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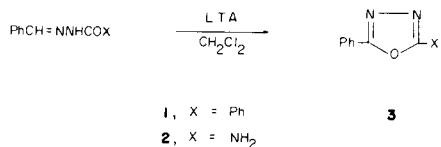
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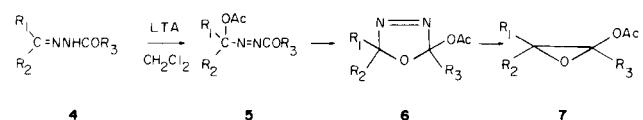
Oxidation of the title compounds **8**, **9** with lead tetraacetate at room temperature gives a variety of products depending on the substituents on the carbonyl carbon atom. Thus, on oxidation of the aldehyde derivatives **8** 1,3,4-oxadiazolo derivatives **10** are obtained in good yields. However in some cases formation of *N*-acetyl-*N*-arylacetyl-*N'*-benzoylhydrazines **11** is also observed, whereas oxidation of the ketone hydrazones **9** gives in good yields the 2*H*,5*H*-1,3,4-oxadiazoles **15** or substituted monoacetoxy- **17** and diacetoxyalkanes **18**. The reaction mechanisms are also discussed.

*J. Heterocyclic Chem.*, **19**, 705 (1982).

It is known that benzaldehyde benzoylhydrazone **1** and semicarbazones **2** undergo (1,2,3) oxidative cyclization when reacted with lead tetraacetate at room temperature to give 1,3,4-oxadiazoles **3**.



On the contrary, oxidation (3,4,5) of ketone benzoylhydrazones **4** with lead tetraacetate leads to the highly reactive azoacetates **5** which at  $\sim 20^\circ$  cyclize to 2*H*,5*H*-1,3,4-oxadiazoles **6**. The oxadiazoles **6** are unstable and decompose between room temperature and  $50^\circ$  to the epoxides **7**.

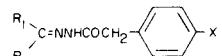
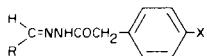


2*H*,5*H*-1,3,4-Oxadiazoles are also formed by the oxidation with lead tetraacetate of ketosemicarbazones (**5,6,7**) and of other analogous compounds (**2,8**).

It has also been shown previously (9) that lead tetraacetate oxidation of bisaroylhydrazones of  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyl compounds leads to the formation of 1,2,3-triazolylisoimides, whereas insertion (10) of a methylene group in the aryl unit leading to bisarylacetylhydrazones gives by the oxidation with lead tetraacetate 1-(*N*-arylacetylamo)-1,2,3-triazoles.

In the course of further work we have undertaken the preparation and oxidation with lead tetraacetate of some acetylhydrazones of several aldehydes **8** and ketones **9** (Table I) in order to study if the insertion of a methylene group changes the reaction sequence.

The oxidation of aldehyde arylacetylhydrazones **8** follows an analogous pathway to that observed (1,2) in the oxidation of benzaldehyde benzoylhydrazones **1** leading to the formation of the corresponding 1,3,4-oxadiazoles **10** (Tables II and III). However, in the case of the oxidation of



- a, R = CH<sub>3</sub>, X = H
- b, R = CH<sub>3</sub>, X = OMe
- c, R = CH<sub>3</sub>, X = NO<sub>2</sub>
- d, R = Ph, X = H
- e, R = Ph, X = OMe
- f, R = Ph, X = NO<sub>2</sub>

- a, R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>, X = H
- b, R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>, X = OMe
- c, R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>, X = NO<sub>2</sub>
- d, R<sub>1</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = Ph, X = H
- e, R<sub>1</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = Ph, X = OMe
- f, R<sub>1</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = Ph, X = NO<sub>2</sub>
- g, R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = Ph, X = OMe
- h, R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = Ph, X = NO<sub>2</sub>

the arylacetylhydrazones **8d**, **8e** and **8f** a second product was isolated. To this product the structure of *N*-acetyl-*N*-arylacetyl-*N'*-benzoylhydrazine **11** was assigned.

