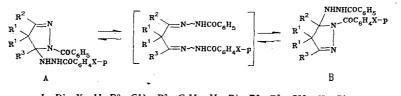
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The existence of bis-acylhydrazones of 1,3-dioxo compounds in the form of the corresponding 1-acyl-5-acylhydrazino-2-pyrazolines [1] anticipates the existence of an $A \neq B$ tautomerism. We are offering the confirmation of this fact by using the derivatives I and II as an example.



I $R^1 = X = H$, $R^2 = CH_3$, $R^3 = C_2H_5$, II $R^1 = R^2 = R^3 = CH_3$, X = CI

Compound I was prepared with a yield of 65% by refluxing benzhydrazide with 2,4-hexanedione in benzene mp 133-135° (from ethanol). All signals in the NMR spectra are double; it is therefore difficult to attribute them to a given form. PMR spectrum (acetone-D₆): 0.91 and 1.01 (t, 3H, J = 7.5 Hz, β -CH₃); 1.85 (s) and 1.88 (t, 3H, J = 1.0 Hz, CH₃); 2.31 (qu, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz, α -CH₂); 2.81 and 3.19 (J_{AB} = 19.0 Hz), 2.98, and 3.08 (2H, J_{AB} = 19.0, J = 1.0 Hz, 4-H); 6.26 (d, 1H, J = 5.5 Hz, NH); 9.20 and 9.69 (d, 1H, J = 5.5 Hz, NHCO), 7.1-8.0 ppm (m, 10H, H_{arom}). The position of the equilibrium A \neq B in the solutions is reached slowly at room temperature; however, it is established rapidly at 100° or in the presence of catalytic amounts of trifluoroacetic acid; the ratio of the forms at equilibrium (about 3:2) is practically independent of the nature of the solvent. The ¹³C NMR spectrum (CDCl₃) contains the following signals: 7.8 and 10.2 (β -CH₃); 15.8 and 22.4 (CH₃); 23.5 and 26.9 (α -CH₂); 45.1 and 46.5 (C(4)); 86.8 and 87.5 (C(5)); 155.2 and 169.7 (C=N); 166.9, 167.9, and 168.1 (C=O); 129.0-135.0 ppm (C_{arom}).

Compound II was prepared by the procedure given in [2]. Due to the similarity between the structures A and B only some signals of the tautomers are resolved in the NMR spectra, the amounts of which present in different solvents are the same. PMR spectrum (acetone- D_6): 1.15 and 1.27 (s, 6H, 4-CH₃); 1.55, 1.58, 1.92, 1.93 (s, 6H, CH₃); 5.65 (broad s, 1H, NH); 9.31 and 9.50 (d, 1H, J = 11.0 Hz, NHCO); 7.0-8.0 ppm (m, 9H, Harom). ¹³C NMR spectrum (CDCl₃): 15.9 and 16.2 (4-CH₃); 18.1 and 18.8 (CH₃); 52.2 (C₍₄₎); 87.6 (C₍₅₎); 163.0 and 164.0 (C=N); 164.8, 165.9, 167.8, and 169.2 (C=O); 126.0-138.0 ppm (C_{arom}).

The existence of the A $\stackrel{>}{\downarrow}$ B tautomerism is confirmed indirectly by published data on the oxidation and mass spectra of compound II and some of its analogs, to which a linear structure has been wrongly attributed [2]. The phenomenon studied represents a new case of the rare ring-ring tautomerism [3-5].

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