

## PHOTOINDUCED REACTIONS—XXV

### A ZWITTERIONIC PEROXIDE INTERMEDIATE IN THE PHOTSENSITIZED OXYGENATION OF FULLY N-ALKYLATED URIC ACIDS<sup>1,2</sup>

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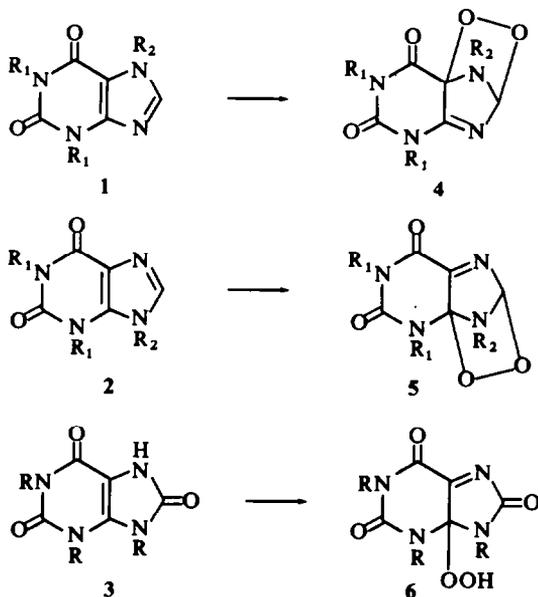
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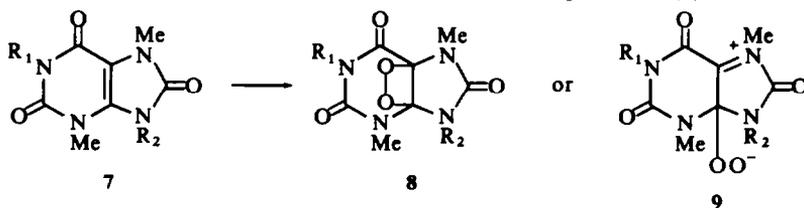
**Abstract**—Photosensitized oxygenation of 1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (7a) in methanol containing rose bengal as sensitizer yielded 4,5-dimethoxy-1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (10) as the major product besides a small amount of allocaffeic acid (11). When photosensitized oxygenation was carried out in chloroform in the presence of methylene blue, 7a gave 1,3,7-trimethylcaffolide (12a) and 1,3-dimethylparabanic acid (13). Under the same conditions, 1-ethyl-3,7,9-trimethyluric acid (7b) afforded 12b, 13, and 14b and 9-ethyl-1,3,7-trimethyluric acid (7c) gave 12c and 14c. Mechanisms involving an initial attack of singlet oxygen to 7 forming a zwitterionic peroxide are proposed.

IN PREVIOUS papers,<sup>1,3,4</sup> the photosensitized oxygenation of various types of hydroxylated purine derivatives leading to degradation products has been described. It has been shown that, in the case of 2,6-dihydroxypurine derivatives such as 1, 2, and 3, the initial attack of oxygen, possibly excited singlet oxygen, occurs at double bonds of the imidazole moiety to form a peroxide intermediate which could account for the formation of the degradation products. We have formulated two types of peroxide intermediates. When two double bonds are present in the imidazole moiety as in 1 and 2, an *endo*-peroxide as 4 and 5 may be the intermediate. It is generally accepted that such an *endo*-peroxide is an intermediate in the photosensitized oxygenation of cyclic dienes<sup>5</sup> and also of certain N-heterocycles<sup>6,7</sup> bearing a —C=N—C=C— group. On the other hand, when a —C=C—NH— group is present in the imidazole moiety as in 3, a hydroperoxide as 6 may be formed and accompanied by migration of the double bond. This type of hydroperoxide is also generally accepted as an intermediate in the photooxygenation of various N-heterocycles such as imidazoles,<sup>7</sup> pyrroles,<sup>8</sup> and indoles.<sup>9</sup>

The latter type of peroxide is well known as an initial product in the photooxygenation of simple olefins bearing an allylic hydrogen; namely  $\begin{array}{c} | & | & | \\ \text{—C=C—CH—} \\ | & | & | \\ \text{—C(OOH)—C=C—} \end{array}$ . To the best of our knowledge the photosensitized oxygenation of olefins having no allylic hydrogen has not been reported, although some compounds having a vinyl ether group, —C=C—O—R, without having any allylic

