Oct-Nov 1993 Mesoionic Dimethyl Derivatives of Some 1,2,4-Triazinones. The Course of the Reaction of 3,5-Dimethoxy, 3-Methoxy-5-methylthio, 5-Methoxy-3-methylthio and 3,5-Bis(methylthio)-1,2,4-triazine with Methyl Iodide

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Dedicated to the memory of Professor Roland K. Robins

Treatment of 3,5-dimethoxy-1,2,4-triazine (1a) with methyl iodide was found to give depending on the reaction time triazinium iodide 2a, triaziniumolates 4a and 6a as well as methoxytriazinones 7a and 8a. Thermolysis of 2a gave triaziniumolates 4a and 6a. Reaction of 2a, 4a or methoxytriazinone 9a with methyl iodide in acetonitrile yielded as the sole product 6a. Reaction of 3-methoxy-5-methylthio-1,2,4-triazine (1b) with methyl iodide gave triazinium iodide 2b and methylthio triazinone 7b. Hydrolysis of 2a,b afforded 4a. Reaction of 5-methoxy-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazine (1c) with methyl iodide gave triazinium iodide 2c, triaziniumolate 4b, triazinium iodide 5b and triazinone 8b. Hydrolysis of 2c yielded 4b and its thermolysis gave a mixture of 4b and 5b. Reaction of 2c, 4b and triazinone 9b with methyl iodide afforded 5b. Treatment of 3,5-bis(methylthio)-1,2,4-triazine (1d) with methyl iodide was found to give a mixture of N1 and N2 methiodides 2d and 3d which gave on hydrolysis 4b and 8b, respectively. Methylation of 6-methyl derivatives 1c-g gave analogous results, however the proportions of N1 methylated products were lower and the reaction rates higher in comparison to their respective lower homologues 1a,c,d. The structures of the mesoionic dimethyl derivatives were assigned from uv, ir, ¹H nmr and electron impact mass spectra. The structural assignments were eventually confirmed by quantum chemical calculations of net charge distributions, bond lengths and ipso angles of the C5-O bonds.

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To our knowledge, the first mesoinic 1,2,4-triaziniumolates have been prepared in our laboratory by reaction of 1,2,4-triazine-3,5(2H,4H)-dione (6-azauracil) with dimethyl sulfate [1,2] or on treatment of 3,5-dimethoxy-1.2.4-triazine (1a) and the related compounds 1b,c with methyl iodide [3]. Later on, Doleschall and Lempert [4] reported the synthesis of some 1,2,4-triazinoquinazoliumolates. Also Kakehi et al [5], Batori et al [6,7] and Messmer et al [8] succeeded in the preparation of some pyrido-1,2,4-triaziniumolates. Recently Jacobsen and Rose [9-11] prepared new 1-methyl-1,2,4-triaziniumolates by methylation of various 3 and 6-substituted 1,2,4triazin-5(2H)-ones with diazomethane or methyl iodide in the presence of aqueous alkali. The mesoionic 4,5-dihydro-1,4-dimethyl-5-thioxo-1,2,4-triazinium-3-olate [12] was obtained in our laboratory as a minute by-product of the methylation of the respective 4-methyl derivative. In this present paper we wish to give an account of our work on the preparation of mesoionic dimethyl derivatives of some 1,2,4-triazinones and the course of the reaction of triazines la-g with methyl iodide.

In connection with the study of alkylation or glycosylation of 1,2,4-triazine-3,5(2*H*,4*H*)-dione and its congeners we were interested in the applicability of the well known Hilbert-Johnson [13-15] reaction which is commonly

used for the preparation of *N*-alkyl and *N*-glycosyl derivatives of pyrimidinones and similar nitrogen heterocycles. This procedure may be generally formulated as a reaction of 2,4-dialkoxypyrimidines or related heterocyclic compounds with alkyl or glycosyl halides which affords the above mentioned *N*-substituted products. A general scheme was proposed for the Hilbert-Johnson reaction involving quaternization of nitrogen followed by dealkylation of the labile intermediate by halide ion [16].

In contrast to the methylation of 1,2,4-triazine-3.5(2H,4H)-dione with alkyl halides [17] in the presence of aqueous alkali or with diazomethane [18] which affords depending on reaction conditions and the alkylating agent the 2 and 4-methyl or 2,4-dimethyl derivatives, the Hilbert-Johnson reaction of 3,5-dimethoxy-1,2,4-triazine (1a) with methyl iodide should yield predominantly 5-methoxy-2-methyl-1,2,4-triazin-3(2H)-one (7a). However, the reaction of 3,5,6-trisubstituted alkyl-1,2,4triazines with methyl iodide affords mixtures of 1 and 2methyl-1,2,4-triazinium iodides [19]. Recently similar results have been obtained with 5,6-disubstituted alkyl-1,2,4-triazin-3-amines [20]. On the basis of these studies one could assume in the methylation of 1a also the formation of 1-methyltriazinium salts which should transform into triaziniumolates. In fact, the reaction of 1a with methyl iodide afforded depending on reaction time five methylation products. Treatment of 1a with methyl iodide at room temperature (30 days) furnished 3-methoxy-1methyl-1,2,4-triazinium-5-olate (4a), 4,5-dihydro-1,4dimethyl-5-oxo-1,2,4-triazinium-3-olate (6a), 5-methoxy-2-methyl-1,2,4-triazin-3(2H)-one (7a) and 3-methoxy-2methyl-1,2,4-triazin-5(2H)-one (8a) in 5, 34, 52 and 2% yields, respectively. The triaziniumolate 6a is formed via the unstable but isolable orange colored 3,5-dimethoxy-1methyl-1,2,4-triazinium iodide (2a) which splits off methyl iodide by selective demethylation of the methoxy group in position 5 to give 4a. The latter compound is then slowly methylated at position 4 to form the unisolable triazinium iodide 5a which is demethylated to the rather stable triazinium-3-olate 6a. In like manner the 2-methyl derivatives 7a and 8a are formed by demethylation of the methoxy group in position 3 or 5, respectively, of the unisolable triazinium iodide 3a.

