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Reactions of Dichlorocarbene with Methylenecyclohexan-4-one Ethylene Thioacetals

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"Synergistic" carbenic cyclopropanation is dramatically illustrated by the Simmons-Smith reaction, in which a zinc carbenoid is intercepted by an hydroxyl, alkoxyl, or oxo substrate functionality, and the methylene fragment is subsequently transferred to a nearby π bond. Augmented addition rates and stereochemical control are observed in such reactions.^{2,3} Substrate-assisted cyclopropanation is rarely observed with other carbenic species, however, and our attention was drawn to the suggestion that CCl₂ could be delivered to the central π bond of 1 by prior coordination to an oxygen atom, resulting in a threefold reactivity advantage of the central over the peripheral π bond.⁴



Unfortunately, no synergism could be detected in CCl₂ additions to various oxygen-functionalized cyclohexene derivatives,⁵⁻⁷ including those in which the olefinic carbons were activated toward possible Michael addition of an anionic fragment representing a "trapped" CCl₂; cf. 2.7

Addition-displacement cyclopropanations passing through 2, or analogs, would require front-side displacement of the CCl₂ moiety from the oxygen carrier to complete the cyclopropanation.⁸ The forbidden character of such displacements⁹ could explain the observed lack of synergism. Moving the acceptor π bond from an endocyclic to an exocyclic position would obviate this problem, but CCl₂ additions to methylenecyclohexan-4-one ethylene acetals, 3, were also found to occur without synergistic involvement of the acetal function.¹⁰ Either oxygen atoms competed poorly with π bonds as sites for attack by the

highly selective CCl₂,¹¹ or O-ylides which did form followed alternative, lower energy pathways in preference to addition-displacement.

On the other hand, S atoms do compete intramolecularly with π bonds for CCl₂. Whereas reaction of CCl₂ with allyl ethyl ether gave no evidence for O-ylide derived products,12 S-ylide derived products were formed in reactions of CCl₂ with allylic sulfides.^{13,14} Indeed, S-ylides formed by carbene capture have achieved substantial importance in sigmatropic rearrangement¹⁵ and β -elimination reactions.¹⁶

The obvious superiority of sulfur over oxygen as a site for carbene attack prompted us to prepare methylenecyclohexan-4-one ethylene thioacetals 4 and 5, and to examine their reactions with CCl₂, in search of S-ylide mediated cyclopropanations.



Olefinic thioacetals 4 and 5 were prepared by appropriate Wittig reactions on 1.4-cvclohexanedione monoethylene thioacetal (6), which was itself obtained from 1,4-cyclohexanediol by the procedure of Scheme I.



The CCl_2 adducts of 4 and 5 (7 and 8, respectively) were most readily prepared by acetal-thioacetal exchange reactions on oxygen analogs 7-Ox and 8-Ox, which were available in quantity from a previous study; cf. eq $1.^{17}$



Mercurial-based CCl_2 precursors¹² did not convert 4 to 7. However, 4 with sodium trichloroacetate in refluxing monoglyme¹⁸ afforded 7 and a yet unidentified isomer in low yield. Similar attempts to add CCl₂ to 5 were fruitless. Cyclopropane 8 could not be obtained; rather, substrate 5 was destroyed, leaving behind a black, high-boiling tar. Control experiments showed that authentic 8 was stable to the reaction conditions, and could be readily detected by GC in the control product mixtures.

Substrate	Reactivity	
$ \begin{array}{c} & & \\ & & $	0.65	
C_{S} CH_{2} (4)	0.79	
\square CH_2	1.00	
$ \begin{array}{c} O \\ O \\ O \end{array} $ CHCOOC ₂ H ₅ (3b)	0.045	
$CHCOOC_2H_5 (5)$	а	

 $^{\alpha}$ The expected addition product, 8, could not be obtained; see text.

Relative to cyclohexene, the reactivity of 4 toward CCl₂ addition was found to be $3.60 \pm 0.18_2$ by the competition technique.³ Previous data¹⁰ allows us to write the relative reactivity sequence (80–85°) **3a:4:**methylenecyclohexane, 0.65:0.79:1.00. On this scale, the relative reactivity toward CCl₂ of **3b** is 0.045,¹⁰ whereas that of **5** cannot be determined. For convenience, the reactivity data are gathered in Table I.

