[CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI]

Hydrodiethylstilbestrol Compounds. II. The Racemic Octahydro Compounds

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The partial hydrogenation of diethylstilbestrol at 210° (265 atm.) leads to a mixture of phenolic and non-phenolic compounds which can be separated by extracting with alkali.³ When the crystallized phenolic material (I) is adsorbed on alumina an octahydrodiethylstilbestrol compound, m. p. 147–148° (II) is obtained in the lower zones. This compound belongs to the racemic series and is assigned the *trans* configuration because it gives a good yield of a single perhydro compound, *dl*-3,4-di(4^t-hydroxycyclohexyl)-hexane (III)³ on hydrogenation with nickel catalyst.⁴



Attempts to separate the remaining low-melting material from the upper zones of the chromatogram by adsorption, crystallization, distillation, extraction or distribution between solvents have failed. Upon hydrogenation with Raney nickel catalyst this material gives a mixture of about equal amounts of (III) and its isomer (IV), dl-r-3 - (4^t-hydroxycyclohexyl) - 4 - (4^c-hydroxycyclohexyl)-hexane, which is regarded as evidence that the low-melting substance is largely a mixture of (II) and the corresponding *cis*-isomer (V).⁴



Benzoylation of the mixture (I) by the procedure of Schotten-Baumann gives two monobenzoates which can be separated by adsorption on alumina. One of these is the monobenzoate of compound (II). The other is regarded as the benzoate of the *cis*-isomer (V) which it gives on hydrolysis.

Minute amounts of an octahydro isomer (VI), m.p. 142-143° have been isolated by chromato-

(2) Present address: Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N. Y. graphing mixture (I) on sucrose. This substance is identical with the octahydro compound melting at $144-145^{\circ}$ described previously,⁵ and probably belongs to the meso series.

The mixture (I) of the octahydro compounds can be converted to the phenolic ketone (VII).



Reduction of this glassy material (VII) with sodium and alcohol gives the low melting mixture (VIII) of the octahydro compounds (II) and (V). The reduction of the ketone (VII) with platinum in acetic acid affects mainly the phenolic ring so that it is not a suitable method for the preparation of the *cis*-isomer (V).

The compound melting at $92-94^{\circ}$ described earlier^s as an octahydrostilbestrol isomer has now been established as a complex consisting of the perhydrodiethylstilbestrol isomer (IV) and *dl*dihydrodiethylstilbestrol.

Experimental⁶

Partial Hydrogenation of Diethylstilbestrol.—Diethylstilbestrol (50 g.) dissolved in 100 cc. of methyl alcohol was reduced at 210° under an initial pressure of 270 atm. until one half of the amount of hydrogen was absorbed which is required for complete saturation. The reaction mixture was filtered and freed from solvent. The remaining glass (51 g.) was dissolved in 200 cc. of peroxidefree ether. The dl-3,4-di-(4^t-hydroxycyclohexyl)-hexane (2.5 g.) which crystallized out on standing over night was filtered, the ether was removed from the filtrate, and the residue was refluxed on a water-bath for eight hours with a sodium methoxide solution prepared from 2.5 g. of sodium and 50 cc. of methanol. Most of the methanol was distilled off, 200 cc. of water was added to the residue, the mixture was thoroughly stirred and extracted with benzene.⁷ Distillation of the benzene gave 13 g. of alkaliinsoluble glass. The aqueous solution was acidified to congo red with concentrated hydrochloric acid and extracted with ether. The glass (29 g.) obtained from the ether extract was crystallized from benzene giving 15 g. of colorless crystals, m. p. 55-60° (I). This material contained 0.75 mole of benzene of crystallization. The loss in weight on heating to 100° at 3 mm. was 17.20%. Calcd. for C1₈H₂₈O₂·³/4CeH₆: 17.36.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{15}H_{38}O_3$: C, 78.20; H, 10.21; mol. wt., 276. Found: C, 78.18; H, 10.51; mol. wt. (cryoscopic, in dioxane), 314.

dl-r-(p-Hydroxyphenyl)-4-(4^t-hydroxycyclohexyl)hexane (II).—The crystalline benzene complex (I) (1.0 g., m. p. 55-60°) was dissolved in 20 cc. of benzene and

(5) Hoehn and Ungnade, THIS JOURNAL, 67, 1617 (1945).

