

Reactions of Sulfoxides with Magnesium Amides. Transformation of Sulfoxides into Sulfides, Dithioacetals, and Vinyl Sulfides

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The reactions of sulfoxides with magnesium amides generated in situ from the reaction of ethylmagnesium bromide and secondary amines, such as diisopropylamine (DIPA) or 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine (TMP) in diethyl ether, were examined. Diaryl sulfoxides were heated with the diisopropylaminomagnesium reagent in diethyl ether to give the corresponding diaryl sulfides in 42–52% yields. Sulfoxides bearing hydrogens at the α -position only (RSOCH_2R^1) reacted with the tetramethylpiperidinomagnesium reagent at room temperature to produce the corresponding dithioacetals (RSCHR^1SR) in 47–86% yields. The treatment of sulfoxides bearing hydrogens both at the α - and β -positions ($\text{RSOCHR}^1\text{CHR}^2\text{R}^3$) with the magnesium amides at room temperature afforded the corresponding vinyl sulfides ($\text{RSCR}^1=\text{CR}^2\text{R}^3$) in 52–72% yields accompanying 2.3–27% yields of the corresponding dithioacetals. The pathways leading to the products involving the formation of the sulfur-stabilized carbonium ion intermediates are discussed.

The deoxygenation of sulfoxides is of importance from a synthetic viewpoint in organic chemistry. A survey of the literature has revealed that a variety of reducing agents have been employed for the transformation of sulfoxides into the corresponding sulfides.¹⁾ We examined the reactions of various sulfoxides **1**, **3**, and **9** with magnesium amides,²⁾ generated in situ by the treatment of ethylmagnesium bromide with secondary amines, such as diisopropylamine (DIPA) or 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine (TMP), and found that the reactions give the corresponding sulfides **2**, dithioacetals **4**, and(or) vinyl sulfides **10**, depending on the structure of the starting sulfoxides. In the present publication we wish to report on the details of these reactions.³⁾

Diaryl sulfoxides **1** are reduced with the diisopropylaminomagnesium reagent to give the corresponding diaryl sulfides **2**, indicating that the reagent is a new reducing agent for the transformation of sulfoxides into sulfides.

Sulfoxides bearing α -hydrogens **3** react with the magnesium amides to afford the corresponding dithioacetals **4**. Dithioacetals have been utilized in C–C bond formations,⁴⁾ and generally prepared by the acid-catalyzed condensation of carbonyl compounds with thiols.⁵⁾ The reaction offers a new entry to this class of compounds.

The reaction of sulfoxides bearing both of α - and β -hydrogens **9** with the reagents affords the corresponding vinyl sulfides **10**. The reaction provides an efficient method for the preparation of vinyl sulfides, which are

convenient intermediates in organic synthesis.⁶⁾ There have been reported a number of methods for the preparation of these derivatives: for instance, 1) condensation of carbonyl compounds with thiols,⁷⁾ 2) interaction of α -sulfonyl carbanions with carbonyl compounds,⁸⁾ 3) the addition of thiols to acetylenes,⁹⁾ 4) transition metal-catalyzed coupling between alkenyl halides and thiolates and the related reactions,¹⁰⁾ 5) elimination of thiols from dithioacetals,¹¹⁾ and so on.¹²⁾ Miller and McKean have also reported on the eliminative deoxygenation of sulfoxides bearing both α - and β -hydrogens to vinyl sulfides with trimethylsilyl iodide.¹³⁾ The magnesium amides are illustrated to be useful reagents for the eliminative deoxygenation of sulfoxides.

Results and Discussion

Reduction of Diaryl Sulfoxides **1 with the Magnesium Amides.** Sulfoxides **1a** and **b** were treated with the diisopropylaminomagnesium reagent to give the corresponding sulfides **2a** and **b** in moderate yields (Eq. 1). For example, a mixture of **1a** (1 mmol) and the magnesium amide, generated from ethylmagnesium bromide (2 mmol) and DIPA (4 mmol) in 10 ml of diethyl ether at 0 °C for 1 h, was heated under reflux for 6 h. After the usual work-up of the resulting reaction mixture, purification of the crude product by preparative TLC on silica gel gave **2a** in 42% yield. Similarly, **1b** was converted to **2b** in 54% yield. The reduction of **1** with the 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidinomagnesium reagent was very sluggish, and

$$\text{PhS(O)CH}_3 \xrightarrow[\text{Et}_2\text{O, 0}^\circ\text{C} \rightarrow \text{r. t.}]{\text{EtMgBr-HNR}_2} (\text{PhS})_2\text{CH}_2 + \text{PhSCH}_3 + \text{PhSCH}_2\text{Et}$$