The quantitative data establish the absence of any kinetic advantage resulting from ylide-mediated addition-displacement cyclopropanation, with olefins 4, 5, 3a, and 3b, which could occur via intermediates such as 9 (Z = S or O; R = H or COOC₂H₅). The data suggest, instead, a normal cyclopropanation passing through transition state 10T, in which partial positive charge resides mainly on the tertiary carbon of the methylenecyclohexane.^{3,7,10} The inductively



withdrawing heteroatoms of the remote acetal functions destabilize 10T, and the reactivity order 3a < 4 < methy $lenecyclohexane is quite reasonable. <math>\sigma_I(SCH_3)$ is smaller than $\sigma_I(OCH_3)$;¹⁹ 10T should be less destabilized when Z = S than when Z = O; hence thioacetal 4 is less deactivated toward CCl₂ addition than is acetal **3a**.

Although ylide-mediated cyclopropanation does not seem to occur, the thioacetal function must capture CCl₂ competitively with CCl₂ addition to π bonds. This is clearly seen on comparison of olefinic ester acetals **3b** and **5**. The former has a low reactivity toward CCl₂ addition because of the combined deactivating effects of its carboethoxy and ethylene acetal groups. However, the reactivity of the π bond in **5** is even lower, despite the fact that the ethylene thioacetal group (of **5**) should be *less* deactivating than the ethylene acetal function (of **3b**); see **3a** vs. **4**, above.

This is understandable if S atoms capture CCl_2 at rates similar to those of the π bonds of disubstituted alkenes, and then nonproductively dispose of CCl_2 . Because the substitution of a carboethoxy group on the exo methylene position of methylenecyclohexane decreases π -bond reactivity toward CCl_2 by ~17-fold,¹⁰ the additionally deactivated double bond of 5 will not be able to compete for CCl_2 with the S atoms of the thioacetal group.

Further evidence on this point was obtained from experiments in which 5 and 4-methylcyclohexanone ethylene

 Table II

 Inhibition of Dichloronorcarane Formation from

 Cyclohexene by Thioacetals^a

Run	Thioacetal	Mg	Mmol (× 10)	7,7-Dichloro- norcarane formed, mg	Residual thioacetal, mg
1	None	0	0.0	14.4	
2	5	20	0.78	6.8	0.0
3	5	39	1.5	4.9	0.0
4	5	58	2.2	3.4	0.0
5	5	82	3.2	1.8	0.0
6	11	21	1.1	6.7	0.03
7	11	42	2.2	2.9	5.2
8	11	60	3.2	1.9	15

^a Conditions: 50 mg (0.61 mmol) of cyclohexene and 110 mg (0.60 mmol) of NaOOCCCl₃ were heated in monoglyme at 85° for 30 min. Product and residual thioacetals were analyzed by GC, relative to an internal *n*-dodecane standard.

thioacetal (11) were shown to *inhibit* CCl_2 addition to cyclohexene; cf. Table II.

When [thioacetal]/[cyclohexene] ~ 0.5, 5 inhibits CCl₂ addition to cyclohexene by 88% (run 5 vs. run 1), and 11 inhibits by 86% (run 8 vs. run 1). These results parallel those of Parham and Groen, who showed that *n*-butyl phenyl sulfide inhibited the addition of CCl₂ to cyclohexene.¹³

Table II also shows that, although 5 and 11 are similarly effective as inhibitors, 11 was only partially destroyed (75%) by 2 equiv of CCl_2 precursor, whereas 5 was totally destroyed (runs 8 and 5). This suggests that there is a synergistic relation between the conjugated ester and thioacetal functions of 5 (toward CCl_2), but that it leads to accelerated substrate destruction rather than to accelerated cyclopropanation.^{13a}

By analogy,¹³⁻¹⁶ the initial product formed from CCl_2 and an ethylene thioacetal should be a sulfonium ylide. Attempts to "trap" the CCl_2 moiety of such an ylide by generating CCl_2 in the presence of 11 and either pentanal or methyl acrylate have led only to unidentified products derived solely from thioacetal 11.²⁰

