

*Anal.* Calcd for  $C_{14}H_{22}N_4P_2F_{12}$ : C, 30.8; H, 5.9; N, 10.3. Found: C, 30.9; H, 6.0; N, 10.3.

**Preparation of Cyclopropylenebis(dimethylaminomethylium) Hexafluorophosphate (13a).**—To a solution of 2.0 g (0.012 mol) of  $AgNO_3$  in 10 ml of acetonitrile is added slowly a solution of 1.2 g (0.0050 mol) of 12 in 15 ml of acetonitrile (1 ml of benzene added to solubilize amine). An exothermic reaction follows. The filtrate is decanted from the silver precipitate and the solvent is removed. The residue is dissolved in water and the product is precipitated by the addition of  $NaPF_6$  solution. The precipitate of *cis*- and *trans*-13a can be recrystallized from acetonitrile-chloroform without significant fractionation: yield 2.24 g (85%); nmr ( $CD_3CN$ )  $\tau$  6.78 and 6.80 (s, 6) (*cis/trans* ratio 2:3), and 7.17–8.25 (m, 1).

*Anal.* Calcd for  $C_{13}H_{20}N_4P_2F_{12}$ : C, 29.5; H, 5.3; N, 10.6. Found: C, 29.7; H, 5.3; N, 10.3.

Hydrolysis of the above salt in dilute KOH solution yields a mixture of amides (*cis/trans* ratio, 1:5) identical with the authentic *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylcyclopropanedicarboxamides.<sup>11</sup>

**Preparation of 1,2-Cyclopentylenebis(dimethylaminomethylium) Hexafluorophosphate (16a).**—To a solution of 4.0 g (0.024 mol) of  $AgNO_3$  in 40 ml of acetonitrile is added slowly a solution of 2.68 g (0.010 mol) of 15 in 20 ml of acetonitrile. The reaction is exothermic and a black precipitate is deposited. The reaction mixture is filtered, the filtrate is evaporated, and the residue is dissolved in water. This aqueous solution is treated with  $NaPF_6$  yielding a precipitate of 16a, which can be recrystallized from acetonitrile-chloroform: yield 5.1 g (91%); nmr ( $CD_3CN$ )  $\tau$  5.95–6.50 (m, 1), 6.79 (s, 12), and 7.35–8.05 (m, 3).

*Anal.* Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{22}N_4P_2F_{12}$ : C, 32.3; H, 5.8; N, 10.0. Found: C, 32.1; H, 5.6; N, 9.8.

Hydrolysis of the above salt in dilute KOH solution yielded a diamide identical with authentic *trans-N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylcyclopentane-1,2-dicarboxamide (mass spectrum and nmr spectrum identical).

**Preparation of Bicyclo[3.1.0]cyclohexan-1,5-ylenebis(dimethylaminomethylium) Hexafluorophosphate (18a).**—To a solution of 3.7 g (0.022 mol) of  $AgNO_3$  in 50 ml of acetonitrile is added slowly a solution of 2.8 g (0.01 mol) of 17 in 30 ml of aceto-

nitrile (plus 5 ml of benzene to solubilize the amine). An exothermic reaction occurs yielding a clear solution and a black precipitate. The reaction mixture is filtered and the filtrate is evaporated. The residue is dissolved in water and treated with  $NaPF_6$ , which precipitates 18a. The salt can be recrystallized from acetonitrile-chloroform: yield 5.0 g (88%); nmr ( $CD_3CN$ )  $\tau$  6.74 (s, 3) and 7.25–8.06 (m, 1).

*Anal.* Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{22}N_4P_2F_{12}$ : C, 33.7; H, 5.7; N, 9.8. Found: C, 33.4; H, 5.5; N, 9.6.

