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 CHARACTER OF THE PRODUCTS OF BROMINATION OF 1,3-DIOXACYCLANES  
 WITH N-BROMOSUCCINIMIDE

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The dependence of the character and composition of the products of the reaction of equimolar amounts of N-bromosuccinimide and 1,3-dioxacyclanes on the ring size and the character of the substituent in the 2 position of the 1,3-dioxacyclane ring was examined. Reasons for the primary formation of bromination products of different types for five-, six-, and seven-membered cyclic acetals are proposed.

It is known that acyclic acetals undergo virtually quantitative bromination by N-bromosuccinimide (NBS) to the corresponding  $\alpha$ -bromoacetals [1], whereas this reaction pathway is not characteristic for 2-alkyl-1,3-dioxalanes and 1,3-dioxanes [2, 3], and they form primarily the corresponding bromoalkyl esters of carboxylic acids.

We have examined the dependence of the character and composition of the products of the reaction of 1,3-dioxacyclanes with an equimolar amount of NBS on the ring size and the nature of the substituents in the 2 position. The bromination was carried out in  $\text{CCl}_4$  solution without traces of peroxide at 20–70°C. As expected, 4-bromobutyl esters of formic and benzoic acids, respectively, are formed in up to 75% yields in the case of 1,3-dioxepane and 2-phenyl-1,3-dioxepane at 70°C, while the bromination of 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane (40°C) leads exclusively to 2-methyl-2-bromomethyl-1,3-dioxane in 80% yield.

However, we were able to detect substantial differences in the primary reaction pathway as a function of the ring size in the case of dioxacyclanes with the general formula

$\text{CH}_3\text{CHOCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ . The compositions (in %) and the character of the reaction determined by gas-liquid chromatography (GLC) are presented in Table 1, in which I is

$\text{BrCH}_2\text{CHOCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ , II is  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CH}_2\text{Br}$ , and III are unidentified products.

In the case of 2-butyl-1,3-dioxepane the I:II:III ratio at 70°C is 65:20:15. Irradiation of the reaction mixture at 20°C with a 60-W lamp in the case of 2-methyl-1,3-dioxepane

TABLE 1. Compositions of the Products of Bromination of 1,3-Dioxacyclanes

$n$	$t, ^\circ\text{C}$	I	II	III
0	70	0	85	15
1	40	20	80	—
1	70	14	86	—
2	40	80	10	10
2	70	53	25	22

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makes it possible to preparatively synthesize the corresponding bromide I in 65% yield; only traces of alternative ester II were detected.

The results obtained in this research can most likely be explained by the higher stability of the corresponding 2-(1,3-dioxacyclo)alkyl radicals when  $n = 0, 1$ , and as a consequence, by the greater ease of isomerization of these radicals to acetoxyalkyl radicals which lead to the corresponding bromoalkyl esters. On the other hand, 2-alkyl-1,3-dioxepanes resemble acyclic acetals to a greater extent in their reactions with NBS, and thus the direction of the bromination of cyclic acetals changes substantially on passing from a six-membered ring to a seven-membered ring. Let us note that the corresponding bromide I is formed primarily in the bromination of 2-alkyl-1,3-dioxacyclanes with 1,4-dioxane dibromide, regardless of the size of the ring [4, 5].

In analogy with the results in [6], it may be assumed that III are either the corresponding chloro derivatives, which may be due to the participation of  $\text{CCl}_4$  in chain propagation, or products of the reaction of the hydrogen bromide that is observed in small amounts with the starting compounds, as well as with I and II.

#### EXPERIMENTAL

A mixture of 0.1-mole of 1,3-dioxacyclane and 0.1-mole of NBS in 100-ml of  $\text{CCl}_4$  was stirred in a thermostatted reactor until it became completely colorless. The liberated succinimide was removed by filtration, the solvent was removed by distillation at reduced pressure, and the residue was analyzed by gas-liquid chromatography (LKM-7A, E-301, SKTFT-50, helium, 100-140°C, catharometer) and fractionated *in vacuo*. Alternative reaction products I and II were identified by alternative synthesis by known methods [7-9].

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