3a **4a** **6** **7**

a) Isolated yields determined by preparative TLC on SiO₂.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{RS(O)R} & \xrightarrow[\text{Et}_2\text{O}]{4\text{EtMgBr} \cdot 8\text{HNPr}_2'} & \text{RSR} \\ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{1a} \text{ R=Ph} \\ \mathbf{1b} \text{ R=p-Tol} \end{array} & & \begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{2a} \text{ R=Ph} & 42\% \\ \mathbf{2b} \text{ R=p-Tol} & 54\% \end{array} \end{array} \quad (1)$$
$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 2\text{RS(O)CH}_2\text{R}' & \xrightarrow{\text{EtMgBr-HNR}''_2} & (\text{RS})_2\text{CHR}' & + & \text{R}'\text{CH}_2\text{NR}''_2 \\
 \mathbf{3} & & \mathbf{4} & & \mathbf{5}
 \end{array}
 \quad (2)$$
$$\text{RS(O)CH}_2\text{R}' \xrightarrow[\text{Et}_2\text{O}]{4\text{EtMgBr}\cdot 8\text{TMP}} (\text{RS})_2\text{CHR}' + \text{RSCHR}'\text{CHR}'\text{SR}$$

a) Isolated yields by preparative TLC on SiO₂ or distillation.

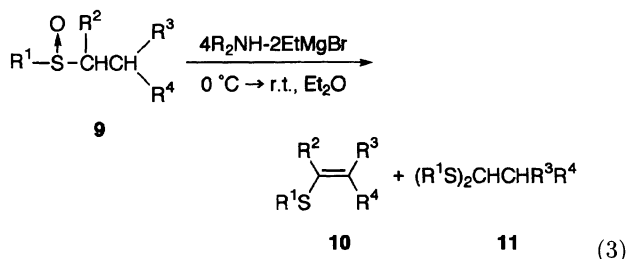
Eliminative Deoxygenation of Sulfoxides Bearing both α - and β -Hydrogens 9 Yielding Vinyl Sulfides 10. Sulfoxides **9** have proven to give vinyl sulfides **10** upon treatment with the magnesium amides (Eq. 3). The results are summarized in Table 3. The dehydration reactions of **9a**, **b**, **c**, **d**, and **e** were carried out using TMP as a secondary amine, affording **10a**, **b**, **c**, **d**, and **e** (53–72%) together with the corresponding dithioacetals **11a**, **b**, **c**, **d**, and **e** (2.3–27%) (Entries 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). The proper choice of a secondary amine was important in these reactions. The transformation of **9a**, **b**, **c**, **d**, and **e** with DIPA in the place of TMP proved not to be effective. Considerably diminished yields of **10a**, **b**, **c**, **d**, and **e** were realized. On the other hand, the reactions of **9f** and **g** were effected with DIPA to give **10f** and **g** in 65 and 71% yields, respectively, without any detectable formation of the corresponding dithioacetals (Entries 6 and 7). The dehydration of an aliphatic sulfoxide could be performed using TMP (Entry 8). The *E/Z* ratios of **10c**, **f**, and **g**

Table 3. Formation of Vinyl Sulfides **10** and Dithioacetals **11** by the Treatment of Sulfoxides **9** with Magnesium Amides

Entry	9					R ₂ NH	10 (Yield/%) ^{a)}		11 (Yield/%) ^{a)}	
	R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁴						
1	Ph	H	H	H	(9a)	TMP	10a ^{b)}	(72)	11a	(10)
2	<i>p</i> -Tol	H	H	H	(9b)	TMP	10b	(62)	11b	(17)
3	Ph	H	Me	H	(9c)	TMP	10c ^{c)}	(59)	11c	(15)
4	Ph	H	Me	Me	(9d)	TMP	10d	(53)	11d	(27)
5	Ph	H	Ph	H	(9e)	TMP	10e	(59)	11e	(2.3)
6	Ph	Me	H	H	(9f)	DIPA	10f	(71)	—	—
7	Ph	Ph	H	H	(9g)	DIPA	10g	(65)	—	—
8	Bu	H	Et	H	(9h)	TMP	10h ^{d)}	(55)	—	—

a) Isolated yields. b) A mixture of stereoisomers (*E*:*Z*=1:1). c) A mixture of stereoisomers (*E*:*Z*=8:5). d) A mixture of stereoisomers (*E*:*Z*=1:1).

were confirmed by 1H NMR spectra.