(6) Semi-micro analyses by Anna Ludutsky. Best results were obtained with the simple band filling described by Niederl and Niederl, "Micromethods of Quantitative Organic Analysis," 2nd Ed., John Wiley and Sons, New York, N. Y., 1942, p. 107, and doubled combustion time.

(7) Ordinary extraction of the mixture by means of aqueous alkali or Claisen alkali fails to give a complete separation of phenolic and non-phenolic substances.

⁽¹⁾ George Breon Fellow, 1943-1946.

⁽³⁾ Ungnade and Ludutsky, J. Org. Chem., 10, 307 (1945).

⁽⁴⁾ It is assumed that the reduction takes place without affecting the configuration of (II).

adsorbed on a column of alumina. The first 5 cc. of benzene cluate contained 0.1 g. of crystalline material which melted at 138–140° after crystallization from benzene. Several crystallizations from benzene or chloroform-Skellysolve A mixtures raised the melting point to 147– 148° (11). The mixture with the octahydro compound (V1), m. p. 144–145° inelted at 120–125°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₉O₂: C, 78.20; H, 10.21. Found: C, 78.21; H, 10.46.

Monobenzoate.—Benzoylation of the above compound (11) (0.2 g.) dissolved in 20 cc. of 5% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution with 0.1 cc. of benzoyl chloride gave 0.25 g. of a glass. Crystallization from Skellysolve B gave 0.1 g. of the monobenzoate melting at 73-75°. Another crystallization from Skellysolve F raised the melting point to 77-78°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₂₅H₃₂O₃: C, 78.90; H, 8.47. Found: C, 78.90; H, 8.82.

Further elution of the original chromatogram with benzene gave 0.05 g. of a substance melting at $50-55^{\circ}$. Subsequent extraction with ether yielded 0.6 g. melting at $38-40^{\circ}$.

In one case, 0.5 g. of a mixture (1), m. p. $35-40^{\circ}$, dissolved in 10 cc. of benzene was adsorbed on sucrose. The first 5 cc. of benzene eluate gave 0.05 g. of material (VI) which melted at $125-129^{\circ}$. Several crystallizations from benzene raised the melting point to $142-143^{\circ}$. The substance did not depress the melting point of the octahydro compound melting at $144-145^{\circ}$.⁵

Solution of the second second

Hydrogenation of Mixture (I).—The mixture of octahydro isomers (I), m. p. 62–66°, was freed from the *trans*-compound (II) by chromatographing on alumina. The resulting glass (0.6 g.) was dissolved in 100 cc. of methanol and reduced with 3 g. of Raney nickel at 210° (270 atm.). The reduction product, worked up as usual, gave 0.5 g. of alkali-insoluble glass and 0.1 g. of alkalisoluble glass. The alkali-insoluble fraction yielded 0.2 g. of *dl*-3,4-di-(4^t-hydroxycyclohexyl)-hexane (III), m. p. 185-187°, mixed melting point with an authentic sample (188-189°) 185-187°, and 0.2 g. of *dl*-3-(4^o-hydroxycyclohexyl)-4-(4^t-hydroxycyclohexyl)-hexane (IV), m. p. 129-130°, mixed melting point with an authentic specimen of (IV) (m. p. 129-130°) 129-130°. The alkali-soluble glass was crystallized from benzene and melted at 62-64°.

Attempted Separations of Mixture (I): Digitonides.— The digitonide of mixture (I), $(0.1 \text{ g., m. p. } 62-66^\circ)$ precipitated only after considerable dilution of the reaction mixture with water. It melted at $165-175^\circ$ (yield 0.18 g.) and gave back 0.1 g. of the starting material, m. p. $60-65^\circ$.

Monobenzoates.—The Schotten-Baumann reaction with benzoyl chloride converted the mixture (I) $(1.0 \text{ g.}, \text{m. p. } 55-60^{\circ})$ to a glassy mixture of benzoates (yield 1.25 g.).

