

## 4-Hydroxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans and some their *O*-derivatives\*

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Methods for the synthesis of 4-hydroxy- and 4-alkoxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans and difurazanyl ethers were developed. The methods involve displacement of the nitro group from 4-nitro-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans under the action of aqueous solutions of alkalis, mono- and diatomic alcohols (in the presence of inorganic bases), and sodium carbonate in anhydrous acetonitrile.

**Key words:** furazans, ( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans, 4-hydroxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans, 4-alkoxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans, 3,3'-bis( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)difurazanyl ethers, nitrofurazans, hydroxyfurazans, nucleophilic substitution.

Earlier, the syntheses of 4-amino-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans<sup>1</sup> and their high-energy derivatives (including new oxidants 3-(polynitromethyl-*ONN*-azoxy)-4-nitraminofurazans) have been reported.<sup>2</sup> As a next step in those investigations, here we studied nucleophilic substitution of the nitro group in a series of 4-nitro-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans under the action of *O*-nucleophiles. The goal of the present work was to obtain 4-hydroxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans that could serve as intermediate products in the synthesis of high-energy compounds with potential attractive properties.

### Results and Discussion

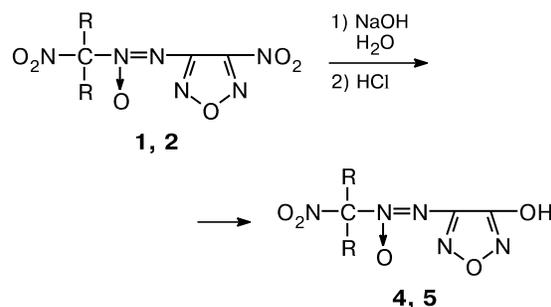
Nitrofurazans are known to undergo nucleophilic substitution in reactions with aqueous solutions of alkalis<sup>3</sup> to give hydroxyfurazans. We found that 4-nitro-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans **1–3** react with alkalis in water and a water-miscible organic solvent (acetone or acetonitrile) even at 0–3 °C and that the nitro group directly bound to the furazan ring is replaced by a hydroxy group in 0.5 h. Treatment of the reaction mixture with HCl gives the desired products 4-hydroxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans **4–6** (Schemes 1 and 2).

With substrate **3**, the above transformation is complicated by hydrolysis of the 2,2-dimethyl-5-nitro-1,3-dioxan-5-yl substituent upon the treatment with HCl, yielding triol **6** (see Scheme 2).

4-Hydroxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans **5** and **6** are yellow oils, while product **4** is a white crystalline solid with m.p. 85.0–87.0 °C. Hydroxyfurazans **4** and **5**

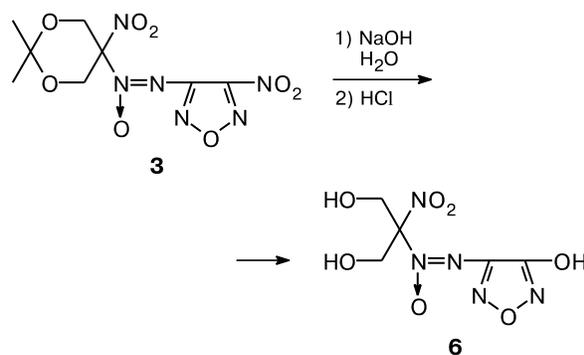
\* Dedicated to Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences S. M. Aldoshin on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Scheme 1



R = Me (**1, 4**); R + R = (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub> (**2, 5**)

Scheme 2

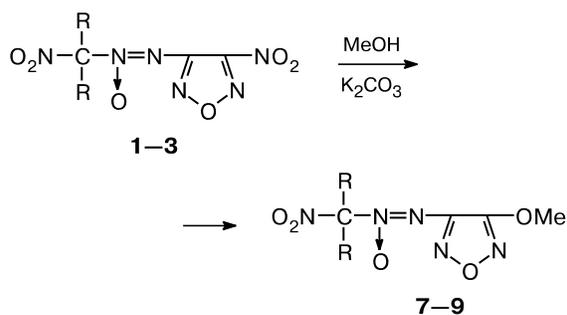


can form metal salts by exchanging the OH proton. For instance, treatment of compound **4** with EtONa in diethyl ether affords the sodium salt Na[**4**].

