

Aryloxysulphur(IV) Fluorides†

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Aryloxysulphur(IV) fluorides result from the interaction between aryl silyl ethers and sulphur tetrafluoride and its derivatives. The derivatives prepared [ArOSF₃ (Ar = Ph; *o*-, *m*-, *p*-Tol; *o*-, *m*-, *p*-FC₆H₄; *m*-, *p*-ClC₆H₄), (ArO)₂SF₂ (Ar = Ph; *m*-, *p*-Tol; *m*-, *p*-FC₆H₄; *m*-, *p*-ClC₆H₄; *p*-CF₃C₆H₄; *p*-O₂NC₆H₄), (ArO)₃SF (Ar = Ph or C₆F₅), (PhO)₄S, (C₆H₄O₂)₂S, ArOSF₂CF₃ (Ar = Ph or C₆F₅), ArOSF₂C₃F₇ (Ar = *p*-CF₃C₆H₄ or *p*-O₂NC₆H₄)] have been examined spectroscopically and in all cases the structures appear to be based on trigonal bipyramidal arrangements about the sulphur with the lone-pair equatorial and fluorines apical.

THE preparation of phenoxysulphur(IV) fluorides has approximately C_{2v} symmetry based on a trigonal bipyramid with the lone-pair occupying an equatorial

TABLE 1
Products of the reactions between silyl ethers and sulphur tetrafluoride

(a) Reactions with SF ₄						
Ar	Reactants ArOSiMe ₃ mmol	SF ₄ mmol	Yield Me ₃ SiF mmol	Product		M and analyses found/calc.
Ph	11	13	9	PhOSF ₃ (1)	M.p. 293 K	C 40.1/39.6; H 3.0/2.8; F 29.5/31.3; S 16.6/17.6
Ph	11	5	9	(PhO) ₂ SF ₂ (2)	M.p. 293 K	C 56.1/56.2; H 4.0/3.9; F 14.7/14.8; S 12.3/12.5
Ph	6	2	5	(PhO) ₂ SF ₂ + (PhO) ₃ SF (?) (3)		See text
Ph	8	3	3	(PhO) ₄ S (4)	Solid	C 71.4/71.3; H 5.1/5.1; S 7.9/7.8
<i>o</i> -Tol	12	16	12	<i>o</i> -TolOSF ₃ (5)	Liq.	N.m.r. evidence only
<i>m</i> -Tol	15.5	17	16	<i>m</i> -TolOSF ₃ (6)	Liq.	M 196/196
<i>m</i> -Tol	17	9	17	(<i>m</i> -TolO) ₂ SF ₂ (7)	Solid	M 262/262; C 59.2/59.1; H 5.1/4.9; S 11.1/11.2
<i>p</i> -Tol	16	18	16	<i>p</i> -TolOSF ₃ (8)	Liq.	M 196/196 disproportionates to SF ₄ + (<i>p</i> -TolO) ₂ SF ₂
<i>p</i> -Tol	20	11	20	(<i>p</i> -TolO) ₂ SF ₂ (9)	Solid	C 59.1/59.1; H 5.1/4.2; F 13.4/13.3; S 11.2/11.2
<i>o</i> -FC ₆ H ₄	16.5	20	16	<i>o</i> -FC ₆ H ₄ OSF ₃ (10)	Liq.	M 200/200
<i>m</i> -FC ₆ H ₄	16	21	16	<i>m</i> -FC ₆ H ₄ OSF ₃ (11)	Liq.	M 200/200
<i>m</i> -FC ₆ H ₄	20	11	20	(<i>m</i> -FC ₆ H ₄ O) ₂ SF ₂ (12)	Liq.	C 48.9/49.3; H 2.6/2.7; F 26.1/26.0; S 10.8/11.0
<i>p</i> -FC ₆ H ₄	17	21	17	<i>p</i> -FC ₆ H ₄ OSF ₃ (13)	Liq.	M 200/200
<i>p</i> -FC ₆ H ₄	18	11	11	(<i>p</i> -FC ₆ H ₄ O) ₂ SF ₂ (14)	Liq.	C 49.8/49.3; H 2.8/2.7; F 25.8/26.0; S 10.8/11.0
<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	15	18	14	<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄ OSF ₃ (15)	Liq.	M 216/216
<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	17	10	17	(<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄ O) ₂ SF ₂ (16)	Solid	C 44.3/44.3; H 2.5/2.5; Cl 22.0/21.8; F 11.9/11.7; S 9.6/9.8
<i>p</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	13.5	16	13	<i>p</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄ OSF ₃ (17)	Liq.	M 216/216
<i>p</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	18	10	18	(<i>p</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄ O) ₂ SF ₂ (18)	Solid	C 44.4/44.3; H 2.6/2.5; Cl 22.1/21.8; F 12.0/11.7; S 9.7/9.8
<i>p</i> -CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄	17	20	18	(<i>p</i> -CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄ O) ₂ SF ₂ (19)	Solid	C 42.2/42.9; H 2.1/2.1; F 38.3/38.4; S 8.2/8.2
<i>p</i> -O ₂ NC ₆ H ₄	14	25	12	(<i>p</i> -O ₂ NC ₆ H ₄ O) ₂ SF ₂ (20)	Solid	C 42.1/41.6; H 2.5/2.3; F 11.3/11.0; N 4.0/4.1; S 9.3/9.2
C ₆ F ₅	16	24	16	(C ₆ F ₅ O) ₃ SF (21)	Solid	C 35.6/36.0; F 50.4/50.6; S 5.5/5.3
<i>o</i> -C ₆ H ₄	18	50	35	(<i>o</i> -C ₆ H ₄ O) ₂ S (22)	Solid	M 248/248; C 57.8/58.1; H 3.4/3.2; S 12.8/12.9
(b) Reactions with CF ₃ SF ₃						
		CF ₃ SF ₃ mmol				
Ph	11	12	10	PhOSF ₂ CF ₃ (23)	Liq.	Spectroscopic evidence only
C ₆ F ₅	14	16	14	C ₆ F ₅ OSF ₂ CF ₃ (24)	Liq.	M 322/322
(c) Reactions with (CF ₃) ₂ CFSF ₃						
		(CF ₃) ₂ CFSF ₃ mmol				
<i>p</i> -CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄	10	15	4	<i>p</i> -CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄ OSF ₂ CF(CF ₃) ₂ (25)	Liq.	M 400/400
<i>p</i> -O ₂ NC ₆ H ₄	12	14	11	<i>p</i> -O ₂ NC ₆ H ₄ OSF ₂ CF(CF ₃) ₂ (26)	Liq.	M 377/377; C 28.8/38.6; H 1.1/1.1; F 45.1/45.4; N 3.6/3.7; S 8.4/8.5

