

acetic acid¹ gave 2.35 g. (71%) of fine white crystals, m.p. 175–176°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{16}H_{13}O_2Br$: C, 57.67; H, 3.94; Br, 23.98. Found: C, 57.91; H, 3.83; Br, 23.82.

3-(5-Chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)phthalide. One and one-half grams (0.01 mole) of phthalaldehydic acid was dissolved in 18 ml. of 3:1 concd. sulfuric acid–water. This solution was cooled in an ice-water bath, and 1.28 g. (0.01 mole) of *p*-chlorophenol was added. After mechanically stirring the mixture for 2 hr. the cooling bath was removed and stirring was continued for an additional 2 hr. At this point the thick, milky emulsion was brought into a large volume of cold water, with vigorous stirring. A voluminous white solid separated and gradually settled out. The crude product was removed, washed thoroughly with cold water, and permitted to dry overnight. This gave a white powdery solid weighing 2.3 g. (88%). Recrystallization from ethanol yielded 1.83 g. (70%) of soft, glistening needles. An analytical sample melted at 163.5–164°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{14}H_9O_3Cl$: C, 64.51; H, 3.48; Cl, 13.60. Found: C, 64.64; H, 3.29; Cl, 13.73.

3-(5-Methyl-2-methoxyphenyl)phthalide. A solution of 1.5 g. (0.01 mole) of phthalaldehydic acid in 24 ml. of 3:1 concd. sulfuric acid–water was prepared. This was cooled by immersion in an ice-water bath, and 1.22 g. (0.01 mole) of *p*-methylanisole was then added. The mixture was mechanically stirred; after 3 hr. testing showed that the brown oil which had separated as a top layer would solidify in water. The entire reaction mixture was poured with stirring into a large volume of cold water. The gum which separated soon hardened to a yellow solid; when firm it was removed and thoroughly washed with cold water. Drying gave as crude product 2.55 g. (100%) of light yellow solid. Recrystallization from ethanol yielded 2.03 g. (80%) of white crystals, m.p. 120.5–121.5°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{16}H_{14}O_3$: C, 75.57; H, 5.55. Found: C, 75.34; H, 5.71.

3-(5-Methyl-2-ethoxyphenyl)phthalide. This phthalide was synthesized by using 1.5 g. (0.01 mole) of phthalaldehydic acid and 1.34 g. (0.01 mole) of *p*-methylphenetole with 24 ml. of 3:1 concd. sulfuric acid–water as the condensing agent. The procedure followed was essentially the same as outlined for 3-(5-methyl-2-methoxyphenyl)phthalide. The crude reaction product weighed 2.42 g. (91%). Recrystallization from ethanol gave 1.98 g. (74%) of white needles. An analytical sample melted at 151–151.5°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{17}H_{16}O_3$: C, 76.09; H, 6.01. Found: C, 76.21; H, 5.92.

3-(2,4,6-Trichloro-3-hydroxyphenyl)phthalide. One and one-half grams (0.01 mole) of phthalaldehydic acid was dissolved in 20 ml. of 1:1 concd. sulfuric acid–20% fuming sulfuric acid. To this solution at room temperature was added 1.98 g. (0.01 mole) of 2,4,6-trichlorophenol, and the mixture mechanically stirred. The dispersed phenol reacted over a period of 3 hr. to give a yellow solution. The reaction vessel was then immersed in a water bath maintained at 60–70°, and stirring was continued for an additional 2 hr. The reaction mixture was poured into a large volume of cold water. The gum which separated hardened very slowly, but became brittle after standing overnight. The crude product, nearly white in color, weighed 3.0 g. (90%). Recrystallization from glacial acetic acid gave 2.6 g. (80%) of nearly white cubic crystals, m.p. 164.5–165°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{14}H_7O_3Cl_3$: C, 51.02; H, 2.14; Cl, 32.27. Found: C, 51.10; H, 1.98; Cl, 32.41.

Acknowledgment. Appreciation is expressed to William V. Floutz, Wyandotte Chemicals Corp., for the infrared data, and its interpretation.

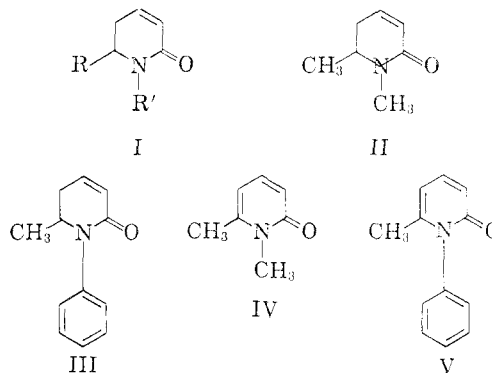
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Unsaturated Lactams. II.¹ The Catalytic Dehydrogenation of α,β -Unsaturated Valerolactams to Pyridones²

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Received November 2, 1960

The fact that α,β -unsaturated lactams of type (I) are now readily available¹ induced us to extend the method used by Spath and Galinovsky for the synthesis of pyridones. These two workers found that six-membered saturated lactams could be smoothly dehydrogenated to the corresponding pyridones by treatment with palladium. In the present work, the unsaturated lactams (II) and (III) were dehydrogenated to the pyridones (IV) and (V), respectively.



As indicated in Table I, the dehydrogenation reactions were found to be temperature dependent.

TABLE I
DEHYDROGENATION OF α,β -UNSATURATED VALEROLACTAMS TO PYRIDONES WITH 5% PALLADIUM ON CARBON

| Solvent | B.P. | Yield of IV (%) | Yield of V (%) |
|--------------------------------------|------|-----------------|----------------|
| Benzene | 80° | 30 | — |
| Xylene | 140° | 40 | 28 |
| <i>p</i> -(<i>n</i> -Propyl)anisole | 247° | — | 49 |

Catalytic dehydrogenation of α,β -unsaturated lactams can provide a route, therefore, to a variety of substituted pyridones which would be difficult to prepare by other routes.

EXPERIMENTAL³

1,6-Dimethyl-2-pyridone (IV). *Method A.* A well stirred suspension of 2 g. of 5% palladium on carbon, 50 ml. of xylene, and 10 g. (0.08 mole) of 1,6-dimethyl-5,6-dihydro-2-

(1) For paper I see Maurice Shamma and Paul D. Rosenstock, *J. Org. Chem.*, **26**, 718 (1961).

(2) This research was supported in part by grant NSF-G10032 from the National Science Foundation.

(3) Elemental analyses were carried out by A. Bernhardt, Mulheim, Germany.

