

Synthesis, Crystal, and Molecular Structure of 3,4-Di-*t*-butylthiophen

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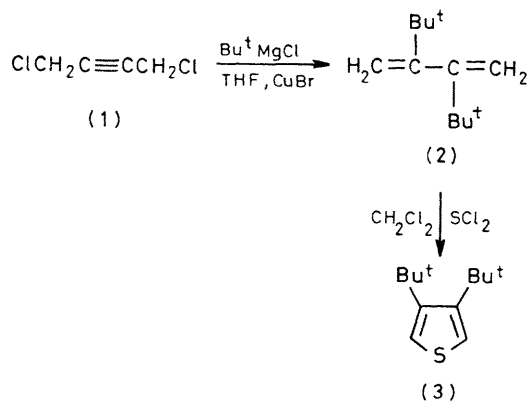
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Summary A successful synthesis of the hitherto unknown 3,4-di-*t*-butylthiophen and the results of its crystal structure determination are reported

THE first synthesis of *o*-di-*t*-butylbenzene¹ provoked an interest in molecules with similar, overcrowded arrangements of bulky groups. Wijnberg and his co-workers have made major contributions to this field by their successful

preparation of 2,3,5-tri-*t*-butylfuran,² 2,4-di-*t*-butylthiophen,³ 2,5-di-*t*-butylthiophen,³ 2,5-di-*t*-butylfuran,³ 1,2-di-*t*-butylimidazole,⁴ and 2,3-di-*t*-butylquinoxaline.⁵ However, despite several attempts,⁶ 3,4-di-*t*-butylthiophen had not been obtained.

We report here a surprisingly simple synthesis of the title compound (3), which is outlined in the Scheme. Addition, at 0 to -20 °C, of 2 equiv. of a solution of *t*-butyl



SCHEME.

magnesium chloride in tetrahydrofuran (THF) to a mixture of 1,4-dichlorobut-2-yne (1), THF, and a catalytic (2–5 mol %) amount of copper(I) bromide, gave 2,2,5,5-tetramethyl-3,4-dimethylenhexane (2) in a yield > 90%. This synthesis, which gives unsatisfactory results with primary alkylmagnesium halides, is a good alternative to that reported by Backer.⁷ Addition of freshly distilled sulphur dichloride to a solution (ca. 20% v/v) of (2) in dichloromethane gave a mixture of (2), (3), and largely high-boiling compounds of unknown structure.

Treatment of the residue remaining after evaporation of the solvent with excess of KOBU^t in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) at 40–50 °C, followed by the usual work-up, gave (2) (ca. 50% recovery) and (3) (12–15% yield), m.p. 42 °C. The structure of (3) was in accordance with the mass spectrum (expected parent peak), the micro-analytical results, and the ^1H n.m.r. spectrum (10% v/v solution in CCl_4 , Me_4Si as internal standard, δ 7.15, 2 H, and 1.45, 18 H). The spectrum of the 2,5-isomer, prepared according to ref. 8, showed signals at δ 6.44 and 1.24.

Crystal data: $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{S}$, M 196, rhombohedral, space group $R\bar{3}c$, $a = 15.88(6)$ Å, $\alpha = 116.7(3)^\circ$, $D_c = 1.059$ g cm $^{-3}$, $Z = 6$. 237 observed independent $\text{Mo-K}\alpha$ ($\lambda = 0.7107$ Å) diffractometer data were used. The crystals were of very poor quality (virtually no reflections could be observed at $\theta > 16.5^\circ$). The non-hydrogen atoms could be located using MULTAN⁹ and the final R index, after anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement, is 0.089.† The molecule has approximate C_{2v} symmetry with its two-fold rotation axis forced to coincide with that of the space group. A perspective view of the molecule, together with its atomic numbering, and a summary of the geometrical data, is given in the Figure. The conformational arrangements of the *t*-butyl groups is such that the bond $\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(31)$ is nearly coplanar with the thiophen ring and in a syn-clinal position with the bond $\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(1)$.

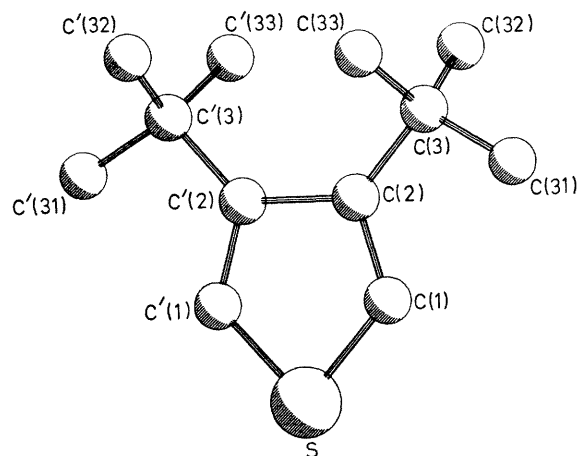


FIGURE. A perspective view of 3,4-di-*t*-butylthiophen. Bond lengths: $\text{S}-\text{C}(1)$ 1.78(5), $\text{C}(1)-\text{C}(2)$ 1.39(8), $\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(3)$ 1.49(8), $\text{C}(2)-\text{C}'(2)$ 1.66(7), $\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(31)$ 1.49(7), $\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(32)$ 1.49(8), and $\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(33)$ 1.54(9); $\text{C}(32)-\text{C}'(33)$ 3.37(6) Å. Bond angles: $\text{C}(1)-\text{S}-\text{C}'(1)$ 90(2), $\text{S}-\text{C}(1)-\text{C}(2)$ 117(3), $\text{C}(1)-\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(3)$ 119(4), $\text{C}(1)-\text{C}(2)-\text{C}'(2)$ 108(4), $\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(2)-\text{C}'(2)$ 133(5), $\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(31)$ 104(6), $\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(32)$ 110(5), $\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(33)$ 105(3), $\text{C}(31)-\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(32)$ 113(3), $\text{C}(31)-\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(33)$ 105(5), and $\text{C}(32)-\text{C}(3)-\text{C}(33)$ 119(6)°.

Owing to the lack of a good data set the crystal structure determination is not very accurate. However, it is evident from the results obtained that the internal strain in the molecule is appreciable.

(Received, 10th June 1980; Com. 637.)

† The atomic co-ordinates for this work are available on request from the Director of the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, University Chemical Laboratory, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EW. Any request should be accompanied by the full literature citation for this communication.

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