further details of these compounds together with preparations of some other aryloxysulphur(IV) fluorides.

Sulphur tetrafluoride is known to have a structure of

† No reprints available.

¹ J. I. Darragh and D. W. A. Sharp, *Angew. Chem. Internat. Edn.*, 1970, **9**, 73.

² H. L. Roberts, *Quart. Rev.*, 1961, **15**, 30.

position² and substituted derivatives of SF₄ have structures derived from this with the less-electronegative substituents occupying the equatorial positions³ as

³ E.g. W. A. Sheppard, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1962, **84**, 3058; G. C. Demitras and A. G. MacDiarmid, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1967, **6**, 1903; D. T. Sauer and J. M. Shreeve, *Chem. Comm.*, 1970, 1679; S. P. von Halasz and O. Glemser, *Chem. Ber.*, 1970, **103**, 594.

have the diaryldialkoxysulphuranes and related derivatives of known structure.⁴ These structures are comparable with those adopted by phosphorus pentafluoride and most of its substituted derivatives although it is known that biscatecholatofluorophosphorane, $(o\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{O}_2)_2\text{PF}$, has a structure in which the co-ordination arrangement is intermediate between a trigonal bipyramid and a tetragonal pyramid.⁵

Aryloxytrimethylsilanes, ArOSiMe_3 , react readily with sulphur tetrafluoride to give products which depend upon the nature of the aryl group and upon the relative

(iv) trifluorides all show a doublet and a triplet (relative intensities 2 : 1) corresponding to the axial and equatorial fluorines. The ^{19}F spectra of the bis(aryloxy)sulphur difluorides show a single signal at a shift corresponding to the axial fluorines of the trifluorides. The n.m.r. spectra are discussed in more detail later.

