Bisthiourea: thermal and structural investigation

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Abstract Bisthiourea derivatives 1,1'-(ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(3-phenylthiourea), 1,1'-(propane-1,3-diyl)bis(3-phenylthiourea), and 1,1'-(butane-1,4-diyl)bis(3-phenylthiourea) have been synthesized and characterized by IR, ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR. Suitable crystals of 1,1'-(propane-1,3-diyl)bis(3-phenylthiourea) were grown for single-crystal X-ray analysis and from the data it was observed that they organize into the *P*-1 space group. The thermal decomposition of these compounds has been studied by TG–DSC.

Keywords Bisthiourea derivatives · Crystal structure · Thermal decomposition

Introduction

Urea and thiourea derivatives are conspicuous for their biological activity as they form strong hydrogen bonding interactions and coordinate metal ions [1–3]. In recent years, the use of urea and thiols as functionalized ligands has been extensively studied in catalytic reactions such as hydroformylation [4], hydrosilylation [5], asymmetric reduction [6], cyclization [7], hydrolytic kinetic resolution of epoxides [8], and hydrogenation [9]. Other applications include their use as synthetic cation–anion ionophores [10, 11], chromogenic and fluorogenic receptors [12], surfactant self-assemblies [13], and photo-dimerizing agents for coumarins [14]. A number of bisthiourea–urea single crystals have been studied for nonlinear optical properties

School of Chemistry, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Westville Campus, Durban 4000, South Africa e-mail: maguireg@ukzn.ac.za [15–17]. Thermal analyses are especially useful for studying the chemical and physical behavior of catalysts. Owing to the different internal organization within the solid state, polymorphs may show different melting points, solubility, chemical reactivity, and stability. Variations in catalytic conditions can affect the state of a catalyst which in turn may have considerable effects on the rate, activity, selectivity, and turnover. It is thus important to study the thermal behavior of this type of ligand. Here, we report the synthesis (Scheme 1), crystal structure, spectroscopic elucidation, and thermal study of the bisthiourea derivatives 1,1'-(ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(3-phenylthiourea), and 1,1'-(butane-1,4-diyl)-bis(3-phenylthiourea).

Experimental

Materials and synthesis

Three bisthiourea compounds were synthesized using phenyl isothiocynate (Merck Schuchardt), ethane-1,2-diamine (Saar Chem), propane-1,3-diamine (Aldrich), butane-1,4-diamine (Aldrich), diethylether (Merck), and isopropanol (Sigma Aldrich).

Instruments and methods

The IR spectra were recorded using a Perkin Elmer Universal ATR spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded employing a Bruker Avance 400 MHz instrument with either CDCl₃ or DMSO- d_6 as the solvent. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data were collected with a Bruker KAPPA APEX II DUO diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo-K α radiation ($\chi = 0.71073$ Å). Data

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collection was carried out at 173(2) K. The temperature was controlled by an Oxford Cryostream cooling system (Oxford Cryostat). Cell refinement and data reduction were performed using the program SAINT [18]. The data were scaled and absorption correction performed using SAD-ABS [18]. The structure was solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97 [19] and refined by full-matrix least-squares methods based on F^2 using SHELXL-97 [20]. The program OLEX2 was used to prepare molecular graphic images [21]. The powder X-ray diffraction was carried out



Fig. 1 IR spectra of compounds 1, 2, and 3

Fig. 2 X-ray patterns of compounds 1, 2, and 3

using a Bruker D8 Advance instrument. The thermal characteristics of the samples were determined on a TA instruments differential scanning calorimeter. 8–10 mg samples were placed in a standard vessel and heated at a rate of 20 °C/min in the temperature range 30–1,000 °C under a nitrogen environment.

Synthesis of 1,1'-(ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(3-phenylthiourea) (1)

A solution of phenyl isothiocyanate (6.75 g, 50 mmol) in diethyl ether (15 ml) was added dropwise at 15 °C to a vigorously stirred solution of anhydrous ethane-1,2-diamine (6.01 g, 100 mmol) in isopropyl alcohol (100 ml) over a period of 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature and quenched with water (200 ml). The reaction mixture was kept overnight at room temperature, then acidified with conc. HCl up to pH 2.6. The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure, the residue was then suspended in hot water for 30 min and the resulting precipitate was filtered under vacuum. The product was washed with ice-cold water and dried. The yield was 2.90 g (35%) **1**. Mp: 462 K.

