

1,4-DIHYDROPYRIDINE DERIVATIVES AS DEACTIVATORS  
OF SINGLET OXYGEN

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The constants of deactivation ( $k_q$ ) of  $^1O_2$  by 1,4-dihydropyridine (1,4-DHP) derivatives were determined by quenching of the luminescence of singlet oxygen ( $^1O_2$ ). The  $k_q$  values for 1,4-DHP derivatives range from  $10^6$  to  $10^7$  liters-mole $^{-1}$ -sec $^{-1}$  and depend to a considerable extent on the nature of the substituents in the 1,4-DHP ring. The presence of a substituent in the 4 position decreases  $k_q$ , while conversion of the 1,4-DHP system to the corresponding pyridine system deprives the compound of its ability to deactivate  $^1O_2$ . As a result of tests of 12 1,4-DHP derivatives it was found that 2,6-dimethyl-3,5-di(phenylcarbamoyl)-1,4-dihydropyridine deactivates  $^1O_2$  most effectively.

It is known [1-3] that oxygen in the singlet excited state, the so-called singlet oxygen ( $^1O_2$ ), actively participates in many biological processes. It has been established that  $^1O_2$  reacts at a high rate both with lipids, thereby triggering their peroxide oxidation, and with amino acids, thereby giving rise to their degradation and, as a result, damage to enzymes, structural proteins, and biomembranes [4, 5]. Hence the interest in substances that deactivate  $^1O_2$  and thus protect biological systems from damage is understandable. The natural substances  $\alpha$ -carotene and  $\beta$ -tocopherol are effective  $^1O_2$  deactivators [6].

Very few tests have been devoted to heterocyclic compounds as  $^1O_2$  deactivators. We have studied 1,4-dihydropyridine (1,4-DHP) derivatives, which constitute a relatively new class of antioxidants that protect lipids from peroxide oxidation [7-9], as  $^1O_2$  deactivators. The literature contains virtually no information relative to the reaction of 1,4-DHP derivatives with  $^1O_2$ , except for a reference [10] to the fact that the photooxidation of NADPH $_2$  to NADP $^+$  in the presence of hematoporphyrin takes place with the participation of  $^1O_2$  and our data [11] that 1,4-DHP derivatives in chloroform undergo sensitized photooxidation.

We determined the constants of deactivation ( $k_q$ ) of  $^1O_2$  by 1,4-DHP derivatives from the quenching of the luminescence of oxygen that corresponds to the  $^1\Delta_g \rightarrow ^3\Sigma_g$  transition in the  $O_2$  molecule ( $\lambda_{max}$  1.27  $\mu$ ).

The results obtained (Table 1) show that 1,4-DHP derivatives are good  $^1O_2$  deactivators. Although the investigated 1,4-DHP derivatives are inferior with respect to their effectiveness to the most active  $^1O_2$  deactivator, viz.,  $\beta$ -carotene, they have virtually the same degree of activity as 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (the generally accepted standard synthetic  $^1O_2$  deactivator) and the widely used antioxidant Ionol (2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxytoluene). The pyridine derivative corresponding to 1,4-DHP (see V and XIII in Table 1) does not deactivate  $^1O_2$ , and this indicates the definite role played by the dihydropyridine system in the reaction of the tested compounds with  $^1O_2$ .

Substitution in the 4 position of the 1,4-dihydropyridine ring by even an electron-donor substituent leads to a significant decrease in the deactivating capacity of 1,4-DHP (compare V and VI, as well as XI and XII). The presence of electron-donor groups in the 2 and 6 positions is also important. The introduction of aryl substituents in these positions (VII) deprives the dihydropyridine system of its ability to deactivate  $^1O_2$ .

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The diethyl ester of mesoporphyrin IX and its complex with Pd(II) served as sensitizers for the formation of  $^1O_2$ ; the sensitizer concentration was  $5 \cdot 10^{-6}$  mole-liter $^{-1}$ .

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#### CALCULATION OF THE ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE AND DIPOLE MOMENTS OF 4-SUBSTITUTED TETRABROMOPYRIDINES

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It is demonstrated from the results of a quantum-chemical calculation by the CNDO/2 (complete neglect of differential overlap/2) method and the experimental dipole moments for a number of 4-substituted tetrabromopyridines that the character of the intramolecular interactions in the investigated compounds differs little from that observed for 4-substituted nonhalogenated pyridines. A linear relationship between the charge on the heteroatom and the  $\sigma_p$  constants for the substituents in the 4 position was observed. A similar relationship was obtained for the experimental dipole moments and the substituent constants.

In the present research we examined a number of 4-substituted tetrabromopyridines, for which we made a calculation of the electronic structure by means of the standard CNDO/2 (complete neglect of differential overlap/2) program [1] in order to study the distribution of the electron density and the transmission of the electronic effects in the investigated molecules. Similar data were previously obtained within the CNDO/2 approximation for fluorine- and chlorine-containing pyridines [2].

The geometrical parameters for the calculation were selected from the fragments of similar molecules [3-6]. The pentabromopyridine molecule was assumed to be planar. Since

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