Probable Pathways Leading to the Products.¹⁴⁾

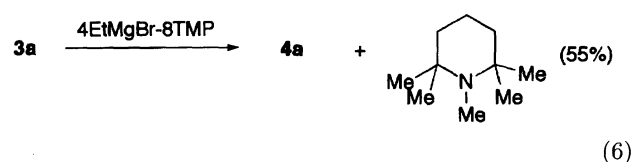
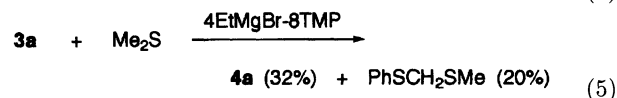
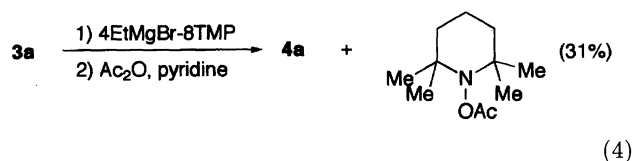
The probable mechanism for the reduction of sulfoxide **1** to sulfide **2** is outlined in Scheme 1. First, the addition of the magnesium amide **12** to **1** generates the tetravalent sulfur intermediate **13**.^{14b)} Disproportionation of **13** gives rise to **2** and a hydroxylamine.

The pathway shown in Scheme 2 may be assumed for the transformation of sulfoxides **3** into dithioacetals **4**. Deprotonation of α -hydrogen of **3** by **12** generates the ylide **14**,^{14c)} which then gives the stabilized carbonium ion **15**. A preferential attack of the sulfide **16**, produced by the reduction of **3** (as mentioned above) to **15** gives the sulfonium ion intermediate **17**. Phenyl propyl sulfide (**7**) arises from a combination of **15** ($R=\text{Ph}$, $R'=\text{H}$) and an excess of ethylmagnesium bromide. Compound **8** results from a reaction of **15** ($R=\text{Bn}$, $R'=\text{Ph}$) with **14** ($R=\text{Bn}$, $R'=\text{Ph}$) followed by a reduction of the resulting intermediate **18**; the formation of **8** is attributable to the stability of **14** ($R=\text{Bn}$, $R'=\text{Ph}$). The addition of the amide to **15** does not proceed. Most probably, this is due to a steric hindrance of the amide base. The sulfonium ion **17** is cloven by an attack of the amide to produce **4**.¹⁵⁾

Scheme 3 outlines a reaction path for the formation of vinyl sulfides **10** from sulfoxides **9**. This reaction is also considered to proceed through the stabilized cationic intermediate **19**, which is deprotonated to afford **10**.

The disproportionation process in the reduction of sulfoxides to sulfides has been verified by the isolation of rather unstable 1-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine

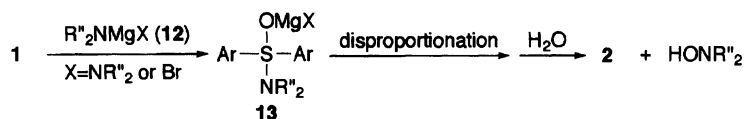
as its *O*-acetylated form in the reaction of **3a** with the tetramethylpiperidinomagnesium reagent followed by a treatment with acetic anhydride (Eq. 4). The participation of **16** in the reaction pathway has been confirmed by the finding that the reaction of **3a** with the magnesium amide in the presence of dimethyl sulfide affords methylthio(phenylthio)methane (Eq. 5). Moreover, the isolation of 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (**5**: $R'=\text{H}$, $\text{NR}''_2=2,2,6,6\text{-tetramethylpiperidino}$) in the reaction of **3a** with the magnesium amide gives further support to our mechanism (Eq. 6).