Our earlier study [21] on the preparation of 1a has shown that this compound is selectively demethylated by sodium methanethiolate at the methoxy group in position 5. Quaternization on N1 does not change the regioselectivity of demethylation. In contrast, quaternization on N2 due to the influence of steric and electrostatic factors [22] activates to a larger extent the methoxy group in position 3 than the methoxy group in position 5.

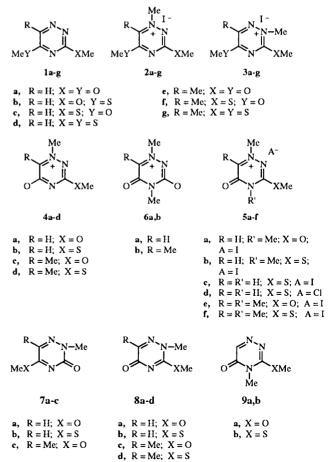
Treatment of 1a with methyl iodide at room temperature for 20 hours gave in 22% yield triazinium iodide 2a. Heating of 2a at 100° in vacuo afforded triaziniumolates 4a and 6a in 73 and 23% yields, respectively. The same products have been formed on storage of triazinium iodide 2a for several months.

In order to prove the proposed course of methylation of 1a, also 3-methoxy-5-methylthio-1,2,4-triazine (1b) was reacted with methyl iodide at room temperature (4 days). In this case the rather stable orange colored 3-methoxy-1-methyl-5-methylthio-1,2,4-triazinium iodide (2b) and 2-methyl-5-methylthio-1,2,4-triazin-3(2H)-one (7b) were obtained in 39 and 56% yields, respectively. The triazinone 7b is obviously formed *via* the unisolable triazinium iodide 3b.

Mild alkaline hydrolysis of triazinium iodides 2a,b gave in high yields triazinium-5-olate 4a. The reaction of 4a or triazinium iodide 2a with methyl iodide in acetonitrile at reflux temperature (4 hours) afforded triazinium-3-olate 6a in high yields. The same product was also obtained in a 95% yield on methylation of 3-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,4-triazin-5(4H)-one (9a) with methyl iodide at room temperature (10 days). The transformation of 2a, 4a and 9a to triazinium olate 6a proceeds undoubtedly via the unisolable triazinium iodide 5a. The presence of 5a in the reaction mixture is evidenced by the formation of a red color which disappears when the reaction is completed.

In connection with this study it was also of interest to know the course of methylation of the positional isomer of 1b, namely 5-methoxy-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazine (1c). Treatment of the latter compound with methyl iodide at room temperature for 22 hours gave in 32% yield the orange colored 5-methoxy-1-methyl-3methylthio-1,2,4-triazinium iodide (2c). When the reaction mixture was kept for an additional 8 days at room temperature, 4.5-dihydro-1,4-dimethyl-3-methylthio-5oxo-1,2,4-triazinium iodide (5b), 1-methyl-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazinium-5-olate (4b) and 2-methyl-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazin-5(2H)-one (8b) were obtained in 22, 4 and 38% yields, respectively. The triazinium iodide 5b is obviously formed by demethylation of the labile primary product 2c to triazinium-5-olate 4b which is subsequently methylated at position 4 to give 5b. The methylthiotriazinone 8b is formed by an analogous demethylation of the unisolable triazinium iodide 3c.

The triazinium-5-olate **4b** was also obtained in a high yield by mild alkaline hydrolysis of triazinium iodide **2c**. Heating of **2c** at 100° *in vacuo* afforded triazinium-5-olate **4b** and its methylation product **5b** in 51 and 30% yields, respectively. The products **4b** and **5b** are also formed on storage of the unstable triazinium iodide **2c** for several months. In this connection it should be mentioned



that the triazinium-5-olate **4b** was also prepared by Jacobsen and Rose [9] on methylation of 3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazin-5(2H)-one with diazomethane or methyl iodide in presence of aqueous alkali.

The triazinium iodide **5b** was moreover obtained in high yields by methylation of **2c** or **4b** with methyl iodide in acetonitrile at reflux temperature. Also the reaction of 4-methyl-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazin-5(4H)-one **(9b)** with methyl iodide at room temperature gave a 99% yield of **5b**.

Hydrolysis of **2c** in the absence of base gave the orange colored 4,5-dihydro-1-methyl-3-methylthio-5-oxo-1,2,4-triazinium iodide (**5c**). By contrast, the analogous chloride **5d** is a colorless compound. A similar situation has been observed by Doleschall and Lempert [4] in the case of analogous condensed 1,2,4-triazinium salts. In our opinion the color of 1-methyltriazinium iodides may be due to the ability of these salts to form complexes with elemental iodine which is always present in minute amounts in the reaction mixtures.

To complete this study also 3,5-bis(methylthio)-1,2,4triazine (1d) was reacted with methyl iodide at room temperature. In this case a 1:1 mixture of the rather stable N1 and N2 methiodides 2d and 3d was obtained. Due to difficulties with the separation of the individual isomers the crude mixture of 2d and 3d was directly hydrolyzed to give triazinium-5-olate 4b and triazinone 8b in 36 and 37% yields, respectively. In order to elucidate the influence of steric factors, the 6-methyl derivatives 1e-g were also included in this study. The reaction of these compounds with methyl iodide proceeds by analogy to the methylation of the respective lower homologues 1a,c,d. However, the ratio of N1/N2 methyl derivatives is changed in favour of N2 methyl derivatives and the methylations required shorter reaction times as compared with corresponding triazines 1a,c,d.

