he Behavior of 2-Thioxo-4-thiazolidinones toward Organophosphorus Reagents

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ABSTRACT: The reaction of 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a) with phosphorus ylides 2a and 2b afforded compounds 5 and 6. On the other hand, formylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane (2c) reacts with 1a and its N-methyl derivative 1b to give the new complicated phosphonium ylides 7a,b, respectively. Reactions of 1b with ylides 2a and 2d gave rise to the olefinic compound 8 and the new phosphorane product 9. Moreover, dialkyl phosphites 3a,b and trialkyl phosphites 4a-c react with 1a to give both the alkylated products 10a-c and the dimeric compounds 11,12. A mechanism is proposed to explain the formation of the new products. Inc. Heteroatom Chem 10: 337–341, 1999

INTRODUCTION

The chemistry of thiazolidinones has received considerable attention [1–3]. Many thiazolidinone derivatives exhibit high potential biological activities, such as anticonvulsant, tuberculostatic, anti-inflammatory, and antithyroidal activities, and are used as bactericidal, pesticidal, fungicidal, and insecticidal agents [3,4]. This together with our interest in organophosphorus chemistry [5–10] enhanced the synthesis of new phosphorus compounds incorporating such important nuclei that may possibly lead to further biological activity. The present study deals with the reaction of 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (rhodanine, **1a**) and its 3-methyl derivative **1b** with resonance stabilized phosphonium ylides (**2a–e**). A

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comparative study of the behavior of 1a toward dialkyl phosphites 3a–b and trialkyl phosphites 4a–c is also reported (Scheme 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a) was treated with one equivalent of ethoxycarbonylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane (2a) in refluxing benzene, compound 5 and triphenylphosphine oxide were isolated in good yields (Scheme 2).

Similarly, the reaction of 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a) with cyanomethylenetriphenylphosphorane (2b) proceeds in refluxing toluene to give compound 6 in 90% yield. Triphenylphosphine oxide has also been isolated from the product mixture. The structural assignments for compounds 5 and 6 are based upon elemental and mass spectral analyses, IR, ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR (cf. Experimental).





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The reaction of 1a with formylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane (2c) has also been investigated. Treatment of 1a with mol equivalents of 2c in refluxing toluene leads to the formation of the new phosphonium ylide 7a as the sole reaction product. Triphenylphosphine and triphenylphosphine oxide are neither isolated nor identified in the reaction medium (Scheme 2).

Compound 7a possesses an ylide–phosphorane structure, since it exhibits a positive shift in its ³¹P NMR (δ = +16.3) spectrum in the region characteristic for this class of compounds [11]. On the basis of IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, MS and elemental analyses, the structure of compound 7a was deduced (cf. Experimental). The formation of 7a involves the condensation between the aldehydic group of 2c and the active methylene group in 1a.

We have also investigated the reaction of 2thioxo-3-methyl-4-thiazolidinone (1b) with the same phosphonium ylides 2 to establish whether it would behave in a similar manner. We have found that the reaction product of *N*-methyl derivative 1b with 2c, in refluxing toluene, is assigned analogous structure 7b, on the basis of IR, ¹H, ³¹P, ¹³C NMR, and mass spectral data (cf. Experimental).

The reaction of *N*-methyl derivative **1b** with ethoxycarbonylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane (**2a**) proceeds in refluxing toluene in the presence of triethylamine to give the olefinic product **8** in 90% yield along with triphenylphosphine sulfide (Scheme 2). The main features of the IR spectrum of **8** (in KBr) were the absence of the thiocarbonyl



absorption band appearing in the spectrum of 1b at 1175 cm⁻¹ and the presence of absorption bands at 1710 (C=O, ester), 1680 (C=O, amide) and at 1623 cm⁻¹ assigned for the olefinic stretching band. Moreover, the structure of the olefinic compound 8 is indicated by its analysis, ¹H, ¹³C NMR, and mass spectral data (cf. Experimental).