Hydrolysis of the above salt in dilute KOH solution yielded a diamide having an nmr spectrum identical with that of authentic *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethyl[3.1.0]bicyclohexane-1,5-dicarboxamide.<sup>12</sup>

**Preparation of 1,1,6,6-Tetrakis(dimethylamino)-2,5-bis(methylene)hexane-1,6-diylium Hexafluorophosphate (20a).**—To a solution of 0.40 g (2.3 mmol) of  $AgNO_3$  in 5 ml of acetonitrile is added slowly a solution of 0.25 g (0.89 mmol) of 19 also in 5 ml of acetonitrile. An exothermic reaction takes place depositing a black precipitate. The supernatant liquid remains clear and colorless. The supernatant liquid is decanted and the solvent is removed. The residue is dissolved in methanol and treated with  $NaPF_6$ , producing a precipitate of 20a which is recrystallizable from acetonitrile-methanol: yield 0.46 g (90%); nmr ( $CD_3CN$ )  $\tau$  4.10 (s, 1), 4.26 (s, 1), 6.85 (s, 12), and 7.56 (s, 2).

*Anal.* Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{22}N_4P_2F_{12}$ : C, 33.7; H, 5.7; N, 9.8. Found: C, 33.9; H, 5.55; N, 10.0.

**Registry No.**—2, 12408-23-0; 5a, 23883-43-4; 9a, 23846-95-9; *dl*-11a, 23846-96-0; *meso*-11a, 23890-42-8; 12, 23853-17-0; *cis*-13a, 23942-64-5; *trans*-13a, 23942-65-6; 14, 23853-19-2; 15, 23853-18-1; 16a, 23846-97-1; 17, 23853-20-5; 18a, 23890-43-9; 19, 23853-97-6; 20a, 23846-98-2; 21, 23853-98-7; 22, 23853-99-8.

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## The Thermal Cleavage of Selected Aldehyde Hyrazonium Salts

ROBERT B. HANSON<sup>1a</sup> AND PATRICK FOLEY, JR.

Department of the Army, Harry Diamond Laboratories, Washington, D. C. 20438

ELIZABETH L. ANDERSON<sup>1b</sup> AND MARY H. ALDRIDGE

Department of Chemistry, The American University, Washington, D. C. 20016

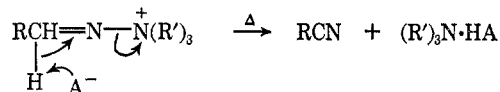
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A series of aldehyde trimethylhydrazone salts,  $RCH=N-N^+(R')_3 A^-$ , has been pyrolyzed. This class of salts cleaved at temperatures of 240–250° to give low yields of the corresponding nitrile. Compounds prepared by replacing two of the three methyl groups with cyclic methylene substituents were found to undergo rapid cleavage at 240° to afford high yields of the desired nitrile.

A survey of the literature revealed several reports that aldehyde trimethylhydrazone salts undergo a  $\beta$  elimination in alkaline solution to give good yields (51–93%) of the corresponding nitrile.<sup>2–4</sup> However, no study of the thermal decomposition of this class of compounds has been reported.

An interest in pyrolyzable precursors to nitriles prompted us to prepare and thermally cleave a series of aldehyde hydrazone salts. It was proposed that a thermally induced  $\beta$  elimination might afford high yields of the desired nitrile and ammonium salt. It

was felt that changing the basicity of the anion,  $A^-$ , as well as placing electron-withdrawing or -releasing groups on the aldehyde substituent (aromatic series), should effect the yield of nitrile. However, this approach was found to have less influence on the yield



of nitrile than did partial replacement of the methyl groups with bulkier substituents.

### Discussion and Results

As an extension of our previously reported work,<sup>5</sup> a series of 38 trimethyl quaternary hydrazone salts

(5) P. Foley, E. Anderson, and F. Dewey, *J. Chem. Eng. Data*, **14**, 272 (1969).

(1) (a) To whom all correspondence should be addressed: Amoco Chemicals Corporation, Whiting, Ind. 46394. (b) Portions of this work were done by E. L. Anderson in partial fulfillment of the Ph.D. requirements of The American University.

(2) R. F. Smith and L. E. Walker, *J. Org. Chem.*, **27**, 4372 (1962).

(3) B. V. Zoffee and N. L. Zelevina, *Zh. Org. Chem.*, **4**, 1558 (1969).

(4) K. N. Zelevin and B. V. Zoffee, *Vestn. Leningrad Univ., Fiz., Khim.*, **23**, 159 (1968).