Anal. Caled. for $C_{2b}H_{32}O_3$: mol. wt., 380. Found: (from sapon. equiv.) mol. wt., 403.

Crystallization of this mixture gave traces of the dibenzoate of *meso*-dihydrodiethylstilbestrol, m. p. 234-235°, which did not depress the melting point of an authentic specimen melting at 236-237°, and traces of the dibenzoate of *dl*-dihydrodiethylstilbestrol, m. p.

(8) Foreman and Miller, THIS JOURNAL, 63, 2240 (1941).

121-123°, mixed melting point with an authentic specimen (m. p. $123-124^{\circ}$) m. p. $122-124^{\circ}$.

Anal. Caled. for C₃₂II₃₀O₄: C, 80.33; II, 6.27. Found: C, 80.56; II, 6.56.

The remaining mixture of benzoates was adsorbed on alumina from Skellysolve B solution. The column was eluted with the same solvent and the fractions crystallized. The upper zones contained 0.1 g. of the monobenzoate of (II), melting point and mixed melting point $77-78^{\circ}$. The lower zones gave 0.25 g. of a monobenzoate melting at 114-115°.

Anal. Caled. for C₂₅H₃₂O₃: C, 78.90; H, 8.47. Found: C, 78.90; H, 8.56.

Hydrolysis of the monobenzoate of (II), m. p. 77-78°, with alcoholic sodium hydroxide gave a good yield of dlr-3-(p-hydroxyphenyl)-4- $(4^{\circ}$ -hydroxycyclohexyl)-hexane, m. p. 144-145° which did not depress the melting point of an authentic sample.⁹

Hydrolysis of the benzoate, m. p. $114-115^{\circ}$, under the same conditions gave a glass which melted at $34-40^{\circ}$ after crystallization from benzene. The melting point could be raised to $47-50^{\circ}$ by recrystallization from a chloroform Skellysolve mixture.

Mono-p**-phenylazobenzoates.**—The mixture (I) (1 g., m. p. 65–68°) dissolved in 100 cc. of 5% aqueous sodium hydroxide was shaken for two hours with 1 g. of p-phenylazobenzoyl chloride¹⁰ in 20 cc. of ether. The product (1.3 g.) melted at 97–103° after crystallization from Skellysolve B.

The esters were adsorbed on silicic acid from acetone solution according to the procedure of Coleman.¹¹ The chromatogram was uniform. Three arbitrary fractions gave products with the same melting point $96-100^{\circ}$ (from aqueous acetone).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{31}H_{36}O_3N_2$: C, 76.81; H, 7.49. Found: C, 76.48; H, 7.63.

Upon hydrolysis of this material with sodium hydroxide in aqueous alcohol the mixture (I) was regenerated, m. p. $53-57^{\circ}$ (from benzene-Skellysolve B mixture).

Dibenzoate.—The mixture (I) $(0.3 \text{ g., m. p. } 45-50^{\circ})$ when benzoylated with 1 g. of benzoic anhydride and 5 cc. of pyridine gave 0.2 g. of a benzoate melting at 100-110°. After several crystallizations from Skellysolve B the melting point remained constant at 117-118°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₈₂H₈₆O₄: C, 79.33; H, 7.43. Found: C, 79.09; H, 7.63.

Hydrolysis of this dibenzoate (m. p. 117-118°) with aqueous alcoholic potassium hydroxide gave back mixture (1), m. p. $35-40^{\circ}$ (from Skellysolve B).

(1), in proof to the other solve $D^{1,1}$ was esterified with *p*-phenylazobenzoyl chloride in pyridine. The product, worked up as usual, was adsorbed on silicic acid.¹¹ Two arbitrary fractions of the uniform chromatogram both melted at 167-169°.

Anal. Calcd. for C44H404N4: C, 76.25; H, 6.40. Found: C, 76.00; H, 6.60.

Hydrolysis of the di-*p*-phenylazobenzoate gave back mixture (I), m. p. 55-65° (from benzene and Skellysolve B).

