

¹⁵N, ¹³C and ¹H NMR study of tautomerism in 2-(phenyldiazenyl-4-substituted naphthalen-1-ols. Influence of substitution in passive components on azo-hydrazo tautomerism

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ARTICLE INFO

Dedicated to Prof. Dr. Antonín Klásek on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Keywords:

Azo compounds
¹⁵N
¹³C and ¹H NMR
Azo-hydrazo tautomerism

ABSTRACT

The one- and two-dimensional ¹⁵N, ¹³C and ¹H NMR spectra of benzenediazonium chloride coupling product with 4-R-naphthalene-1-ols (R = NO₂ (1), Br (2), Cl (3), H (4), OCH₃ (5)) were measured and analysed. It was found that the reaction products exist predominantly in hydrazone forms. Contrary to previously published influence of substituents in diazonium salts, where more electron acceptor types of substituents cause increase contents of hydrazo forms, the situation in compounds 1–5 is completely opposite. Moreover, hydrazone content in 4-nitro-2-[(E)-(4-nitro-phenyl)diazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol (6) combining substitution both in position 4 of passive component and position 4 of active component (i. e. diazonium salt) is higher compared with that in 4-nitro-2-[(E)-(phenyl)diazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol (1).

1. Introduction

Since discovery of azo-hydrazo tautomerism by Zincke and Bindewald in 1884 [1], many attempts to quantify the content of both forms have been performed [2–39 and reference cited therein] using mainly VIS [2–4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12], IR [2–4,9] and NMR spectroscopies [13–16,17–20,21,22,23,9,24,12,25–27,28,29], x-ray data [20,30,31,12,28] and later also theoretical calculations 9,30–39. In nearly all cases, the influence of substituents on azo/hydrazo tautomeric equilibria has been studied for compound being substituted in so called **active** components (i.e. in diazonium salts) since a wide variety of substituted anilines is very easily available. The common conclusion is that electron accepting substituents in substituted benzenediazonium salts, typically nitro group, increase hydrazone form content in resulting azo dyes compared with benzenediazonium salts substituted by electron donating substituents [6,32,10,29], e. g. methoxy or amino groups.

The aim of this paper is to characterize azo/hydrazone forms content in compounds having substituents in so called **passive** component, in 4-substituted naphthalene-1-ols, using very detailed one- and two-dimensional ¹⁵N, ¹³C and ¹H NMR spectra applications (Scheme 1).

2. Experimental

2.1. Synthesis

Starting 4-substituted-naphthalene-1-ols were commercial products bought from Sigma-Aldrich company.

4-Nitro-2-[(E)-phenyldiazenyl]naphthalene-1-ol (1) [24], 4-bromo-2-[(E)-phenyldiazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol (2) [40], 4-chloro-2-[(E)-phenyldiazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol (3) [40], and 4-methoxy-2-[(E)-phenyldiazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol (5) [41] were prepared by coupling benzenediazonium chloride in water medium and 4-nitro-2-[(E)-(4-nitro-phenyl)diazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol (6) [42] was prepared by coupling 4-nitrobenzenediazonium chloride, also in water medium. During coupling benzenediazonium chloride with naphthalen-1-ol in water [43], 4-[(E)-phenyldiazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol is the main reaction product and 2-[(E)-phenyldiazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol (4) is only a by-product its content being usually less than 2%. K. Bredereck [44] proposed to perform the coupling reaction in a dichloromethane/water mixture, 2-[(E)-phenyldiazenyl]naphthalen-1-ol (4) being extracted into dichloromethane and giving 24% yield after column chromatography.

Melting points as well as yields of prepared compounds were in accordance with literature data and uniformity of compounds was checked by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dyepig.2021.109149>

Received 21 December 2020; Received in revised form 10 January 2021; Accepted 11 January 2021

Available online 13 January 2021

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2.2. NMR spectroscopy

The ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{15}N NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III HD 400 spectrometer operating at 400.13 MHz for ^1H , 100.62 MHz for ^{13}C and at 40.56 MHz for ^{15}N and using liquid nitrogen-cooled 5-mm Prodigy cryo probe (Bruker) at 300 K. The samples were dissolved in deuteriochloroform. The ^1H and ^{13}C chemical shifts were referenced to internal TMS ($\delta = 0.00$). The ^{15}N chemical shifts were referred to the signal of external nitromethane placed in a co-axial capillary ($\delta = 0.0$). All 2D experiments (gradient-selected (gs)-COSY, gs-NOESY, gs-HMQC, gs-HSQC, gs-HSQC-TOCSY, gs-HMBC) and 1D ^1H - ^{15}N gs-HSQC were performed using manufacturer's software (TOPSPIN 3.5) [45–47].