An excess or equimolar quantities of sulphur tetrafluoride react with aryloxytrimethylsilanes to give aryloxysulphur(iv) trifluorides ArOSF_3 ($\text{Ar} = \text{Ph}$, $o\text{-Tol}$, $m\text{-Tol}$, $p\text{-Tol}$, $o\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4$, $m\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4$, $p\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4$, $m\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, and $p\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$). No identifiable $o\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$ derivatives could

TABLE 2
N.m.r. data for aryloxysulphur(iv) fluorides

All shifts in p.p.m., δF relative to CCl_3F , δH relative to Me_4Si , coupling constants in Hz. Spectra recorded on neat samples or on CCl_4 solutions unless otherwise stated

(a) ArOSF_3 compounds

		δF_a	δF_e	$J\text{F}_a\text{-F}_e$	δH (Aromatic)
(1) PhOSF_3	298	-79.1	-30.5	67.7	-6.55(m)
(5) $o\text{-TolOSF}_3$	298	-76.2	-31.2	45	-6.8(m) δCH_3 -1.95
(6) $m\text{-TolOSF}_3$	298	-78.8	-31.3	76	-7.0(m) δCH_3 -2.1
(8) $p\text{-TolOSF}_3$	298	-78.6	-30.3	72	-6.9(b.s.) δCH_3 -1.95
(10) $o\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_3$	298	-77.4	-31.4	77	-7.3(m)
(11) $m\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_3$	237	-82.0	-30.3	76	-7.38(m)
(13) $p\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_3$	253	-78.8	-30.1	75	-7.16(q)
(15) $m\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_3$	253	-79.2	-31.0	74	-7.3(m)
(17) $p\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_3$	253	-79.0	-30.5	75	-7.25(q)

(b) $(\text{ArO})_2\text{SF}_2$ compounds (all recorded at 310 K in CCl_4)

	δF	δH
(2) $(\text{PhO})_2\text{SF}_2$	-67.4	-6.42(b.s.)
(7) $(m\text{-TolO})_2\text{SF}_2$	-67.7	-7.01(b.s.) CH_3 -1.96
(9) $(p\text{-TolO})_2\text{SF}_2$	-66.3	-6.9(b.s.) CH_3 -2.1
(12) $(m\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{O})_2\text{SF}_2$	-69.2	-7.3(m)
(14) $(p\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{O})_2\text{SF}_2$	-69.0	-7.4(q)
(16) $(m\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{O})_2\text{SF}_2$	-70.0	-7.38(m)
(18) $(p\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{O})_2\text{SF}_2$	-71.2	-7.28(q)
(19) $(p\text{-CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{O})_2\text{SF}_2$	-72.0	-7.4(q)

(c) $(\text{ArO})_3\text{SF}$

(3) $(\text{PhO})_3\text{SF}$	$\delta\text{SF} - 70.8$	$\delta\text{CH} - 6.6$
(21) $(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5\text{O})_3\text{SF}$	$\delta\text{SF} - 67.4$ $\delta\text{CF}(o) + 152$ $\delta\text{CF}(m) + 162.4$ $\delta\text{CF}(p) + 155.2$	

(d) Fully substituted derivatives

(4) $(\text{PhO})_4\text{S}$	δH (Aromatic)
(22) $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{O}_2)_2\text{S}$	$\delta\text{H} - 6.82(\text{b.s.})$ in CD_3CN $\delta\text{H} - 6.95(\text{b.s.})$

