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We have observed that 2,4(5)-dibromo-5(4)-nitroimidazole (II) is formed in 85% yield in the reaction of 5(4)-nitroimidazole-4(5)-carboxylic acid (I) with 2 moles of Br₂ in aqueous alkali solution at 0-30°C for 20 min. Compound II was identical to II synthesized from 5(4)-nitroimidazole with respect to its mp and UV and IR spectra.



Thus the sodium salt of I not only undergoes bromination in the 2 position of the imidazole ring but also undergoes a reaction similar to the Borodin-Hunsdiecker reaction in water and at low temperatures.

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