TABLE I  
 PREPARATION AND PROPERTIES OF HYDRAZONIUM SALTS

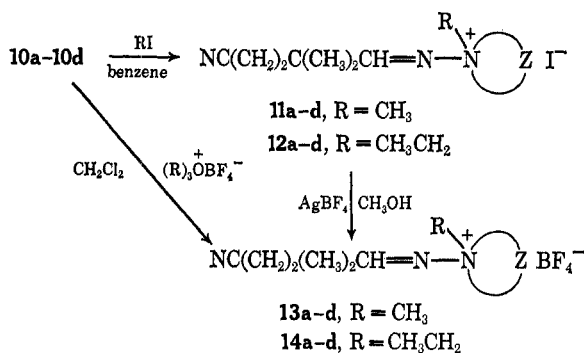
Compd	Z	R	A <sup>-</sup>	Yield, %	Mp, °C	S <sup>a</sup>	Formula	Calcd, %			Found, %		
								C	H	N	C	H	N
11a	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	I	90	70-75	P	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>3</sub> I	42.99	6.62	12.53	42.78	6.26	12.50
11b	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	I	99	114-116	P	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>3</sub> I	44.70	6.93	12.03	44.63	6.98	12.12
11c	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	I	76	149-150	P	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>26</sub> N <sub>3</sub> I	46.28	7.21	11.57	45.96	7.01	11.73
11d	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	I	75	114-116	P	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>3</sub> OI	41.03	6.31	11.96	40.74	6.44	11.71
12a	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	I	83	84-86	P	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>3</sub> I	44.70	6.93	12.03	44.72	7.07	12.33
12b	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	I	80	119-120	E	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>26</sub> N <sub>3</sub> I	46.28	7.21	11.57	46.20	7.21	11.76
12c	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	I	70	136-138	E	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>3</sub> I	57.75	7.48	11.14	47.77	7.48	11.47
12d	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	I	79	135-137	E	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>3</sub> OI	42.74	6.62	11.50	42.77	6.67	11.66
13b	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	BF <sub>4</sub>	79 (1) <sup>b</sup> 89 (2)	70-72	E	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>3</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	50.50	7.82	13.59	50.73	7.71	13.70
13c	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	BF <sub>4</sub>	75 (1) 87 (2)	70-71	P	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>26</sub> N <sub>3</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	52.03	8.11	13.00	52.00	7.84	13.08
13d	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	BF <sub>4</sub>	52 (1) 92 (2)	71-72	E	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>3</sub> OBF <sub>4</sub>	46.32	7.13	13.51	46.34	7.15	13.49
14b	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	BF <sub>4</sub>	87 (1) 91 (2)	78-79	M	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>26</sub> N <sub>3</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	52.03	8.11	13.00	52.32	8.33	12.71
14c	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	BF <sub>4</sub>	80 (1) 87 (2)	91-93	E	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>3</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	53.42	8.37	12.46	53.68	8.21	12.27
14d	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	BF <sub>4</sub>	80 (1) 83 (2)	110-112	M	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>3</sub> OBF <sub>4</sub>	48.02	7.44	47.91	7.58	7.58	12.72

<sup>a</sup> S, recrystallization solvent; P, isopropyl alcohol; E, ethanol; M, methanol. <sup>b</sup> Numbers in parentheses refer to the method of preparation.

case quantitative. The methyl and ethyl quaternary salts **11** and **12** were prepared by treating hydrazones **10** with methyl and ethyl iodide respectively. Yields of **11** were 75% or better while those of the ethyl salts **12** were slightly lower (Table I).

Fluoroborate compounds **13** and **14** were prepared to compare the yields of nitrile from their cleavage with those obtained from the pyrolyses of **11** and **12**. Both salts **13** and **14** were prepared by treating **11** and **12** with a methanol solution of silver fluoroborate. Salts obtained by this method were slightly colored (gray) and were difficult to purify. Trimethyl and triethylxonium fluoroborate<sup>7</sup> were found to react rapidly and smoothly with hydrazones **10** and gave excellent yields of the fluoroborate salts **13** and **14** (Scheme

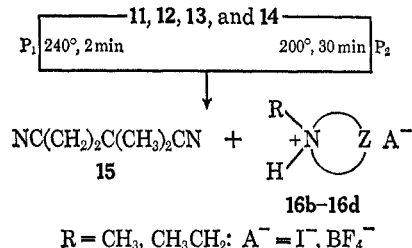
SCHEME I



I). Salts **13a** and **14a** were isolated as oils and were of no further interest in our work.