We have found that 2-thioxo-3-methyl-4-thiazolidinone (1b) reacts with an equimolar amount of tert-butoxycarbonylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane (2d) to give compound 9 in 65% yield (Scheme 2). Structure elucidation of product 9 has been determined on the basis of IR, ¹H, ¹³C NMR, MS, and elemental analyses (cf. Experimental).

A possible explanation for the formation of product 9 is illustrated in Scheme 2. It may be considered that the lactone ylide 9 is formed by the lactonization of the dipolar ion via the extrusion of alcohol. Such an observation has been made before by Strandmann et al. [12].

It can be concluded that the reaction of the 2thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a,b) with Wittig reagents lead to different products, depending on the nature of the phosphorus ylide used as well as on the stability of the addition products [13].

Moreover, the reaction of **1a**,**b** with **2c** represents a novel method for the preparation of new complicated phosphonium ylides **7** via a simple method.

Furthermore, this study has been extended to include the reaction of **1a** with alkyl phosphites to examine whether the *S*-alkyl and the *N*-alkyl derivatives could be preferentially formed. When **1a** is allowed to react with freshly distilled dimethyl phosphite (**3a**), in 1 : 2 molar ratio in boiling toluene and in the presence of triethylamine, the known *N*-methyl-2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone [14] (**10a**) and the compound **11a** are isolated (cf. Experimental, Scheme 3).





The IR spectrum of **11a** reveals the absence of C = S and NH absorption bands recorded at 1175 and 3235 cm⁻¹, respectively, in the starting thiazolidinone **1a**. The ¹³C NMR of compound **11a** lacks the C = S signal recorded in compound **1a** at $\delta = 195.7$.

Similarly, the reaction of **1a** with diethyl phosphite (**3b**) proceeds in boiling toluene and in the presence of triethylamine, to give the known [15] 2-thioxo-3-ethyl-4-thiazolidinone (**10b**) in 35% yield and the compound **11b** in 45% yield (cf. Experimental). The structure elucidation for compound **11b** is deduced from its elemental analysis, ¹H, ¹³C NMR, and mass spectral data (cf. Experimental).

It is worth mentioning that compounds 10 and 11 are also formed when the reaction of rhodanine (1a) and dialkyl phosphites 3a,b is conducted without solvents. Products 11a,b are presumably formed via desulfurization of compound 10 (due to the presence of excess dialkyl phosphite).

The reaction of 1a with trialkyl phosphites 4a–c has also been investigated. When 1a is allowed to react with one equivalent of trialkyl phosphites 4a–c, in boiling benzene, the alkylated compounds 10a–c are also obtained in good yield. The structures of compounds 10a–b are deduced from comparative IR, ¹H NMR, and mass spectral data with authentic samples (cf. Experimental) [14,15].

The IR spectrum of 10c lacks the NH absorption band appearing in the spectrum of 1a at 3235 cm⁻¹.

When **1a** is allowed to react with triethyl phosphite **4c**, in absence of solvent at 70°C for 2 hours, compound **12** is isolated in 80% yield (Scheme 3). The structure of compound **12** is deduced from its analysis, IR, ¹H, ¹³C NMR, and mass spectral data. The IR spectrum of product **12** lacks both the carbonyl and amide absorption bands at 1680 and 3235 cm⁻¹. Moreover, the presence of two quartets in the ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **12** suggests both the *Z* and *E* isomeric forms in equal percentage.

It is worth mentioning that when *N*-ethyl derivative **10b** is allowed to react with excess trimethyl and triethyl phosphites, without solvent at 80°C, the same compound **12** is isolated in 90% yield (cf. Experimental).