 $dl \cdot r \cdot 3 \cdot (p \cdot Hydroxyphenyl) \cdot 4 \cdot (4 \cdot ketocyclohexyl) \cdot hexane (VIII) --- This ketone was obtained from the oxidation of the mixture (I), m. p. <math>55 - 60^{\circ}$ by Oppenauer's method¹² and by oxidation of the glassy monobenzoate derived from the mixture (I) (0.6 g.) with chronic anhydride (0.1 g.) in acetic acid (5 cc.) at 60° and subsequent hydrolysis of the oxidation product. The crude ketone

(9) It is thus shown that benzoylation and hydrolysis of the benzoate under the conditions described do not involve a stereochemical inversion at the alcoholic hydroxyl group.

(10) Anspon, "Organic Syntheses," Vol. 25, p. 86; Coleman, Nichols, McCloskey and Anspon, *ibid.*, Vol. 25, p. 87.

(11) Coleman, Rees, Sundberg and McCloskey, THIS JOURNAL, 67, 385 (1945).

(12) Oppenauer, "Organic Syntheses," Vol. 21, p. 18; Wayne and Adkins, *ibid.*, Vol. 21, p. 8.

was separated from by-products and unchanged starting material by means of Girard reagent.¹³ The glassy product was soluble in benzene, insoluble in Skellysolve B.

Anal. Caled. for $C_{18}H_{28}O_3$: C, 78.83; H, 9.48. Found: C, 79.13; H, 9.23.

The benzoate, oxime, semicarbazone and benzoate oxime of this substance were obtained only in the glassy state and were not further investigated.

Reduction of the purified ketone (VII) (1.0 g.) dissolved in 15 cc. of absolute alcohol with 1 g. of sodium gave 0.2 g. of a mixture of octahydro compounds (VIII), m. p. 45– 50° which was separated from glassy by-products by adsorption on alumina.

Identification of the Compound Melting at 92-94°.⁵—This compound¹⁴ was characterized by two benzoates⁵ melting at 113-114° and at 123-124°. The benzoate melting at 113-114° has now been identified as the dibenzoate of dl-r-3-(4'-hydroxycyclohexyl)-4-(4'-hydroxycyclohexyl)-hexane (IV).³ It did not depress the melting point of an authentic sample. The benzoate melting at 123-124° has been identified as the dibenzoate of dl-dihydrodiethylstilbestrol since it did not depress the melting point of an authentic specimen (m. p. 123-124°) and upon hydrolysis gave a good yield of dl-dihydrodiethylstilbestrol, m. p. and mixed m. p. 125-126°. Compound formation between these hydrodiethylstilbestrol compounds has been reported previously.¹⁶

Infrared Absorption Spectra¹⁶

Analytically pure samples of substances (II), (V) and (VI) were run as Nujol mulls in a Perkin Elmer infrared spectrometer with rocksalt optics. Because mixture (VIII) did not powder well, it was used as a glass by melting it between two rocksalt plates and cooling to room temperature. The thickness of the samples was not known. The conclusions were based on comparisons of the relative intensities of bands within one spectrum with the relative intensities of the same bands in another spectrum.

The results (Table I) show that the spectra of (II), (V) and (VI) are all different. Each contains bands which are absent, or extremely weak, in the other two, and each also fails to exhibit bands which are possessed by the other two. Compounds (II), (V) and (VI) must therefore be regarded as spectroscopically different substances. The fourth sample (VIII) gives a spectrum indicating that it is a mixture of (VI), somewhat less of (II) and a small amount of (V).

The four possible racemates of the octahydro compounds will have different spectra. Since the structure of (II) has been established as a *trans*alcohol belonging to the racemic series, and since (I) is largely a mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-isomers, (V) would be expected to be the corresponding *cis*-alcohol. Compound (VI), which is in small amounts, could belong to the meso series.¹⁷

(13) Girard and Sandulesco, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, **19**, 1095 (1936); Smith, Chase and Rhodes, THIS JOURNAL, **66**, 1547 (1944).

(14) The isolation of this compound, m. p. $92-94^{\circ}$ was purely accidental and is due to the fact that the extraction of the phenolic fraction with aqueous alkali was incomplete.