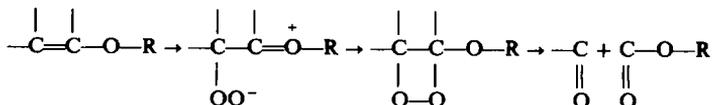


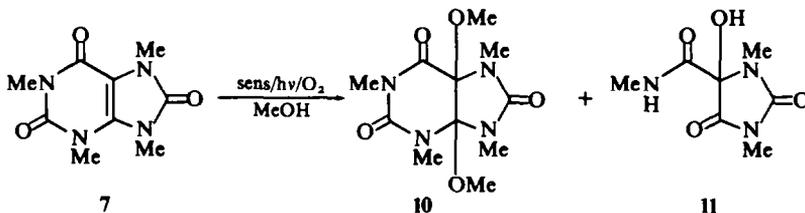
hydrogen undergo photooxidative cleavage of C=C double bond.<sup>10,\*</sup> It appeared, therefore, interesting to investigate photosensitized oxygenation of fully N-alkylated uric acids (7) which in contrast to 3 have no NH group. A compound such as 7 may form a 4-membered cyclic peroxide (8) or a zwitterionic peroxide (9).



When a methanol solution of 1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (7a) was submitted to photosensitized oxygenation in the presence of rose bengal, 0.63 mole of oxygen was consumed rapidly and 4,5-dimethoxy-1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (10) and allocaffaic acid (11) were obtained in 35 and 5% yield, respectively. Both products were identified by independent syntheses.<sup>11,12</sup> Allocaffaic acid (11) probably was formed by hydrolysis of 10 during chromatographic separation of the products. In fact, 10 is easily hydrolyzed by acid treatment to give 11.<sup>12</sup>

\* It has been proposed that cleavage of C=C double bond proceeds *via* a four-membered cyclic peroxide intermediate.<sup>10b</sup> However, a zwitterionic peroxide intermediate may also account for the cleavage reaction (see below) as follows.

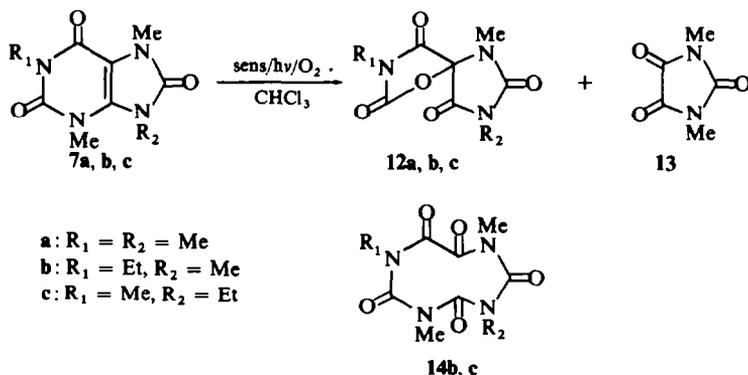




On the other hand, when photosensitized oxygenation was carried out in chloroform using methylene blue as sensitizer, fully N-alkylated uric acids (7) gave different types of products. Thus, 1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (7a) afforded, after absorption of 0.59 mole of oxygen at a slower rate than in methanol, 1,3,7-trimethylcaffolide (12a)<sup>12</sup> and 1,3-dimethylparabanic acid (13) in 42 and 7% yield, respectively. Both compounds were identified by a direct comparison with authentic specimens.

Under similar conditions, 1-ethyl-3,7,9-trimethyluric acid (7b) absorbed 0.72 mole of oxygen in chloroform to yield 1,3-dimethyl-7-ethylcaffolide (12b),<sup>13</sup> 1,3-dimethylparabanic acid (13), and an oxygen adduct C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in 12, 8, and 22% yields, respectively. The structure of 12b was confirmed by its synthesis and by hydrolysis to 1,3-dimethyl-5-hydroxyhydantoin-5-N-ethylcarboxamide.<sup>13</sup> The molecular formula for the adduct was confirmed by the appearance of a parent peak at *m/e* 270. The IR spectrum shows a broad carbonyl absorption band at 1750–1650 cm<sup>-1</sup> but neither NH or OH bands. The NMR spectrum exhibits three singlets at  $\tau$  6.85, 7.01, and 7.10 corresponding to three N-Me groups, a quartet at  $\tau$  6.32 (*J* = 7 c/s), and a triplet at  $\tau$  8.87 (*J* = 7 c/s). The latter two signals were assigned to an N-Et group. Hydrolysis of the adduct with boiling water afforded 1,3-dimethyl- and 1-ethyl-3-methylparabanic acids in 67 and 26% yields, respectively. The above results support structure 14b for this compound.