The reaction in methanol in the presence of inorganic bases proceeds even more violently than that in aqueous

solutions of alkalis. Although nitrofurazans **1–3** do not react even with boiling methanol when it is used alone, addition of  $K_2CO_3$  or  $KOH$  promotes nucleophilic displacement of the nitro group from the furazan ring by a methoxy group. The reaction at 20 °C is completed in 0.5 h to give the corresponding 4-methoxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans **7–9** (Scheme 3). Note that the use of  $K_2CO_3$  ensures higher yields of the reaction products than does  $KOH$  (e.g., 92 against 81% for compound **9**).

Scheme 3



$\text{R} = \text{Me}$  (**1**, **7**);  $\text{R} + \text{R} = (\text{CH}_2)_5$  (**2**, **8**);  $\text{R} + \text{R} = \text{CH}_2\text{OCMe}_2\text{OCH}_2$  (**3**, **9**)

Reactions of 4-nitro-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans **1** and **3** with such a strong nucleophile as  $\text{MeONa}$  in methanol at 20 °C unexpectedly resulted in replace-

ment of both the nitro groups, thus producing 4-methoxy-3-( $\alpha$ -methoxyalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans **10** and **11**, respectively (Scheme 4).

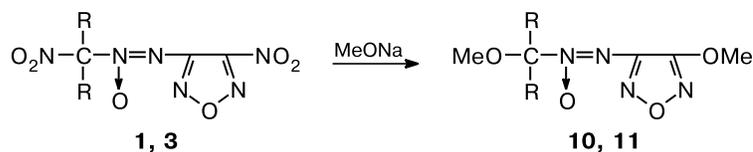
The structures of the methoxy and dimethoxy derivatives **7–11** were confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , and  $^{14}\text{N}$  NMR spectra. Comprehensive assignment of the signals in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of these compounds was performed using 2D NMR experiments ( $\{^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}\}$  HMBC).

Methoxyfurazans **7–9** and **11** are white crystalline compounds. Interestingly, the replacement of the nitro group in the ( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy) fragment by the methoxy group lowers the melting point (from 78.5–79.0 and 72.5–73.0 °C for **9** and **7**, respectively, to 48.0–49.5 °C for dimethoxy derivative **11**). Compound **10** is entirely liquid at room temperature.

Like other nitrofurazans,<sup>4</sup> 4-nitro-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans react with glycols in the presence of bases to give glycol mono- and diethers. For instance, a reaction of an excess of compound **3** with ethylene glycol in acetonitrile in the presence of  $K_2CO_3$  at 20 °C takes 96 h, affording diether **12** (Scheme 5). Monoether **13** is also formed as a by-product (7%), even when nitrofurazan **3** is employed in more than a twofold excess.

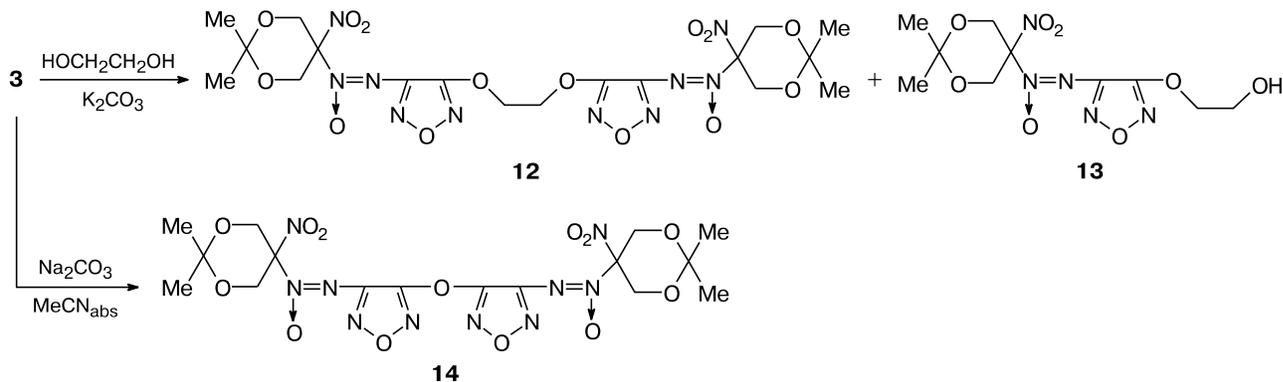
4-Nitro-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans also react with weak bases in anhydrous media, which is typical of nitrofurazans.<sup>5,6</sup> Treatment of compound **3** with  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  in anhydrous acetonitrile (60–65 °C, 5 h) gives difurazanyl ether **14** in 63% yield (Scheme 5). This product is a white crystalline solid with m.p. 99.0–100.0 °C.