The structures of methoxytriazinones 7a and 8a as well as methylthiotriazinones 7b and 8b,d were established by direct comparison of these products with compounds previously reported in the literature. The structures of new methoxytriazinones 7c and 8c were assigned by a comparison of their uv and ir spectra with the respective data of the lower homologues 7a and 8a. The structure proofs of compounds 2 and 4-6 rest on the above described structure proving preparations and the assignements are confirmed by spectral methods. The polar character of triaziniumolates 4 and 6 is confirmed by bathochromic shifts of the long-wave maxima in uv spectra (Table 1) and by shifts of the carbonyl bands in ir spectra (Table 2) to lower frequences, when compared with the corresponding data of the methyl derivatives of 1,2,4-triazine-3,5(2H,4H)-dione [2,24,26], 3-methoxy [22] and 3methylthio-1,2,4-triazin-5-one [23,25]. However, com-

Table 1
Ultraviolet spectra of 1,2,4-Triazines 1,2 and 4-8

Compound	Solvent or pH	λ max, nm (log ϵ_{max})
1a	EtOH	212 (3.82), 274 (3.81)
1b	EtOH	232 (3.78), 251 (3.59), 309 (4.06)
1c	7 .0	233 (3.90), 241 (4.01), 296 (3.45)
1e	EtOH	212 (3.80), 275 (3.68)
1f	EtOH	248 (4.15), 302 (3.56)
2a	EtOH	219 (3.69), 288 (3.69)
2b	EtOH	217 (4.24), 247 (3.94), 341 (3.84)
2c	EtOH	220 (4.00), 258 (3.99), 319 (3.39)
4a	EtOH	215 (4.00), 303 (3.75)
4b	EtOH	233 (4.26), 321 (3.74)
5b	2 .4 6.9 11.0	226 (4.25), 327 (3.83) 222 (4.35), 275 (3.71) 222 (4.35), 279 (3.67)
5c	MeOH	226 (4.43), 320 (3.68)
5d	EtOH	233 (4.21), 322 (3.68)
5f	EtOH	221 (4.36), 293 (3.76), 318 (3.75)
6a	EtOH	319 (3.78)
6b	MeOH	321 (3.82)
7e	MeOH	288 (3.80)
8c	EtOH	228 (4.00), 261 (3.92)

Table 2
Infrared Spectra of 1,2,4-Triazines 1,2 and 4-8

	•			
Сопроиво	l Medium	ν (C=O),	v (ring),	cm-1
1a	chloroform	1568 vs 1453 s	1554 vs	1483 s
1b	chloroform	1530 s, 1469 m	1515 vs,	1505 s, sh
1c	chloroform	1552 vs	1540 vs	1531 s
1e	chloroform	1581 s 1459 s	1546 s	1482 s
1f	chloroform	1564 s	1523 s	1467 s
2a	nujol	1608 m	1582 m	1523 m
2b	nujol	1590 m	1535 s	1483 s
2e	nujol	1592 s	1553 s	1494 s
4a	nuiol	1686 m 1585 s	1650 s	1630 vs
4b	nujol	1658 m 1574 w	1651 m	1616 m
5b	nujol	1710 vs 1493 vs	1672 w, sh	1602 m
5d	nujol	1708 s 1513 s	1675 m	1611 m
5f	nujol	1712 s 1530 s	1675 w	1605 m
6a	nujol	1696 s	1639 vs,br	1523 m
6b	potassium bromide	1692 s 1634 s, vbr	1642 s, vbr	
7c	chloroform	1670 vs, br	1615 vs	1547 s
8c	chloroform	1660 vs, br 1535 vs, br	1602 s	

parison of the ir spectra of methoxytriazines 1 and triazinium salts 2 with the respective data of triaziniumo-

Table 3

¹H NMR Spectra of 1,2,4-Triazines **1-8** [28] in DMSO-d₆

Compound	6 (ppm), J (Hz)
1a	4.03 (3-OMe), 3.96 (5-OMe), 8.78 (6-H)
1b	4.03 (3-OMe), 2.56 (5-SMe), 9.06 (6-H)
1c	2.59 (3-SMe), 3.98 (5-OMe), 8.79 (6-H)
1d	2.59 (3-SMe), 2.57 (5-SMe), 9.08 (6-H)
1e	3.99 (3-OMe), 3.97 (5-OMe), 2.38 (6-Me)
1f	2.57 (3-SMe), 3.98 (5-OMe), 2.40 (6-Me)
1g	2 .58 (3-SMe), 2.56 (5-SMe), 2.43 (6-Me)
2 a	4 .33 d (1-NMe, ⁴ J = 0.9), 4.13 (3-OMe), 4 .21 (5-OMe), 9.74 q (6-H, ⁴ J = 0.9)
2b	4 .27 (1-NMe), 4.14 (3-OMe), 2.77 (5-SMe)
20	9.93 (6-H)
2 c	4. 31 (1-NMe), 2.66 (3-SMe), 4.20 (5-OMe) 9.72 (6-H)
2d	4.25 (1-NMe), 2.67 (3-SMe), 2.77 (5-SMe) 9.88 (6-H)
2 e	4. 30 (1-NMe), 4.09 (3-OMe), 4.19 (5-OMe)
	2 .70 (6-Me)
2f	4. 31 (1-NMe), 2.65 (3-SMe), 4.19 (5-OMe)
	2.70 (6-Me)
2g	4.29 (I-NMe), 2.67 (3-SMe), 2.74 (5-SMe)
	2.53 (6-Me)
3d	4.07 (2-NMe), 2.83 (3-SMe), 2.87 (5-SMe) 9.30 (6-H)
3g	4.08 (2-NMe), 2.85 (3-SMe), 2.88 (5-SMe),
- 6	2.49 (6-Me)
4a	$3.99 \text{ d} (1-\text{NMe}, {}^{4}\text{J} = 0.8), 3.78 (3-\text{OMe}),$
	8.21 q (6-H, $^{4}J = 0.8$)
4b	3.98 (1-NMe), 2.39 (3-SMe), 8.20 (6-H)
4c	3.97 (1-NMe), 3.76 (3-OMe), 2.40 (6-Me)
4d	3.96 (1-NMe), 2.40 (3-SMe), 2.37 (6-Me)
5b	$4.12 \text{ d} (1-\text{NMe}, {}^{4}\text{J} = 1.0), 2.69 (3-\text{SMe}),$
	$3.44 (4-NMe), 9.36 q (6-H, {}^{4}J = 1.0)$
5 f	4.15 (1-NMe), 2.67 (3-SMe),
	3.47 (4-NMe), 2.65 (6-Me)
6a	3.92 (1-NMe), 3.14 (4-NMe), 8.14 (6-H)
6b	3.91 (1-NMe), 3.16 (4-NMe) 2.34 (6-Me)
7c	3. 53 (2-NMe), 3.90 (5-OMe), 2.14 (6-Me)
8c	3. 56 (2-NMe), 3.91 (3-OMe), 2.09 (6-Me)