(15) Ungnade and Morriss, THIS JOURNAL, 69, 1545 (1947).

(16) This work was done by Agatha R. Johnson and Foil A. Miller, Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois.

(17) The other alternative, which appears less likely, that (VI) is the *cis*-isomer while (V) belongs to the meso series can be definitely ruled out when the meso compounds are available. They are now under investigation.

			TA	BLE I			
W	AVE	NUMBERS	OF T	he Absorp	TION	BANDS ^a	
119		V۵		٨I٩		VIIIb	
686		705	m	717		677	
720	s	743		732	s	705	
735		769		781		720	
777		797		805		735	
796		817	m	824	s	781	
814		828		834	s	796	
833	s	841	s	846		833	s
853		859		904		880	
882		901	m	948		900	m
903		908		966	m	947	
914		946		995		961	m
929		962		1007		1003	
949	s	971	m	1016		1016	
959	s	1006		1055	s	$\sim \! 1051$	5
1021		1016	m	1073		1174	m
1034	S	1035	\mathbf{sh}	1098		∫ 1220	
1057		1051	s	1109		1260	
1081		1085		1127		1296	
1103		1093		1143		∫ 1363	s
1120		1113	m	1174	m	1376 (s
1150		1150		1212		1457	s
1174		1177		1232	s	1514	5
1183		1202		1253	s	1598	s
1215	s	∫ 1236	s	1298		1613	s
1229		1245	s	1331		1884	
1250	s	1295		1376	s	2505	
1261	\mathbf{sh}	1339		1459	s	2712	
1293		1376	s	1513	s	∫ 2865	s
1310		1407		1598		2950	S
1334		1457	s	1613	s	\sim 3340	s
1366	s	1513		1885			
1376	s	1600	s	2490			
∼1443	\mathbf{sh}	1611	s	2585			
1459	s	1890		2687			
1512	s	2494		∫ 2875	s		
1595	s	~ 2605		2955	s		
1613	s	∫ 2880	s	3164			
1892		2951	S	3390			
2454		3025	\mathbf{sh}				
2570		3255	s				
2687		3444					
∫ 2880	s						
2950	s						
3110	s						
3405	s						

^a The wave numbers are estimated to have the following accuracy: 650-1000, ± 1 ; 1000-1600, ± 2 ; 1600-2000, ± 5 ; 2000-3000, ± 15 ; 3000-3500, ± 20 . ^b s = strong; m = medium; sh = shoulder.

Preliminary biological tests indicate that the octahydro compounds of the racemic series do not possess any appreciable androgenic activity.¹⁸

Summary

The partial hydrogenation of diethylstilbestrol gives a complex mixture of products. The alkali soluble portion contains mainly two racemic octahydro compounds along with traces of the two dihydrodiethylstilbestrol isomers.

(18) The biological results will be reported elsewhere.

dl-r- (p-Hydroxyphenyl) - 4 - (4^t-hydroxycyclohexyl)-hexane has been isolated from the alkali soluble material and its structure has been established. The remaining mixture of *cis*- and *trans*- isomers appears to be resistant to the usual methods of separation. It contains small amounts of isomers belonging to the meso series.

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Oxidation-Reduction Potentials of Thiol-Disulfide Systems. II. Dithiobiuret-3,5-Diimino-1,2,4-dithiazoline

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The activation of certain enzymes by the formation or liberation of the thiol (--SH) groups of the enzyme molecule or their inactivation by alteration or blocking of these groups has been indicated in the recent literature.

Since the reduction of (-SS-) to two (-SH) is a possible mode of activation and the reverse oxidation a possible mode of inactivation, the oxidation-reduction potentials of these components of the enzyme molecule or the potentials of the reagents which react with them are of interest.

The measurement of the simpler systems involving (-SH) and (-SS-) has been undertaken as one approach to the study of the mechanism of such reactions. A further aim is to establish a graded series of reagents which might be useful for such studies.

The following simple type system is the first to be reported which involves the opening and closing of a ring structure as part of the oxidationreduction equilibrium.