Scheme I

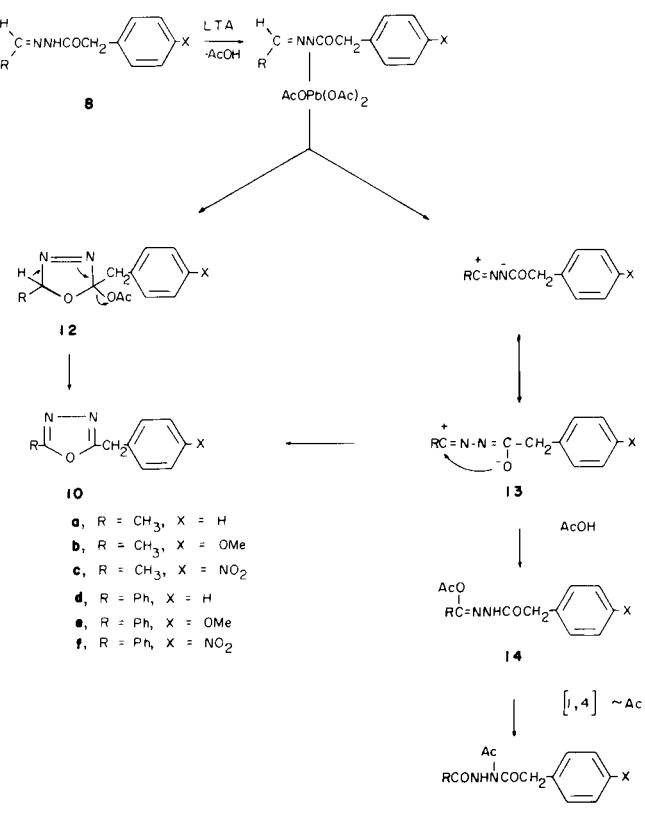


Table I

Analytical Data for the Acylhydrazones **8** and **9**

Compound	M.p °C	Yield (lit) <sup>a</sup> [14] 145-146)	IR (Nujol cm <sup>-1</sup> ) $\nu$ NH $\nu$ C=O $\delta$ CH <sub>3</sub> $\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub> $\delta$ OCH <sub>3</sub> $\delta$ CH	NMR (Deuteriochloroform) $\nu_A$ 7.42 $\nu_B$ 7.55 <sup>[1,4]<sub>system</sub> <math>J_{AB}</math> 6 Hz</sup>	MS m/e (R.I. %) 176 (19) 161 (3) 135 (24)	Formula $C_{10}H_{12}N_2O$	Molecular Weight 176.21	Calcd. C H N C H N	Analysis % Found C H N
<b>8a</b>	148-149	87	3200 1660 1.85 [3] d (a) 3.85 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 7.32 [5] s $\nu_B$ 7.52 <sup>[1,4]<sub>system</sub> <math>J_{AB}</math> 6 Hz</sup>	$M^{\bullet}$ 176 (19) 118 (33)	$C_{10}H_{12}N_2O$	176.21		
<b>8b</b>	153-154	62	3200 1655 1.86 [3] d (a) 3.72 [2] s 3.72 [3] s	$\nu_A$ 7.37 $\nu_B$ 7.52 <sup>[1,4]<sub>system</sub> <math>J_{AB}</math> 6 Hz</sup>	$\nu_A$ 6.87 $\nu_B$ 7.19 <sup>[1,4]<sub>system</sub> <math>J_{AB}</math> 9 Hz</sup>	$M^{\bullet}$ 206 (65) 191 (1) 164 (44)	$C_{11}H_{14}N_2O_2$	206.24	64.06 13.58 64.35 6.85 13.61
<b>8c</b>	185-186	88	3200 1670 1.88 [3] d (a) 3.65 [2] s 4.02 two s	$\nu_A$ 7.39 $\nu_B$ 7.55 <sup>[1,4]<sub>system</sub> <math>J_{AB}</math> 5 Hz</sup>	$\nu_A$ 7.66 $\nu_B$ 8.29 <sup>[1,4]<sub>system</sub> <math>J_{AB}</math> 8 Hz</sup>	$M^{\bullet}$ 1 220 (18) 205 (11)	$C_{10}H_{11}N_3O_3$	221.21	54.29 5.01 19.00 54.37 5.10 19.08
<b>8d</b>	139-140 and 149-150 (lit) <sup>b</sup> 148)	80	3160 1660	4.07 [2] s	included in the aromatics $J_{AB}$ 8 Hz	6.95-8.85 [1] m	$M^{\bullet}$ 238 (20) $C_{15}H_{14}N_2O$	238.28	
<b>8e</b>	168-170	59	3180 1660	4.03 [2] s 3.73 [3] s	included in the aromatics $J_{AB}$ 8 Hz	6.89 7.23-7.85 [6] m	$M^{\bullet}$ 268 (00) $C_{16}H_{16}N_2O_2$	268.30	71.62 6.01 10.44 71.35 5.86 10.18
<b>8f</b>	208-209 (lit) <sup>c</sup> 204-205)	82	3240 1670	4.08 [2] s	included in the aromatics $J_{AB}$ 8 Hz	7.188-8.42 [10] m $M^{\bullet}$ 1 282 (21) $C_{15}H_{14}N_2O_3$	283.28		
<b>9a</b>	107-109 (lit) <sup>d</sup> 108-110)	77	3230 1650 1.57 [6] 1.80 three s 2.02	3.61 [2] 3.97 two s	7.30 [5] s	$M^{\bullet}$ 190 (100) $M^{\bullet}$ 220 (100) $C_{11}H_{14}N_2O$	190.24		
<b>9b</b>	128-130	41	3170 1635 1.60 [6] 1.80 three s 2.01	3.78 [3] s 3.90 two s	$\nu_A$ 6.86 $\nu_B$ 7.26 <sup>[1,4]<sub>system</sub> <math>J_{AB}</math> 9 Hz</sup>	175 (91) 150 (60) 134 (20) 118 (96) 91 (100) 121 (100) 220 (89) 136 (40) 148 (53)	220.26	65.43 7.32 12.72 65.24 7.08 12.57	
<b>9c</b>	186-188	91	3220 1640 1.85 [6] 2.02 two s	4.08 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 7.51 $\nu_B$ 8.16 <sup>[1,4]<sub>system</sub> <math>J_{AB}</math> 8 Hz</sup>	235.24 220 (89) 136 (40)	56.16 5.57 17.86 56.36 5.70 18.00		
<b>9d</b>	159-161 (lit) <sup>e</sup> 158-160.5)	68	3180 1650 2.27 [3] s	4.20 [2] s	7.368.00 [10] m	$M^{\bullet}$ 252 (100) $C_{16}H_{16}N_2O$	252.30	237 (11) 134 (88)	