3. Results and discussions

Azo-hydrazo tautomerism is a typical feature of azo dyes containing hydroxy group in an appropriate position(s). In most cases, the influence of substituents on azo/hydrazo tautomeric equilibria has been studied for compound being substituted in so called active components (i.e. in diazonium salts) since a wide variety of substituted anilines is very easily available.

In this paper, we study one- and two-dimensional ^{15}N , ^{13}C and ^1H NMR spectra in compounds 1–5 (Scheme 1) prepared by coupling of benzenediazonium chloride with 4-substituted naphthalen-1-ol. The substituents were chosen in such a manner so that we could cover non-substituted naphthalen-1-ol, one strongly electron accepting substituent (NO_2), two halogenes and one very electron donating substituent (OCH_3).

The one- and two-dimensional ^{15}N , ^{13}C and ^1H NMR spectra of compounds 1–5 were measured and very thoroughly analysed. 2D gradient-selected (gs)-COSY, gs-NOESY, gs-HMQC, gs-HSQC, gs-HSQC-TOCSY and gs-HMBC and 1D ^1H - ^{15}N gs-HSQC were performed. The obtained results are collected in Table 1.

Lin et al. [24] performed ^1H and ^{13}C NMR study of a set of ten 1-[(E)-(3- or 4-subst. phenyl)diazonyl]naphthalen-2-ol in several solvents. Azo/hydrazone forms content estimation is based on changes of ^{13}C chemical shifts of carbon C(2) = O/C(2)-OH. We cannot use this approach since ^{13}C chemical shifts of carbon C(1) = O/C(1)-OH in compounds 1–5 are strongly influenced by substituent chemical shifts (SCS) effect of substituents R from position 4 (SCS for nitro group is +6.8 ppm, for bromine –0.2 ppm, while SCS for methoxy group is –7.6 ppm) [48]. After “a correction” of experimental ^{13}C chemical shifts for C-1, we can obtain the following monotonously increasing values of C(1) = O/C(1)-OH 165.0, 173.2, 174.2 and 184.6 ppm for compounds 1, 2 and 4, 5. On the other hand, we could use ^{13}C chemical shifts of carbon C(2') or C(4') of phenyl group present in all compounds 1–5, however, the differences are rather small (Table 1).

Much greater changes in $^1J(^{15}\text{N}_\alpha, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$ coupling constants and ^{15}N chemical shifts of N_α and N_β for compounds 1–5 are collected in Table 2. Hydrazone form content was calculated using equation (1) using $^1J(^{15}\text{N}_\alpha, ^1\text{H})_{\text{H}} = 96.5 \text{ Hz}$ as proposed by Bekárek et al. [15,16] measured

for 5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-(2-phenylhydrazono)-2,4-dihydro-3H-pyrazol-3-one in deuteriochloroform.

$$\% \text{Hydrazone} = \left[^1J(^{15}\text{N}_\alpha, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}} / ^1J((^{15}\text{N}_\alpha, ^1\text{H})_{\text{H}}) \right] * 100 \quad (1)$$

The results are shown in Table 2 differing from 63.5% for 1–91.2% for 5.

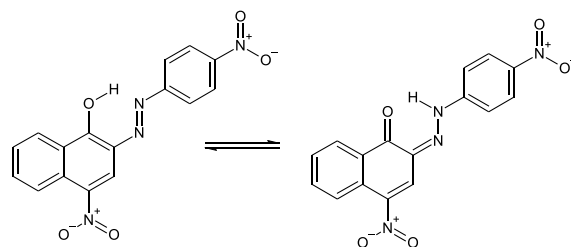
Analogously, ^{15}N chemical shifts of N_α and N_β were used for hydrazone form content calculation [13,14,18] using Equation (2)

$$\% \text{Hydrazone} = \left[\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha/\beta})_{\text{exp}} - (^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha/\beta})_{\text{H}} \right] / \left[\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha/\beta})_{\text{A}} - \delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha/\beta})_{\text{H}} \right] * 100 \quad (2)$$

The ^{15}N chemical shifts of N_α and N_β are again shown in Table 2 to demonstrate their changes and to calculate hydrazone forms contents. Weighted average values of hydrazone form content was calculated using all three results being subsequently used for determination of equilibrium constants $K = [\text{hydrazo form}]/[\text{azo form}]$.