(e) Derivatives of perfluoroalkylsulphur trifluorides

(23) $\text{PhOSF}_2\text{CF}_3$	$\delta\text{SF}_2 - 35$ $\delta\text{CF} + 68.5$ $\delta\text{H} - 6.7(\text{b.s.})$ $J\text{SF}_2\text{CF}_3$ 24
(24) $\text{C}_6\text{F}_5\text{OSF}_2\text{CF}_3$	$\delta\text{SF}_2 - 37.5$ $\delta\text{CF}_3 + 67.5$ $\delta\text{CF}(o) + 152.1$ $\delta\text{CF}(m) + 162.8$ $\delta\text{CF}(p) + 155.7$ $J\text{SF}_2\text{CF}_3$ 24 $J\text{CF}_3\text{SOCF}_2$ 6
(25) $p\text{-CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_2\text{C}_3\text{F}_7$	$\delta\text{SF}_2 - 44.4$ $\delta\text{CF}_3 + 68.8$ $\delta\text{CF} + 152.1$ $\delta\text{CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4 + 61.8$ $J\text{SF}_2\text{CF}$ 28 $J\text{SF}_2\text{CCF}_3$ 12 $J\text{CF}_3\text{CF}$ 6 $\delta\text{CH} - 7.56$
(26) $p\text{-O}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_2\text{C}_3\text{F}_7$	$\delta\text{SF}_2 - 42.4$ $\delta\text{CF}_3 + 69.2$ $\delta\text{CF} + 151.8$ $J\text{CF}_3\text{CF}$ 6 $\delta\text{CH} - 7.93(\text{q})$

q = A_2B_2 quartet; m = multiplet; b.s. broad singlet.

amounts of reactants (Table 1). In some reactions the products have been identified by full analysis but in other cases they are too unstable to allow satisfactory analysis and characterization is based on spectroscopic studies using mass spectroscopic and/or n.m.r. methods. The parent ion is generally observed in the mass spectrum (Table 1 and supplementary data *) although disproportionation or hydrolysis occurs for some derivatives. The ^{19}F n.m.r. spectra (Table 2) of the aryloxysulphur-

be isolated and even although excess of sulphur tetrafluoride was used for $\text{Ar} = p\text{-CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ and $p\text{-O}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4$ only bis(aryloxy)sulphur(iv) difluorides were isolated. Other than $o\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_3$, $o\text{-TolOSF}_3$, and $o\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_3$ all the aryloxysulphur(iv) trifluorides slowly disproportionate at room temperature to give bis(aryloxy)sulphur(iv) difluorides and sulphur tetrafluoride; the

* Full data for all compounds have been deposited with the National Lending Library SUP No. 21214 (11 pp., 1 microfiche). See note about Supplementary Publications in Notice to Authors No. 7 in *J.C.S. Dalton*, 1973, Index issue.

⁴ E.g. N. C. Baenziger, R. E. Buckles, R. J. Maner, and T. D. Simpson, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1969, **91**, 5749; I. C. Paul, J. C. Martin, and E. F. Perozzi, *ibid.*, 1972, **94**, 5010; A. Kálmán, K. Sasvari, and I. Kapovits, *Acta Cryst.*, 1973, **B29**, 355.

⁵ A. Wunderlich, D. Mootz, R. Schmutzler, and M. Wieber, *Z. Naturforsch.*, 1974, **29b**, 32.

rate of this reaction increases markedly with temperature. The lack of observation of monosubstituted derivatives for some aryloxides may be due either to rapid disproportionation or to increased reactivity of fluorines after the initial monosubstitution.

The detailed n.m.r. data for the aryloxysulphur trifluorides are given in Table 2. Fine structure due to fluorine-fluorine coupling is not observed for ArOSF_3 ($\text{Ar} = m\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4$, $p\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4$, $m\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, and $p\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$) at room temperature but is seen at lower temperatures. Signals due to the distinct axial and equatorial fluorines are observed at room temperature and the behaviour is comparable to that of SF_4 over the temperature range 195–215 K.⁶ Over the temperature range 243–333 K, $m\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_3$ exhibits the complete range of exchange behaviour of SF_4 , showing a broad singlet at 333 K, a broad singlet plus two broad peaks at 313 K, and a doublet and a triplet at the fields of the two latter peaks at 243 K. A study of the coalescence temperature as a function of concentration and solvent (Table 3) shows that it depends upon the concentration but is apparently independent of the dielectric constant of the solvent. These results are again similar to those of sulphur tetrafluoride and suggest an intermolecular mechanism for the exchange process.

