

111. Three-Component Reactions with Sterically Crowded 2,2,4,4-Tetramethyl-3-thioxocyclobutanone, Phenyl Azide, and Electron-Deficient C,C-Dipolarophiles¹⁾

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Dedicated to Professor *Vladimir Prelog* on the occasion of his 90th birthday

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In order to trap 'thiocarbonyl-aminides' **A**, formed as intermediates in the reaction of thiocarbonyl compounds with phenyl azide, a mixture of 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-3-thioxocyclobutanone (**1**), phenyl azide, and fumaronitrile (**8**) was heated to 80° until evolution of N₂ ceased. Two interception products of the 'thiocarbonyl-aminide' **A** (Ar = Ph) were formed: the known 1,4,2-dithiazolidine **3** (cf. *Scheme 1*) and the new 1,2-thiazolidine **12** (*Scheme 2*). The structure of the latter was established by X-ray crystallography (*Fig. 1*). The analogous 'three-component reaction' with dimethyl fumarate (**9**) yielded, instead of **8**, in addition to the known interception products **3** and **6** (*Scheme 1*), two unexpected products **15** and **16** (*Scheme 3*), of which the structures were elucidated by X-ray crystallography (*Fig. 2*). Their formation is rationalized by a primary [2 + 3] cycloaddition of diazo compound **18** with **1** to give **19**, followed by a cascade of further reactions (*Scheme 4*).

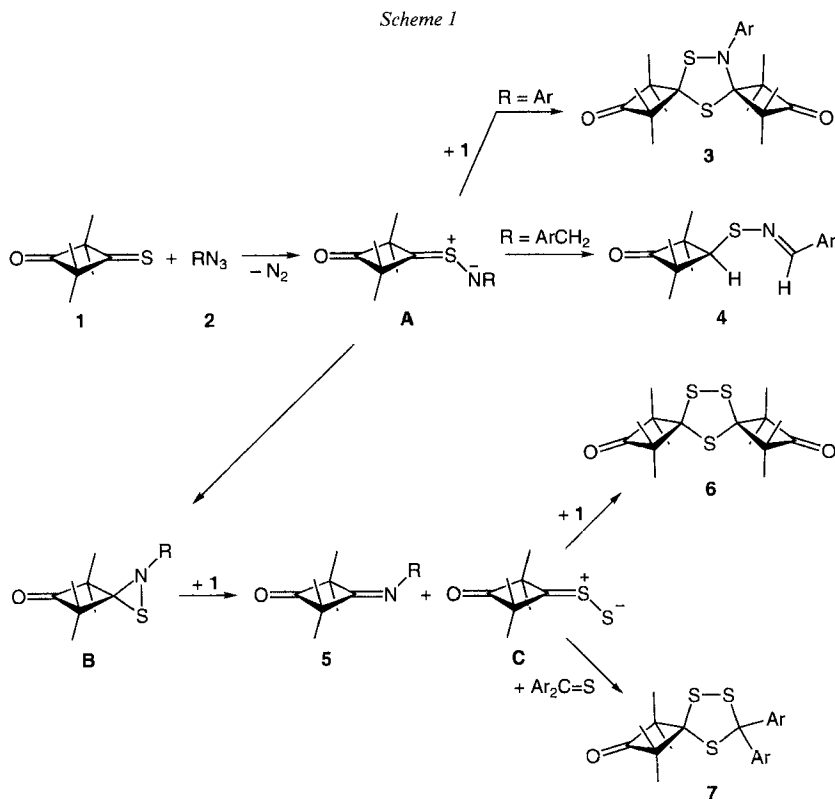
1. Introduction. – In a series of recent papers, we described results of reactions of thiocarbonyl compounds with organic azides. Generally, the primary [2 + 3] cycloadduct easily eliminated N₂ under the reaction conditions (80°, neat) to generate the corresponding 'thiocarbonyl-aminide' (*N*-(alkylidenesulfonio)aminide)²⁾. Further transformation is strongly dependent on the substituents attached to the thiocarbonyl C-atom and the aminide N-atom. In general, ring closure of the 'thiocarbonyl-aminide' to give an unstable thiaziridine intermediate, followed by a spontaneous desulfurization resulted in the formation of the imine derivative [1–5] (and refs. cit. therein).