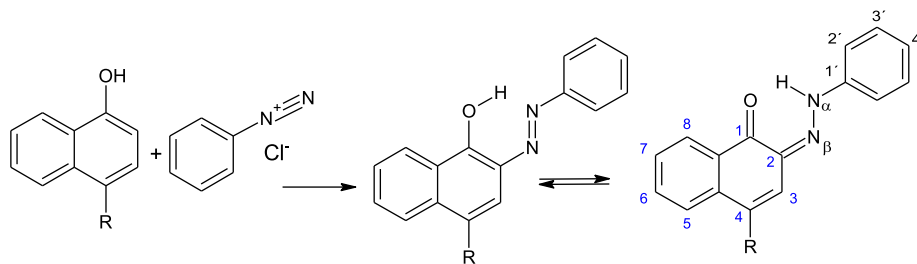
The calculated (average) hydrazo form contents differ considerable for compounds 1–5 being strongly substituent dependent. Previously published influence of substituents in diazonium salts showed that more electron acceptor types of substituents cause increase of hydrazo forms [6,32,10,29]. Lin et al. presented [24] an approximate correlation of $K = [\text{hydrazo form}]/[\text{azo form}]$ on σ^+ Hammett constants. A part of it is presented in Fig. 1 having positive slope contrary to our data having negative slope of a curve. The correlation is not too precise, however, the opposite trends are clearly visible.

Hydrazone form content in compound 1, having nitro group in position 4 of naphthalene, was ca 64% (Table 2). According to literature data mentioned above [6,32,10,29], an electron accepting group in position 4 of diazonium salt should increase hydrazone form content. To test this expectation also in our series of compounds, we prepared compound 6:



The solubility of compound 6 in deuteriochloroform is very low, however, we succeeded in measuring $^1J(^{15}\text{N}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$ and $\delta(^{15}\text{N}_\alpha)$ by long term accumulation of NMR spectra.

The value of $^1J(^{15}\text{N}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$ coupling constant in compound 6 increased to 82.4 Hz compared with 63.5 Hz in compound 1 (Table 2) clearly proving the above-mentioned expectation that hydrazone form content should increase considerably. The calculated hydrazone form content is 85.4%. The experimental ^{15}N chemical shift of $\delta(^{15}\text{N}_\alpha)$ is –154.6 ppm (contrary to –108.9 ppm in compound 1), and calculated



R = NO_2 (1), Br (2), Cl (3), H (4), OCH_3 (5)

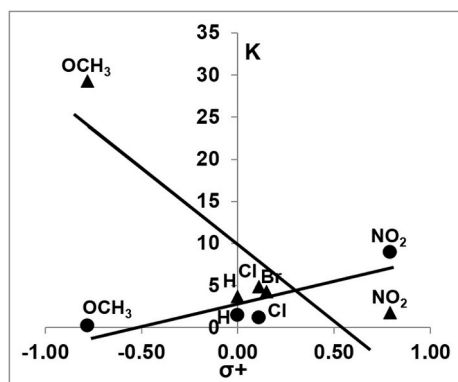
Scheme 1. R = NO_2 (1), Br (2), Cl (3), H (4), OCH_3 (5).

Table 1 ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{15}N chemical shifts (ppm) and $^1J(^{15}\text{N}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$ coupling constants (Hz, ± 0.3 Hz) in compounds 1–5 in deuteriochloroform.

