ Methyl loss

2f	[C ₄ H ₁₂ As ₂] ⁺	209.9345	209.9365	-8	96	100	[Me ₂ As-AsMe ₂] ⁺	Me ₂ As-AsMe ₂	M ⁺⁺
2g	[C ₃ H ₉ As ₂ O] ⁺	210.9057	210.9080	-11	2.0	9	[Me ₂ AsOAsMe] ⁺	Me ₂ AsAsMeH (2e)	[(M+O)-H] ⁺
2h	[C ₅ H ₁₅ As ₂] ⁺	224.9582	224.9600	-8	15	83	[Me ₃ AsAsMe ₂] ⁺	[Me ₃ AsAsMe ₂] ⁺	Arsonium
2i	[C ₃ H ₉ As ₂ O ₂] ⁺	226.9005	226.9034	-11	2.5	6	[Me ₂ As(O)OAsMe] ⁺	Me ₂ AsAsMeH (2e)	[(M+2O)-H] ⁺
2j	[C ₄ H ₁₃ As ₂ O] ⁺	226.9375	226.9393	-8	3	24	[Me ₂ As-OH-AsMe ₂] ⁺ [Me ₂ (HO)As-AsMe ₂] ⁺	Me ₂ As-O-AsMe ₂ Me ₂ As-AsMe ₂ (2f)	[M+H] ⁺ [(M+O)+H] ⁺ [M-H] ⁺
									
2k	[C ₃ H ₁₁ As ₂ O ₂] ⁺	228.9161	228.9185	-11	< 1	1.5	[Me ₂ As-OH-AsMe(OH)] ⁺	Me ₂ As-O-AsMe(OH)	[M+H] ⁺
2l	[C ₅ H ₁₅ As ₂ O] ⁺	240.9528	240.9593	-9	12	37	[Me ₃ As-O-AsMe ₂] ⁺	[Me ₃ AsOAsMe ₂] ⁺ [Me ₃ AsAsMe ₂] ⁺ (2h)	Arsonium [(M+O)] ⁺
2m	[C ₄ H ₁₃ As ₂ O ₂] ⁺	242.9323	242.9342	-8	56	53	[Me ₂ (O)As-As(OH)Me ₂] ⁺	Me ₂ As-O-AsMe ₂ (2j) Me ₂ As-AsMe ₂ (2f)	[(M+O)+H] ⁺ [(M+2O)+H] ⁺ [M-H] ⁺
									
2n	[C ₃ H ₁₁ As ₂ O ₃] ⁺	244.9109	244.9135	-11	< 1	3.0	[Me ₂ As-OH-AsMe(O)(OH)] ⁺	Me ₂ As-O-AsMe(O)(OH)	[M+H] ⁺
2o	[C ₅ H ₁₅ As ₂ O ₂] ⁺	256.9474	256.9498	-10	3.5	39	[Me ₃ As-O-As(O)Me ₂] ⁺	[Me ₃ AsOAs(O)Me ₂] ⁺ [Me ₃ AsAsMe ₂] ⁺ (2h)	Arsonium [(M+2O)] ⁺
2p	[C ₄ H ₁₃ As ₂ O ₃] ⁺	258.9269	258.9291	-9	11	49	[Me ₂ (O)As-OH-As(O)Me ₂] ⁺	MeAsAsMe ₂ (2f) (2j) Me ₂ (O)As-O-As(O)Me ₂	[(M+2O)+H] ⁺ [(M+O)+H] ⁺ [M+H] ⁺
2q	[C ₃ H ₁₁ As ₂ O ₄] ⁺	260.9056	260.9084	-10	< 1	8	[Me ₂ (O)As-OH-AsMe(O)(OH)] ⁺	Me ₂ (O)As-O-AsMe(O)(OH)	[M+H] ⁺
2r	[C ₅ H ₁₅ As ₂ O ₃] ⁺	272.9419	272.9448	-10	n.d.	< 1		Species 2h	[(M+3O)] ⁺
2s	[C ₄ H ₁₃ As ₂ O ₄] ⁺	274.9212	274.9240	-10	n.d.	< 1		Species 2h	[(M+4O)] ⁺
Number of As Atoms = 3									
3a	[C ₄ H ₁₂ As ₃] ⁺	284.8550	284.8581	-11	< 1	1.5	[Me ₂ AsAsAsMe ₂] ⁺	Me ₂ AsAsHAsMe ₂	[M-H] ⁺

