

product, 0.71 g. of yellow needle-like crystals, m. p. 193–194°, was collected on a filter. The product was purified by several successive crystallizations from carbon tetrachloride and ethanol to a constant melting point, 198–199°. Melting points reported previously are 200°⁸ and 193°.²

***p,p'*-Dichlorotoluene.**—A mixture of 2.0 g. of hexachlorobiphenyl (II) and 2.0 g. of zinc dust was refluxed for forty-eight hours in 200 ml. of anhydrous ethanol. The mixture was filtered hot to remove unused zinc and the filtrate cooled to room temperature. The platelets, 0.5 g., which precipitated, melted at 178–179°. The melting point previously reported² is 175–176°.

Synthesis of *p,p',\alpha,\alpha,\alpha',\alpha'*-Hexachlorobiphenyl from α,α,α,p -Tetrachlorotoluene.—This reaction was carried out according to the directions of Kenner and Witham² using 12 g. of α,α,α,p -tetrachlorotoluene (b. p. 152–155° (70 mm.)) and 8.3 g. of copper powder which was reduced⁶ by alcohol vapor in a heated tube. The product, 3.2 g., melted at 193–194° and gave no depression in melting point when mixed with the hexachlorobiphenyl from the rearrangement.

(5) Montagne, *Rec. trav. chim.*, [ii] **21**, 19 (1902).

(6) Eiloart, *THIS JOURNAL*, **12**, 239 (1890).

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

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Dehydrogenation of 1,5-Pentanediol

BY L. E. SCHNIEPP AND H. H. GELLER¹

Recently reported preparation of γ -butyrolactone² and γ -valerolactone³ by catalytic dehydrogenation of 1,4-butanediol and 1,4-pentanediol, respectively, suggested that δ -valerolactone might be prepared in a similar manner from the now readily available 1,5-pentanediol.⁴

Dehydrogenation was found to proceed smoothly on heating 1,5-pentanediol with a copper chromite⁵ catalyst, δ -valerolactone being obtained in 78% crude yield. It was found advantageous to stop the reaction after about 85% of the theoretical amount of hydrogen had been evolved. Attempts to carry the dehydrogenation to completion resulted in the formation of 30–35% of polymeric products.

Vacuum distillation of the dehydrogenation reaction mixture yielded a product which analyzed about 90% δ -valerolactone and 10% 1,5-pentanediol. Refractionation improved the purity up to 97–98%. Complete removal of contaminating diol was effected by adding a slight excess of phenyl isocyanate to the mixture, decomposing the excess with water and distilling the pure lactone from the residue of the bis-phenylurethan and diphenylurea. A 71% yield of pure δ -valerolactone was obtained by this procedure. This com-

pares favorably with the method involving the hydrolysis of δ -chlorovaleronitrile.⁶

Dehydrogenation of 1,5-Pentanediol.—1,5-Pentanediol, 52 g. (0.50 mole), was thoroughly mixed with 1.5 g. of copper chromite and the mixture was heated under reflux. The top of the reflux condenser was connected to a gas-washing bottle, containing water, which was in turn connected to a wet-test meter. Vigorous evolution of hydrogen began when the temperature of the reaction mixture reached 210° and continued for about thirty minutes. At the end of this time the temperature had risen to 245° and gas evolution slowed down considerably. Meter readings showed that 21 liters of gas had been evolved. Heating was stopped and the reaction mixture subjected to vacuum distillation. The distillate, 43.2 g., was analyzed by saponification with 0.4 *N* sodium hydroxide and found to consist of 90.6% δ -valerolactone. Treatment of another sample with phenyl isocyanate yielded a precipitate of the bis-phenylurethan of 1,5-pentanediol. The weight of urethan obtained was roughly equivalent to 9.4% of diol in the original sample. Refractionation of this crude product gave a distillate analyzing 97–98% pure as the lactone. The yield of crude lactone based on the analysis of the original distillate was 78.3% of the theoretical.

Purification of δ -Valerolactone.—A sample of the crude distillate from the dehydrogenation was treated with a 10% excess of phenyl isocyanate over that calculated as necessary to react with the 1,5-pentanediol in the sample. This mixture was shaken and allowed to stand for thirty minutes after which sufficient water to react with the excess phenyl isocyanate was added. The resulting mixture was distilled under reduced pressure. The distillate analyzed as 100% δ -valerolactone by saponification and the yield calculated back to the original 1,5-pentanediol was 71.2% of the theoretical. The pure lactone had the following properties: b. p. 105° (8 mm.) (227° (750 mm.)), n_D^{20} 1.4553, d_4^{25} 1.104.

The structure of the lactone was established by converting a sample to δ -iodovaleric acid, m. p. 56–57°. Mixed melting point with an authentic sample showed no depression.

NORTHERN REGIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORY⁷
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PEORIA 5, ILLINOIS

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(6) H. Kroper and Bretschneider, OPB Report No. 645, U. S. Department of Commerce (April 25, 1942).

(7) One of the laboratories of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Article not copyrighted.

Estrogenic Action and Isomorphism

BY HERBERT E. UNGNADE AND FRANCIS V. MORRIS

The extraordinary agreement in the molecular dimensions of stilbestrol and estrone¹ and the dihydrostilbestrol isomers and estrone² as determined from crystallographic data has prompted a study of the melting behavior of mixtures of natural and synthetic estrogens.

The results prove that mixed crystals are formed between α -estradiol and the synthetic estrogens stilbestrol (Fig. 1) and *meso*-dihydrostilbestrol (Fig. 2) and hence the isomorphism of these substances, but it is uncertain whether the solid solutions are continuous or not at the melting temperatures. The same uncertainty holds for the system of mixed crystals between stilbestrol and *dl*-dihydrostilbestrol (Fig. 3), whereas the dia-

(1) Formerly Chemist, Industrial Chemical Section, Agricultural Residues Division.

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(4) L. E. Schiepp and H. H. Geller, *ibid.*, **68**, 1646 (1946).

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(1) Giacomello and Bianchi, *Gazz. chim. ital.*, **71**, 667 (1944).

(2) Carlisle and Crowfoot, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 5 (1941).