Finally, why are allylic sulfides good substrates for Sylide mediated CCl₂ reactions, whereas "remote" olefinic substrates such as 4 and 5 are "poor"? The activation energy for the [2,3] sigmatropic rearrangement of an ylide formed by addition of CCl₂ to an allylic sulfide must be very low; such ylides are rapidly consumed by the rearrangement process.²¹ On the other hand, substrate-assisted cyclopropanation of 5 would require passage through 9 (R = COOC₂H₅; Z = S), the formation of which involves a Michael addition to a tetrasubstituted alkene. The activation energy for this process appears to be high enough to permit alternative, intermolecular reactions (polymerization) to occur in preference to self-cyclopropanation.

Experimental Section²²

4-Benzoyloxycyclohexanone. 1,4-Cyclohexanediol (250 g, 2.15 mol), benzoyl chloride (295 g, 2.10 mol), and pyridine (600 ml) in 1400 ml of chloroform gave 275 g (58%) of 4-benzoyloxycyclohexanol, bp 175–178° (0.2 Torr) [lit.²³ bp 175–178° (0.2 Torr)], according to the procedure of Jones and Sondheimer.²³ The product (260 g, 1.18 mol) was oxidized with 115 g (1.15 mol) of CrO₃ in 700 ml of acetic acid and 67 ml of water.²³ There was isolated 140 g (54%) of 4-benzoyloxycyclohexanone: mp 58–60° (lit.²³ mp 63°); NMR δ 8.20–7.93 and 7.63–7.23 (m's, 2 H + 3 H, aryl), 5.60–5.27 (m, 1 H, carbinyl), and 2.73–1.97 (m, 8 H, cyclohexyl).

4-Benzoyloxycyclohexanone Ethylene Thioacetal. The above keto ester (70 g, 0.32 mol), 30 g (0.32 mol) of ethane-1,2-dithiol, 200 mg of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, and 600 ml of benzene were heated to reflux for 20 hr, during which time \sim 5.7 ml of water collected in a Dean-Stark trap. Removal of the benzene gave a white solid which was used without further purification. A small sample was recrystallized from benzene-petroleum ether (bp 30-60°): mp 73-76°; NMR δ 8.23-7.90 and 7.67-7.20 (m's, 2 H + 3 H, aryl), 5.30-4.87 (m, 1 H, carbinyl), 3.27 (s, 4 H, thioacetal), and 2.43-1.73 (m, 8 H, cyclohexyl).

Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{18}O_2S_2$: C, 61.2; H, 6.12. Found: C, 61.2; H, 6.15.

4-Hydroxycyclohexanone Ethylene Thioacetal. The crude ester thioacetal (90 g, 0.31 mol), 2 g of sodium methoxide, and 300 ml of methanol were refluxed for 15 hr. Methanol was distilled away; the solid residue was shaken twice with 2×500 ml of acetone. Each acetone extract was filtered, acetone was stripped from the combined filtrate, and the residue was distilled. Methyl benzoate was removed at ~31° (0.25 Torr). The pot residue was cooled and recrystallized from benzene-petroleum ether to give three crops (total yield ~50 g, 85%) of the desired product: mp 83.5-85°; NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.93-3.53 (m, 1 H, carbinyl), 3.27 (s, 4 H, thioacetal), and 2.40-1.47, including a superimposed singlet (OH) at 1.57 (m, 9 H, cyclohexyl and OH).

Anal. Calcd for C₈H₁₄OS₂, C, 50.5; H, 7.36. Found: C, 50.7; H, 7.50.

1,4-Cyclohexanedione Monoethylene Thioacetal (6). CrO_3 (28.0 g, 280 mmol) was cautiously added to 300 ml of pyridine, followed by a solution of 21 g (110 mmol) of the above alcohol thioacetal in 100 ml of pyridine.²⁴ After the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 days at 25°, it was diluted with 500 ml of ether and filtered. The ethereal filtrate was washed with 3 × 150 ml of water and 3 × 150 ml of 2 N H₂SO₄, dried (Na₂SO₄), and stripped of solvent. The residue was maintained at 0.2 Torr for 12 br, and then distilled to give 7 g (33%) of 6: bp 102° (0.13 Torr); ir (film) 5.83 μ (s, C=O); NMR δ 3.33 (s, 4 H, thioacetal) and 2.40 ("s", 8 H, cyclohexyl²⁵).

