

## Benzophenonethio-oximate Ion

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*Summary* The reaction between bis-(diphenylmethylenamino) disulphide and n-butyl-lithium gives the anion of benzophenone thio-oxime which can be trapped with 2,4-dinitrofluorobenzene to give *N*-(2,4-dinitrophenylthio)diphenylmethylenamine.

In an extension of our work on hydroxylamine derivatives we have attempted to prepare and isolate thio-oximes.<sup>1</sup> The >N-SH system is unknown,<sup>2</sup> although *S*-substituted derivatives of hydrosulphamides (sulphenamides,<sup>3</sup> RSNH<sub>2</sub>) and thio-oximes<sup>3,4</sup> (R<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>C=NSR<sup>2</sup>) have been prepared, usually from imines, *e.g.* (1). Hunger postulated<sup>5</sup> the

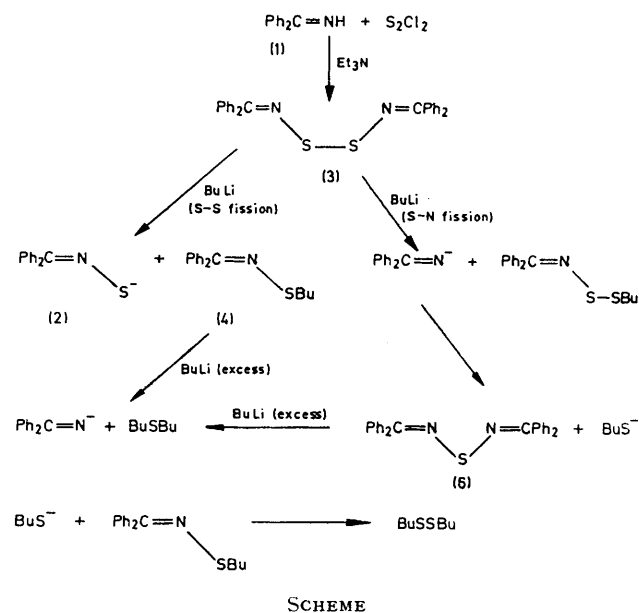
transient existence of a thio-oximate anion (2) during the alkaline hydrolysis of a phosphorylated thio-oxime but he was unable to substantiate this. We now report the generation and trapping of this anion.

Our approach involves the reaction of butyl-lithium with bis(diphenylmethylenamino) disulphide (3) (prepared according to the method of Exner<sup>6,†</sup>) which should result in the cleavage of the disulphide bond,<sup>7</sup> (see Scheme).

Addition of Bu<sup>n</sup>Li (1 mol. equiv.) to (3) in benzene under nitrogen, followed by the addition of 2,4-dinitrofluorobenzene to trap the anion (2) if formed, gave a number of products. These included the *N*-(n-butylthio)diphenyl-

† In our hands this compound melted at 164—166°, then recrystallised on further heating and remelted at 178—180°. Exner<sup>6</sup> reports a m.p. of 176°.

methyleneamine (4) [50%, based on starting material (3) consumed], and the *N*-(2,4-dinitrophenylthio)diphenylmethylenamine, (5) (10%) as yellow crystals, m.p. 224—226°, identical to authentic material,<sup>‡</sup> confirming the



strongly implies that S-S cleavage is an important reaction in this system, other processes clearly play a major part also. Thus, in addition to (4) and (5) we also isolated the following by p.l.c.: dibutyl disulphide, dibutyl sulphide, benzophenone (from decomposition of diphenylmethylenamine on the p.l.c. plate) and the sulphide (6). These products, especially (6), clearly indicate the possibility of S-N bond cleavage in (3), and this possibility was firmly substantiated by the observation that reaction of *S*-alkyl thio-oximes with butyl-lithium gave imine anions and alkyl butyl sulphide. Furthermore, the monosulphide (6) itself was converted by excess of butyl-lithium into the imine anion (isolated as benzophenone, 96%) and dibutyl sulphide (88%).

We found also that addition of 3 mol. equiv. of butyl-lithium to (3) gave only dibutyl disulphide, dibutyl sulphide, and imine anion, characterised as the *N*-(2,4-dinitrophenyl) derivative, m.p. 126—128° (52%). We postulate a reaction mechanism of the type in the Scheme to explain the products obtained.

Although the yield of the thio-oximate anion (2) is low, these experiments show that it is sufficiently stable to be trapped, and therefore capable of being used for reactions *in situ*. They also show that further experiments to improve the yield and to provide methods of isolating the salt are warranted.

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presence of the thio-oximate anion (2) in the reaction mixture.§ However, although the isolation of (5) together with (4)

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‡ All compounds reported had satisfactory elemental analyses and/or correct values for precise mass spectrometrically determined molecular weights. Their i.r. and n.m.r. spectra, where appropriate, were in accord with the assigned structures.

§ 2,4-Dinitrofluorobenzene does not react with (3) under these conditions.

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<sup>2</sup> See however, F. Tiemann, *Ber.*, 1891, **24**, 369.

<sup>3</sup> C. Brown and B. T. Grayson, *Mech. Reactions Sulphur Compounds*, 1970, **5**, 93; J. Almog, D. H. R. Barton, P. D. Magnus, and R. K. Norris, *J.C.S. Perkin I*, 1974, 853.

<sup>4</sup> F. A. Davis and E. B. Skibo, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1974, **39**, 807 and references therein.

<sup>5</sup> K. Hunger, *Ber.*, 1967, **100**, 2214.

<sup>6</sup> O. Exner, *Coll. Czech. Chem. Comm.*, 1963, **28**, 3150.

<sup>7</sup> A. Schonberg, A. Stephenson, H. Kaltschmidt, E. Peterson, and H. Schulten, *Ber.*, 1933, **66**, 237.