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We have accomplished the synthesis of previously unknown 4,4-dialkyl-4H-1,3-benzo-thiazines (I) by reaction of 2-mercapto- α , α -dialkylbenzyl alcohols with nitriles under the influence of acidic agents (H₂SO₄, HClO₄) via the scheme

$$R = H. CH2C6H5$$

$$R' = R' R'$$

$$SR = H. CH2C6H5$$

$$R' = R' R'$$

$$SR = H. CH2C6H5$$

$$R' = H. CH2C6H5$$

$$R'$$

 $1 \text{ a } R'' = CH_3; \text{ } b \text{ } R'' = C_6H_5; \text{ } III \text{ } R' = C_2H_5$

The IR, UV, and PMR spectral data are in agreement with assigned structure I. Spontaneous debenzylation occurs under the conditions of condensation of alcohol II $(R = CH_2C_6H_5)$ with nitriles. In addition to benzothiazine I, 7,7,8,8-tetraethyl-7,8-dihydrodibenzo[c,g]thiathiocine (III) is formed. The structure of III was confirmed by its IR spectrum (absence of OH and SH groups) and mass spectrum (symmetrical disintegration of the molecular ion with m/e 356 to a fragment ion with m/e 178, which is accompanied by a metastable transition). Nonequivalence of the CH_2 (and CH_3) protons is observed in the PMR spectrum of III; this seems of interest for the conformational analysis of this sort of eight-membered sulfur-containing ring.

EXPERIMENTAL

Compound III had mp 88-89°. Found: C 74.1; H 8.0; S 17.7%. C₂₂H₂₈S₂. Calculated: C 74.1; H 7.9; S 17.9%.

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