Anal. Calcd for $C_8H_{12}OS_2$: C, 51.0; H, 6.39. Found: C, 51.3; H, 6.46.

Methylenecyclohexan-4-one Ethylene Thioacetal (4).26 Dimsyl sodium was prepared in a 100-ml, three-neck flask. NaH, 0.90 g of a 61% dispersion in mineral oil (22.9 mmol), was washed with petroleum ether, dried of solvent under vacuum, covered with N₂, and treated with 20 ml of DMSO (dried over 3A molecular sieves, and then distilled) at 65-70°, with stirring for \sim 30 min. After H₂ evolution ceased, the reaction mixture was cooled to 25° and a solution of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (8.5 g, 23.8 mmol) in 30 ml of DMSO was added via syringe. After 10 min, 4.3 g (22.8 mmol) of ketone 6 was added. The orange vlide turned brown. The solution was heated to 70° for 3 hr, cooled, and diluted with 30 ml of petroleum ether and 60 ml of water. The aqueous layer was extracted with 3×20 ml of petroleum ether, and the combined organic extracts were washed with 30 ml of water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and stripped. Distillation of the residue gave 2.1 g (52%) of pure 4: bp 55° (0.03 Torr); ir (CCl₄) 6.05 μ (m, C=C); NMR δ 4.60 ("s", 2 H, vinyl), 3.23 (s, 4 H, thioacetal), and 2.47– 1.90 (m, 8 H, cyclohexyl).

Anal. Calcd for $C_9H_{14}S_2$: C, 58.1; H, 7.53; S, 34.4. Found: C, 58.1; H, 7.75; S, 34.1.

Carboethoxymethylenecyclohexan-4-one Ethylene Thioacetal (5).27 NaH, 0.628 g of a 61% dispersion in mineral oil (15.9 mmol), was placed in a dry, 25-ml, three-neck flask equipped with a thermometer, N_2 inlet, addition funnel, and stirring bar. Dry benzene (10 ml) was added and stirring commenced. This was followed slowly by the addition of 3.58 g (15.9 mmol) of triethyl phosphonoacetate via the addition funnel. The temperature was kept at <35° during the addition. After an additional 1 hr of stirring, 3.0 g (15.9 mmol) of ketone 6 was added over 20 min. During the addition, the reaction mixture became very viscous, and was then warmed to 60°. Heating was continued for 30 min after the addition of 6 was completed. The reaction mixture was then cooled, benzene was decanted, and the residue was leached with 4×10 ml of hot benzene. All benzene fractions were combined and stripped; the residue was distilled to give 0.8 g of a mixture of 5 and 6 (95:5), bp 140-143° (0.3 Torr), followed by 1.85 g of GC-pure 5, bp 143-146° (0.3 Torr). The overall yield was 63%: ir (film) 5.85 (s, C=O) and 6.16 μ (s, C=C); NMR δ 5.58 ("s", 1 H, vinyl), 4.10 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂), 3.28 (s, 4 H, thioacetal), 3.05 ("t", J = 7 Hz, 2 H, allylic CH₂ cis to carboethoxy), 2.58-1.98 (m, 6 H, other cyclohexyl), and 1.25 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3 H, methyl).

Exact mass. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₈S₂O₂: 258.074. Found: 258.072.²²

1,1-Dichlorospiro[2.5]octan-6-one Ethylene Thioacetal (7) and 1,1-Dichloro-2-carboethoxyspiro[2.5]octan-6-one Ethylene Thioacetal (8). These compounds were prepared from their (oxy) acetal analogs, 7-Ox and 8-Ox, respectively.¹⁷ The preparation of 7 is illustrative. In a test tube was placed 120 mg (0.51

