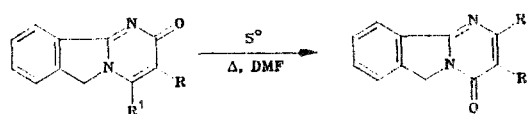


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In tests of dehydrogenation of compounds Ia, b by elemental sulfur in DMFA we have discovered a previously unknown isomerization: 6H-pyrimido[2,1-a]isoindol-2-ones (Ia-d) rearrange to 6H-pyrimido[2,1-a]isoindol-4-ones (IIa-d). The conversion takes place upon brief boiling in DMFA of Ia-d with sulfur in DMFA.



a  $R + R^1 = -(CH_2)_3$ ; b  $R + R^1 = -(CH_2)_4$ ; c  $R = H, R^1 = CH_3$ ; d  $R = H, R^1 = C_6H_5$

In the absence of sulfur the isomerization does not take place. The identity of the isomerization products and IIa-d was demonstrated by mixed melting points and comparison of the IR spectra with those of authentic samples.

Compounds IIa, b have been described in [1]; IIc, d, in [2].

## LITERATURE CITED

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