The results obtained in the present study have shown that alkyl phosphites can alkylate compounds of type **1a** to give the corresponding *N*-alkyl and not the *S*-alkyl derivatives. Moreover, the alkylating power of the phosphorus compounds studied increases in the order $(R^2O)_2P$ -OH $< (R^2O)_3P$. The fact that dialkyl phosphites (DAP) are intermediate in alkylating power might be explained in terms of the presence of these compounds as tautomeric mixtures [16] of the trivalent and pentavalent states.

Experimental

All melting points are uncorrected. Benzene (thiophene free), toluene, and petroleum ether (boiling range, 60-80°C) were dried over sodium. Carbethoxymethylene-, cyanomethylene-, formylmethylenetert-butoxycarbonylmethylenetriphenylphosand phoranes were prepared according to established procedures [17–19]. Dialkyl, trialkyl phosphites were prepared according to established procedures and were purified by fractional distillation [20–23]. The IR spectra were measured in KBr with a Perkin-Elmer infracord Spectrophotometer (model 157, Grating). The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ with JNM-GX-400 Spectrometer, Jeol. The ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ (vs. H₃PO₄ as external standard) with a JNM-PS-100 Spectrometer, Jeol. ¹³C NMR spectra were taken in CDCl₃ with JNM-PS-100 and JNM-GX-400 Spectrometer, Jeol. The mass spectra were run at 70 eV with Kratos MS equipment and a Varian MAT 311 A Spectrometer.

Reaction of 2-Thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a) with Carbethoxymethylene-triphenylphosphorane (2a). A mixture of 1a (0.13 g, 1.0 mmol), ylide 2a (0.33 g, 1.0 mmol), and 30 mL of dry toluene was refluxed for 4 hours. The volatile materials were evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residual substance was chromatographed on a silica gel column using ethyl acetate/toluene (5:95) as eluent to give product 5 as colorless crystals, yield 60%, m.p. 122-123°C. Anal. calcd for C₇H₉NO₂S₂ (203.27): C, 41.36; H, 4.46; N, 6.90; S, 31.55. Found: C, 41.30; H, 4.50; N, 6.80; S, 31.48%. MS, m/z (%): 203 (100) [M⁺] using CI mode. IR: at 3235 cm⁻¹ (NH), 1710 (C = O, ester), and 1622 cm⁻¹ (C=C, olefinic). ¹H NMR: signals at $\delta = 1.34$ (t, 3H, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 6 Hz, CH₃), 4.23 (q, 2H, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 6 Hz, CH₂), 3.51 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.43 (s, 1H, = CH), and at δ = 11.52 (s, 1H, NH, exchangeable with D_2O). ¹³C NMR: signals at $\delta = 167.6$ (C=O, ester), 189.8 (C=S), 61.5 (OCH_2CH_3) , 32.9 (CH_2) , 13.2 (OCH_2CH_3) , and at $\delta = 133.2$, 117.3 (C=CH). Triphenylphosphine oxide was also isolated and identified.

Similarly, **1a** reacts with **2b** in dry toluene and was refluxed for 5 hours. The use of eluent acetone/ petroleum ether (15:85) gave compound **6** as crystals, yield 90%, m.p. 171–172°C. Anal. calcd for $C_5H_4N_2S_2$ (156.23): C, 38.44; H, 2.59; N, 17.93; S, 41.05. Found: C, 38.40; H, 2.63; N, 17.88; S 41.10%. MS, m/z (%): 156 (100) [M⁺]. IR: 3095 cm⁻¹ (NH), 2884 (CN) and 1596 cm⁻¹ (C=C, olefinic). ¹H NMR: δ = 3.91 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.82 (s, 1H, =CH), 13.50 (s, 1H, NH, exchangeable with D₂O). ¹³C NMR: δ =

190.3 (C=S), 107.9 (=<u>C</u>H-CN), 117.3 (=CH<u>C</u>N), and 32.2 (CH₂). Triphenylphosphine oxide was also isolated and identified.