<b>9e</b>	173.174	62	3180 1650 2.20 [3] s	4.05 [2] s	3.77 [3] s	7.108.30 [9] m	M <sup>+</sup> 282 (100)	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	282.33	72.32	6.43	9.92	72.40	6.40	9.84
<b>9f</b>	170.172	85	3180 1665 2.25 [3] s	4.22 [2] s	7.108.30 [9] m	M <sup>+</sup> 297 (83)	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	297.30	64.63	5.09	14.14	64.46	5.00	14.20	
<b>9g</b>	138.139	21	3320 1690	3.53 [2]	3.76 [3] s	6.607.80 [14] m	M <sup>+</sup> 344 (72)	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	344.40	76.72	5.85	8.13	76.52	5.92	8.17
<b>9h</b>	186.187	40	3290 1680	4.27 [2] s	7.057.70 [14] m	M <sup>+</sup> 359 (84)	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	359.37	70.18	4.77	11.69	70.32	4.73	11.75	
				4.12 two s	195 (100)	195 (100)	195 (100)	195 (100)	180 (23)	121 (67)	180 (12)	149 (20)	164 (20)	164 (20)	
					165 (36)					165 (36)					

(a) The nmr solvent is dimethylsulphoxide.

Table II

Products obtained by the oxidation of Acylhydrazones **8** and **9**

Hydrazone	Oxadiazole	Yield %	Acetylarylacetylbenzoyl-hydrazone	Yield %	2H,5H-Oxadiazole	Yield %
<b>8a</b>	<b>10a</b>	23	—	—	—	—
<b>8b</b>	<b>10b</b>	60	—	—	—	—
<b>8c</b>	<b>10c</b>	80	—	—	—	—
<b>8d</b>	<b>10d</b>	74	<b>11a</b>	13	—	—
<b>8e</b>	<b>10e</b>	70	<b>11b</b>	12	—	—
<b>8f</b>	<b>10f</b>	57	<b>11c</b>	12	—	—
<b>9a</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>9b</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>9c</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
					<b>15a</b>	31
					<b>15b</b>	40
					<b>15c</b>	61