							$[\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMeAsMe}]^+$ 	$\text{Me}_2\text{AsAsMeAsMeH}$ 	$[\text{M-H}]^+$ Arsonium
3b	$[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{15}\text{As}_3]^+$	299.8784	299.8816	-11	1.5	1.0	$[\text{Me}_2\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2]^+$	$\text{Me}_2\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2$	M^{++}
3c	$[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{18}\text{As}_3]^+$	314.9029	314.9051	-7	100	36	$[\text{Me}_3\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})_2\text{AsMe}_2]^+$	$[\text{Me}_3\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})_2\text{AsMe}_2]^+$	Arsonium
3d	$[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{20}\text{As}_3]^+$	328.9175	328.9207	-10	3.5	1.0	$[\text{Me}_3\text{As-CH}_2\text{-As}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{As-CH}_2\text{-As}(\text{Me})_2\text{AsMe}_2]^+$	$[\text{Me}_3\text{As-CH}_2\text{-As}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{As-CH}_2\text{-As}(\text{Me})_2\text{AsMe}_2]^+$	Arsonium
3e	$[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{18}\text{As}_3\text{O}]^+$	330.8966	330.9000	-10	2.5	2.0	$[\text{Me}_3\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{-}(\text{O})\text{-AsMe}_2]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{As-O-As}(\text{Me})_2\text{AsMe}_2]^+$	Species (3c)	$[\text{M+O}]^+$
3f	$[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{18}\text{As}_3\text{O}_2]^+$	346.8923	346.8949	-8	31	8.5	$[\text{Me}_3\text{As-O-As}(\text{Me})\text{-}(\text{O})\text{-AsMe}_2]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{As-O-As}(\text{Me})_2\text{-}(\text{O})\text{-AsMe}_2]^+$	Species (3c)	$[\text{M+2O}]^+$
3g	$[\text{C}_4\text{H}_{12}\text{As}_3\text{O}_4]^+$	348.8340	348.8378	-11	< 1	2.0		Not assigned	
3h	$[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{16}\text{As}_3\text{O}_3]^+$	348.8705	348.8742	-11	1.5	1	$[\text{Me}_2\text{As-OH-As}(\text{Me})\text{-O-As}(\text{O})\text{Me}_2]^+$	$\text{Me}_2\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2$ (3c)	$[(\text{M+3O})+\text{H}]^+$
3i	$[\text{C}_3\text{H}_{10}\text{As}_3\text{O}_5]^+$	350.8133	350.8171	-11	< 1	< 1		Not assigned	
3l	$[\text{C}_4\text{H}_{14}\text{As}_3\text{O}_4]^+$	350.8494	350.8534	-12	< 1	< 1		Not assigned	
3m	$[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{18}\text{As}_3\text{O}_3]^+$	362.8863	362.8898	-10	6.5	12	$[\text{Me}_3\text{AsOAs}(\text{Me})\text{OAs}(\text{O})\text{Me}_2]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{AsOAs}(\text{Me})_2\text{OAs}(\text{O})\text{Me}_2]^+$	Species (3c)	$[\text{M+3O}]^+$
3n	$[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{16}\text{As}_3\text{O}_4]^+$	364.8652	363.8691	-11	2.5	5	$[\text{Me}_2(\text{O})\text{As-OH-As}(\text{Me})\text{OAs}(\text{O})\text{Me}_2]^+$	$\text{Me}_2\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{AsMe}_2$ (3c)	$[(\text{M+4O})+\text{H}]^+$
3o	$[\text{C}_4\text{H}_{14}\text{As}_3\text{O}_5]^+$	366.8445	366.8484	-11	< 1	< 1		Not assigned	
3p	$[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{18}\text{As}_3\text{O}_4]^+$	378.8803	378.8847	-12	< 1	3.5	$[\text{Me}_2(\text{O})\text{AsOAs}(\text{Me})_2\text{OAs}(\text{O})\text{Me}_2]^+$	Species (3c)	$[\text{M+4O}]^+$
3q	$[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{16}\text{As}_3\text{O}_5]^+$	380.8597	380.8640	-11	< 1	1.5		Not assigned	
Number of As atoms = 4									
4a	$[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{15}\text{As}_4]^+$	374.7990	374.8032	-11	< 1	1.0	$[\text{Me}_2\text{AsAs}(\text{Me})\text{-As}(\text{Me})\text{-AsMe}]^+$	$\text{Me}_2\text{As-As}(\text{Me})\text{-As}(\text{Me})\text{-AsMeH}$	$[\text{M-H}]^+$