When thioketone **1** was reacted with aryl azides **2** (R = Ar), the intermediate 'thiocarbonyl-aminide' **A** was trapped by unconsumed **1** to afford 1,4,2-dithiazolidines **3** [6] (*Scheme 1*). In the case of benzyl-substituted azides **2** (R = ArCH₂), the S-centered 1,3-dipole **A** underwent a rearrangement *via* a 1,4-H shift to give thiooxime *S*-ethers of type **4** [2]. Furthermore, transfer of an S-atom from thiaziridines **B** to **1** gave imines **5** and an intermediate 'thiocarbonyl-thiolate' **C**, which effectively added to C=S bonds to form

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²⁾ The names 'thiocarbonyl-aminide' and 'thiocarbonyl-thiolate' are short forms for '*N*-(alkylidenesulfonio)aminide' and '*S*-(alkylidenesulfonio)thiolate', respectively; commonly these classes of S-centered 1,3-dipoles are named 'thiocarbonyl *S*-imides' and 'thiocarbonyl *S*-sulfides', respectively.

1,2,4-trithiolane **6** [3] (for comparison, see [5]). When a similar reaction was carried out in the presence of an aromatic thioketone (three-component system), mixed 1,2,4-trithiolanes of type **7** were formed in good yields [3].



Thioketones are known as ‘super-dipolarophiles’ [7], and the formation of interception products of type **3**, **6**, and **7** confirmed their high reactivity towards S-centered 1,3-dipoles. From the synthetic point of view, it was desirable to examine whether or not other well known C,C-dipolarophiles can be similarly used to trap the intermediate ‘thiocarbonyl S-imides’ and ‘thiocarbonyl S-sulfides’, respectively. The successful trapping would open a new access to S-heterocycles in a simple one-pot reaction with three components.

2. Results and Discussion. – Several years ago, *Huisgen* and coworkers showed that ‘thiocarbonyl S-methanides’ react very efficiently with electron-deficient C,C-dipolarophiles to give the corresponding [2 + 3] cycloadducts [8] [9]. Based on these results, we expected a similar reactivity of other S-centered 1,3-dipoles. For this reason, and in order to trap ‘thiocarbonyl S-imides’ **A** and/or ‘thiocarbonyl S-sulfides’ **C** derived from thioketone **1**, we chose for our studies well known and easily accessible dipolarophiles, such as fumarodinitrile (**8**), dimethyl fumarate (**9**), and dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (**10**). The results obtained with these dipolarophiles differed significantly.

A solution of equimolar amounts of **1** and **8** in an excess of phenyl azide (PhN_3) was heated until the red color of the solution disappeared and N_2 evolution ceased. After removing excess PhN_3 , the mixture was analyzed by means of $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectroscopy: 2 *d*'s at 4.89 and 4.23 ppm with $J = 2.6$ Hz and 4 *s*'s for nonequivalent Me groups at 1.68, 1.63, 1.50, and 1.27 ppm revealed the presence of an interception product. In addition to these signals, a characteristic *s* at high field (0.47 ppm) indicated that the previously described **3** [6] was also formed. Chromatographic workup afforded **3**, 1-phenyl-1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4-carbonitrile (**11**), and the 1,2-thiazolidine derivative **12** (Scheme 2). The three products were isolated in almost equal amounts. Their structures were elucidated by means of the spectral data, and in the case of the interception product **12**, the structure was confirmed by X-ray crystallography (Fig. 1).