Table III  
Analytical Data for 1,3,4-Oxadiazoles **10**

Compound	Mp °C	δ CH <sub>3</sub>	NMR (Deuterochloroform)			MS m/e (R.I. %)	Formula	Molecular Weight	Calcd.			Analysis %		
			δ OCH <sub>3</sub>	δ CH <sub>2</sub>	δ aromatic protons				C	H	N	C	H	N
<b>10a</b>	liquid purified by tlc (lit (a) bp 163-164)	2.22 [3] s	3.99 [2] s	7.17 [5] s	M <sup>b</sup> 174 (100) C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	145 (32) 132 (25) 119 (17) 91 (70)								174.20
<b>10b</b>	liquid purified by tlc	2.83 [3] s	3.74 [3] s	3.97 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 6.70 $\nu_B$ 7.06 <sup>[4],<i>as</i></sup> $J_{AB}$ 9 Hz	M <sup>b</sup> 204 (100) 189 (25) 175 (2)	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	204.22	64.69	5.92	13.72	65.03	5.68	13.33
<b>10c</b>	79.81	2.52 [3] s	4.29 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 7.52 $\nu_B$ 8.26 <sup>[4],<i>as</i></sup> $J_{AB}$ 9 Hz	M <sup>b</sup> 219 (100) 204 (4) 190 (4) 164 (2)	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>9</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	219.20	54.79	4.14	19.17	54.28	4.19	18.98	
<b>10d</b>	103-104 (lit (a) 101-102.5)	4.35 [2] s	7.33-8.35 [10] m	M <sup>b</sup> 236 (100) 207 (14) 145 (24) 119 (5)	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	236.26								
<b>10e</b>	89.90	3.73 [3] s	4.16 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 6.78 $\nu_B$ 7.28 <sup>[4],<i>as</i></sup> $J_{AB}$ 9 Hz 7.25-8.08 [5] m	M <sup>b</sup> 266 (100) 251 (7) 237 (2) 149 (45) 145 (17) 121 (62)	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	266.29	72.16	5.30	10.52	71.99	5.10	10.38	
<b>10f</b>	132-133	4.40 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 7.60 $\nu_B$ 8.26 <sup>[4],<i>as</i></sup> $J_{AB}$ 9 Hz 7.50-8.20 [5] m	M <sup>b</sup> 281 (100) 252 (4) 145 (52) 136 (14)	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	281.26	64.05	3.94	14.94	63.85	4.04	14.78		

(a) R. Huisgen, J. Sauer, H. J. Sturm and J. H. Markgraf, *Chem. Ber.*, **93**, 2106 (1960).

Table IV  
Analytical Data for the Acetylarylacetylbenzoylhydrazines 11

Compound	Mp °C	$\nu$ NH cm <sup>-1</sup>	(Nujol) cm <sup>-1</sup>	IR			NMR			MS			Calcd.			Analysis %			
				$\nu$ C=O	$\delta$ COCH <sub>3</sub>	$\delta$ OCH <sub>3</sub>	(Deuteriochloroform) $\delta$ CH <sub>3</sub>	$\delta$ aromatic protons	Formula	Molecular Weight	C	H	N	C	H	N	Found		
11a	104-105	3230	1660 1720	2.30 [3] s	3.98 [2] s	7.10-7.90 [10] m	M <sup>t</sup> 296 (4) 254 (13) 236 (10) 118 (98) 105 (100)	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	296.31	68.90	5.44	9.45	68.59	5.52	9.39				
11b	84-87	3240	1660 1725	2.42 [3] s	3.75 [3] s	4.00 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 7.13 $\nu_B$ 6.85 [ <sub>1</sub> J <sub>AB</sub> 9 Hz] <sub>sys</sub> 7.25-8.00 [5] m	M <sup>t</sup> 326 (<0.5) 284 (<0.5) 266 (<0.5) 148 (99) 121 (98)	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	326.34	66.24	5.56	8.58	65.87	5.84	8.88			
11c	143-145	3210	1660 1720	2.43 [3] s	4.24 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 7.38 $\nu_B$ 6.12 [ <sub>1</sub> J <sub>AB</sub> 9 Hz] <sub>sys</sub> 7.50-8.10 [5] m	M <sup>t</sup> 341 (5) 299 (100) 281 (100) 145 (64) 136 (100) 105 (100)	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	341.31	59.82	4.43	12.31	59.49	4.43	12.30				