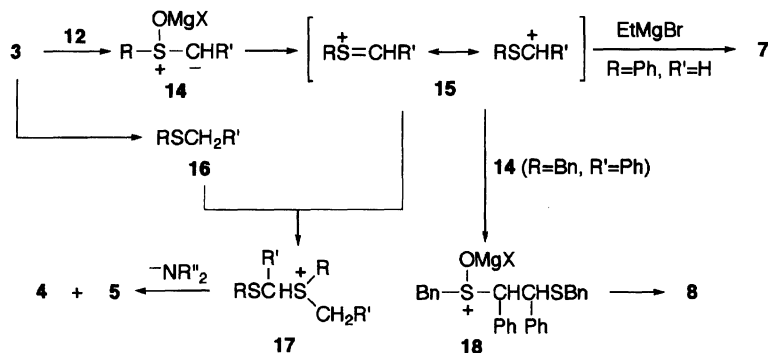
Experimental

General. The mps were recorded with a Laboratory Devices MEL-TEMP II melting-point apparatus and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were determined with a Perkin-Elmer 1600 Series FT IR spectrometer. The 1H NMR spectra were determined using SiMe_4 as an internal reference with either a Hitachi R-90 FT NMR spectrometer operating at 90 MHz or a JEOL JNM-GX270 NMR spectrometer operating at 270 MHz. High- and low-resolution mass spectra were recorded with a JEOL JMS-DX 303 spectrometer. Column chromatography was carried out on Merck Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄. TLC was carried out on a Merck Kieselgel 60 PF₂₅₄. All of the solvents used were dried over appropriate drying agents and distilled under argon prior to use. All of the reactions were carried out under argon.

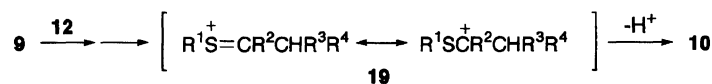
Starting Materials. Sulfoxides **1a**, **b**, **3a**, **d**, and **f**



Scheme 1.



Scheme 2.



Scheme 3.

were commercially available. Sulfoxides **3b**,¹⁶⁾ **c**,¹⁷⁾ and **e**¹⁸⁾ were prepared by the NaIO₄ oxidation of the corresponding sulfides obtained commercially. Sulfoxides **9a**,¹⁹⁾ **b**,²⁰⁾ **c**,²¹⁾ **d**,²²⁾ **e**,²³⁾ **f**,²²⁾ and **g**^{14f)} were prepared by the standard method (alkylation of the corresponding sodium thiolates followed by the NaIO₄ oxidation of the resulting sulfides).

Diphenyl Sulfide (2a). To a turbid solution of magnesium amide, which was generated by a treatment of EtMgBr (2.0 mmol) with diisopropylamine (0.41 g, 4.0 mmol) in Et₂O (6 ml) at 0 °C for 1 h, was added a solution of diphenyl sulfoxide (**1a**) (0.10 g, 0.50 mmol). The resulting mixture was refluxed for 6 h. After the resulting mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, it was quenched by adding aq NH₄Cl and extracted with Et₂O. The extract was washed with brine, dried over anhyd MgSO₄, and evaporated. The residue was subjected to purification by preparative TLC (3:1 hexane–EtOAc) to afford **2a** (39 mg, 42%).

Bis(4-methylphenyl) Sulfide (2b): Mp 55–57 °C (EtOH) (lit.²⁴⁾ 56–57 °C). This compound was obtained from bis(4-methylphenyl) sulfoxide (**1b**) in 54% yield in a similar manner as above.

Reaction of Methyl Phenyl Sulfoxide (3a) with Magnesium Amides Generated from Various Combinations of EtMgBr and Secondary Amines. Methyl phenyl sulfoxide (**3a**) (0.14 g, 1.0 mmol) was added dropwise to a turbid solution of magnesium amides generated from various combinations of EtMgBr and secondary amines, such as TMP (reflux, 5 h) or DIPA (0 °C, 1 h) in Et₂O (12 mL), at 0 °C. After the resulting mixture had been stirred overnight at room temperature, it was quenched with aq NH₄Cl and extracted with Et₂O. The extract was washed with brine and dried over anhyd MgSO₄. Upon evaporation of the dried extract a yellow oil remained, which was purified by preparative TLC (EtOAc–hexane=1:10) to afford products **4a**, **6** and (or) **7** in the yields listed in Table 1.

Bis(phenylthio)methane (4a): Identified by a di-

rect comparison with an authentic sample obtained commercially.

Methyl Phenyl Sulfide (6): Identified by a direct comparison with an authentic sample obtained commercially.

Phenyl Propyl Sulfide (7): Identified by a comparison of its ¹H NMR spectrum with that reported by Kremer and Helquist.²⁵⁾

Reactions of Sulfoxides 3 with the Magnesium Amide Generated from 4 equiv of EtMgBr and 8 equiv of TMP. Following the procedure described above, products **4b**, **c**, **d**, **e**, **f**, and **8** were obtained. The spectral and/or analytical data of these compounds are as follows.