The potentials, within the pH range studied, are stable and follow the equations applicable to systems of the type: reductant $-2 H^+ = \text{oxidant}$. The relatively low position of the system on the oxidation-reduction scale ($E'_0 = +0.251$ at pH0 and $E'_0 = +0.102$ at pH 5) indicates that dithiobiuret is a moderately strong reducing agent and suggests its use for this purpose.

Experimental

The oxidation-reduction potential apparatus and procedure generally used for such measurements were employed. The potentials of platinum wire electrodes immersed in the test solution were measured against a saturated potassium chloride-4% agar bridge. A Leeds and Northrup Type K potentiometer and a No. 2420-C galvanometer were used. Liquid junction potentials were considered negligible. The electrode, vessel and calomel cell were kept in a water-bath at 30° and the test solution was deoxygenated and stirred with cylinder nitrogen gas previously purified by passing over hot copper. The recorded potentials have been converted into $E_{\rm h}$ values (normal hydrogen electrode taken as zero). The potentials of the two electrodes usually were within 0.0001 volt and, after the first two minutes allowed for mixing and reaction, did not change more than 0.0002 in thirty minutes.

The materials and solutions were prepared from commercial analytical grade reagents.

Dithiobiuret¹ was recrystallized from hot 0.01 N hydrochloric acid. At this acidity the slight amount of oxidized product formed by air oxidation remains in solution and does not decompose significantly into sulfur and other undesired products. Analysis of the material showed: N, 30.5, 30.7; calculated, 31.1.

undesired products. Analysis of the material showed: N, 30.5, 30.7; calculated, 31.1. 3,5-Dimino-1,2,4-dithiazoline, the oxidation product of dithiobiuret was isolated as the hydrochloride. Twentyfive grams of recrystallized dithiobiurct was suspended in 350 cc. of N hydrochloric acid. While cooling in an ice-bath, 21.5 cc. of 30% hydrogen peroxide was added dropwise and stirring was continued for about a halfhour or until, by microscopic examination, all of the needle-like crystals of dithiobiuret had disappeared and only the granular crystals of the oxidation product hydrochloride were present. These were filtered off by suction, washed with cold N hydrochloric acid, acidified ethanol, ethanol, and finally ether. The 5% water remaining after drying over calcium chloride was removed by heating at 110° for about two hours. Analyses showed: N, 24.4, 24.4; Cl, 21.1, 21.0; calculated N, 24.7; Cl, 20.9, indicating the monohydrochloride, C₂H₄N₃S₂Cl.

Ceric or thallic sulfate solutions in sulfuric acid were prepared from the corresponding oxides and standardized. Formamidine disulfide solutions in N hydrochloric acid were prepared from weighed amounts of the di-trichloroacetate.

The pH of the acid solutions or buffers were calculated from their corresponding quinhydrone electrode potentials. Their composition, within 1% accuracy, was as follows: pH 0.05—1 N HCl; pH 0.73—0.2 N HCl, 0.8 M KCl; pH 1.32—0.05 N HCl; 0.95 M KCl; pH 1.99—0.1 N HCl, 0.1 M glycine, 0.9 M KCl; pH 2.60—0.06 N HCl; 0.14 M glycine, 0.94 M KCl; pH 3.36—0.02 N HCl, 0.18 M glycine, 0.98 M KCl; pH 3.97—0.16 N HAc, 0.04 M KAc, 0.96 M KCl; pH 4.58—0.1 N HAc, 0.1 M KAc, 0.9 M KCl; pH 5.19—0.04 N HAc, 0.16 M KAc, 0.84 M KCl. Quantitative solutions of the reductant or oxidant were made with deoxygenated solvents and protected by

Quantitative solutions of the reductant or oxidant were made with deoxygenated solvents and protected by the passage of a stream of purified nitrogen. Moderate heating was usually necessary to facilitate solution of the reductant.

Calculations

The mathematical equations applicable to the potentials of the system may be developed in the conventional manner² from the fundamental electrode equations.

(1) Obtained through the courtesy of the American Cyanamid Company, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y.

(2) W. M. Clark and B. Cohen, U. S. Public Health Repts., 38, 670 (1923); 40, 1158 (1925).