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 9.5 (br.s., 2H, NH-CS), 7.37–7.39 (d, 4H, H-arom), 7.29–7.33 (t, 4H,



Table 1 X-Ray diffraction data for bisthioureas

1					2					3				
2θ/°	d/Å	h	k	l	2 <i>θ</i> /°	d/Å	h	k	l	2θ/°	d/Å	h	k	l
15.2	5.8399	-	-	-	15.5	5.7000	0	2	-1	15.4	5.7569	1	0	-2
16.6	5.3355	1	1	2	17.6	5.0421	-	-	-	17.5	5.0744	1	1	1
18.5	4.7913	-	-	-	18.1	4.9036	-	-	-	18.6	4.7667	0	1	2
20.5	4.3279	2	1	1	20.6	4.3130	1	1	3	19.8	4.4820	1	1	$^{-2}$
22.1	4.0188	0	0	2	21.5	4.1322	1	3	1	22.0	4.0392	2	1	0
23.0	3.8609	1	0	4	23.9	3.7252	-	-	-	24.0	3.7066	-	-	-
25.6	3.4799	3	0	1	24.8	3.5836	3	1	0	24.4	3.6498	1	2	0
26.6	3.3484	2	2	1	26.9	3.3150	1	-2	-3	26.7	3.3324	-	-	-
27.2	3.2711	3	0	2	27.5	3.2450	3	2	2	27.4	3.2558	2	0	2
30.8	2.9034	0	2	4	29.1	3.0684	3	3	0	29.6	3.0165	2	2	0
33.5	2.6715	1	3	2	33.7	2.6578	3	-2	2	33.6	2.6643	3	1	1
35.8	2.5054	4	0	2	36.6	2.4563	4	2	3	36.4	2.4660	-	-	-
39.4	2.2859	4	2	0	39.3	2.2918	-	-	-	40.3	2.2342	2	0	4
43.1	2.0989	5	0	1	43.4	2.0835	4	-1	-3	42.7	2.1144	3	1	-5
48.1	1.8915	4	2	5	48.4	1.8778	1	6	4	48.5	1.8755	2	3	3

Fig. 3 Single-crystal X-ray structure of 2. a Projection of molecule 2 in plane *b* having 40% probability, all hydrogens have been removed for clarity, molecules A and B are linked via H-bonding N2B-H···O1 (2.872 Å), and O1-H···S2A (3.218 Å). b Projection of molecule 2 in plane a having 40% probability, all hydrogens have been removed for clarity, molecules B and B are linked via N1B-H-S1B (3.429 Å)



H-arom), 7.10–7.13 (t, 2H, H-arom), 7.82 (br.s., 2H, –NH–CH₂), 3.69 (s, 4H, –CH₂–CH₂).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 100 MHz): 43.14, 123.27, 124.33, 128.66, 138.92, 180.55.

IR. (*v*, cm⁻¹): 3365, 3225, 1587, 1526, 1507, 1484, 1451, 1436, 1368, 1313, 1293, 1268, 1229, 1182, 1096, 1073, 909, 801, 769, 735, 691, 641, 599, 568, 508, 490, 408, 390.

Synthesis of 1,1'-(propane-1,3-diyl)bis(3-phenylthiourea) (2)

The procedure for the preparation of **1** was repeated using phenyl isothiocyanate (6.75 g, 50 mmol) and propane-1,3-diamine (7.41 g, 100 mmol) to give 3.44 g (40%) **2**. Mp: 401 K.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 7.71 (br.s., 2H, NH-CS), 7.33–7.37 (m, 4H, H-arom), 7.19–7.24 (t, 2H,

H-arom), 7.12–7.14 (d, 4H, H-arom), 6.69 (t, 2H, –NH– CH₂), 3.59 (q, 4H, –CH₂–CH₂), 1.73 (m, 2H, –CH₂–CH₂).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 29.29, 41.55, 125.87, 127.72, 130.28, 135.57, 180.91.

IR. (*v*, cm⁻¹): 3418, 3169, 3000, 1594, 1532, 1514, 1494, 1435, 1382, 1355, 1310, 1232, 1171, 1099, 1065, 1026, 1007, 961, 865, 840, 822, 761, 720, 694, 643, 600, 545, 489, 407.