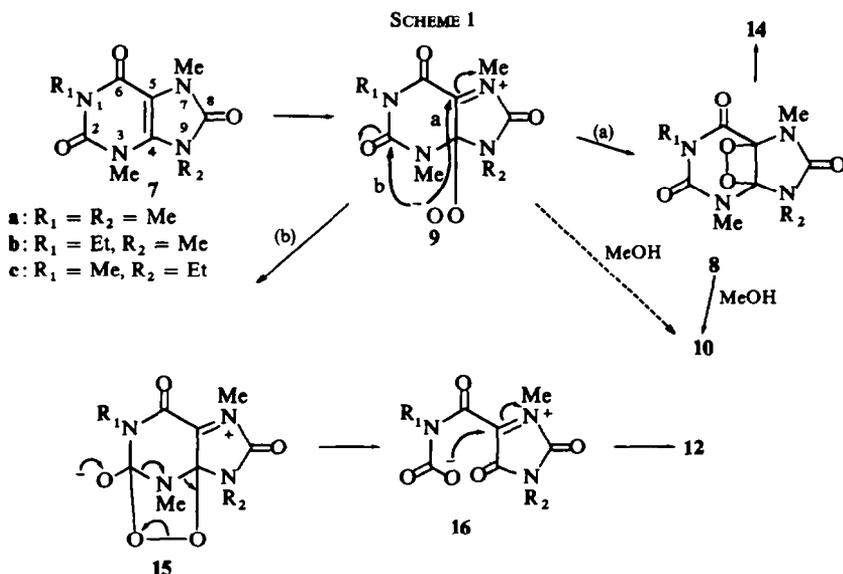
Photosensitized oxygenation of 9-ethyl-1,3,7-trimethyluric acid (7c) in chloroform yielded 1,7-dimethyl-3-ethylcaffolide (12c) and an oxygen adduct (14c) in 5 and 16% yields, respectively, after absorption of 0.64 mole of oxygen. The former product was identified by direct comparison with an authentic sample.<sup>14</sup> The spectral data of the oxygen adduct corresponds to those of the adduct 14b, and structure 14c was given.



Although the formation of 4,5-dimethoxy-1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (10) from 7a appears analogous to the conversion of 1,3-dimethyl-9-phenyluric acids (3) to the corresponding 4,5-dimethoxyuric acid derivatives, previously reported,<sup>1</sup> the hydro-

peroxide intermediate such as **6** cannot account for the transformation of **7a** into **10** because of the lack of a C=C—NH group as in **3**. We, therefore, propose a zwitterionic peroxide **9a** for the first step intermediate in the photosensitized oxygenation of **7a**. As was discussed above, the 4-membered cyclic peroxide **8a** could also account for the formation of **10**. However, the results obtained in the photosensitized oxygenation of **7a**, **7b**, and **7c** in chloroform strongly support the initial formation of the zwitterionic peroxide **9**. The transformation of **7** into 1,3,7-trialkylcaffolides **12** clearly indicates that the 3-N-Me group was expelled during formation of **12**.

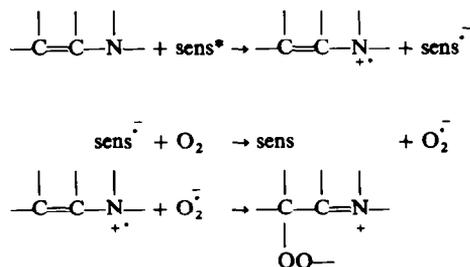
The decomposition of the zwitterionic peroxide **9** depends on conditions. As shown in Scheme 1, **9** could rearrange to the cyclic peroxide **8** (path a) which, in the presence of methanol, undergoes reductive cleavage to form the dimethoxyuric acid **10**.<sup>1</sup> An alternative route, by which the zwitterion **9a** is reductively solvolyzed with methanol at the 4-position accompanied by addition of methanol to the C=N bond, can also be considered. 4,5-Bond fission leading to the medium ring compounds **14b** and **14c** may occur either from **8** stepwise *via* **9** or directly from **9** by a concerted process. Finally, the formation of caffolides **12** can be rationalized only by the zwitterionic intermediate **9**. A cyclic tautomer **15**, which results from a nucleophilic attack of the perhydroxy anion on a carbonyl carbon at 2-position (path b), could lose a 3-N-Me group to form an intermediate **16** which in turn cyclizes to **12**. The loss of the 3-N-Me group corresponds to the photosensitized oxygenation of 1,3-diphenyl-2-methylisoidole leading to *o*-dibenzoylbenzene.<sup>15</sup> Zwitterionic peroxide such as **9** have been proposed by Foote *et al.*<sup>16</sup> and Wasserman *et al.*<sup>17</sup> as intermediates of the photosensitized oxygenation of a number of fully N-substituted enamines.