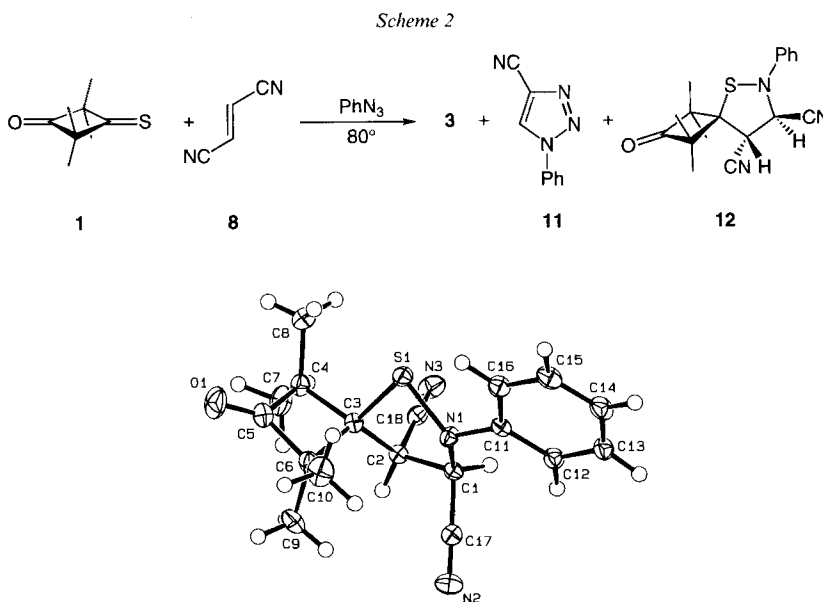
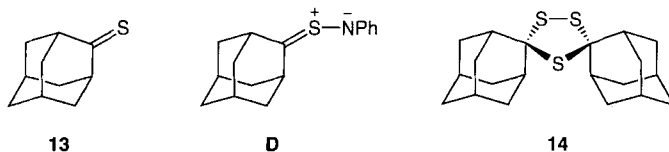


Fig. 1. ORTEP Plot [10] of one of the two independent molecules of 1,2-thiazolidine **12** in the asymmetric unit (with 50% probability ellipsoids)

The route leading to **3** was discussed in detail in one of our previous papers [6] and is depicted in Scheme 1. The triazole **11** results from a 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of PhN_3 with **8**, followed by elimination of HCN from the primary adduct [11]. The third compound **12** is the expected interception product of the three-component reaction. Its formation can be rationalized by a [2 + 3] cycloaddition of intermediate **A** with **8**³⁾. The crystal structure shows the *trans* configuration of the CN groups and, therefore, we conclude that the stereospecific cycloaddition occurs in a concerted manner. As the yields of **3** and **12** are almost equal, one may conclude that the dipolarophilic reactivity of **1** and **8** towards **A** must be similar.

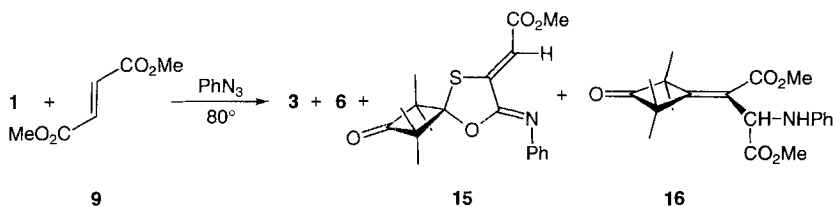
³⁾ Recently, Roesky *et al.* described 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions of a stable bis(trifluoromethyl)-substituted 'thiocarbonyl *S*-imide' with some alkenes [12].

In many reactions with S-centered 1,3-dipoles, **1** and adamantanethione (**13**) behaved similarly [13–15]. For this reason, we compared the behavior of **1** and **13** in the three-component reaction with PhN_3 and **8**. At 80° , the reaction with **13** was completed after 4 h, and no interception product of ‘adamantanethione S-imide’ **D** could be detected. Similar to the results described in [5], dispirotrithiolane **14** was found as the major product; **8** was transformed into triazole **11** exclusively. Obviously, **D** undergoes a very rapid cyclization to the corresponding thiaziridine. The subsequent reaction steps, which result in the formation of **14**, correspond with the mechanism presented in detail in [5]. In contrast to **D**, ‘thiocarbonyl S-imide’ **A** seems to be much more stable (*cf.* discussion in [2]) and is sufficiently long lived to be trapped by **8**.



A similar reaction with dimethyl fumarate (**9**), PhN_3 , and **1** resulted in a mixture of the four compounds **3**, **6**, **15**, and **16** (Scheme 3), which were separated chromatographically. The formation of **3** and **6** can be rationalized *via* intermediates **A** and **C** (Scheme 1). In fact, **15** and **16** are products of a ‘three-component reaction’; however, their structures do not correspond with the expected interception product of **A** with **9**. Whereas **15** shows only one ester group in the NMR spectra, compound **16** contains two nonequivalent ester moieties. Furthermore, the different symmetry of **15** and **16** is evidenced by the pattern of Me absorptions ($^1\text{H-NMR}$: 2 *s* at 1.50 and 1.27 ppm for **15**, and 3 *s* at 1.53, 1.44, and 1.39 ppm in the ratio of 1:2:1 for **16**). The elucidation of both structures was achieved by single-crystal X-ray structure determinations (Fig. 2).