Table 4
Lengths (pm) of Selected Bonds of 1, 2, 4-Triazines 2 and 4-6

Bond	2a, c, e, f	5a, e	4a-d	6a, b
N1 - N2	131-133	135-136	132-133	130-131
N2 - C3	137-139	136-137	140-141	143-144
C3 - N4	137-138	139	132-133	145-148
N4 - C5	135-136	146-147	142-143	143
C5 - C6	143-145	148-149	148-150	147-148
C6 - N1	135-136	132-133	133-135	134-135
N1 - Me	148-149	148-149	148-149	148-149
C5 - O	133-134	121	121-122	122
C3 - O	132	133	135	121
C3 - S	173	uma .	178	-

lates 4 indicates that the latter compounds are not truly aromatic and that the negative charge on the exocyclic

Table 5

Ipso Angles (degree) of the C5 - O Bonds of 1, 2, 4-Triazines 2 and 4-6

Compound	2a, c, e, f	5a, e	4a-d	6a, b
Angle	116-117	116	121	116

Table 6
Charges [a] of Selected Atoms of 1, 2, 4-Triazines 2 and 4-6

Atom	2a, c, e, f	5a, e	4a-d	6a, b
O5	-(34-137)	-(201-217)	-(314-317)	-(350-352)
N1	+(644-718)	+(668-721)	+(702-728)	+(774-793)
N2	-(278-368)	-(429-441)	-(441-513)	-(504-506)
N4	-(103-191)	+80-(-74)	-(253-268)	-(65-66)
C5	+(218-233)	+(276-277)	+(340-345)	+(328-329)
C6	-(286-427)	-(278-355)	-(428-508)	-(508-567)

[a] In per milles of a charge unit.

oxygen is largely delocalized to the triazine ring. A similar conclusion follows from comparison of the ¹H nmr spectra (Table 3) of triazines 1a-d, triazinium iodides 2ac and triazinium olates 4a.b. The chemical shift values of the signals of the protons in position 6 of the latter compounds are much smaller than the respective values of the truly aromatic triazines 1a-d and 2a-c. The remarkable down field shifts of the resonance signals of the protons in position 6 of triaziniumolates 4a,b and 6a, when compared with the corresponding data of 1,2,4-triazinones [22], can be explained by the deshielding effect of the quaternary nitrogen atom in position 1. The structure of triaziniumolates 4a,b and 6a,b was also elucidated by quantum chemical calculation of the lengths of selected bonds (Table 4), the ipso angles of the C5-O bonds (Table 5) and the net charges of selected atoms (Table 6) of these compounds. For comparison also the respective parameters of triazinium salts 2a,c,e,f and 5a,e were calculated. These results allow to conclude that the C5-O bonds in triaziniumolates 4a-d and 6a,b as well as the C3-O bonds in 6a,b possess double bond character and that the positive charge is localized predominantly at N1. The calculation indicates also planar arrangement of the triazine ring in compounds 4a-d and 6a,b. The structure proofs of triaziniumolates 4a-d and 6a,b also rest upon electron impact mass spectral data (Table 7) which confirm correct molecular weights and the 1,2,4-triazine character of these compounds. In contrast to triazines 1a-g, 4a-d and 6a,b which exhibited molecular ions in their mass spectra, triazinium iodides 2a-c,e,f and 5b,f decomposed on electron bombardment to fragment ions formed by loss of methyl iodide, hydrogen iodide or iodine.

