

buffer, 600 volt, 60 min: $0.59 \times \text{Lys}$]: $[\alpha]_D^{25} -75^\circ$ ($c=0.3$, 5% aqueous AcOH); amino acid analysis (acid hydrolysis)^{7,11}: Arg 1.98, Lys 5.20, Asp 4.11, Thr 4.00, Ser 3.16, Glu 8.16, Pro 2.02, Gly 1.00, Ala 3.04, Val 6.00, Leu 8.06, Tyr 1.36, Phe 1.08 (recovery, 76%).

The synthetic peptide was active in the induction of thymocyte differentiation from prothymocyte *in vitro*¹⁰ (Table I) and the potency of the synthetic hormone was more than 10 times the potency of the synthetic tridecapeptide corresponding to the sequence 29—41 of the hormone.¹² Since it has been fully confirmed by Schlesinger, *et al.*³ that the fragment 29—41 exhibited approximately 10% activity by weight when compared with natural Tp, the activity of our synthetic hormone would consequently be comparable to that of natural Tp. Further biological characterization of this synthetic hormone is now in progress in these laboratories.¹³

Acknowledgement We wish to express our deep appreciation to Prof. H. Yajima of Kyoto University for his helpful advice. We are also grateful to Drs. E. Ohmura, K. Morita and Z. Suzuoki of this Division for their interest and valuable discussions.

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Received March 24, 1977

- 11) After enzymatic hydrolysis by chymotrypsin and aminopeptidase-M, the amino acid composition of the product was also good agreement with the theory.
- 12) The tridecapeptide (29—41) was prepared by the conventional stepwise elongation method: $[\alpha]_D^{25} -34.0^\circ$ ($c=0.1$ in 50% AcOH); R_f^7 (cellulose) 0.54.
- 13) The detailed biological studies will be reported elsewhere by Drs. Kawaji, Takaoki and Sugino.

[Chem. Pharm. Bull.]
25(6)1489—1491(1977)

UDC 547.551'569.1.04 : 546.819-31.04

Oxidation of 4'-Substituted Benzenesulfenylanilides with Lead Dioxide. Electron Spin Resonance Studies of Benzenesulfenylanilidyl Radicals

Benzenesulfenylanilidyl radicals (3) were generated by the oxidation of benzenesulfenylanilides (4'-OMe (1a), 4'-Me (1b), 4'-Cl (1c), 4'-H (1d)) with lead dioxide, and their electron spin resonance (ESR) and visible spectra were investigated. The radicals generated from 1a and 1b in benzene were fairly stable and gave well-resolved ESR spectra, whereas those from 1c and 1d were less stable and gave poorly resolved ESR spectra. The oxidations of 1a and 1b gave the corresponding phenazines as the final products, whereas those of 1c and 1d did not.

Keywords—benzenesulfenylanilides; oxidation of sulfenylanilides; oxidation with lead dioxide; electron spin resonance; benzenesulfenamidyl radicals; nitrene; imido intermediate; synthesis of phenazines

In the previous paper¹⁾ we reported the results on the controlled potential electrolyses of benzenesulfenylanilides (4'-OMe (1a), 4'-Me (1b), 4'-Cl (1c), 4'-H (1d)) and 2-nitrobenzenesulfenylanilides (4'-OMe (2a), 4'-Me (2b), 4'-Cl (2c), 4'-H (2d)) in acetonitrile. Electrolyses of 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, and 2c gave the corresponding 2,7-disubstituted phenazines, whereas those of 1c,

1) H. Sayo, K. Mori, and A. Ueda, *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* (Tokyo), **25**, 525 (1977).

1d, and **2d** did not. Lecher, *et al.*²⁾ found that the oxidation of *p*-toluenesulfenamide with lead dioxide in benzene gives a red solution, which was ascribed to the formation of a new class of nitrogen-centered radicals. Miura, *et al.*³⁾ have recently found that stable dibenzene-sulfenamidyl radicals are formed on the oxidation of dibenzene-sulfenamides with lead dioxide in benzene, and reported Electron Spin Resonance (ESR) and visible spectra of the radicals.

In order to elucidate the mechanism of the formation of the phenazines, we have now studied the oxidation of benzenesulfenamides with lead dioxide both in benzene and in acetonitrile, and found that fairly stable benzenesulfenamidyl radicals (**3**) are formed in these system.

A benzene solution of **1a** (1 mM, 10 ml) was deoxygenated by passage of nitrogen through the solution, and then treated with PbO₂ (25 mg), and the resulting solution was filtered immediately. At first a visible spectrum of the filtrate showed a λ_{max} at 593 nm, which is responsible for the blue color. The absorbance at 593 nm decreased gradually with time with a half-life ($t_{1/2}$) of *ca.* 90 min, while new λ_{max} 's appeared at 405 and 427 nm and their absorbances increased with time. The oxidations of **1b** and **1c** also gave blue solutions, λ_{max} 594 ($t_{1/2}$ =*ca.* 30 min) and 606 nm ($t_{1/2}$ =*ca.* 2 min), respectively. On the other hand, a green color observed on the oxidation of **1d** was so transient that the λ_{max} could not be determined.