TABLE 3
Coalescence temperatures

Dilution solvent	CCl_4	CH_3CN	CCl_3F
0	243 K		
20%	263–265 K	263–265 K	263–265 K
50%	293 K	293 K	293 K

The mass spectra of all the ArOSF_3 derivatives show a parent ion, M^+ , except for phenoxysulphur trifluoride in which this peak is missing. All the derivatives except for PhOSF_3 show metastables corresponding to cleavage of the S–O bonds of the molecule to form ArO^+ species; SF_3^+ species are also observed in relatively high abundance. The cleavage of the S–O bond is similar to that observed in aryloxy-derivatives of thionyl tetrafluoride.⁷

On controlled hydrolysis, the aryloxysulphur trifluorides (except the *o*-tolyl derivative) give aryl fluorosulphinates, ROS(O)F . Phenyl fluorosulphinate has been previously prepared⁸ by fluorination of phenyl chlorosulphinate, PhOS(O)Cl , with sodium fluoride in acetonitrile and other aryl fluorosulphinates have been prepared in the present work by the same method. Characterisation was by mass spectrometry and n.m.r. spectroscopy (Table 4 and Supplementary publication *).

Sulphur tetrafluoride reacts with aryloxytrimethylsilanes in a 1 : 2 molar ratio to give bis(aryloxy)sulphur difluorides, $(\text{RO})_2\text{SF}_2$ ($\text{R} = \text{Ph}$, *m*-Tol, *p*-Tol, *m*- FC_6H_4 , *p*- FC_6H_4 , *m*- ClC_6H_4 , *p*- ClC_6H_4). When $\text{R} = p\text{-CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ and $p\text{-O}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4$, $(\text{RO})_2\text{SF}_2$ derivatives are formed even although sulphur tetrafluoride is in excess. The n.m.r.

data of these derivatives are given in Table 2 [except for $(p\text{-O}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{O})_2\text{SF}_2$ which was not sufficiently soluble in any of the solvents tried to allow the recording of a spectrum]. In each case the ^{19}F resonance appears as a broad signal which suggests that fluorine-exchange

TABLE 4
 M and n.m.r. data for compounds $\text{XC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$

	M	$\delta(\text{SF})/\text{p.p.m.}$	$\delta(\text{CF})/\text{p.p.m.}$
PhOS(O)F		–62.5	
<i>m</i> - $\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$	174	–64.1	
<i>p</i> - $\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$	174	–66.0	
<i>o</i> - $\text{FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$	178	–59.7	+129.5
<i>m</i> - $\text{FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$	178	–65.8	+104.0
<i>p</i> - $\text{FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$	178	–62.4	+108.8
<i>m</i> - $\text{ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$	194	–64.1	
<i>p</i> - $\text{ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$	194	–64.5	

occurs at room temperature; the fluorophenyl derivatives give much sharper signals on cooling to 243 K. The chemical shifts of the single sulphur-fluorine signals are close to those of the axial fluorines of the aryloxysulphur trifluorides which is consistent with the proposed geometry. As the compounds are solids, mass spectra of the completely unhydrolysed materials could not be obtained but the recorded spectra were characteristic of hydrolysis products $(\text{RO})_2\text{SO}$ and in each case parent ions were observed. Deliberate hydrolysis of the difluorides also gives $(\text{RO})_2\text{SO}$ as hydrolysis products.

Reaction of phenoxytrimethylsilane with sulphur tetrafluoride in a 2.5 to 1 ratio gives a mixture of $(\text{PhO})_2\text{SF}_2$ and a new compound which appears to be trisphenoxy-sulphur(IV) fluoride although the derivative could not be obtained pure even by use of other ratios of reactants. Surprisingly, pentafluorophenoxytrimethylsilane reacts with an excess of sulphur tetrafluoride to give tris(pentafluorophenoxy)sulphur(IV) fluoride; this was confirmed by analysis. The ^{19}F n.m.r. spectra of both these derivatives give single signals in the region associated with axial fluorines in trigonal-bipyramidal derivatives although it must be pointed out that other geometries might give resonances at comparable energies. The multiple substitution in the case of the pentafluorophenoxy-derivative may arise either as a result of the reactivity of the initial substituted product or as a result of disproportionation of the initial product to give a stable product and sulphur tetrafluoride.