Comparison of the ¹H nmr and the ir spectra of the 1,4dimethyl derivative **6a** with the respective data for the previously reported analogous 1-methyl derivative [2]

Table 7
Mass Spectra of 1, 2, 4-Triazines 1, 2 and 4-8

Compound	m/z (relative intensity, %)
1a	141 (M+, 100), 126 (48), 111 (29), 98 (18), 83 (32), 70 (49), 56 (75), 42 (15), 28 (16)
1 b	157 (M+, 100), 127 (7), 100 (3), 86 (21), 72 (91), 57 (11), 45 (18) 28 (10)
1 c	157 (M*, 100), 142 (28), 114 (28), 99 (15), 86 (11), 69 (9), 56 (35), 45 (10), 28 (8)
1d	173 (M+, 95), 149 (2), 115 (6), 98 (3), 83 (6), 72 (100), 57 (11), 45 (21), 28 (2)
1e	155 (M+, 100), 140 (12), 125 (18), 110 (2), 97 (2) 84 (32), 70 (55), 55 (57), 42 (15), 28 (8)
1f	171 (M+, 100), 156 (11), 86 (5), 70 (68), 55 (42) 45 (8), 28 (9)
1g	187 (M+, 100), 172 (5), 112 (5), 86 (82), 71 (50), 45 (18), 28 (12)
2a	142 (100), 141 (M+ - MeI, 19), 127 (21), 42 (20), 28 (1)
2b	157 (M ⁺ - MeI, 9), 142 (100), 127 (12), 110 (9), 86 (12), 42 (2), 28 (1)
2 c	171 (2), 157 (M+ - MeI, 18), 142 (100), 127 (39), 116 (12), 97 (7), 69 (12), 57 (15) 42 (62), 28 (1)
2e	169 (6), 155 (M+ - MeI, 71), 142 (100), 127 (40), 113 (1), 99 (1), 85 (2), 70 (4), 56 (83), 43 (14), 28 (5)
2f	185 (33), 171 (M+ - MeI, 98), 143 (8), 142 (8), 128 (22), 127 (15), 110 (9), 88 (7), 74 (8), 56 (100), 42 (8), 28 (10)
4a	141 (M*, 69), 129 (1), 112 (18) 100 (12), 83 (8), 69 (9), 57 (11), 42 (100), 28 (9)
4b	157 (M+, 62), 124 (5), 116 (32), 96 (6), 84 (10), 69 (9), 57 (11), 42 (100) 28 (3)
4c	155 (M+, 35), 140 (2), 127 (8), 70 (8), 56 (100), 43 (15), 42 (3), 28 (12)
4d	171 (M*, 45), 156 (2), 143 (2), 110 (11), 98 (8), 84 (5) 74 (10), 56 (100), 43 (41), 42 (25), 28 (22)
5 b	172 (100), 157 (M* - MeI, 6), 128 (19), 127 (12), 103 (21), 88 (9), 69 (7), 57 (12), 42 (58), 28 (7)
5f	312 (2), 185 (M+ - HI, 100), 128 (50), 102 (12), 88 (21), 69 (22), 55 (33), 43 (12), 42 (8), 28 (7)
6a	141 (M+, 81), 129 (5), 112 (5), 98 (8), 83 (8), 69 (19), 57 (18), 43 (32), 42 (100), 28 (21)
6b	155 (M*, 76), 141 (1), 126 (5), 113 (11), 97 (6), 83 (7), 69 (11), 56 (100), 43 (23), 42 (20), 28 (20)
7c	155 (M+, 100), 140 (48), 127 (10), 112 (9), 97 (8), 84 (32), 70 (29), 55 (71), 43 (28), 42 (10), 28 (18)
8c	155 (M+, 38), 114 (88), 99 (50), 84 (48), 70 (30), 56 (100), 42 (12) 28 (10)

indicates that the latter compound exists in the 4,5-dihydro tautomeric form and not also in the 2,5-dihydro form as was suggested by the past workers.

The results presented in this paper allow us to conclude that the reaction of 1,2,4-triazines 1a-g with methyl iodide proceeds primarily at nitrogen atoms in positions 1 and 2 of the triazine ring. The 1-methyltriazinium salts are demethylated or hydrolyzed exclusively at position 5. In contrast, 2-methyltriazinium salts are preferently demethylated at position 3, but hydrolysis occurs selectively at position 5. Only methoxy groups are demethylated, methylthio groups resist demethylation by the

iodide ion. The ratio of methylation on N1 and N2 depends largely on steric and electronic effects of the substituents in positions 3 and 6. The methylthio group in position 3 lowers as compared with the methoxy group the proportion of N2-methyl derivatives in favour of Nlmethyl derivatives. The methyl group in position 6 lowers due to steric hindrance the proportion of N1-methyl derivatives in favour of N2-methyl derivatives. Also the exclusive N4 methylation of triazinium-5-olates 4a-d as well as the highly selective N1 methylation of triazinones 9a,b can be explained by the influence of steric factors. The reactivity of triazines 1a-g towards methyl iodide is influenced predominantly by electronic effects of substituents in positions 3 and 6 and to a lower extent also in position 5. The ease of methylation of triazines 1a-d decreases in the following order: 1a > 1b > 1c > 1d. 6-Methyl derivatives 1e-g are due to the +I effect of the methyl groups which are much more reactive than their lower homologues 1a,c,d.

EXPERIMENTAL

Triazines 1a,c-g were prepared by previously reported procedures [21]. Triazine 1b was obtained as a by-product of methylation of 5-methylthio-1,2,4-triazin-3-one with diazomethane [27]. Unless stated otherwise, the solvents were evaporated at 35°/2.5 KPa and analytical samples were dried at 40 Pa (room temperature). The melting points were determined on a Kofler block and are uncorrected. Thin-layer chromatography (tlc) was performed on Silufol sheets UV 254 (Kavalier, Votice, Czechoslovakia) in ethyl acetate (S1) or 8:2 ethyl acetate:methanol (S2). Spots were detected with uv light at 254 nm. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (Separon SGX 40 µm, TESSEK, Czechoslovakia) The uv spectra were taken on a Pye Unicam 8000 spectrophotometer (Cambridge, U.K.) and mass spectra (m/z) on a ZAB-EQ (VG Analytical Ltd., Manchester, U.K.) spectrometer using the EI (electron energy 70 eV) technique. The ¹H nmr spectra were obtained with a Varian UNITY 500 instrument (499.8 MHz) in hexadeuteriodimethyl sulfoxide and the chemical shifts are related to the signal of the solvent (δ DMSO = 2.50 ppm). Chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm and coupling constants (J) in Hz. The ir spectra were recorded on a Zeiss UR-20 instrument, the wavenumbers are given in cm-1. The quantum chemical calculations were carried out using the program MOPAC, version 6.00 by the method PM3 on the work station RISC 6000/IBM.