Bis(4-chlorophenylthio)methane (4b):²⁶⁾ *R*_f 0.52 (1:10 EtOAc–hexane); IR (neat) 1476, 1093, 1012, and 814 cm^{−1}; ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=4.27 (2H, s) and 7.31 (8H, s); MS *m/z* (%) 302 (11), 300 (M⁺, 15), and 157 (100).

Bis(4-methylphenylthio)methane (4c):²⁶⁾ Identified by a comparison of its ¹H NMR spectrum with that reported by Kakimoto, Seri, and Imai.^{5b)}

Bis(methylthio)methane (4d): Identified by a direct comparison with an authentic sample obtained commercially.

Bis(*t*-butylthio)methane (4e):²⁷⁾ Identified by a comparison of its ¹H NMR spectrum with that reported by Bannister.^{27b)}

Phenyl[bis(phenylthio)]methane (4f): Mp 59–60 °C (hexane) (lit.²⁸⁾ 61 °C).

1,2-Bis(benzylthio)-1,2-diphenylethane (8): A mixture of diastereomers (ca. 1:1) *R*_f 0.44 (EtOAc–hexane=1:10); IR (neat) 1492, 1452, 714, and 697 cm^{−1}; ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=3.13 (1H, d, *J*=16.9 Hz), 3.31 (1H, d, *J*=13.1 Hz), 3.33 (1H, d, *J*=16.9 Hz), 3.48 (1H, d, *J*=13.1 Hz), 3.97 (1H, s), 4.07 (1H, s), and 6.9–7.3 (20H, m); MS *m/z* (%) 426 (M⁺, 0.68), 213 (80), and 91 (100). Found: *m/z* 426.1477. Calcd for C₂₈H₂₆S₂: M, 426.1476.

Isolation of 1-Acetoxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine in the Reaction of Methyl Phenyl Sulfoxide (3a) with the Magnesium Amide Generated from EtMgBr and TMP Followed by Treatment with Acetic Anhydride. A reaction mixture of **3a** (1 mmol) with the magnesium amide generated from EtMgBr (4 mmol) and TMP (8 mmol) was worked up as usual. After evaporation of the dried Et₂O solution, pyridine (1.5 ml) and acetic anhydride (1.1 ml) were added to the residue at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature and then diluted with Et₂O. The Et₂O solution was successively washed with water, 0.1% aq HCl, and sat. NaHCO₃, dried over anhyd MgSO₄, and evaporated. Dry-column chromatography (1:3 EtOAc-hexane) of the residue gave a crude product (78 mg, *R*_f 0.5–0.7), which was recrystallized from light petroleum to give pure 1-acetoxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine (31 mg, 31%): Mp 63–65 °C (lit.²⁹ 63.5–65 °C).

Reaction of 3a with the Magnesium Amide in the Presence of Dimethyl Sulfide. To a stirred solution of the magnesium amide generated from 4 mmol of EtMgBr and 8 mmol of TMP was added successively **3a** (0.14 g, 1.0 mmol) and dimethyl sulfide (31 mg, 0.5 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight and worked up in a similar manner as mentioned above. Purification of the crude product by preparative TLC gave **4a** (37 mg, 32%) and methylthio(phenylthio)methane³⁰ (34 mg, 20%): *R*_f 0.18 (EtOAc-hexane=1:10); IR (neat) 1583, 1480, 1438, 1200, 1088, 1068, 1025, 738, and 689 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CCl₄) δ=2.17 (3H, s), 3.91 (2H, s), and 7.05–7.45 (5H, m).

Isolation of 1,2,2,6,6-Pentamethylpiperidine in the Reaction of 3a with the Magnesium Amide. The resulting mixture of the reaction of **3a** (1 mmol) and the tetramethylpiperidinomagnesium reagent was filtered, and the filtrate was extracted with 10% aq HCl. The aqueous extract was made alkaline by adding 10% aq NaOH and extracted with Et₂O. Kugelrohr distillation (bath temp; 120 °C/267 Pa) of the dried Et₂O solution gave a mixture of 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine and TMP (ca. 1:5, 0.24 g; the former, 43 mg, 55%), which were identified by a direct comparison with authentic samples obtained commercially.