Reaction of 2-Thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a) with Formylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane (2c). A mixture of 1a (0.13 g, 1.0 mmol), ylide 2c (0.30 g, 1.0 mmol), and dry toluene was refluxed for 8 hours. The volatile materials were evaporated in vacuo, and the residual substance was chromatographed on a silica gel column using eluent: methanol/chloroform (2:98) to give adduct 7a as yellow crystals, yield 70%, m.p. 208-209°C. Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₁₈NOPS₂ (419.51): C, 65.85; H, 4.33; N, 3.34; P, 7.38; S, 15.29. Found: C, 65.80; H, 4.36; N, 3.30; P, 7.30; S, 15.20%. MS, m/z (%): 419 (95) [M⁺]. IR: v = 3225 (NH), 1175 (C=S), 1700 (C=O), 1680, 1510 (C=P), 1430, 990 cm⁻¹ (P–C, Phenyl) [24]. ¹H NMR: $\delta = 7.22$ (dd, ² J_{HP} = 18 Hz, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 6 Hz, H-a), 7.51 (dd, ${}^{3}J_{\rm HP}$ = 10.5 Hz, $J_{\rm HH} = 6$ Hz, H-b), 7.33–7.82 (m, 15H, aromatic), and at $\delta = 8.75$ (s, NH, exchangeable with D₂O). ¹³C NMR: signals at $\delta = 195.6$ (C = S), 169.6 (C = O, thiazolidinone), 139.4 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CP} = 28$ Hz, C^bH=C), 148.3 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP} = 7.5$ Hz, =C), 137.3 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP} = 133$ Hz, P=C) [25]. ³¹P NMR: $\delta = +16.0$.

Similarly, 1b(0.14 g, 1.0 mmol) was reacted with ylide 2c (0.30 g, 1.0 mmol) in 30 mL of dry toluene to give compound 7b as a reddish yellow solid (eluent: chloroform/methanol, 95:05), yield 75%, m.p. 161–162°C. Anal. calcd for $C_{24}H_{20}NOPS_2$ (433.53): C, 66.50; H, 4.65; N, 3.23; P, 7.14; S, 14.80. Found: C, 66.45; H, 4.60; N, 3.20; P, 7.10; S, 14.75%. MS, m/z (%): 433 (100) [M⁺]. IR: 1175 cm⁻¹ (C=S), 1700 (C=O), 1685, 1515 (C=P), and 1435, 995 cm⁻¹ (P-C, phenyl). ¹H NMR: $\delta = 3.43$ (s, 3H, N–CH₃), 7.12 $(dd, J_{HP} = 18 Hz, J_{HH} = 6 Hz, 1H, H-a), 7.61 (dd, {}^{3}J_{HP})$ = 10.5 Hz, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 6 Hz, 1H, H-b), 7.31–7.82 (m, 15H, aromatic). ¹³C NMR: δ = 31.2 (s, N–CH₃), 136.0 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP} = 133$ Hz, P=C), 169.0 (C=O, thiazolidinone), 198.0 (C=S), 139.2 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CP} = 28$ Hz, C^bH=C), and 148.0 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP} = 7.5$ Hz, =C). ${}^{31}P$ NMR: $\delta = +16.0$

Reaction of Carbethoxymethylenetriphenylphosphorane (2a) with 2-Thioxo-3-methyl-4-thiazolidinone (1b). A mixture of 2a (0.34 g, 1.0 mmol), 1b (0.14 g, 1.0 mmol), 30 mL of dry toluene and a few drops of triethylamine was refluxed for 4 hours. After evaporation of the volatile material under reduced pressure, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography by using the eluent acetone/ petroleum ether (30:70) to yield adduct 8 as colorless crystals, yield 90%, m.p. 88–89°C. Anal. calcd for $C_8H_{11}NO_3S$ (201.24): C, 47.75; H, 5.51; N, 6.96; S, 15.93. Found: C, 47.70; H, 5.56; N, 6.90; S, 15.90%. MS, m/z (%) = 201 (100) [M⁺]. ¹H NMR: δ = 1.25 (t, $J_{\rm HH} = 6$ Hz, 3H, C-CH₃), 4.25 (q, $J_{\rm HH} = 6$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 3.62 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.71 (s, 3H, N–CH₃), 6.52 (s, 1H, =CH). ¹³C NMR: δ = 166.3 (C=O, ester), 169.9 (C=O, amide), 14.1 (C-CH₃), 62.03 (OCH₂), 34.5 (CH₂), 109.2 (=CH), 35.2 (N–CH₃), 86 (<u>C</u>=CH). Triphenylphosphine sulfide was also isolated from the reaction mixture and identified.