Reaction of 3,5-Dimethoxy-1,2,4-triazine (1a) with Methyl Iodide.

A solution of 1a (0.282 g, 2 mmoles) in methyl iodide (4 ml) was kept for 30 days at room temperature in a dark place. The originally red color of the mixture disappeard during that time. The precipitate of triaziniumolates 4a and 6a was collected and separated on a silica gel column (20 g), prepacked in ethyl acetate. Elution of the column with ethyl acetate:methanol (8:2, v/v) gave 0.095 g (34%) of 6a, mp 219-221° dec (ethanol), Rf 0.19 (S2) and 0.015 g (5%) of 4a, mp 187-189° dec (ethanol), Rf 0.12 (S2). The mother liquors remaining after isolation of the

mixture of 4a and 6a were evaporated and the residue separated on a silica gel column (15 g), prepacked in ethyl acetate. Elution of the column with ethyl acetate gave 0.147 g (52%) of 7a, mp 68-69° (benzene-petroleum ether) (lit [22] 67-68°), Rf 0.52 (S1) and 0.006 g (2%) of 8a, mp 117-118° (benzene-petroleum ether) (lit [22] 118-119°), Rf 0.10 (S1).

3,5-Dimethoxy-l-methyl-1,2,4-triazinium Iodide (2a).

A solution of 1a (1.41 g, 10 mmoles) in methyl iodide (20 ml) was kept for 20 hours at room temperature in a dark place. The orange crystals were collected and air-dried to give 0.630 g (22%) of 2a, mp 162-177° dec (whitening at ca 100°).

Anal. Calcd. for C₆H₁₀IN₃O₂ (283.1): C, 25.45; H, 3.56, I, 44.83; N, 14.85. Found: C, 25.32; H, 3.41; I, 44.91; N, 14.68.

On allowing the mother liquors to stand for a further 48 hours a second crop of 2a (0.310 g, 11%), contaminated with minor amounts of 4a and 6a, was obtained. Working up of the last mother liquors as described in the preceding experiment gave triazinones 7a and 8a in 52 and 2% yields, respectively.

Thermolysis of **2a** (0.283 g, 1 mmole) at 100° for 20 minutes in vacuo (water pump pressure) yielded 0.141 g (100%) of a colorless mixture of **4a** and **6a**, mp 154-174° dec. The mixture was separated on a silica gel column (30 g), prepacked in ethyl acetate. Elution of the column with ethyl acetate:methanol (8:2, v/v) afforded 0.103 g (73%) of **4a**, mp 187-189° dec(ethanol) and 0.032 g (23%) of **6a**, mp 219-221° dec (ethanol).

Reaction of 3-Methoxy-5-methylthio-1,2,4-triazine (1b) with Methyl Iodide.

A solution of 1b (0.472 g, 3 mmoles) in methyl iodide (8 ml) was kept for 4 days at room temperature in a dark place. The orange precipitate was collected and air-dried to give 0.350 g (39%) of 2b, mp 130-132° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_{10}IN_3OS$ (299.1): C, 24.09; H, 3.37; I, 42.44; N, 14.05. Found: C, 24.37; H, 3.49; I, 42.79; N, 14.30.

The mother liquors remaining after isolation of **2b** were evaporated. A solution of the residue in benzene was filtered with charcoal and again evaporated. Crystallization of the residue from benzene-petroleum ether yielded 0.240 g (51%) of **7b**, mp 109-110° (lit [18] 102-104°), Rf 0.60 (S1).

3-Methoxy-1-methyl-1,2,4-triazinium-5-olate (4a).

A solution of **2b** (0.299 g, 1 mmole) in water (5 ml) was applied to a Dowex 1 bicarbonate column (10 ml), prepacked in water. Elution of the column with water (50 ml) yielded 0.116 g (82%) of **4a** mp 187-189° dec (ethanol).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_5H_7N_3O_2$ (141.1): C, 42.55; H, 5.00; N, 29.78. Found: C, 42.82; H; 5.29; N, 30.02.

When 2a was used as starting compound a 79% yield of 4a was obtained by the same procedure.

4,5-Dihydro-1,4-dimethyl-5-oxo-1,2,4-triazinium-3-olate (6a).

A) A solution of 4a (0.141 g, 1 mmole) in acetonitrile (5 ml) and methyl iodide (2 ml) was refluxed for 4 hours. Evaporation and recrystallization of the residue from ethanol gave 0.120 g (85%) of 6a, mp 219-221° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_5H_7N_3O_2$ (141.1): C, 42.55; H, 5.00; N, 29.78. Found: C, 42.73; H, 4.96; N, 30.06.

When 2a was used as starting compound a 82% yield of 6a was obtained by the same procedure.

B) A solution of 9a (0.282 g, 2 mmoles) in methyl iodide (4 ml) was kept for 10 days at room temperature in a dark place.

The solution became red within 5 minutes after dissolution of the starting compound. The red color disappeard at the end of the reaction. The colorless precipitate was collected to give 0.267 g (95%) of 6a, mp 219-221° dec (ethanol).

Reaction of 5-Methoxy-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazine (1c) with Methyl Iodide.