Phenyl Vinyl Sulfide (10a) and 1,1-Bis(phenylthio)ethane (11a). Typical Procedure for the Reaction of Sulfoxide **9** with Magnesium Amides. A solution of EtMgBr (1.3 mmol) and TMP (0.29 g, 2.6 mmol) in Et₂O (4 ml) was refluxed for 5 h. To the turbid mixture was added ethyl phenyl sulfoxide (**9a**) (0.10 g, 0.65 mmol) at room temperature under stirring; the resultant mixture was stirred for an additional 3 h at room temperature. It was then quenched by adding aq NH₄Cl, and the organic phase was separated. After the aqueous phase had been extracted with diethyl ether, the combined extract was washed with brine, dried over anhyd MgSO₄, and evaporated to give a residue, which was purified by preparative TLC (1:10 EtOAc-hexane). The isolated products were **10a** (75 mg, 72%) and **11a**³¹ (8.0 mg, 10%).

The reactions of **9b**, **c**, **d**, **e**, and **h** were conducted under the above-mentioned conditions. The reactions **9f** and **g** were carried out using the magnesium amide generated from EtMgBr and DIPA in place of TMP.

4-Methylphenyl Vinyl Sulfide (10b).²⁰ The spec-

tral data (IR and ¹H NMR) of this product were identical with those reported by Magnus et al.^{12f}

1,1-Bis[(4-methylphenyl)thio]ethane (11b): *R*_f 0.41; IR (neat) 1492, 1443, 1178, 1091, 1046, 1018 and 809 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 90 MHz) δ=1.48 (3H, d, *J*=7.0 Hz, 2-H), 2.26 (6H, s, ArMe), 4.34 (1H, q, *J*=7.0 Hz, 1-H), 7.03 (4H, d, *J*=8.1 Hz, ArH), and 7.30 (4H, d, *J*=8.1 Hz, ArH); MS *m/z* (%) 274 (M⁺, 10) 246 (18), and 151 (100). Found: *m/z* 274.0875. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₈S₂: M, 274.0851.

Phenyl (E)- and (Z)-1-Propenyl Sulfide (10c):³² (ca. 1:1); *R*_f 0.68; IR (neat) 1615, 1586, 1480, 1439, 1091, 1025, 738, and 689 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 90 MHz) δ=1.83 and 1.84 (3H, 2d *J*=6.6 Hz each, Me), 5.7–6.3 (2H, m, vinylic H), and 7.1–7.35 (5H, m, ArH).

1,1-Bis(phenylthio)propane (11c):³³ The spectral data (IR and ¹H NMR) of this product were identical with those reported by Blatcher and Warren.^{33b}

2-Methyl-1-propenyl Phenyl Sulfide (10d): The spectral data (IR and ¹H NMR) of this product were identical with those reported by Carey and Court.⁸

2-Methyl-1,1-bis(phenylthio)propane (11d): The spectral data (IR and ¹H NMR) of this product were identical with those reported by Blatcher and Warren.^{33b}

Phenyl (E)- and (Z)-2-Phenylethenyl Sulfide (10e):³⁵ (ca. 8:5) The spectral data (IR and ¹H NMR) of this product were identical with those reported by Ogawa, Hayami, and Suzuki.^{35b}

2-Phenyl-1,1-bis(phenylthio)ethane (11e):³³ The spectral data (IR and ¹H NMR) of this product were identical with those reported by Blatcher and Warren.^{33b}

1-Methylethenyl Phenyl Sulfide (10f):³⁴ The spectral data (IR and ¹H NMR) of this product were identical with those reported by Groen et al.^{32a}

Phenyl 1-Phenylethenyl Sulfide (10g):^{33a} The spectra data (IR and ¹H NMR) of this product were identical with those reported by Deljac et al.^{33a}

(E)- and (Z)-1-Butenyl Butyl Sulfide (10h):¹³ (ca. 1:1); *R*_f 0.58 (hexane); IR (neat) 1607, 1463, 1378, 1298, 1274, 940, 744, and 668 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 270 MHz) δ=0.92 [3H, t, *J*=7.3 Hz, (CH₂)₃CH₃], 1.00 (3H, *J*=6.6 Hz, =CHCH₂CH₃), 1.35–1.45 [2H, m, -(CH₂)₂CH₂CH₃], 1.55–1.65 (2H, m, CH₃CH₂C₂H₅), 2.05–2.15 (2H, m, =CHCH₂CH₃), 2.6–2.7 (2H, m, SCH₂), 5.52 (0.5H, dt, *J*=9.2 and 6.9 Hz, SCH=CH of *Z* form), 5.65 (0.5H, dt *J*=15.2 and 6.3 Hz, SCH=CH of *E* form), and 5.85–5.95 (1H, m, SCH=CH).

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