Scheme 4



$\text{R} = \text{Me}$  (**1**, **10**);  $\text{R} + \text{R} = \text{CH}_2\text{OCMe}_2\text{OCH}_2$  (**3**, **11**)

Scheme 5



In contrast to *NNO*-azoxyfurazans,<sup>3,6</sup> which eliminate the azoxy group in reactions with bases, the *ONN*-azoxy group in ( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans does not act as a nucleofuge under similar conditions.

In our opinion, the results obtained suggest that the electronic effect of the  $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl substituent at the *ONN*-azoxy group, as with *N*-nucleophilic substitution in this series,<sup>1</sup> has minor influence on the possibility of nucleophilic substitution of the nitro group directly bound to the furazan ring.

To sum up, we developed a method for the synthesis of 4-hydroxy- and 4-alkoxy-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans and difurazanyl ethers by nucleophilic displacement of the nitro group from 4-nitro-3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans under the action of aqueous solutions of alkalis, mono- and diatomic alcohols (in the presence of inorganic bases), and sodium carbonate in anhydrous acetonitrile. The *ONN*-azoxy group shows no nucleofugacity in reactions with nucleophilic reagents. In addition, we were the first to notice that the nitro group of the ( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy) fragment act as a nucleofuge when ( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazans are treated with alkali metal alkoxides.

## Experimental

The course of the reactions was monitored by TLC on Silufol UV-254 plates. IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Alpha instrument. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-300 and Bruker AM-600 instruments. Chemical shifts are referenced to Me<sub>4</sub>Si (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C) or MeNO<sub>2</sub> (<sup>14</sup>N, the external standard, high-field chemical shifts are negative). High-resolution mass spectra were measured on a Bruker micrOTOF II instrument. Melting points were determined on a Kofler hot stage. The starting compounds 3-(1-methyl-1-nitroethyl-*ONN*-azoxy)-4-nitrofurazan (**1**),<sup>1</sup> 3-(2,2-dimethyl-5-nitro-1,3-dioxan-5-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)-4-nitrofurazan (**3**),<sup>1</sup> and 4-nitro-3-(1-nitrocyclohex-1-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazan (**2**)<sup>7</sup> were prepared as described earlier.

**4-Hydroxy-3-(1-methyl-1-nitroethyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazan (**4**).** A solution of compound **1** (0.110 g, 0.447 mmol) in acetone (0.8 mL) was added at 0–3 °C to a vigorously stirred solution of NaOH (0.090 g, 2.24 mmol) in water (1.0 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at 0–3 °C for 0.5 h, diluted with water (60.0 mL), and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4×15 mL). Then 33% aqueous HCl (0.23 mL, 2.42 mmol) was added, and the product was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (7×10 mL). The combined extracts were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was washed with hexane. The yield of compound **4** was 0.092 g (95%), white crystals, m.p. 85.0–87.0 °C (from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–hexane). MS (ESI), *m/z*: 240.0345 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; calculated for C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>5</sub>; [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 240.0339. IR (KBr),  $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1607 (s, furazan); 1569 (vs, asym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1505 (vs, N=N→O); 1377 (m, symm., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1234 (s, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 2.36 (s, 6 H, Me); 11.53 (br.s, 1 H, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 24.6 (Me); 114.5 (C–NO<sub>2</sub>); 148.2 (C–N=N→O); 160.2 (C–OH). <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : –39.7 (N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 64 Hz); 0.2 (NO<sub>2</sub>,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 54 Hz).