Evidence for the participation of singlet oxygen in dye-sensitized photooxygenation has been provided by various workers.<sup>18-21</sup> In order to elucidate whether singlet oxygen is involved in the photosensitized oxygenation of **7a**, **7b**, and **7c**, reaction of **7a** and **7b** with singlet oxygen, generated by non-photochemical means, was in-

vestigated. Reaction of **7a** with hydrogen peroxide and hypochlorite in aqueous methanol<sup>18</sup> afforded 4,5-dimethoxy-1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (**10**) and 1,3-dimethylparabanic acid (**13**) in 2 and 38% yield, respectively. The latter product seems to be formed by hydrolytic decomposition of **10**. In control experiments, **7a** did not react with hydrogen peroxide alone, but it was decomposed by hypochlorite in aqueous methanol to give various products among which **10** and **13** could not be detected. Reaction of **7b** with 9,10-diphenylanthracene peroxide in boiling chloroform<sup>19</sup> gave, in addition to recovery of considerable starting material, only a trace of 1,3-dimethyl-7-ethylcaffolide (**12b**) which was detected by TLC on silica gel. On the other hand, when **7a** was treated with an excess triphenyl phosphite-ozone adduct at  $-30^\circ$ ,<sup>20</sup> 1,3,7-trimethylcaffolide (**12a**) was obtained in 5% yield.

The above results indicate that the zwitterionic peroxides (**9**) may be formed at least in part by the attack of singlet oxygen on the tetraalkyluric acids (**7**) in the photosensitized oxygenation. An alternative pathway involving an electron transfer from a substrate to the triplet excited sensitizer may also account for the formation of the zwitterionic peroxide, according to the equations: Such an electron transfer mechanism has been postulated by Morita and Kato from the flash photolysis



experiments on guanine in the presence of thionine.<sup>22</sup> Although, from the available data, we cannot rigorously distinguish between these two mechanisms for the formation of the zwitterionic peroxide, the direct attack of singlet oxygen appears to be more favourable in view of previous reports on the electrophilic properties of singlet oxygen.<sup>23,24</sup>

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Photosensitized Oxygenation of 1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (**7a**).

A. In methanol. A soln of **7a**<sup>25</sup> (2.0 g, 8.90 mmoles) in a mixture of abs MeOH (100 ml) and  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 ml) containing rose bengal (20 mg) was irradiated by a tungsten lamp for 1 hr as described previously,<sup>1</sup> until  $\text{O}_2$  (140 ml, 5.6 mmoles) was consumed. The mixture was evaporated and the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (40 g). Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (ca. 100 ml) yielded **10** as a crystalline solid (0.87 g, 35%). Recrystallization from acetone gave crystals, m.p.  $127-128^\circ$  (lit.<sup>11</sup>, m.p.  $133^\circ$ ), which were identical with an authentic sample prepared according to the method of Blitz *et al.*<sup>11</sup> (by IR);  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  1730 and  $1680 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\tau$ , 6.61, 6.68, 6.80, 6.98, 7.10, and 7.21 (all singlets,  $>\text{N}-\text{Me}$  and  $-\text{OMe}$ ).

Further elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ -acetone (97:3) gave **11** as a semisolid (85 mg, 5%). Recrystallization from EtOAc gave crystals, m.p.  $170^\circ$  (lit.,<sup>12</sup> m.p.  $168-169^\circ$ ). The compound was identical with the authentic sample prepared according to the method of Blitz<sup>12</sup> (by IR);  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  1790, 1730, and  $1665 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ),  $\tau$  1.80 (s\*, 1H, NH), 2.42 (s, 1H, OH), 7.41 (s, 3H,  $>\text{N}-\text{Me}$ ), 7.45 (d ( $J = 5 \text{ c/s}$ ), 3H,  $-\text{NH}-\text{Me}$ ), 7.18 (s, 3H,  $>\text{N}-\text{Me}$ ).

\* s = singlet, d = doublet etc.

When a 100 W high-press mercury lamp through a Pyrex filter was used in the photosensitized oxygenation, the results were virtually the same as above.