H/C	1 (NO ₂)		2 (Br)		3 (Cl)		4 (H)		5 (OCH ₃)	
	$\delta(^1\text{H})$	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$	$\delta(^1\text{H})$	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$	$\delta(^1\text{H})$	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$	$\delta(^1\text{H})$	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$	$\delta(^1\text{H})$	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$
1	16.71	171.8	16.08	173.4	16.08	173.8	16.10	174.2	15.72	177.0
2	–	129.3	–	132.7	–	132.0	–	132.8	–	132.7
3	8.46	130.0	7.61	131.1	7.33	127.0	7.19	128.3	6.39	101.5
4	–	139.2	–	114.1	–	123.9	6.98	121.0	–	149.3
4a	–	128.4	–	135.0	–	134.1	–	137.1	–	130.7
5	8.58	124.5	8.00	123.1	7.98	124.9	7.53	127.5	8.40	122.4
6	7.80	133.4	7.73	133.0	7.70	132.8	7.57	132.2	7.52	132.8
7	7.61	127.5	7.55	127.2	7.51	127.1	7.70	126.2	7.69	127.3
8	8.53	127.0	8.43	126.9	8.41	126.9	8.40	126.7	8.00	127.0
8a	–	129.6	–	130.8	–	130.7	–	130.2	–	132.6
N _α H	16.71	–108.9 ^a	16.08	–153.2 ^a	16.03	–157.4 ^a	16.10	–148.1 ^a	15.72	–191.8 ^a
$^1J(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$	–	63.5 ^b	–	79.4 ^b	–	80.8 ^b	–	77.3 ^b	–	91.2 ^b
N _β	–	40.1 ^c	–	11.8 ^c	–	8.7 ^c	–	16.3 ^c	–	–17.2 ^c
1'	–	143.1	–	143.0	–	142.6	–	143.2	–	142.6
2'	7.74	119.2	7.62	117.8	7.57	117.5	7.60	117.6	7.52	116.1
3'	7.53	129.9	7.46	129.7	7.43	129.6	7.42	129.5	7.41	129.5
4'	7.42	129.5	7.29	127.2	7.26	126.9	7.23	126.7	7.16	124.9
R	–	–10.2 ^d	–	–	–	–	–	–	3.97	55.4

^a $\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha})$.^b $^1J(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$.^c $\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\beta})$.^d $\delta(^{15}\text{N})(\text{NO}_2)$.**Table 2** ^{15}N chemical shifts (ppm) and $^1J(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$ coupling constants (Hz, ± 0.3 Hz) in compounds 1–5 and calculated hydrazone content in deuteriochloroform.

	1 (NO ₂)	2 (Br)	3 (Cl)	4 (H)	5 (OCH ₃)
$^1J(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$	63.5 ^a	79.4 ^a	80.8 ^a	77.3 ^a	91.2 ^a
% H ^a	66.2	82.7	84.2	80.5	95.0
$\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha})$	–108.9	–153.2	–157.4	–148.1	–191.8
% H ^b	64.9	81.1	82.6	79.2	95.1
$\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\beta})$	40.1	11.8	8.7	16.3	–17.2
% H ^c	60.2	79.9	82.0	76.7	100.0
Average % H ^d	63.8	81.2	82.9	78.8	96.7
K ^e	1.8	4.3	4.9	3.7	29.3

^a Calculated hydrazone form content in % using $^1J(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$.^b Calculated hydrazone form content in % using $\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha})$.^c Calculated hydrazone form content in % using $\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\beta})$.^d Average hydrazone form content calculated from values ^{a–c}.^e K = [hydrazone form]/[azo form], ratio content calculated from average hydrazone form in % and [azo form] = 100 – [hydrazone form].**Fig. 1.** Opposite dependence of $K = [\text{hydrazone form}]/[\text{azo form}]$ on σ^+ Hammett constants in 1-[(E)-(substituted phenyl)diazonyl]naphthalene-2-ols (presented by black circles [9]) and in 4-substituted-2-[(E)-phenyldiazonyl]naphthalene-1-ols 1–5 ((presented by triangles (this paper)).

hydrazone form content in compound **6** using this value is 81.6%. Both experimental and calculated data are agreement with a common expectation.

4. Conclusion

Very detailed analysis of data obtained from one- and two-dimensional ^{15}N , ^{13}C and ^1H NMR spectra allowed to characterize undoubtedly benzenediazonium chloride coupling products with 4-R-naphthalene-1-ols ($R = \text{NO}_2$ (**1**), Br (**2**), Cl (**3**), H (**4**), OCH₃ (**5**)). The $^1J(^{15}\text{N}, ^1\text{H})_{\text{exp}}$ coupling constants and both $\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\alpha})$ and $\delta(^{15}\text{N}_{\beta})$ values allowed us to prove that the reaction products exist predominantly in hydrazone forms and correspond to (2Z)-4-R-2-[2-(phenyl)hydrazinylidene]naphthalen-1(2H)-ones 1–5. Contrary to previously published influence of substituents in diazonium salts, more electron acceptor type of substituents cause an increase of azo forms. Hydrazone content in dinitro derivative (2Z)-4-nitro-2-[2-(4-nitrophenyl)hydrazinylidene]naphthalen-1(2H)-one **6** is higher compared with that in mono nitro (2Z)-4-nitro-2-[2-(phenyl)hydrazinylidene]naphthalen-1(2H)-one **1** indicating the fact that substitution of active component by nitro group in position 4 increases hydrazone form content also in our model system.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare no conflict of interests.

Acknowledgement

The authors thank the Faculty of Science, University of Hradec Králové for a support.

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