Table V

## Analytical Data for the 2H,5H,1,3,4-Oxadiazoles 15

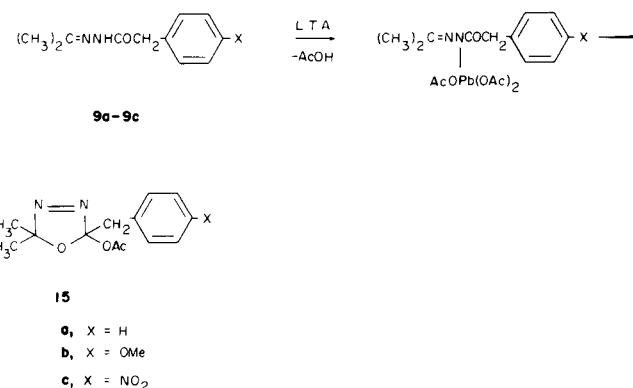
Compound	Mp °C	$\nu$ CO cm <sup>-1</sup>	(Nujol) cm <sup>-1</sup>	IR			NMR			MS			Calcd.			Analysis %		
				$\delta$ CH <sub>3</sub>	$\delta$ COCH <sub>3</sub>	$\delta$ OCH <sub>3</sub>	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub>	$\delta$ aromatic protons	m/e (R.I. %)	Formula	Molecular Weight	C	H	N	C	H	N	Found
15a	43-45	1755	0.95 [3] s 1.41 [3] s	1.98 [3]	3.67 [2] s	7.17 [5] s	M <sup>t</sup> 248 (<0.5) C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	248.27	62.89	6.50	11.28	63.00	6.52	11.33				
15b	64-66	1750	1.13 [3] s 1.53 [3] s	2.08 [3] s	3.83 [3] s	3.72 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 6.82 $\nu_B$ 7.18 [ <sub>1</sub> J <sub>AB</sub> 9 Hz] <sub>sys</sub>	M <sup>t</sup> 278 (0.5) C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	278.30	60.42	6.52	10.07	60.65	6.66	10.14			
15c	84-86	1750	1.20 [3] s 1.53 [3] s	2.03 [3] s	3.83 [2] s	$\nu_A$ 7.48 $\nu_B$ 8.16 [ <sub>1</sub> J <sub>AB</sub> 9 Hz] <sub>sys</sub>	M <sup>t</sup> (-) C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	293.27	53.24	5.16	14.33	53.63	5.25	14.42				

arylacetyl-*N*'-benzoylhydrazone (**11**) (Tables II and IV) was attributed by analogy with the products obtained by the oxidation with lead tetraacetate of some monosubstituted aldehyde hydrazones (3), of benzil monophenylhydrazones (3) and of some monobenzoylhydrazones of  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyl compounds (11) and on the basis of its spectral data. The formation of the products **10** and **11** can be explained by reaction Scheme I.

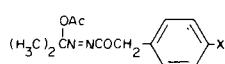
The first step of the reaction leads to the formation of a bond between the nitrogen of the NH group and lead. Cleavage of the N-Pb bond results to the cyclic compound **12** which loses acetic acid and is converted to the 1,3,4-oxadiazole **10**. On the other hand the acetylaryl-acetylbenzoylhydrazines **11** are considered (3) to arise from addition of acetic acid to the nitrilamides **13** followed by an [1,4]-acyl migration in the compounds **14** with the formation of **11**. However, 1,3,4-oxadiazoles **10** can also be formed via the nitrilamides **13**.

Oxidation of arylacetylhydrazones of ketones **9** with lead tetraacetate leads to a variety of products the formation of which greatly depends on the type of the ketone. In particular, the acetone hydrazones **9a**, **9b** and **9c** give upon oxidation good yields of the 2*H*,5*H*-1,3,4-oxadiazoles **15** (Tables II and V) according to reaction Scheme II. This structure **15** was attributed to the oxidation products

Scheme II



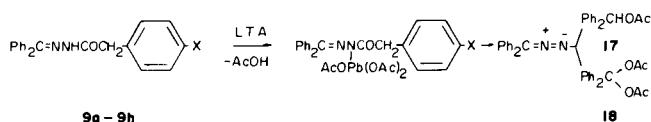
instead of the azoacetate structure **16** on the basis of their spectral data. In particular, only one signal was observed for the carbonyl carbon in the <sup>13</sup>C nmr spectrum and two signals in the <sup>1</sup>H nmr spectrum for the (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-C group.