A solution of lc (1.57 g, 10 mmoles) in methyl iodide (30 ml) was kept for 22 hours at room temperature in a dark place. The orange crystals were collected and air-dried to give 0.95 g (32%) of 2c, mp 106-108° dec (at rapid heating), upon slow heating the product decolorized at 100-110° and melted at 153-175° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_{10}IN_3OS$ (299.1): C, 24.09; H, 3.37; I, 42.44; N, 14.05. Found: C, 24.35; H, 3.35; I, 42.56; N, 14.14.

The mother liquors remaining after isolation of **2c** were kept for 8 days at room temperature in a dark place. The orange precipitate was collected, washed with hot chloroform and recrystallized from ethanol to afford 0.65 g (22%) of **5b**, mp 190-192° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_{10}IN_3OS$ (299.1): C, 24.09; H, 3.37; I, 42.44; N, 14.05. Found: C, 24.31; H, 3.45; I, 42.72; N, 14.26.

The mother liquors remaining after isolation of **5b** were evaporated and the residue separated on a silica gel column (20 g), prepacked in ethyl acetate. Elution of the column with 100 ml of ethyl acetate and 300 ml of ethyl acetate:methanol (8:2, v/v) gave 0.605 g (38%) of **8b**, mp 164-165° (ethyl acetate) (lit [17] 156-159°), Rf 0.31 (S1) and 0.065 g (4%) of **4b**, mp 191-193° dec (ethanol), Rf 0.35 (S2).

Anal. Calcd. for C₅H₇N₃OS (157.2): C, 38.20; H, 4.49; N, 26.74; S, 20.40. Found: C, 37.94; H, 4.53; N, 26.73; S, 20.61.

1-Methyl-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazinium-5-olate (4b).

A) A solution of 2c (0.299 g, 1 mmole) in water (5 ml) was applied on a Dowex 1 bicarbonate column (10 ml), prepacked in water. Elution of the column with water (50 ml), evaporation of the eluate and recrystallization of the residue from ethanol afforded 0.122 g (78%) of 4b, mp 191-193° dec (lit [9] 191-193°).

B) Triazinium iodide 2c (0.598 g, 2 mmoles) was heated for 45 minutes at 100° (oil bath temperature) in vacuo (water pump pressure). The residue was triturated with hot chloroform, the insoluble portion collected and recrystallized from ethanol to give 0.174 g (30%) of 5b, mp 190-192° dec. The chloroform extract was evaporated and the residue purified on a silica gel column (10 g), prepacked in ethyl acetate. Elution of the column with ethyl acetate:methanol (8:2. v/v) gave 0.160 g (51%) of 4b, mp 192-193° dec(ethanol).

4,5-Dihydro-1,4-dimethyl-3-methylthio-5-oxo-1,2,4-triazinium Iodide (5b).

A) A mixture of 2c (0.299 g, 1 mmole), acetonitrile (5 ml) and methyl iodide (1 ml) was refluxed for 4 hours. Evaporation of the solvents and crystallization of the residue from ethanol yielded 0.194 g (65%) of 5b, mp 190-192° dec.

When 4b was used as the starting compound a 72% yield of 5b was obtained by the same procedure.

B) A solution of 9b (0.157 g, 1 mmole) in methyl iodide (10 ml) was kept for 8 days at room temperature in a dark place. The orange crystals were collected and air-dried to yield 0.295 g (99%) of 5b, mp 186-189° dec.

4,5-Dihydro-1-methyl-3-methylthio-5-oxo-1,2,4-triazinium Iodide (5c).

A solution of **2c** (0.299 g, 1 mmole) in a mixture of ethanol (5 ml) and water (1 ml) was refluxed for 5 minutes and evaporated. The residue was triturated with hot ethanol (3 ml) and the mixture kept overnight in a refrigerator. The orange crystals were collected and air-dried to give 0.190 g (67%) of **5c**, mp 202-203° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for C₃H₈IN₃OS (285.1): C, 21.06; H, 2.83; I, 44.51; N, 14.74. Found: C, 21.32; H, 2.78; I, 44.47; N, 14.91

4,5-Dihydro-1-methyl-3-methylthio-5-oxo-1,2,4-triazinium Chloride (5d).

A mixture of 4b (0.157 g, 1 mmole) and methanol (2 ml) was treated with a 4 M solution of dry hydrogen chloride in ether (1 ml) and the mixture evaporated. Trituration of the residue with ethanol (1 ml) gave 0.125 g (65%) of 5d as white crystals, mp 178-180° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for C₅H₈ClN₃OS (193.7): C, 31.00; H, 4.17; Cl, 18.31; N, 21.69. Found: C, 31.25; H, 4.05; Cl, 18.24; N, 21.94.

Reaction of 3,5-Bis(methylthio)-1,2,4-triazine (1d) with Methyl Iodide.

A solution of 1d (3.46 g, 20 mmoles) in methyl iodide (40 ml) was kept for 9 days at room temperature in a dark place. The red crystals were collected and air-dried to give 6.20 g (99%) of a 1:1 mixture (estimated by ¹H nmr spectra) of 2d and 3d, mp 155-168° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_{10}IN_3S_2$ (315.2): C, 22.86; H 3.19; I, 40.26; N, 13.33. Found: C, 23.15; H, 3.25; I, 40.54; N, 13.27.

Hydrolysis of the Mixture of Isomeric Methyl-3,5-bis-(methyl-thio)-1,2,4-triazinium Iodides 2d and 3d.

A solution of the mixture of 2d and 3d (0.634 g, 2 mmoles) in a 1:1 mixture of methanol and water (40 ml) was applied on a Dowex 1 bicarbonate column (20 ml), prepacked in water. The column was eluted with methanol:water (1:1, v/v) (100 ml) and the eluate evaporated. The residue was separated on a silica gel column (20 g), prepacked in ethyl acetate. Elution of the column with ethyl acetate (100 ml) and ethyl acetate:methanol (8:2, v/v) (300 ml) afforded 0.118 g (37%) of 8b, mp 164-165° (ethyl acetate) and 0.112 g (36%) of 4b, mp 191-193° dec (ethanol).