The series of iodide (**11** and **12**) and fluoroborate (**13** and **14**) hydrazonium salts reported in Table I were cleaved by two methods: P<sub>1</sub>, rapid cleavage in a sealed tube at 240° for 2 min; P<sub>2</sub>, slow pyrolysis

at 200° for 30 min in an open system. Although excellent yields of 2,2-dimethylglutaronitrile (**15**) were found using rapid pyrolysis conditions (P<sub>1</sub>), consistently higher yields of **15** were obtained when the salts were decomposed at 200° for 30 min (P<sub>2</sub>). With iodides **11** and **12**, tar formation was negligible and higher yields of nitrile **15** were found than with fluoroborates **13** and **14**. The yields of hydrazones **10** using method



P<sub>1</sub> were 5% and only trace amounts were detected employing method P<sub>2</sub> (Table II).

 TABLE II  
 YIELD OF PRODUCTS FROM PYROLYSIS OF QUATERNARY SALTS

Compd	% nitrile <b>15</b>		% hydrazones <b>10a-d</b>	
	P <sub>1</sub> <sup>a</sup>	P <sub>2</sub>	P <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>2</sub>
11a	90	90	2	T <sup>b</sup>
11b	73	80	2	T
11c	55	67	4	T
11d	95	95	T	T
12a	49	62	4	T
12b	80	91	T	T
12c	47	52	5	T
12d	78	87	T	T
13b	68	83	1	T
13c	55	78	5	T
13d	41	74	1	T
14b	19	82	5	T
14c	19	71	4	T
14d	47	76	2	T

<sup>a</sup> P<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> refer to the method of pyrolysis. <sup>b</sup> T, trace.

(7) H. Meerein, *Org. Syn.*, **46**, 113, 120 (1900).

Benzene was used to extract both **15** and **10** from the residues and both compounds were identified by vpc analysis. An analytical sample of **15** for comparison purposes was independently prepared in 68% yield by the alkaline decomposition of **3** ( $A^- = I^-$ ).

Although the benzene-insoluble residues were not of special interest, each was subjected to ir analysis. Peaks that could be attributed to  $-C\equiv N$  (2240–2260  $cm^{-1}$ ) and  $-C=N-$  (1620–1640  $cm^{-1}$ ) absorptions were not observed, evidencing complete extraction of nitrile **15** and hydrazones **10**. In fact, in the ir spectra of these residues no significant bands appeared which could not be assigned to the ammonium salt **16b**–**16d** ( $-HN^+$ , 2760–2763  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $BF_4^-$ , 1000–1100  $cm^{-1}$ ).<sup>8</sup>

### Experimental Section<sup>9</sup>

**Pyrolysis of Trimethylhydrazonium Salts (1, 2, and 3).**—Samples (250 mg) of each salt were placed in a small Hickman-type microdistillation flask<sup>10</sup> equipped with two condenser alembics and lowered into a Wood's metal bath preheated to 240–250°. Aromatic salts **1** were pyrolyzed for 10 min and the aliphatic salts **2** and **3** for 2 min. In general, all salts cleaved with an exothermic reaction after 45 sec, except the perchlorate and nitrate salts of **2** and **3** which exploded after 30 sec.<sup>11</sup> The residues were extracted with benzene and the extracts were concentrated yielding anisonitrile, *p*-nitrobenzonitrile, and 2,4-dichlorobenzonitrile; each was identified by ir and melting point. The benzene extracts containing benzonitrile, glutaronitrile (**7**), and nitrile **15** were analyzed by vpc; the compounds were identified by mixed injections with authentic samples. Yields of all nitriles were less than 20%. The corresponding hydrazones **6a** and **6b** in the benzene extracts were identified by vpc. Yields of **6a** and **6b** were 2–15%. Analysis (ir) of the benzene-insoluble residues revealed  $NH^+$  absorption at 2700–2765  $cm^{-1}$ .