**16**

On the other hand acetophenone hydrazones **9d**, **9e** and **9f** decompose on oxidation to the starting ketone. Benzo-

phenone hydrazones **9g** and **9h** give on oxidation with lead tetraacetate *O*-acetylbenzylidrol **17** according to scheme III.

Scheme III



However, by the oxidation of the hydrazone **9h** the biacetylated product **18** was also isolated. A similar behaviour was observed (3) by the oxidation with lead tetraacetate of benzophenone hydrazones where the reaction products were substituted monoacetoxy- or diacetoxy-alkanes and also recently (12) by the oxidation of benzil monosemicarbazones where *O*-acetylbenzoin was the main reaction product. In addition oxidation (13) of diphenyldiazomethan with lead tetraacetate leads to the formation of diphenylmethanediol diacetate (**18**).

From the experimental results it is suggested that for the formation of 1,3,4-oxadiazoles **10** the aldehydic hydrogen is necessary. Absence of the aldehydic hydrogen leads to the formation of 2*H*,5*H*-1,3,4-oxadiazoles **15** as in the case of the acetone hydrazones **9a-9c**. However, when the acetone moiety [(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-C=] is replaced with the acetophenone [CH<sub>3</sub>(Ph)-C=] or the benzophenone [(Ph)<sub>2</sub>-C=] the acetylation of the ketonic carbon atom does not take place due to steric hindrance according to scheme III. The diazocompound (Ph<sub>2</sub>C=N=N) is stable enough (14) so that acetoxylation can take place to give the *O*-acetylbenzylidrol **17** which on further acetoxylation gives **18**. However, the diazocompound [CH<sub>3</sub>-(Ph)-C=N=N] being less stable loses nitrogen to give finally acetophenone.

The spectral data for the hydrazones **8** and **9** and the oxidation products **10**, **11** and **15** are given in Tables I, III, IV and V. In addition <sup>13</sup>C nmr spectrum in deuteriochloroform solution of 2,2-dimethyl-4-acetoxy-4-benzyl-2*H*,5*H*-1,3,4-oxadiazole (**15a**) showed three signals at 21.72, 23.37 and 24.25 ppm for the methyl carbon atoms, one signal at 41.19 ppm for the methylene carbon atom, four signals at 127.26, 128.09, 130.68 and 133.16 ppm for the aromatic carbon atoms and one signal at 167.82 ppm for the carbonyl carbon atom. The two quaternary carbons are probably masked by the methyl carbons.

## EXPERIMENTAL

All melting points are uncorrected and they were obtained with a Kofler hot stage apparatus. The ir spectra were obtained with a Perkin-Elmer Model 257, whereas nmr spectra reported in  $\delta$  units with a Varian Associates A-60A spectrometer with TMS as internal reference. The mass spectra were obtained with a Hitachi-Perkin-Elmer Model RMU-6L

spectrometer with ionization energy 70eV. Analyses were performed with a Perkin-Elmer Model 240 CHN Analyser.

Preparation of arylacetylhydrazones of aldehydes **8** and ketones **9**. The hydrazones (Table I) were prepared according to well known procedures (14-17), namely by reacting the aldehyde or the ketone with the corresponding acid hydrazide in ethanol. Only the benzophenone hydrazones were prepared in a sealed tube at 110°.

#### Oxidation of Arylacetylhydrazones with Lead Tetraacetate.

A general procedure (9) is described. To a suspension of 0.02 moles of hydrazone in 40 ml of methylene chloride, a solution of 0.02 moles of lead tetraacetate in 40 ml methylene chloride was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. The methylene chloride solution was treated with water, filtered and the organic layer was washed with sodium carbonate solution, water, and then dried. The oil which was left behind was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether-ethyl acetate 5:1) and the products were isolated (Tables II, III, IV, V). By the oxidation of acetophenone hydrazones **9d**, **9e**, **9f** only the starting ketone was isolated in 40%. The benzophenone hydrazone **9g** gave *O*-acetylbenzydrol (**17**) (18) in 54% yield, mp 39-41° (lit (18) mp 42°) and the hydrazone **9h** gave *O*-acetylbenzydrol (**17**) in 40% yield and diphenylmethylene diacetate (**18**) (13) in 30% yield, mp 121-122° (lit (13) mp 121°).

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