Reaction of 3,5-Dimethoxy-6-methyl-1,2,4-triazine (1e) with Methyl Iodide.

A solution of 1e (1.55 g, 10 mmoles) in methyl iodide (20 ml) was kept for 48 hours at room temperature in a dark place. The yellow precipitate was collected and air-dried to give 0.121 g (4%) of 2e, mp 107-108° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for C₇H₁₂IN₃O₂ (297.1): C, 28.30; H, 4.07; I, 42.72; N, 14.15. Found: C, 28.39; H, 4.22; I, 43.10; N, 14.41.

The mother liquors remaining after isolation of 2e were evaporated and the residue was separated on a silica gel column (100 g). Successive elution of the column with 500 ml portions of benzene:ethyl acetate (8:2 and 1:1, v/v), ethyl acetate and ethyl acetate:methanol (8:2 and 7:3, v/v) gave the following products:

Triazinone 7c (1.085 g, 70%) had mp 122° (benzene-petroleum ether), Rf 0.48 (S1).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_9N_3O_2$ (155.2): C, 46.44; H, 5.85; N, 27.08. Found: C, 46.62; H, 6.08; N, 27.33.

Triazinone 8c (0.070 g, 4%) had mp 143-146° (benzene-

petroleum ether), Rf 0.23 (S1).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_9N_3O_2$ (155.2): C, 46.44; H, 5.85; N, 27.08. Found: C, 46.59; H, 5.99; N, 27.15.

Triaziniumolate 6b (0.185 g, 12%) had mp $153-154^{\circ}$ (ethanol-petroleum ether), Rf 0.02 (S1) and 0.25 (S2).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_9N_3O_2$ (155.2): C 46.44; H 5.85; N, 27.08. Found: C, 46.55; H, 6.02; N, 27.34.

3-Methoxy-1,6-dimethyl-1,2,4-triazinium-5-olate (4c).

A mixture of 2e (0.297 g, 1 mmole), water (5 ml) and silver carbonate (0.276 g, 1 mmole) was magnetically stirred for 20 minutes at room temperature. The insoluble material was filtered off by suction, the filtrate evaporated, the residue triturated with hot ethanol (15 ml) and the solution filtered with charcoal. Evaporation of the filtrate and trituration of the residue with ethyl acetate gave 0.120 g (77%) of 4c, mp 138-140° (ethanol-ethyl acetate).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_9N_3O_2$ (155.2): C, 46.44; H, 5.85; N, 27.08. Found: C, 46.52; H, 5.81; N, 27.25.

Reaction of 5-Methoxy-6-methyl-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazine (1f) with Methyl Iodide.

A solution of 1f (0.513 g, 3 mmoles) in methyl iodide (8 ml) was allowed to stand at room temperature for 5 days in a dark place. The orange precipitate was collected and recrystallized from ethanol to give 0.241 g (26%) of 5f, mp 214-215° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_7H_{12}IN_3OS$ (313.2): C, 26.85; H, 3.86: I, 40.52: N, 13.42. Found: C, 27.09: H, 3.83; I, 40.25; N, 13.65.

The mother liquors remaining after isolation of crude 5f were evaporated and the residue purified on an alumina column (10 g). Elution of the column with benzene:ethyl acetate (3:2, v/v) gave 0.322 g (63%) of 8d, mp 108-109° (benzene-petroleum ether) (lit [18] 105-107°).

5-Methoxy-1,6-dimethyl-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazinium Iodide (2f).

A solution of 1f (1.712 g, 10 mmoles) in methyl iodide (20 ml) was kept for 24 hours at room temperature in a dark place. The orange precipitate was collected and air-dried to give 0.595 g (19%) of 2f, mp $107-109^{\circ}$ dec.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_7H_{12}IN_3OS$ (313.2): C, 26.85; H, 3.86; I, 40.52; N, 13.42. Found: C, 27.00; H, 3.82; I, 40.28; N, 13.25.

1,6-Dimethyl-3-methylthio-1,2,4-triazinium-5-olate (4d).

Triazinium iodide **2f** (0.313 g, 1 mmole) was reacted with silver carbonate in analogy to the preparation of **4c** to give 0.055 g (32%) of **4d**, mp 120-122° (methanol-ethyl acetate) (lit [10] 121-122°).

Reaction of 6-Methyl-3,5-bis(methylthio)-1,2,4-triazine (1g) with Methyl Iodide.

A solution of 1g (1.87 g, 10 mmoles) in methyl iodide (25 ml) was allowed to stand for 6 days at room temperature in a dark place. The red crystals were collected and air-dried to give 3.25 g (99%) of a 1:1.9 mixture (estimated by ¹H nmr spectra) of 2g and 3g, mp 164-174° dec.

Anal. Calcd. for C₇H₁₂IN₃S₂ (329.2): C, 25.53; H, 3.68; I, 38.56; N, 12.76. Found: C, 25.21; H, 3.71; I, 38.30; N, 12.46.

Hydrolysis of the Mixture of Isomeric Dimethyl-3,5-bis(methylthio)-1,2,4-triazinium Iodides 2g and 3g.

A mixture of 2g and 3g (0.662 g, 2 mmoles) was hydrolyzed and worked up in the same way as described for the hydrolysis of 2d and 3d. Separation of the crude product on a silica gel column gave 0.212 g (62%) of 8d, mp 107-109° (ethyl acetate-petroleum ether) and 0.054 g (16%) of 4d, mp 120-122° (methanol-ethyl acetate).

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