Scheme 3



A reaction mechanism for the formation of **15** and **16** is proposed in Scheme 4. Dimethyl fumarate (**9**) exceeds **1** in reactivity towards PhN_3 , and the rapid formation of the triazole derivative **17** is of crucial importance for the course of further conversion. The spontaneous ring opening of **17** to give the diazo compound **18** was studied by *Huisgen* and coworkers many years ago [16]. Furthermore, diazo compounds were shown to be superior reagents for the transformation of thioketones into mostly unstable 2,5-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles which, by elimination of N_2 , generate reactive ‘thiocarbonyl ylides’ [9] [15] [17] [18]. In an analogous way, **18** reacts with **1** to give the cyclo-

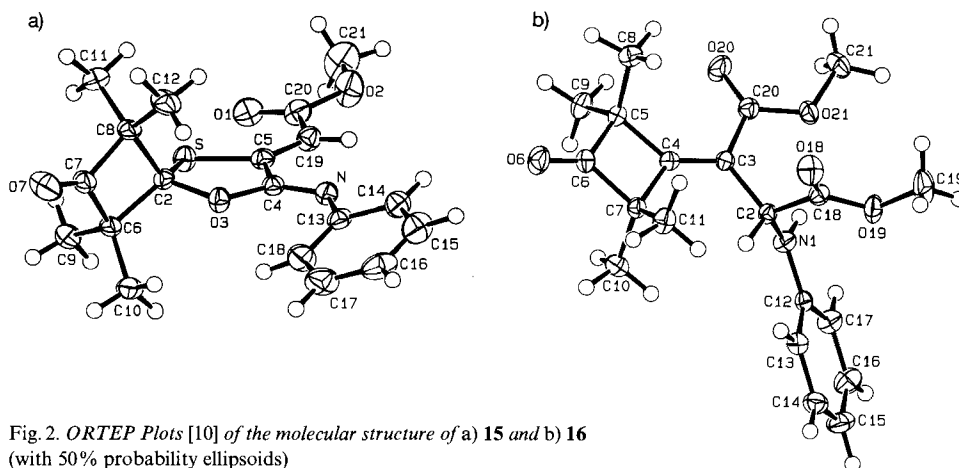
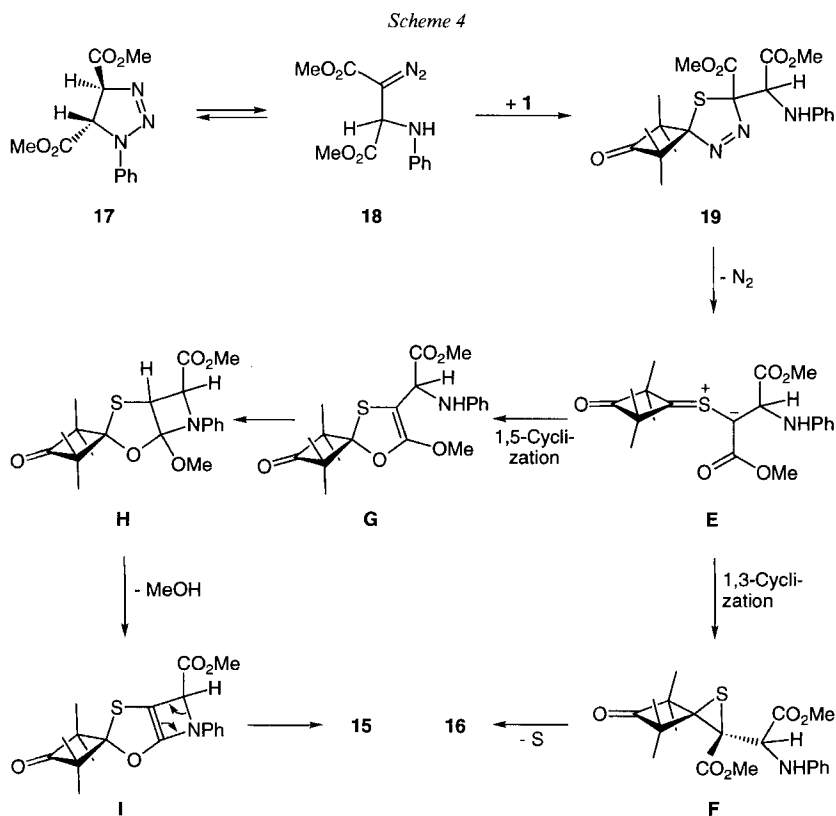