**4-Hydroxy-3-(1-methyl-1-nitroethyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazan, sodium salt (Na[4]).** Metallic sodium (0.012 g, 0.506 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (0.25 mL). The solution was added at 5–10 °C to a stirred solution of compound **4** (0.100 g, 0.460 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (4.0 mL). The resulting mixture was kept at 20 °C for 1 h. The precipitate that formed was filtered off and thoroughly washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The yield of salt Na[4] was 0.058 g (53%), light yellow crystals. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 2.26 (s, 6 H, Me). Acidification of salt Na[4] released free hydroxyfurazan **4** identical in physicochemical characteristics with that obtained as described above.

**4-Hydroxy-3-(1-nitrocyclohex-1-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazan (**5**).** A solution of compound **2** (0.108 g, 0.378 mmol) in acetone (0.8 mL) was added at 0–3 °C to a stirred solution of NaOH (0.076 g, 1.89 mmol) in water (1.0 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at 0–3 °C for 0.5 h, diluted with water (60.0 mL), and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4×15 mL). Then 33% aqueous HCl (0.20 mL, 2.11 mmol) was added, and the product was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (7×10 mL). The combined extracts were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was washed with hexane. The yield of compound **5** was 0.085 g (88%), yellow oil. MS (ESI), *m/z*: 280.0654 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; calculated for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>5</sub>; [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 280.0652. IR (KBr),  $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1608 (vs, furazan); 1570 (vs, asym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1506 (vs, N=N→O); 1332 (m, symm., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1247 (m, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 1.62 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)); 1.77 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)); 2.76 (m, 4 H, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CNO<sub>2</sub>); 11.65 (br.s, 1 H, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 21.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)), 22.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)), 32.5 ((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CNO<sub>2</sub>), 116.0 ((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CNO<sub>2</sub>), 147.3 (C–N=N→O); 159.1 (C–OH). <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : –43.2 (N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 81 Hz); –1.72 (NO<sub>2</sub>,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 78 Hz).

**4-Hydroxy-3-(2-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-1-nitroethyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazan (**6**).** A solution of compound **3** (0.100 g, 0.314 mmol) in acetone (0.8 mL) was added at 0–3 °C to a stirred solution of NaOH (0.063 g, 1.57 mmol) in water (1.0 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at 0–3 °C for 0.5 h, diluted with water (60.0 mL), and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (4×15 mL). Then 33% aqueous HCl (0.37 mL, 3.93 mmol) was added, and the product was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (7×10 mL). The combined extracts were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was washed with hexane. The yield of compound **6** was 0.063 g (81%), yellow oil. Found (%): C, 24.35; H, 2.95; N, 28.42. C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (M = 249.14). Calculated (%): C, 24.10; H, 2.81; N, 28.11. IR (KBr),  $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1699 (vs, furazan); 1576 (vs, asym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1510 (vs, N=N→O); 1362 (s, symm., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1239 (s, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 4.64 (s, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 5.26 (br.s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH); 11.58 (br.s, 1 H, OH). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 4.82 (s, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 6.10 (br.s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH); 12.20 (br.s, 1 H, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 60.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 114.5 (C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 147.4 (C–N=N→O), 160.0 (C–OH). <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : –49.1 (N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 92 Hz); –9.1 (NO<sub>2</sub>,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 88 Hz).

**4-Methoxy-3-(1-methyl-1-nitroethyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furazan (**7**).** Potassium carbonate (0.074 g, 0.536 mmol) was added at 20 °C to a stirred solution of compound **1** (0.110 g, 0.447 mmol) in MeOH (6.0 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred at 20 °C for 0.5 h and filtered. The mother liquor was concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by preparative TLC (chromatographed three times) on silica gel with ethyl acetate–hexane (1 : 5) as an eluent. The yield of compound **7** was