Synthesis of 1,1'-(butane-1,4-diyl)bis(3-phenylthiourea) (**3**)

The procedure for the preparation of **1** was repeated using phenyl isothiocyanate (6.75 g, 50 mmol) and butane-1,4-diamine (8.81 g, 100 mmol) to give 2.36 g (35%) **3**. Mp: 458 K.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 7.64 (br.s., 2H, NH-CS), 7.40–7.46 (m, 4H, H-arom), 7.29–7.33 (t, 2H, H-arom), 7.19–7.21 (d, 4H, H-arom), 6.18 (br.s., 2H, –NH–CH₂), 3.65 (m, 4H, –CH₂–CH₂), 1.61 (m, 4H, –CH₂–CH₂).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 26.12, 44.75, 125.45, 127.55, 130.34, 180.92.

IR. (v, cm⁻¹): 3251, 3155, 3095, 3005, 2933, 1591, 1518, 1492, 1447, 1396, 1306, 1294, 1254, 1178, 1084, 1071, 1027, 930, 811, 750, 718, 692, 639, 600, 549, 490, 402.

Result and discussion

IR and NMR spectra

IR spectra (Fig. 1) of the bisthiourea derivatives show bands at ~3,300 and ~1,590 cm⁻¹, which are assigned to NH stretching and bending vibrations, respectively. The absorptions observed at ~1,445 and ~735 cm⁻¹ correspond to C=S stretching and rocking, respectively. The absorptions recorded at ~1,490 and ~490 cm⁻¹ can be assigned to N–C–N stretching and bending vibrations, respectively. The peaks at ~1,090 and ~400 cm⁻¹ are due to the C–N stretch and the S–C–N stretch, respectively. For compounds **1**, **2**, and **3** absorptions for N–H–O hydrogen bonding can be seen around 3,169 cm⁻¹ and except for **1** weaker bands for the N–H–S interactions appear around 3,000 cm⁻¹.

The ¹H NMR spectra of the thiourea derivatives show characteristic peaks for the aliphatic and aromatic protons. Signals associated with the secondary amines were also present and these peaks disappeared when D₂O was added in a "shake" test. It should be noted that all the signals are sharp and the associated integration values correspond to the expected figures.

X-Ray diffraction

The powder X-ray diffractograms of the compounds are shown in Fig. 2. All the three compounds show many



Fig. 4 DSC results for compounds 1, 2, and 3

reflection peaks ranging from $2\theta = 15^{\circ}$ to 60°. This indicates that there are a number of classes of structures that are intermediate in the states between the crystalline and



Fig. 5 TG-DTG of compounds 1, 2, and 3



Scheme 2 Decomposition of bisthiourea derivatives

amorphous phases. Moreover, the presence of polar groups provides some order between two extents of crystallinity. As the length of the methylene spacer increases so too does the molecule's flexibility. The sharp reflections indicate an increase in associated crystallinity with this augmentation in flexibility [22, 23]. All the reflections in the powder X-ray diffractograms match the single crystal powder patterns. The resultant lattice parameters are summarized in Table 1.

The single-crystal X-ray structure of compound **1** was recently reported by our research group, the structure shows intermolecular hydrogen bonding interactions between N1–H1…S1 3.379(2) Å that creates layered sheets in the *ab* plane. The dihedral angle between the phenyl ring and the thiourea group is 52.9(4)° [24].

Crystals of compound **2** were grown from a solution of methanol:methylene chloride' (1:2 by volume) using the slow evaporation technique. The single-crystal lattice parameter values are a: 10.9393(8), b: 12.8867(9), and c: 13.7998(11) and hydrogen bonding occurs with methanol creating links between two molecules (Fig. 3). All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The hydroxyl hydrogen of methanol was located in the difference

electron density maps and refined with a simple bond length constraint [d(O–H) = 0.97(1) Å] and with $U_{\rm iso}$ = $1.2 \times U_{\rm eq}$ (O). The rest of the hydrogen atoms were placed at calculated positions with attachment distances ranging from 0.95 to 0.99 Å and refined as riding on their parent atoms with $U_{\rm iso}$ (H) = $1.2 \times U_{\rm eq}$ (C) (CCDC: 853522).