Fig. 2. ORTEP Plots [10] of the molecular structure of a) **15** and b) **16** (with 50% probability ellipsoids)

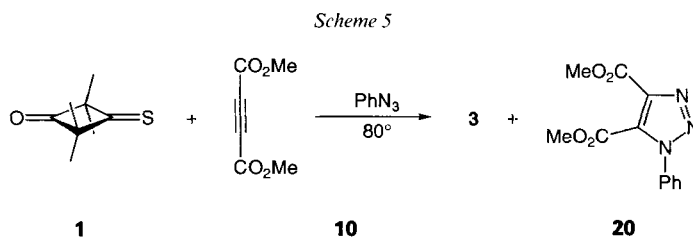
adduct **19**, and elimination of N_2 yields the 1,3-dipole **E**. This intermediate can undergo two different intramolecular reactions, namely a 1,3- and/or a 1,5-dipolar cyclization (*cf.* [15] [19]). The former results in the formation of thiirane **F** which spontaneously extrudes



sulfur to give olefin **16**. As discussed in our recent paper on trithiolane formation [3], **1** can intercept atomic sulfur to generate ‘thiocarbonyl *S*-sulfide’ **C**, which reacts with a second molecule of **1** to yield trithiolane **6** (Scheme 1). The 1,5-dipolar cyclization of **E** to give 1,3-oxathiolane **G** initiates a cascade of reactions. We propose that the formation of **15** involves a ring closure of **G** to the spirobicyclic azetidine derivative **H**, elimination of MeOH, and electrocyclic ring opening of **I**.

With the aim of avoiding formation of **3** and **6**, as well as to improve the yield of **15** and **16**, we elaborated a two-step procedure including a preliminary formation of **17/18** from PhN₃ and **9**. After five days at room temperature, **18** was the major component in the equilibrium, and the mixture was treated with an equimolar amount of **1**. Under these conditions, **15** and **16** were formed in 42% yield each. Similarly, the formation of a 1-azabuta-1,3-diene derivative of type **15** was also found in a three-component reaction with adamantanethione (**13**), **9**, and PhN₃ [20].

As a third dipolarophile, we tested dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (**10**) in the reaction with **1** and PhN₃ (Scheme 5). The ¹H-NMR analysis of the reaction mixture revealed the presence of only one product, besides **3**, which contains ester functions. After treatment of the mixture with MeOH, the known crystalline dimethyl 1-phenyl-1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (**20**) was obtained in good yield. This result indicates that **10** reacts much faster with PhN₃ than with thioketone **1**⁴⁾.



In conclusion, the presented results show that the course of ‘three-component reactions’ with **1**, PhN₃, and a C,C-dipolarophile depends strongly on the type of the dipolarophile. As **8** is an efficient trapping reagent for ‘thiocarbonyl *S*-imides’ of type A, the interception product **12** was obtained in good yield. Dimethyl fumarate (**9**) combines faster with PhN₃ than with **1**. The transformation of the primary cycloadduct **17** into **18** generated a new 1,3-dipole (diazo compound), which exceeded PhN₃ in reactivity towards **1**.

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⁴⁾ In a separate experiment, it was shown that **10**, dissolved in PhN₃ and heated to 80°, disappeared completely after ca. 10 min; the only product in the mixture was **20**.

Experimental Part

1. *General.* See [6]. 2,2,4,4-Tetramethyl-3-thioxocyclobutanone (**1**) was prepared from the corresponding dione by treatment with P_2S_5 in boiling pyridine [6]; adamantanethione (**13**) was synthesized in the same way according to [21]. PhN_3 was prepared by diazotation of phenylhydrazine [22]. M.p.'s: in capillaries; uncorrected.

2. *Reactions of 1 with Phenyl Azide in the Presence of a C,C-Dipolarophile.* 2.1. *General Procedure.* In freshly distilled PhN_3 (1 ml, 1.1 g, ca. 9.2 mmol), **1** (316.5 mg, 2 mmol) and the respective dipolarophile (2 mmol) were dissolved. The red mixture was heated with an external oil bath (80°) under stirring. Evolution of N_2 was followed volumetrically using a gas burette attached to the reaction flask. Reactions were interrupted when the evolution of N_2 ceased (corresponding times and amount of N_2 in parentheses). Excess PhN_3 was removed at 80–90°/0.6 Torr ('Kugelrohr'), and the residues were separated chromatographically or treated with small amounts of MeOH to afford crystallization.