B. In  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . A soln of **7a** (2.0 g, 8.90 mmoles) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (100 ml) containing methylene blue (50 mg) was irradiated by a 100 W high-press mercury lamp for 4 hr, until  $\text{O}_2$  (130 ml, 5.2 mmoles) was consumed. After removal of the solvent, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (40 g). Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (ca. 300 ml) gave **12a** as a crystalline solid (0.85 g, 42%). Recrystallization from EtOH yielded crystals, m.p. 207–208° (lit.<sup>12</sup>, m.p. 205°), which were identical with the authentic specimen prepared according to the procedure of Blitz<sup>12</sup> (by IR);  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  1800, 1760–1690  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\tau$  6.84 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 6.96 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 7.14 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ).

Further elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  gave **13** (95 mg, 7%), identified by IR.

#### Photosensitized oxygenation of 1-ethyl-3,7,9-trimethyluric acid (**7b**)

A soln of **7b**<sup>13</sup> (2.0 g, 8.4 mmoles) and methylene blue (50 mg) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (100 ml) was irradiated by a 100 W high-pressure mercury lamp for 2.5 hr, until  $\text{O}_2$  (150 ml, 6.0 mmoles) was consumed. After removal of the solvent, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (30 g). Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (100 ml) gave **14b** as a crystalline solid (0.51 g, 22%). Recrystallization from acetone gave crystals, m.p. 101–103°;  $\epsilon_{210}^{\text{EtOH}}$  37,200;  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  1750–1710, 1670  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; mass spectrum (*m/e*), 270 (parent peak), 241, 226, 212, 196, 185, 170, 156, 143 (base peak). (Found: C, 44.27; H, 5.15; N, 20.15.  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5$  requires: C, 44.44; H, 5.22; N, 20.73%).

Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (250 ml) yielded **12b** (0.22 g, 12%). Recrystallization from EtOH gave crystals, m.p. 95–96° (lit.<sup>13</sup>, m.p. 93°), which were identical with the authentic sample prepared according to the method of Blitz *et al.*<sup>13</sup> (by mixture m.p. and IR);  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  1800, 1730  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\tau$  6.98 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 7.16 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 6.39 (qu ( $J = 7$  c/s), 2H,  $\text{>N—CH}_2\text{—Me}$ ), 8.71 (tr ( $J = 7$  c/s), 3H,  $\text{>N—CH}_2\text{—Me}$ ).

Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (400 ml) gave **13** (0.11 g, 8%), identified by IR.

*Hydrolysis of 14b.* A suspension of **14b** (50 mg) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (5 ml) was boiled for 3 hr. After removal of the water *in vacuo*, the residue was extracted with acetone (5 ml). The extract was purified by preparative TLC on silica gel plates using  $\text{CHCl}_3\text{—EtOH}$  (20:1) as a solvent. Bands of  $R_f$  0.70 and  $R_f$  0.50 were cut off and then extracted with acetone. From the band of  $R_f$  0.70, 1-ethyl-3-methylparabanic acid (5 mg, 26%), m.p. 47–48° (lit.<sup>26</sup> m.p. 44°), was obtained. 1,3-Dimethylparabanic acid (18 mg, 67%) was obtained from the band of  $R_f$  0.50. Both compounds were identified by IR.

*Hydrolysis of 1,3-dimethyl-7-ethylcaffolide (12b) to 1,3-dimethyl-5-hydroxyhydantoin-5-N-ethylcarboxamide.* Compound **12b** was hydrolysed according to the method of Biltz and Max.<sup>13</sup> A suspension of **12b** (0.5 g) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (15 ml) was boiled for 30 min. After removal of the water, the residue was recrystallized from EtOAc to give 1,3-dimethyl-5-hydroxyhydantoin-5-N-ethylcarboxamide (0.21 g, 68%), m.p. 156–157.5° (lit.<sup>13</sup> m.p. 153°);  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  1780, 1710, 1650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\tau$  2.94 (s, 1H, NH) 3.93 (s, 1H, OH) 7.11 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 7.27 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 6.71 (qu-d ( $J = 7$  c/s,  $J = 4$  c/s) 2H,  $\text{—NH—CH}_2\text{—Me}$ ), 8.85 (tr ( $J = 7$  c/s), 3H,  $\text{—NH—CH}_2\text{—Me}$ ).