Notes

Table III Relative Reactivity Experiments

Olefin A/olefin B	$(o_{\rm A}/o_{\rm B})^a$	$(P_{\rm A}/P_{\rm B})^{b}$	k _A /k _B ^c	kA / kBd	
4/cyclohexene	0.266	1.01	3.80	3.46	
4 /cyclohexene	0.522	2.15	4.12	3.75	
4/methylene -	0.972	0.735	0.756^{e}		
cyclohexane					

^a Mole ratio. ^b From integration of GC product peaks. ^c Uncorrected for relative thermal conductivity detector responses. ^a The detector response, $C_{\rm K} = (\text{moles of 7/moles of dichloronorcarane})/(GC response of 7/GC response of dichloronorcarane), was 0.91. Crude <math>k_{\rm A}/k_{\rm B}$ was multiplied by 0.91 to obtain the corrected $k_{\rm A}/k_{\rm B}$. The average corrected value is 3.60 ± 0.18 . ^e From $(k_4/k_{\rm cyclohexene})$ ($k_{\rm cyclohexane}/k_{\rm methylenecyclohexane}$) = $3.60 \times 1/4.57$, ¹⁰ we calculate $k_4/k_{\rm methylenecyclohexane} = 0.788$, in good agreement with the observed cross-check value.

mmol) of 7-Ox, 0.2 ml of 1,2-ethanedithiol, and 0.2 ml of BF₃-(C₂H₅)₂O. The mixture was shaken, 2 ml of ether was added, and the solution was placed on a small alumina column (3 g). Elution with 10 ml of ether, followed by stripping of the eluate, gave an oil which was purified by GC,²⁸ retention time 13.5 min (the retention time of 8 was 22 min) on a 5 ft × 0.25 in., 15% SE-30 on 45/60 GCR column at 210°, He flow rate 70 ml/min. Both 7 and 8 were white solids. For 7: NMR δ 3.23 (s, 4 H, thioacetal), 2.28–1.67 (m, 8 H, cyclohexyl), 1.20 (s, 2 H, cyclopropyl).

Exact mass. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{14}Cl_2S_2$: 267.991. Found: 267.989.²²

For 8: ir (CCl₄) 5.75 μ (C=O); NMR δ 4.13 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂), 3.23 (s, 4 H, thioacetal), 2.3–1.73 [m, with superimposed s at 1.98, 9 H, cyclohexyl and cyclopropyl (s)], and 1.27 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3 H, methyl).

Exact mass. Calcd for $C_{13}H_{18}Cl_2S_2O_2$: 340.012. Found: 340.012.²² 4-Methylcyclohexanone Ethylene Thioacetal (11) was prepared from 10.0 g (89.5 mmol) of 4-methylcyclohexanone, 8.0 g (85 mmol) of 1,2-ethanedithiol, and 300 mg of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid in 50 ml of refluxing benzene, with azeotropic removal of water. Removal of solvent, followed by distillation afforded 13 g (81%) of the product, bp 81° (0.4 Torr). The thioacetal was GC pure and showed no carbonyl band in its ir spectrum: NMR δ 3.23 (s, 4 H, thioacetal) and 2.33–0.80 (m, with methyl signal superimposed at ~0.97, 12 H, cyclohexyl and methyl).

Exact mass. Calcd for C₉H₁₆S₂: 188.069. Found: 188.074.²²

Relative Reactivity Experiments. Weighed samples of olefin A and olefin B were diluted with 3 ml of monoglyme (distilled from Na) and injected into a nitrogen-blanketed flask containing ~0.1 equiv of sodium trichloroacetate and *n*-hexadecane (~80 mg) as an internal standard. The reaction mixture was stirred magnetically and heated with an oil bath to $80-85^{\circ}$ for 1 hr. The reaction mixture was then cooled and filtered; the filtrate was analyzed on either an 8 ft × 0.25 in. 10% or a 5 ft × 0.25 in. 15% SE-30 on 45/60 GCR column programmed between 100 and 200°. The relative reactivity toward CCl₂, k_A/k_B , was calculated in the normal manner from $(P_A/P_B)(O_B/O_A)$ where the *P* factor represents the product ratio and the *O* factor represents the initial olefin ratio.³ Olefins were present in tenfold excess over carbene precursor. Data appear in Table III.