2.2. *Reaction with Fumarodinitrile (8; 10 h, 35 ml of N_2 , i.e. ca. 70% of calc. amount).* Prep. TLC (SiO_2 , CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether 7:3) afforded **3** (160 mg, 43% rel. to **1**), **11** (100 mg, 29% rel. to **8**), and **12** (160 mg, 25%).

1,1,3,3,7,7,9,9-Octamethyl-11-phenyl-5,10-dithia-11-azadispiro[3.1.3.2]undecane-2,8-dione (**3**): $R_f \approx 0.7$. M.p. 139–141° ([6]: 140–142°).

1-Phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4-carbonitrile (**11**): $R_f \approx 0.5$. Recrystallization from MeOH gave pale yellow crystals. M.p. 120–122° ([11]: 123°).

trans-1,1,3,3-Tetramethyl-6-phenyl-2-oxo-5-thia-6-azaspiro[3.4]octane-7,8-dicarbonitrile (**12**): $R_f \approx 0.2$. Thick oil which, after recrystallization from MeOH, gave colorless prisms. M.p. 142–144°. IR (KBr): 2980m (br.), 2250w ($C \equiv N$), 1791vs ($C=O$), 1596vs, 1498vs, 1465s, 1386m, 1369m, 1286s (br.), 1177m, 1030m, 982m, 690s, 688s. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$): 7.35–7.25, 7.05–7.0 (2m, 5 arom. H); 4.89 (d, $J = 2.6$, H–C(7)); 4.24 (d, $J = 2.6$, H–C(8)); 1.68, 1.63, 1.50, 1.27 (4s, 4 Me). ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$): 214.8 (s, $C=O$); 144.0 (s, 1 arom. C); 129.8, 122.0, 116.6 (3d, 5 arom. CH); 116.9, 115.6 (2s, 2 CN); 68.7, 61.9, 57.4 (3s, C(1), C(3), C(4)); 44.0 (d, C(8)); 22.5, 22.1, 22.0, 20.4 (4s, 4 Me). CI-MS (NH_3): 343 (100, $[M + NH_4]^+$), 326 (54, $[M + 1]^+$), 325 (22, M^+), 309 (5), 299 (30). Anal. calc. for $C_{18}H_{19}N_7OS$ (325.43): C 66.43, H 5.88, N 12.91, S 9.85; found: C 66.46, H 5.99, N 12.92, S 10.10.

2.3. *Reaction with Dimethyl Fumarate (9; 5 h, 40 ml of N_2 , i.e. ca. 80% of calc. amount).* After evaporation of unconsumed PhN_3 , the residue was triturated with 2 ml MeOH and the mixture cooled in the refrigerator: 171 mg (46%) of crystalline **3**. M.p. 141–143° [6]. The mother liquor was chromatographed (SiO_2 , column, petroleum ether with increasing amount of CH_2Cl_2), yielding with petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 8:2, 83 mg (24%) of 1,1,3,3,7,7,9,9-octamethyl-5,10,11-trithiadispiro[3.1.3.2]undecane-2,8-dione (**6**; m.p. 100–102° ([3]: 101–103°)), and with petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 6:4, 288 mg (40%) of **15** and traces (ca. 1–2%) of **16**.

A soln. of **9** (288 mg, 2 mmol) in PhN_3 (1 ml, 1.1 g, ca. 9.2 mmol) was heated for 1 h with an external oil bath (80°). The excess PhN_3 was removed by bulb-to-bulb distillation at 60°/0.1 Torr, and the residue was left to stand for 5 d at r.t. After this period, the oily mixture contained **17** and **18** in a ratio of 15:85 (1H -NMR). This mixture was treated with **1** (316.5 mg, 2 mmol), and the red mixture was heated for 2 h to 80° (45 ml of N_2 , ca. 90% of calc. amount). After cooling to r.t., MeOH (3 ml) was added and the soln. cooled in the refrigerator. After ca. 15 h, **15** (302 mg, 42%) was collected. Column chromatography of the mother liquor (SiO_2 , petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 6:4) afforded **16** (302 mg, 42%).