The crystal structure of compound **3** shows two distinct intermolecular hydrogen bonding interactions [25]. The first occurs between N2–H2 and S1 2.713(16) Å that generates an infinite chain along the *a* axis. Due to these interactions an interlocking molecular structure is formed. The second occurs between N1–H1 and S1 2.508(18) Å that creates an infinite chain of molecules along the *b* axis [25].

All three compounds show a bent structure. Compound 1 is the most linear probably due to its lack of flexibility relative to the other molecules. It is also observed that all three derivatives show *transoid* arrangement of the two thiourea groups. This is atypical of previously reported structures of bisurea derivatives [26]. From the crystal structures, it appears that there is an infinite chain of molecules for 1 and 3, while 2 has a cage-like structure. This is presumably because of the hydrogen bonding arrangement in this example.

Compound	TG-DTG	DSC	Mass los	s/%	Probable decomposition assignmen			
	Range/°C	Peak _{max} /°C	Enthalpy/J/g	Obs	Cal			
1	30–190	(+)42.5	_	1.4	_	Solvent or moisture		
	190-250	(+)200.8	490.0	57.0	59.0	1-(2-Aminoethyl)-3-phenylthiourea		
	250-350	_	-	28.6	28.1	Aniline		
	350-930	(-)352.0	-	12.7	_	_		
2	30-180	(+)49.9,	63.9	7.8	_	Solvent or moisture		
		(-)120.4,	20.4,					
		(+)130.2, (-)161.4,						
		(+)179.4						
	180-260	-	26.1	59.9	60.7	1-(3-Aminoethyl)-3-phenylthiourea		
	260-650	(-)345.0	-	25.2	27.0	Aniline		
	650–990	-	-	0.9	-	_		
3	30-150	(+)75.2	370.6	7.8	-	Solvent or moisture		
	150-270	(-)166.2, 384.7		61.2	62.2	1-(4-Aminobutyl)-3-phenylthiourea		
		(+)181.5,						
	270-650	(-)277.6,	7.1	23.3	25.9	Aniline		
		(+)294.3,						
		(-)326.3,						
		(+)358.0,						
		(-)386.6						
	650–990	-	24.1	1.4	-	-		

Table 2 Thermoanalytical data (TG, DSC) for bisthioureas

(+) endothermic, (-) exothermic

Thermal analysis

All three compounds have two phenyl thiourea groups separated by a different number of methylene groups. The DSC traces of 1-3 (Fig. 4) show extensive decomposition concomitant with the melting process. The endo-exo-endo peak can be easily seen in the DSC traces, where the broad exothermic peak followed by the sharp endothermic peak, correspond to the melting process. The sharpness of this peak implies a significant degree of crystallinity for the samples. All the compounds 1-3 show similar DSC behavior, but 1 decomposes earlier and exhibits only one endothermic peak, while the other compounds possess multiple endothermic peaks due to polymorphism [27].

From the thermogravimetric analyses of the compounds from 30 and 1,000 °C (Fig. 5), it can be observed that 1 decomposes fully at 930 °C, while 2 and 3 decompose with up to 94.5% mass loss at this temperature. The measured decomposition range is in four steps. First, from 30 to 180 °C it is likely that all volatile and low molecular mass fragments of the derivatives are eliminated. In the second step, from 180 to 260 °C, the major part of the derivatives has decomposed. It may be the "aminoalkyl-3-phenylthiourea". The third step differs between 1 and 2-3. For 1, it occurs at 250-350 °C, while for 2 and 3 it is at 260–650 °C. This may be because of aniline decomposition (see Scheme 2). From the TG and DSC data compounds 2-3 (Table 2) follow similar thermal decomposition pathways. For 1, the shorter distance between the two thiourea groups appears to have a substantive effect on its decomposition profile.

Conclusions

Bisthiourea derivatives were synthesized and characterized by IR, NMR, and single-crystal X-ray crystallography. The single-crystal structure and powder data were compared. All the structures have bent *transoid* arrangements. These three bisthioureas also possess intermolecular hydrogen bonding arrangements. The structural behavior was studied by TG–DTG and the structures retain key properties up to 180 °C. This confirms thermal stability. The derivatives decompose stepwise as the spacer methylene groups between the two phenyl thiourea moieties increase. The compounds appear to mainly decompose into two fragments. From DSC data it was confirmed that multiple phases exist.

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