Inhibition of CCl₂ Additions. Conditions and results of these experiments are described in Table II and its note.

Control Experiments. To establish the stability of 8, a solution of ~15 mg (0.044 mmol) of 8, 10 μ l of *n*-hexadecane, 80 mg (0.95 mmol) of cyclohexene, and 15 mg (0.081 mmol) of sodium trichloroacetate in 2 ml of glyme was heated for 1 hr at 85°. GC analysis gave the ratios, 8/*n*-hexadecane, as 0.465 (before reaction) and 0.460 (after reaction). Dichloronorcarane was formed in this experiment.

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Registry No.—3a, 51656-90-7; 3b, 51656-91-8; 4, 54531-72-5; 5, 54531-73-6; 6, 54531-74-7; 7, 54531-75-8; 7-Ox, 51656-93-0; 8, 54531-76-9; 8-Ox, 51656-92-9; 11, 41158-95-6; dichlorocarbene, 1605-72-7; 4-benzoyloxycyclohexanone, 23510-95-4; 1,4-cyclohex-

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anediol, 556-48-9; benzoyl chloride, 98-88-1; 4-benzoyloxycyclohexanol, 6308-92-5; 4-benzoyloxycyclohexanone ethylene thioacetal, 54531-77-0; ethane-1,2-dithiol, 540-63-6; 4-hydroxycyclohexanone ethylene thioacetal, 22428-86-0; 4-methylcyclohexanone, 589-92-4.

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Communications

Heteroatom Directed Photoarylation. Photochemistry of Aryloxyenones

Summary: Aryloxyenones 1a and 1b undergo photocyclization-rearrangement to give dihydrofurans 2 and 7, respectively.

Sir: Reported photoreactions of aryl ethers have been limited to (1) cleavage of the ether bond(s) followed by hydrogen abstraction from solvent to give phenols and (2) photorearrangement to give ortho- and para-substituted hydroxybiphenyls.¹ Photocyclization of unsubstituted diaryl ethers or aryl vinyl ethers to annelated dihydrofurans apparently has not been observed;^{2,3} however, photocyclization-elimination of o-methoxyphenyl phenyl ethers² and o-chlorophenyl 1-naphthyl ether³ to annelated furans in low to moderate yield has been reported. Herein, we communicate the photochemistry of 2-phenoxy-3,5,5-trimethylcyclohexen-2-one (1a), which represents the first report of nearly exclusive photochemical carbon-carbon bond formation from an unsaturated ether, to give an annelated dihvdrofuran.

Aryloxyenone la was prepared by the potassium hydride (0.1 equiv) assisted reaction of isophorone oxide⁴ with 1.1 equiv of phenol in refluxing tetrahydrofuran solution containing 0.75 equiv of hexamethylphosphoramide (91% isolated yield, mp 104-105°). Pyrex-filtered photolysis of 1a (20 g) was performed in benzene-methanol-acetic acid solution (2000 ml, equal portions of each solvent component) while purged with argon. After 23 hr irradiation with a 450-W high-pressure mercury arc lamp, <2% 1a remained in the nearly colorless reaction mixture; formation of dihydrofuran 2 (95%), rearranged phenol 3 (~2%), and trace amounts of phenol and isophorone was observed (vpc analysis). Evaporation of solvent and partition of the reaction components between ether and 1 N sodium hydroxide solution gave nearly pure dihydrofuran 2 (88% yield) in the organic layer. Two crystallizations from ether-petroleum ether produced analytically pure 2 (80% yield, mp 85-87°, m/e 230).

Acidification of the sodium hydroxide layer gave, after ether extraction and crystallization from ether-petroleum ether, pure 3 (2% yield, mp 172-175°, m/e 230). The nmr spectrum of 3 in CDCl₃ above 5 ppm is nearly identical with that of 1 and displays singlets at 1.11 (6 protons, gemdimethyl), 1.83 (3 protons, vinyl methyl), and 2.42 ppm (4 protons, two methylene groups). The phenolic proton in 3 appears as a broadened singlet at 5.8 ppm and exchanges with deuterium oxide, while the four aromatic protons appear as a complex multiplet at 6.8 to 7.4 ppm. Para aromat-