Methyl [(Z,Z)-1,1,3,3-Tetramethyl-2-oxo-6-(phenylimino)-5-oxa-8-thiaspiro[3.4]octan-7-yliden]acetate (**15**): Pale yellow crystals. M.p. 124–125° (MeOH): IR (KBr): 1780vs (ketone $C=O$), 1700s (ester $C=O$), 1665s ($C=N$), 1600s ($C=C$), 1435m, 1315vs, 1250s, 1200s, 1168s, 1070s, 1025s, 838m, 760m, 690m. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$): 7.35–7.15 (m, 5 arom. H); 7.00 (s, =CH); 3.85 (s, MeO); 1.38, 1.14 (2s, 4 Me). ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$): 216.7 (s, $C=O$); 167.5 (s, CO_2Me); 152.9, 146.8 (2s, C(4), C(5)); 144.7 (s, 1 arom. C); 128.8, 125.5, 123.4 (3d, 5 arom. CH); 111.4 (d, =CH); 98.3 (s, C(2)); 66.6 (s, C(2'), C(4')); 52.1 (q, MeO); 23.1, 18.1 (2s, 4 Me). CI-MS (NH_3): 360 (100, $[M + 1]^+$), 289 (6). Anal. calc. for $C_{19}H_{21}NO_4S$ (359.43): C 63.49, H 5.89, N 3.90, S 8.92; found: C 63.57, H 5.84, N 3.79, S 9.13.

Dimethyl 2-(Phenylamino)-3-(2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-3-oxocyclobutylidene)butanedioate (**16**): Colorless crystals. M.p. 97–99° (EtOH). IR (KBr): 3400–3350m (NH), 1790s (ketone $C=O$), 1730s, 1710s (2 ester $C=O$), 1660m, 1600m ($C=C$), 1515m, 1430m, 1320m, 1310m, 1295s, 1270s, 1250s, 1200m, 1140m, 1000m, 760m. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$): 6.8–6.65, 7.25–7.15 (2m, 5 arom. H); 4.85 (br. s, NH); 3.80, 3.72 (2s, 2 MeO); 1.44 (s, 2 Me); 1.52, 1.39 (2s, 2 Me). ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$): 218.8 (s, $C=O$); 171.8, 166.7, 165.7 (3s, 2 CO_2Me , C(3)); 146.6 (s, 1 arom. C); 124.6 (s, C(3')); 129.3, 118.9, 114.0 (3d, 5 arom. CH); 64.4, 63.4 (2s, C(2'), C(4')); 56.9 (d, C(2)); 52.7, 51.8 (2q, 2 MeO); 22.7, 22.3, 21.2, 20.9 (4q, 4 Me). EI-MS: 359 (11, M^+), 301 (17), 300 (100, $[M - CO_2Me]^+$), 272 (18), 240 (16), 212 (22), 104 (11), 91 (6), 77 (7). Anal. calc. for $C_{20}H_{25}NO_5$ (359.40): C 66.83, H 7.01, N 3.89; found: C 67.01, H 6.79, N 3.95.

2.4. Reaction with Dimethyl Acetylenedicarboxylate (**10**, 4 h; ca. 30 ml of N₂, i.e. ca. 60% of calc. amount). After evaporation of excess PhN₃ under vacuum, the crystalline residue was triturated with EtOH (2 ml): 450 mg (86%) of dimethyl 1-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (**20**). Colorless crystals. M.p. 125–127° ([23]: 126–127°).

The mother liquor was evaporated and the residue analyzed by ¹H-NMR. A characteristic set of s's at 2.0–0.5 ppm revealed the presence of **3**, and no product with MeO groups could be detected.

3. Attempted Interception of Adamantanethione S-Imide and S-Sulfide with **8**. In analogy to *Exper. 2.1*, adamantanethione (**13**; 332 mg, 2 mmol) and an equimolar amount of **8** in PhN₃ (1 ml, 1.1 g, ca. 9.2 mmol) were heated to 80°. After removing excess PhN₃, the solid residue was treated with MeOH (2 ml): 280 mg (77%) of dispiro[tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7}]decane-2,3'-[1,2,4]trithiolane-5',2''-tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7}]decane] (**14**). Colorless crystals. M.p. 186–188° ([5]: 187–189°).