Complete substitution of fluorine in sulphur tetrafluoride is effected by excess of phenoxytrimethylsilane or of bis(trimethylsilyl)catecholate. The solid products were both characterised by analysis, but no information could be deduced as to their geometries from the spectroscopic measurements. Tetrakisphenoxy-sulphur(IV) was too unstable to give a meaningful mass spectrum but the mass spectrum of biscatecholatosulphur(IV) suggested a monomeric species. Bis(perfluoropinacolato)-sulphur(IV) has been previously prepared from sodium perfluoropinacolate and sulphur tetrachloride.⁹

* Same footnote as on page 219.

⁶ E. L. Muetterties and W. D. Phillips, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **1959**, **81**, 1084; F. A. Cotton, J. W. George, and J. S. Waugh, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **1958**, **28**, 994.

⁷ D. S. Ross and D. W. A. Sharp, *J.C.S. Dalton*, **1972**, 34.

⁸ H. A. Pacini and A. E. Pavlath, *J. Chem. Soc.*, **1965**, 5741.

⁹ M. Allan, A. F. Janzen, and C. J. Willis, *Canad. J. Chem.*, **1968**, **46**, 3671.

Substitution of aryloxy-groups into perfluoroalkylsulphur trifluorides, $R_F\text{SF}_3$ [$R_F = \text{CF}_3$ or $(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{CF}$] can be effected in specific cases and $\text{PhOSF}_2\text{CF}_3$, $\text{C}_6\text{F}_5\text{OSF}_2\text{CF}_3$, $p\text{-CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_2\text{C}_3\text{F}_7$, and $p\text{-O}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OSF}_2\text{C}_3\text{F}_7$ have been isolated. In all cases the spectra are in accord with both residual sulphur-fluorines being in axial positions as has been found for dialkylamino-derivatives of perfluoroalkylsulphur trifluorides.¹⁰

All the substituted derivatives of sulphur tetrafluoride prepared in the present work have strong bands in their i.r. spectra between 950 and 600 cm^{-1} (supplementary data). By analogy with previous work these are assigned to S-F vibrational modes but vibrations of the aromatic groups also occur in this region and the bands are not particularly characteristic.

Attempts have been made¹¹ to prepare alkoxy-derivatives of sulphur(IV) fluorides but these were unsuccessful and, if formed, the derivatives break down immediately although 2-fluoro-2,2-dinitroethoxysulphur trifluoride is known¹² and the presence of the electron-withdrawing groups apparently stabilises the molecule. The greater stability of aryloxysulphur(IV) fluorides over the alkoxy-derivatives is comparable with that observed for the related phosphorus derivatives.¹³

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials were handled by standard vacuum-line procedures. I.r. spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 457

¹⁰ R. Mews, G. G. Allange, and O. Glemser, *Naturwiss.*, 1970, **57**, 245.

spectrophotometer. Solutions ($<0.05\text{M}$) for i.r. measurements were made up in dry carbon tetrachloride using a Lintott inert-atmosphere box. N.m.r. spectra were recorded, generally at 310 K, on a Perkin-Elmer R10 spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded on an A.E.I. M.S.12 spectrometer using an accelerating voltage of 70 eV and a source temperature of 350–390 K. Analyses are by Bernhardt.

Sulphur tetrafluoride was purchased from P.C.R. and was redistilled from dry sodium fluoride. Silyl ethers were prepared by refluxing the appropriate phenol with chlorotrimethylsilane overnight;¹⁴ the silyl ethers were distilled at atmospheric pressure. The preparation of phenylene-1,2-dioxybis(trimethylsilane) required a refluxing period of 5 days.

Reactions were carried out in flamed-out Pyrex tubes fitted with Teflon stopcocks as described for the preparation of aryloxy-derivatives of thionyl tetrafluoride.⁷ The relative amounts of reactants and products are given in the Tables.

Hydrolysis of aryloxysulphur trifluorides gave fluorosulphinates $\text{XC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OS(O)F}$ characterised by the appearance of parent ions in their mass spectra. The identical fluorosulphinates were also prepared by fluorination of arylchlorosulphinates with sodium fluoride in acetonitrile.⁸

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