							$[\text{Me}_2\text{As}-\text{As}(\text{Me})-\text{As}-\text{AsMe}_2]^+$ 	$\text{Me}_2\text{As}-\text{As}(\text{Me})-\text{AsH}-\text{AsMe}_2$ 	$[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$
4b	$[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{21}\text{As}_4]^+$	404.8456	404.8502	-11	< 1	< 1	$[\text{Me}_2\text{As}-\text{As}(\text{Me})-\text{As}(\text{Me})-\text{AsMe}_3]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{As}-\text{As}(\text{Me})_2-\text{As}(\text{Me})-\text{AsMe}]^+$	$[\text{Me}_2\text{As}-\text{As}(\text{Me})-\text{As}(\text{Me})-\text{AsMe}_3]^+$ $[\text{Me}_2\text{As}-\text{As}(\text{Me})_2-\text{As}(\text{Me})-\text{AsMe}]^+$	Arsonium
4c	$[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{21}\text{As}_4\text{O}_3]^+$	452.8296	452.8349	-12	1.5	1.0		Species (4b)	$[\text{M}+3\text{O}]^+$
4d	$[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{21}\text{As}_4\text{O}_4]^+$	468.8243	468.8298	-12	< 1	1.0		Species (4b)	$[\text{M}+4\text{O}]^+$

(*) See Experimental, section 2.3 for details on the reaction system and apparatus

Table 2 – Reaction of DMAs(V) with THB under non analytical conditions.
 Arsenic Species Identified by GC-MS (ref. [17]) and in this work by DART-HRMS.^a

Species	GC-MS	DART-HRMS
Me ₂ AsH	Yes	Yes
Me ₂ AsOH	Yes	Yes
Me ₂ As(O)OH	No	Yes
Me ₃ As	Yes	Yes
Me ₃ AsO	Yes	Yes
Me ₂ AsAsMeH	Yes	Yes
Me ₂ AsAsMe ₂	Yes	Yes
Me ₂ As-O-AsMe ₂	Yes	Yes
Me ₂ As-AsMe-AsMe ₂	No	Yes
[Me ₃ AsAsMe ₂] ⁺	No	Yes
[Me ₆ As ₃] ⁺ (b)	No	Yes

(a) For experimental condition see section 2.3;

(b) Two possible isomers, [Me₃As-AsMe-AsMe₂]⁺ and [Me₂As-As(Me)₂-AsMe₂]⁺

FIGURE 1

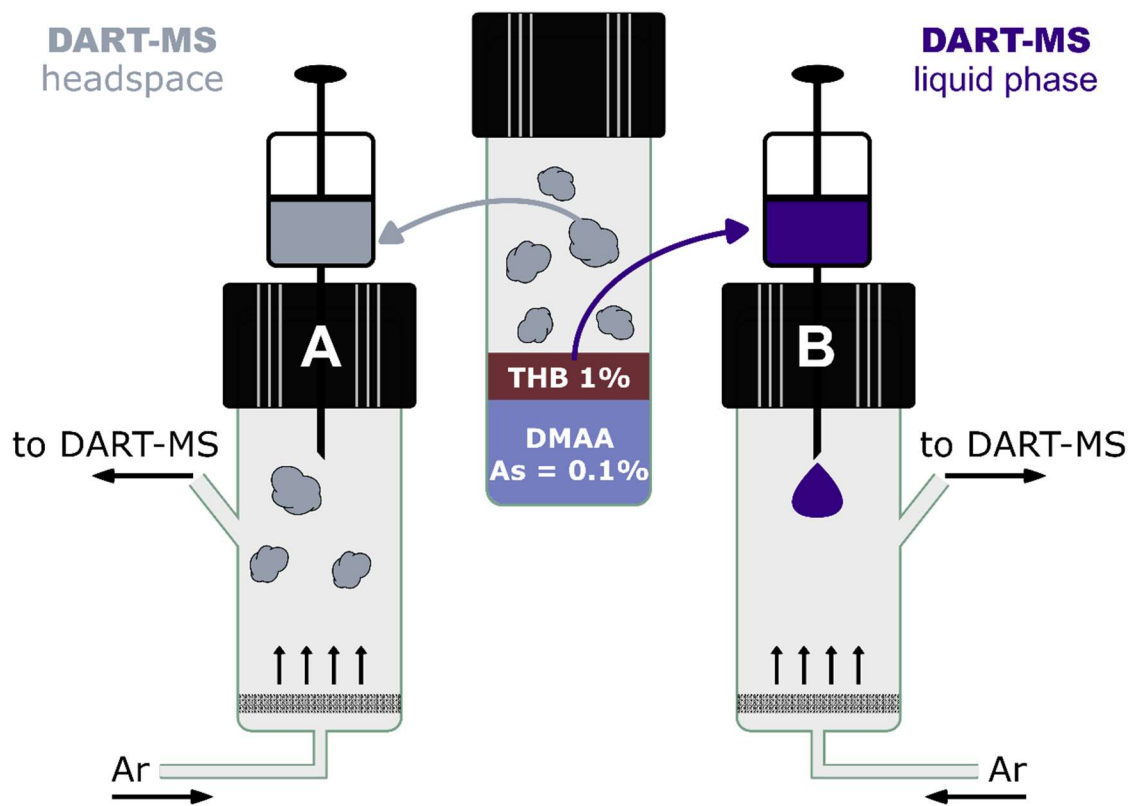


FIGURE 2