Reaction of Tert-butoxycarbonylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane (2d) with 2-Thioxo-3-methyl-4thiazolidinone (1b). A mixture of 2d (0.37 g, 1.0 mmol) and 1b (0.14 g, 1.0 mmol) in 30 mL of dry toluene was refluxed for 6 hours. The volatile material was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue subjected to silica gel column chromatography, the eluent being ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (95:05); 9 was obtained as yellow crystals from ethyl acetate, yield 65%, m.p. 263-264°C. Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₂₀NO₂PS₂ (499.53): C, 64.13; H, 4.48; N, 3.12; P, 6.89; S, 14.26. Found C, 64.10; H, 4.53; N, 3.6; P, 6.82; S, 14.20%. MS, m/z (%): 449 (90) [M+]. IR: 1665 (C=O, pyrone), 1175 (C=S), 1670, 1510 (C=P),1430, 995 cm⁻¹ (P-C, phenyl). ¹H NMR: $\delta = 3.32$ (s, N-CH₃), 5.01 (dd, ${}^{3}J_{HP} = 10$ Hz, $J_{HH} = 6.5$ Hz, H-a), 5.05 (d, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 6.5 Hz, 1H, H-b), and at δ = 7.52–7.89 (m, 15H, aromatic). ¹³C NMR: δ = 194.3 (C=S), 170.5 (d, C = O, ${}^{2}J_{PC}$ = 19 Hz), 30.4 (N–CH₃), 65.3 (C^a-H), 59.4 (d, C^b-H, ${}^{2}J_{PC} = 23$ Hz), 134.6 (d, P=C, ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ = 130 Hz). ³¹P NMR: δ = 18.7.

Reaction of 2-Thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a) with Dimethyl Phosphite 3a. To a suspension of 1a (0.13 g, 1.0 mmol) in dry benzene was added dimethyl phosphite (0.15 g, 2.0 mmol) and a few drops of triethylamine, and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. The volatile material was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue subjected to silica gel column chromatography; by use of the eluent acetone/petroleum ether (2:98), 3-methyl-2thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (10a) was obtained as crystals, m.p. 67°C (mixed m.p. and comparative IR, ¹H-NMR, MS with authentic sample) [14].

11a (eluent 20:80) was obtained as orange crystals, yield 35%, m.p. 210–211°C. Anal. calcd for $C_8H_{10}N_2O_2S_2$ (230.31): C, 41.72; H, 4.38; N, 12.16; S, 27.84. Found: C, 41.69; H, 4.42; N, 12.12; S, 27.80%. MS, m/z(%): 230 (25) [M⁺], 115 (100) [M⁺-115). IR: 1680 cm⁻¹ (C=O, amide), 1625 (C=C). ¹H NMR: δ = 3.45 [s, 6H, 2(N-CH₃)] and 3.89 [s, 4H, 2(CH₂)]. ¹³C NMR: δ = 167.5 (C=O, thiazolidinone), 152.5 (C=C), 39.8 (CH₂), 38.2 (N-CH₃).

Similarly, thiazolidinone 1a (0.13 g, 1.0 mmol) was reacted with diethyl phosphite 3b (0.18, 2.0 mmol) in 30 mL dry toluene to give 3-ethyl-2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (10b) [eluent: ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (2:98), yield 35%, m.p. 38°C] (mixed m.p, comparative IR, 1H NMR, MS spectra with authentic sample) [15].