The mother liquor was concentrated and the residue separated by prep. TLC (SiO₂, petroleum ether/CH₂Cl₂ 1:1): 40 mg (14%) of adamantanone (m.p. 253–255°; [24]: 256–258°), 20 mg (5%) of **14**, and 100 mg (29%) of **11**.

Table. Crystallographic Data for Compounds **12**, **15**, and **16**

	12	15	16
Crystallized from	MeOH	MeOH/CH ₂ Cl ₂	EtOH
Empirical formula	C ₁₈ H ₁₉ N ₃ OS	C ₁₉ H ₂₁ NO ₄ S	C ₂₀ H ₂₅ NO ₅
Formula weight	325.43	359.44	359.42
Crystal color, habit	colorless, prism	colorless, irregular prism	colorless, prism
Crystal dimensions [mm]	0.23 × 0.23 × 0.50	0.30 × 0.35 × 0.40	0.23 × 0.25 × 0.45
Crystal temp. [K]	173(1)	173(1)	173(1)
Crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic
Lattice parameters			
Reflections for cell determination	22	25	25
2θ range [°]	30 < 2θ < 38	39 < 2θ < 40	38 < 2θ < 40
a [Å]	8.356(2)	11.359(3)	12.610(1)
b [Å]	17.172(2)	11.996(2)	13.607(1)
c [Å]	23.902(1)	8.117(2)	15.965(1)
α [°]	90	109.69(1)	98.67(1)
β [°]	97.103(9)	105.65(2)	95.41(1)
γ [°]	90	102.90(2)	105.718(9)
V [Å ³]	3403.0(8)	947.6(4)	964.1(3)
Space group	P2 ₁ /n	P $\bar{1}$	P $\bar{1}$
Z	8	2	2
D _x [g cm ⁻³]	1.270	1.260	1.238
Absorption coefficient μ (MoK _α) [mm ⁻¹]	0.1880	0.193	0.0886
2θ (max) [°]	60	60	55
Absorption correction min, max	0.868, 1.187	0.735, 1.315	–
Total reflections measured	10860	5770	4635
Symmetry independent reflections	9912	5509	4437
Reflections observed	6550	4465	3397
Criterion	I > 3σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)
Variables	567	310	335
Final R	0.0406	0.0513	0.0393
R _w ^{a)}	0.0399	0.0596	0.0390
Goodness of fit s	1.740	2.703	1.889
p for 1/w = σ ² (F _o) + (pF _o) ²	0.005	0.0075	0.0075
Final Δ _{max} /σ	0.0008	0.0004	0.0004
Δρ (max, min) [e Å ⁻³]	0.34, –0.26	0.50, –0.36	0.32, –0.19

^{a)} Function minimized Σw(|F_o| – |F_c|)².

4. *Crystal-Structure Determination of 12, 15, and 16* (see Table and Figs. 1 and 2)⁵. The intensities were collected on a Rigaku-AFC5R diffractometer in the $\omega/2\theta$ -scan mode using graphite-monochromated MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71069 \text{ \AA}$) and a 12 kW rotating anode generator. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects, and an absorption correction was applied for 12 and 15 [25]. The crystal of 15 was of rather poor quality and had a very irregular shape. Data collection and refinement parameters are listed in the Table, views of the molecules are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS86 [26], which revealed the positions of all non-H-atoms. The non-H-atoms were refined anisotropically. All of the H-atoms were located in difference electron density maps, and their positions were allowed to refine together with individual isotropic temperature factors. All refinements were carried out on F using full-matrix least-squares procedures. Neutral atom scattering factors for non-H-atoms were taken from [27a] (for 12) and [28a] (for 15 and 16) and the scattering factors for H-atoms from [29]. Anomalous dispersion effects were included in F_{calc} [30]; the values for f' and f'' were those of [27b] (for 12) and [28b] (for 15 and 16). All calculations were performed using the TEXSAN crystallographic software package [31].

In 12, there are two independent molecules in the asymmetric unit which have very similar conformations. The atomic coordinates of the two molecules were tested carefully for a relationship from a higher-symmetry space group using the MISSYM routine [32] of the program PLATON [33], but none could be found.

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⁵) Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structure(s) reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication No. CCDC-10/3. Copies of the data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to the Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44 (0)1223 336033, or email: teched@chemcrs.cam.ac.uk).

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