0.098 g (95%), white crystals, m.p. 72.5–73.0 °C (from hexane). MS (ESI),  $m/z$ : 254.0488 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; calculated for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 254.0496. IR (KBr),  $\nu/cm^{-1}$ : 1589 (vs, furazan); 1585 (vs, asym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1517 (s, N=N→O); 1417 (s, sym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1264 (m, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 2.36 (s, 6 H, C—Me); 4.19 (s, 3 H, O—Me). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 24.6 (C—Me), 59.9 (O—Me), 114.6 (C—NO<sub>2</sub>), 147.5 (C—N=N→O), 162.4 (C—OMe). The signals in the spectrum were assigned using HMBC experiments. <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : -40.0 (N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 58 Hz); -0.8 (NO<sub>2</sub>,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 51 Hz).

#### 4-Methoxy-3-(1-nitrocyclohex-1-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)furan (8).

Potassium carbonate (0.058 g, 0.420 mmol) was added at 20 °C to a stirred solution of compound 2 (0.100 g, 0.350 mmol) in MeOH (6.0 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred at 20 °C for 0.5 h and filtered. The mother liquor was concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by preparative TLC (chromatographed four times) on silica gel with ethyl acetate—hexane (1 : 7) as an eluent. The yield of compound 8 was 0.081 g (85%), white crystals, m.p. 57.5–58.0 °C (from H<sub>2</sub>O—Pr<sup>i</sup>OH). MS (ESI),  $m/z$ : 294.0807 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 294.0809. IR (KBr),  $\nu/cm^{-1}$ : 1588 (vs, furazan); 1567 (vs, asym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1499 (s, N=N→O); 1425 (s, sym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1261 (m, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 1.66 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>); 1.80 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>); 2.78 (m, 4 H, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CNO<sub>2</sub>); 4.20 (s, 3 H, Me). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 23.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 23.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 33.7 ((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CNO<sub>2</sub>), 60.2 (Me), 117.2 ((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CNO<sub>2</sub>), 147.8 (C—N=N→O), 162.5 (C—OMe). The signals in the spectrum were assigned using HMBC experiments. <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : -42.1 (N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 64 Hz); -2.0 (NO<sub>2</sub>,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 71 Hz).

#### 3-(2,2-Dimethyl-5-nitro-1,3-dioxan-5-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)-4-methoxyfuran (9). A.

Potassium carbonate (0.052 g, 0.377 mmol) was added at 20 °C to a stirred solution of compound 3 (0.100 g, 0.314 mmol) in MeOH (6.0 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred at 20 °C for 0.5 h and filtered. The mother liquor was concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by preparative TLC (chromatographed five times) on silica gel with ethyl acetate—hexane (1 : 5) as an eluent. The yield of compound 9 was 0.087 g (92%), white crystals, m.p. 78.5–79.0 °C (from hexane). MS (ESI),  $m/z$ : 326.0715 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 326.0707. IR (KBr),  $\nu/cm^{-1}$ : 1593 (vs, furazan); 1576 (vs, asym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1501 (s, N=N→O); 1377 (s, asym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1257 (m, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 1.49, 1.54 (both s, 3 H, C—Me); 4.20 (s, 3 H, O—Me); 4.94 (s, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 21.4, 24.5 (both C—Me), 60.0 (O—Me), 62.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 100.9 (C—Me<sub>2</sub>), 107.4 (C—NO<sub>2</sub>), 147.3 (C—N=N→O), 162.5 (C—OMe). The signals in the spectrum were assigned using HMBC experiments. <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : -51.5 (N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 64 Hz); -11.5 (NO<sub>2</sub>,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 81 Hz).

**B.** Potassium hydroxide (0.023 g, 0.408 mmol) was added at 20 °C to a solution of compound 3 (0.100 g, 0.314 mmol) in MeOH (6.0 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at 20 °C for 0.5 h and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by preparative TLC (chromatographed five times) on silica gel with ethyl acetate—hexane (1 : 5) as an eluent. The yield of compound 9 was 0.077 g (81%). This sample is identical in physicochemical characteristics with that obtained according to procedure A.