11b: Eluent (15:85), as yellowish green crystals, yield 45%, m.p. 228°C. Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₁₄N₂O₂S₂ (258.36): C, 46.49; H, 5.46; N, 10.84; S, 24.82. Found: C, 46.45; H, 5.43; N, 10.82; S, 24.80%. MS, m/z (%): 258 (25) [M⁺], 179 (100) [M⁺-179). IR: 1685 cm⁻¹ (C=O, amide), 1625 (C=C). ¹H NMR: δ = 1.29 [t, 6H, 2(N-CH₂CH₃)], 3.95 [q, 4H, 2(N-CH₂CH₃)], 3.8 [s, 4H, 2(CH₂)]. ¹³C NMR: δ = 165.9 (C=O), 152.4 (C=C), 40.3 (CH₂), 39.01, 11.75 (N-CH₂-CH₃).

The same reaction of **1a** and dialkyl phosphites **3a,b** was carried out without solvent to give adducts **11a** (yield 80%) and **11b** (yield 70%).

Reaction of 2-Thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a) with Trialkyl Phosphites in the Presence of Solvent: General Method. Starting material 1a (1.0 mmol), alkyl phosphites 4a–c (1.0 mmol) in dry benzene, and each reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. The volatile materials were evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography by using the eluent stated.

- 10a. Eluent: acetone/petroleum ether (2:98), m.p. 67°C [15].
- **10b**. Eluent: ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (2:98), m.p. 38°C [16].
- **10c**. Eluent: ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (5:95), m.p. 61–62°C, yield (70%).

IR: 1680 cm⁻¹ (C=O, amide), 1175 cm⁻¹ (C=S). ¹H NMR: δ = 1.40 [d, 6H, CH(CH₃)₂], 3.80 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.15 (septet, 1H, CH, J_{HH} = 6 Hz).

Reaction of 2-Thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (1a) with Triethyl Phosphite 4b in Absence of Solvent. A mixture of thiazolidinone 1a (0.13 g) and 10 mL of triethyl phosphite 4b was refluxed at 70°C. After evaporation of the volatile materials under reduced pressure, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column using acetone/petroleum ether (25:75) as eluent to give compound 12 as greenish yellow crystals, yield 60%, m.p. 179°C. Anal. calcd for $C_{10}H_{14}N_2S_4$ (290.49): C, 41.36; H, 4.86; N, 9.64; S, 44.15. Found: C, 41.33; H, 4.84; N, 9.63; S, 44.15%. MS, m/z (%): 290 (90) [M⁺]. IR: 1175 cm⁻¹ (C=S). ¹H NMR: δ = 1.34 [t, 6H, 2(N-CH₂CH₃)], 3.82 [s, 4H, 2(CH₂)], 3.95 (q, 2H, N-CH₂CH₃), 4.1 (q, 2H, N-CH₂CH₃).

Reaction of 3-Ethyl-2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone (10b) with Trimethyl Phosphite 4a in Absence of Solvent. A mixture of 10b (0.16 g) and 10 mL of trimethyl phosphite 4a was refluxed at 80°C for 3 hours. The volatile material was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluent acetone/petroleum ether (25:75), to give compound **12** as greenish yellow crystals, yield 90% (m.p. and mixed m.p. 179°C). MS, m/z (%): 290 (100) [M⁺]. ¹H NMR: δ = 1.34 [t, 6H, 2(N-CH₂-CH₃)], 3.82 [s, 4H, 2(C-CH₂)], 3.95 (q, 2H, N-CH₂-CH₃), 4.12 (q, 2H, N-CH₂-CH₃). ¹³C NMR: δ = 195.5 (C=S), 148.6 (C=C), 38.4 (N-CH₂), 11.73 (N-CH₂-CH₃).

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