#### Photosensitized oxygenation of 9-ethyl-1,2,7-trimethyluric acid (**7c**)

A soln of **7c**<sup>25</sup> (2.0 g, 8.4 mmoles) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (100 ml) containing methylene blue (50 mg) was photo-oxidized as described above for 12 hr, until  $\text{O}_2$  (135 ml, 5.4 mmoles) was consumed. After removal of the solvent, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (40 g). Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (150 ml) gave **14c** as a crystalline solid (0.21 g, 16%). Recrystallization from acetone yielded crystals, m.p. 94–95°,  $\epsilon_{210}^{\text{EtOH}}$  38,100;  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  1740–1700, 1660  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\tau$  6.80 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 6.86 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 6.96 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 6.54 (qu ( $J = 7$  c/s), 2H,  $\text{>N—CH}_2\text{—Me}$ ), 8.96 (tr ( $J = 7$  c/s), 3H,  $\text{>N—CH}_2\text{—Me}$ ); mass spectrum (*m/e*), 270 (parent peak). (Found: C, 44.39; H, 5.39; N, 20.28.  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5$  requires: C, 44.44; H, 5.22; N, 20.73%).

Further elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (300 ml) gave **12c** (50 mg, 5%). Recrystallization from EtOH gave crystals, m.p. 103–105° (lit.<sup>14</sup> m.p. 102°), which were identical with the authentic sample prepared according to

the method of Biltz *et al.*<sup>14</sup>;  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  1800, 1750–1700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\tau$  6.88 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 7.17 (s, 3H,  $\text{>N—Me}$ ), 6.47 (qu ( $J = 7$  c/s), 2H,  $\text{>N—CH}_2\text{—Me}$ ), 8.78 (tr ( $J = 7$  c/s), 3H,  $\text{>N—CH}_2\text{—Me}$ ).

Further elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (500 ml) gave the starting material (7c) (0.85 g, 42%).

#### Oxidation of 7a and 7b with singlet oxygen from various sources

**A. From hydrogen peroxide and hypochlorite.** The reaction was carried out according to the procedure of Foote *et al.*<sup>18</sup> A soln of 7a (1.0 g, 4.45 mmoles) in MeOH (300 ml) was cooled on an ice-bath, and 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (5 ml, 45 mmoles) was added. To the mixture 9%  $\text{NaOCl}$ aq (28 ml, 33 mmoles) was added dropwise under stirring in a period of 1 hr. The reaction mixture (pH 8.9) was diluted with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (500 ml) and extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (500 ml). The extract was chromatographed on a silica gel column (20 g). Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  gave 13 (60 mg, 38%), 10 (5 mg, 2%) and the unreacted 7a (0.75 g, 75% recovery). These products were identified by IR.

To a soln of 7a (100 mg) in MeOH (30 ml) 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (0.5 ml) was added at room temp, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hr. The starting material 7a was recovered quantitatively.

To a soln of 7a (100 mg) in MeOH (30 ml) 9%  $\text{NaOCl}$ aq (3 ml) was added as described above. The reaction mixture was found by TLC to consist of the unreacted 7a and three unidentified compounds, among which 10 and 13 could not be detected.

**B. From 9,10-diphenylanthracene peroxide.** The reaction was carried out according to the procedure of Wasserman *et al.*<sup>19</sup> A soln of 7b (100 mg, 0.42 mmoles) and 9,10-diphenylanthracene peroxide (300 mg, 0.83 mmole) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (20 ml) was boiled for 3 days. A TLC analysis (silica gel,  $\text{CHCl}_3\text{—EtOH}$  (20:1)) of the reaction mixture showed the presence of a trace of 12b and over 90% of the starting material 7b.

**C. From the triphenyl phosphite-ozone adduct.** According to the procedure of Thompson<sup>27</sup> and Kaplan,<sup>20</sup> the triphenyl phosphite-ozone adduct was prepared from triphenyl phosphite (6.0 g, 17.0 mmoles) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (200 ml). To the soln a cold soln of 7a (2.0 g, 8.9 mmoles) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (50 ml) was added, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to  $-30^\circ$  in a period of 8 hr and then to room temp. The mixture was found by TLC to consist of at least 6 compounds along with triphenyl phosphate. After removal of the solvent, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (65 g). Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (150 ml) yielded triphenyl phosphate (5.3 g, 85%). Further elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (500 ml) gave 12a (85 mg, 5% based on the reacted 7a). Recrystallization from EtOH gave crystals, m.p. 205–207°, which were identical with the authentic sample described above (by IR). Elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (600 ml) yielded the unreacted 7a (0.18 g, 9% recovery). Acetone eluted red brown polymers (0.88 g).

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