#### 4-Methoxy-3-(1-methoxy-1-methylethyl-*ONN*-azoxy)furan (10).

Metallic sodium (0.047 g, 2.04 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (2.0 mL), whereupon a solution of compound 1 (0.100 g, 0.407 mmol) in MeOH (1.0 mL) was added at 20 °C with stirring. The resulting mixture was kept at 20 °C for 0.5 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The product was purified by preparative TLC (chromatographed three times) on silica gel with ethyl acetate—hexane (1 : 3) as an eluent. The yield of compound 10 was 0.088 g (80%), yellow oil. MS (ESI),  $m/z$ : 239.1841 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; calculated for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 239.1845. IR (KBr),  $\nu/cm^{-1}$ : 1588 (vs, furazan); 1517 (s, N=N→O); 1262 (m, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 2.18 (s, 6 H, C—Me); 2.84 (s, 3 H, C(NON)O—Me); 4.19 (s, 3 H, O—Me). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 24.8 (C—Me), 49.9 (C(NON)O—Me), 60.0 (O—Me), 109.7 (C(NON)O—Me), 148.0 (C—N=N→O), 162.2 (C—OMe). The signals in the spectrum were assigned using HMBC experiments. <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : -29.4 (N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 165 Hz).

#### 4-Methoxy-3-(5-methoxy-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxan-5-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)furan (11).

Metallic sodium (0.036 g, 1.57 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (2.0 mL), whereupon a solution of compound 3 (0.100 g, 0.314 mmol) in MeOH (1.0 mL) was added at 20 °C with stirring. The resulting mixture was kept at 20 °C for 0.5 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The product was purified by preparative TLC (chromatographed three times) on silica gel with ethyl acetate—hexane (1 : 3) as an eluent. The yield of compound 11 was 0.086 g (87%), white crystals, m.p. 48.0–49.5 °C (from hexane). MS (ESI),  $m/z$ : 311.0953 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 311.0962. IR (KBr),  $\nu/cm^{-1}$ : 1592 (vs, furazan); 1501 (vs, N=N→O); 1254 (m, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 1.38, 1.46 (both s, 3 H, C—Me); 3.49 (s, 3 H, C(NON)O—Me), 4.15 (s, 3 H, O—Me); 4.18, 4.62 (both d, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>,  $J$  = 13.20 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 22.3, 24.1 (both C—Me), 52.7 (C(NON)O—Me), 59.7 (O—Me), 62.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 99.7 (C—Me<sub>2</sub>), 103.2 (C(NON)O—Me), 148.2 (C—N=N→O), 161.9 (C—OMe). The signals in the spectrum were assigned using HMBC experiments. <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : -27.8 (N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 180 Hz).

#### 1,2-Bis[3-(2,2-dimethyl-5-nitro-1,3-dioxan-5-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)furan-4-yloxy]ethane (12).

Potassium carbonate (0.045 g, 1.05 mmol) was added at 20 °C to a stirred solution of compound 3 (0.100 g, 0.314 mmol) and HOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH (0.011 g, 0.173 mmol) in dry MeCN (0.4 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred at 20 °C for 96 h and filtered. The mother liquor was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was separated into two fractions by preparative TLC (chromatographed four times) on silica gel with ethyl acetate—hexane (1 : 2) as an eluent. **First fraction** ( $R_f$  0.85): compound 12 (0.059 mg, 62%), yellow oil. MS (ESI),  $m/z$ : 605.1541 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>10</sub>O<sub>14</sub>: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 605.1546. IR (KBr),  $\nu/cm^{-1}$ : 1594 (vs, furazan); 1576 (vs, asym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1509 (s, N=N→O); 1380 (s, sym., NO<sub>2</sub>); 1249 (m, N=N→O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 1.48, 1.51 (both s, 6 H, Me); 4.91 (s, 8 H, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CNO<sub>2</sub>); 4.94 (s, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : 21.6, 24.3 (both Me), 62.6 ((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CNO<sub>2</sub>), 71.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 100.9 (C—Me<sub>2</sub>), 107.4 (C—NO<sub>2</sub>), 147.4 (C—N=N→O), 161.6 (C—OCH<sub>2</sub>). The signals in the spectrum were assigned using HMBC experiments. <sup>14</sup>N NMR (22 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ : -50.5 (2 N→O,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 73 Hz); -11.6 (2 NO<sub>2</sub>,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5}$  = 86 Hz). **Second fraction** ( $R_f$  0.35): compound 13 (0.007 mg, 7%).