TABLE I. ESR Spectral Data of Benzenesulfenamidyl Radicals (**3**) in Benzene

Radical	4'-X	Coupling constant (G)							g-Value
		A_N	A_{2-H}	A_{3-H}	A_{4-H}	$A_{2'-H}$	$A_{3'-H}$	$A_{4'-X}$	
3a	OCH ₃	9.50	0.60	0.20	0.625	3.85	1.10	0.65	2.0055
3b	CH ₃	9.50	0.725	0.225	0.75	3.75	1.20	4.70	2.0059
3c	Cl	9.40	0.325	0.75	0.325	3.65	1.275	—	2.0062
3d	H	8.60	0.775	0.275	0.80	3.70	1.25	4.20	2.0061

As for ESR experiments, the oxidation was carried out in degassed benzene in order to get well-resolved ESR spectra. The radicals **3a** and **3b** showed well-resolved ESR spectra and had life-times of a day in degassed benzene. On the other hand, **3c** and **3d** showed poorly resolved spectra and decomposed thoroughly in an hour. The coupling constants are sum-

TABLE II. Results of Oxidation of 4'-Substituted Benzenesulfenamides with Lead Dioxide

Compd. No.	Concn. (mg/ml)	Solvent	PbO ₂ (g)	Reaction		Products identified	Yield (mg)
				Temp. (°C)	Time (hr)		
1a	116/50	C ₆ H ₆	0.53	30	2	2,7-dimethoxyphenazine diphenyldisulfide	33.1 36.9
1b	160/74	C ₆ H ₆	1.28	35	22	2,7-dimethylphenazine diphenyldisulfide	26.7 46.4
1c	25/10	C ₆ H ₆	0.05	40	4	a)	
1d	20/10	C ₆ H ₆	0.05	40	4	a)	
1a+1b	187+172/160	CH ₃ CN	1.0	40	15	2,7-dimethoxyphenazine 2,7-dimethylphenazine 2-methoxy-7-methylphenazine	19.7 6.4 15.3

a) Products were not identified.

2) H. Lecher, K. Koberle, and P. Stocklin, *Chem. Ber.*, **58**, 423 (1925).

3) Y. Miura, N. Makita, and M. Kinoshita, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **1975**, 127; *idem*, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Japan*, **50**, 482 (1977).

marized in Table I, together with g -values. The nitrogen coupling constants and g -values of **3** are smaller than those of dibenzenesulfenamidyl radicals.³⁾ On the other hand, the values of A_H in the aniline part are larger than those in the phenylthiyl part. The unpaired electron is, therefore, distributed mainly on the aniline part.

The results of a large scale oxidation of **1** are summarized in Table II. Although the oxidations of **1a** and **1b** gave the corresponding phenazines as the final products, those of **1c** and **1d** did not. The rate of formation of 2,7-dimethylphenazine was much slower than that of 2,7-dimethoxyphenazine at the same temperature. The following schemes are suggested for the oxidations of **1a** and **1b**.

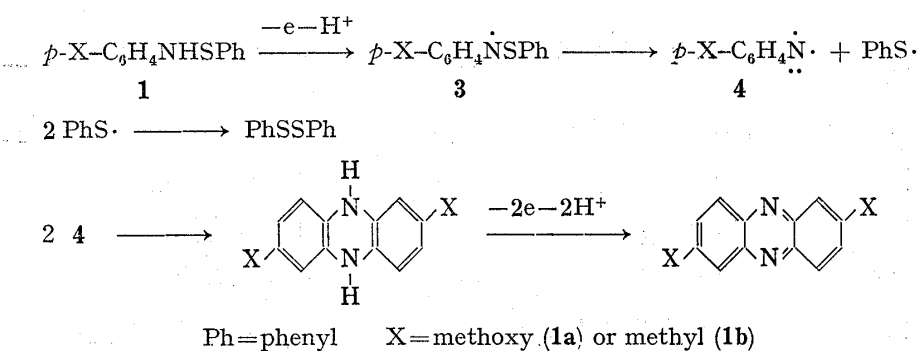


Chart 1

The oxidation of an equimolar mixture of **1a** and **1b** was carried out in acetonitrile, because the rate of formation of 2,7-dimethylphenazine was faster in acetonitrile than in benzene. A crossover product, 2-methoxy-7-methylphenazine, was obtained besides the 2,7-disubstituted phenazines. The isolation of the crossover product favors the nitrene pathway.⁴⁾ Detailed studies are now in progress.

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Received April 2, 1977

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