**3-(2,2-Dimethyl-5-nitro-1,3-dioxan-5-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)-4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)furanan (13).** MS (ESI),  $m/z$ : 334.0983  $[M + H]^+$ ; calculated for  $C_{10}H_{15}N_5O_8$ :  $[M + H]^+$  334.0993. IR (KBr),  $\nu/cm^{-1}$ : 3435 (m, OH); 1593 (vs, furazan); 1581 (vs, asym.,  $NO_2$ ); 1509 (s,  $N=N \rightarrow O$ ); 1381 (s, symm.,  $NO_2$ ); 1253 (s,  $N=N \rightarrow O$ ).  $^1H$  NMR (acetone- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$ : 1.46, 1.52 (both s, 3 H, Me); 3.93 (m, 2 H,  $CH_2OH$ ); 4.19 (br.s, 1 H, OH); 4.52 (t, 2 H,  $CH_2CH_2OH$ ,  $J = 4.50$  Hz); 4.92 (q, 4 H,  $(OCH_2)_2CNO_2$ ,  $J = 12.00$  Hz).  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$ : 21.6, 24.7 (both Me), 60.2 ( $CH_2OH$ ), 62.8 ( $(CH_2)_2CNO_2$ ), 75.7 ( $CH_2CH_2OH$ ), 101.0 ( $CMe_2$ ), 107.7 ( $C-NO_2$ ), 147.6 ( $C-N=N \rightarrow O$ ), 162.2 ( $C-OCH_2$ ). The signals in the spectrum were assigned using HMBC experiments.  $^{14}N$  NMR (22 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$ : -51.7 ( $N \rightarrow O$ ,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5} = 90$  Hz); -11.3 ( $NO_2$ ,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5} = 76$  Hz).

**Bis[3-(2,2-dimethyl-5-nitro-1,3-dioxan-5-yl-*ONN*-azoxy)-furanan-4-yl] ether (14).** Sodium carbonate (0.037 g, 0.345 mmol) was added at 20 °C to a stirred solution of compound **3** (0.100 g, 0.314 mmol) in dry MeCN (6.0 mL). The resulting solution was kept at 65 °C for 5 h and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by preparative TLC (chromatographed four times) on silica gel with ethyl acetate-hexane (1 : 4) as an eluent. The yield of compound **14** was 0.055 g (63%), white crystals, m.p. 99.0–100.0 °C (from hexane). MS (ESI),  $m/z$ : 583.1111  $[M + Na]^+$ ; calculated for  $C_{16}H_{20}N_{10}O_{13}$ :  $[M + Na]^+$  583.1104. IR (KBr),  $\nu/cm^{-1}$ : 1590 (s, furazan); 1577 (vs, asym.,  $NO_2$ ); 1484 (s,  $N=N \rightarrow O$ ); 1379 (m, symm.,  $NO_2$ ); 1258 (m,  $N=N \rightarrow O$ ).  $^1H$  NMR (acetone- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$ : 1.49, 1.52 (both s, 6 H, Me); 4.93 (s, 8 H,  $CH_2$ ).  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$ : 21.8, 24.2 (both Me), 62.6 ( $CH_2$ ), 101.1 ( $CMe_2$ ), 107.9 ( $C-NO_2$ ), 147.8 ( $C-N=N \rightarrow O$ ), 158.4 ( $C-O$ ). The signals in the spectrum were assigned using HMBC experiments.  $^{14}N$  NMR (22 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$ : -48.2 (2  $N \rightarrow O$ ,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5} = 134$  Hz); -12.5 (2  $NO_2$ ,  $\Delta\nu_{0.5} = 108$  Hz).

We are grateful to M. I. Struchkova, A. S. Shashkov, E. D. Lubuzh, N. G. Kolotyrkina, V. I. Kadentsev, and A. O. Chizhov for performing spectroscopic measurements.

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Received November 19, 2012;  
in revised form February 6, 2013