The residues from the cleavage of the iodide salts were washed from the pyrolysis flask with acetone and filtered. Trituration of the solid with hot methanol gave pure tetramethylammonium iodide, yield 63–97 mg (45–47%), darkened at 230°, mp >300° (lit.<sup>12</sup> mp >230° dec). Elemental analysis and ir further substantiated its structure. The acetone extracts were evaporated to give black residues. The residues were extracted with benzene. Nitriles **4a** and **4b** (20%) and hydrazones **6a** and **6b** were identified in the extracts by vpc analysis. Analysis of the benzene-insoluble materials by ir revealed  $NH^+$  absorption at 2763–2765  $cm^{-1}$ .

**Reaction of Hydrazones 5a and 5b with Trimethylammonium Iodide (5,  $A^- = I^-$ ).**—Trimethylammonium iodide (**5,  $A^- = I^-$** ),  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  mol, was heated at 250° with  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  mol of hydrazones **4a** (10 min), and with  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  mol of **4b** (2 min). A comparison of the ir spectra of the residues with those obtained

(8) L. J. Bellamy, "The Infrared Spectra of Complex Molecule," 2nd ed. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1963, p 260.

(9) Melting points were determined in open capillaries and are uncorrected. Microanalyses were performed by Galbraith Laboratories, Knoxville, Tenn., and by the National Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, Md. Infrared spectra were determined in mineral oil on a Beckman IR-5 spectrophotometer. Gas chromatograms were recorded on a Varian Aerograph Model 1520c with a thermal conductivity detector using a stainless steel 6 ft  $\times$  1/8 in. column packed with 5% EGP, 80–100 mesh, DMCS treated, on Chromasorb W.

(10) K. C. D. Hickman, *Chem. Rev.*, **34**, 51 (1944).

(11) The residues were analyzed by ir and appeared to be inorganic. The nitriles **4b** and hydrazones **6b** were not found (vpc).

(12) E. Chablay, *Ann. Chim.*, **1**, 469 (1914).

from the pyrolysis of salts **1**, **2**, and **3** revealed negligible differences in the occurrence of absorptions.

**Preparation of Hydrazones 10.**—4-Cyano-2,2-dimethylbutyraldehyde (**8**, 0.1 mol) and the appropriate hydrazine **9** (0.1 mol) were heated at reflux in 150 ml of benzene under a Dean-Stark trap until the theoretical amount of water was collected (4–6 hr). The benzene solution was dried ( $CaCO_3$ ), filtered, and concentrated, giving the hydrazones **10** as oils in quantitative yield.<sup>13</sup>

**Preparation of Iodide Salts 11 and 12.**—Hydrazones **10** (0.05 mol) in 75 ml of benzene and methyl or ethyl iodide (0.05 mol) were heated at reflux for 4 hr. The methyl salts **11** separated after 10 min. Precipitation of the ethyl salts **12** occurred after 1 hr. The salts were recrystallized from alcohol and characterized (Table I): ir (Nujol)  $-C\equiv N$  (2250) and  $-C=N-$  (1635–1640  $cm^{-1}$ ).

**Preparation of Trimethyl and Triethyloxonium Fluoroborate.**—Preparation of these compounds was conducted according to published directions.<sup>7</sup> Yields were 85–90%. Both compounds were stored under ether at  $-20^\circ$ .

**Preparation of Fluoroborate Salts 13 and 14. Method 1.**—Freshly recrystallized iodide salts **11** and **12** (0.02 mol) were dissolved in 50 ml of warm methanol and added to a solution of silver fluoroborate (0.02 mol) in 20 ml of methanol. The mixture was stirred for 1 hr, filtered, and concentrated giving a crystalline product. Repeated recrystallization from alcohol gave pure **13** and **14** (Table I): ir (Nujol)  $-C\equiv N$  (2250),  $-C=N-$  (1635–1640), and  $BF_4^-$  (1000–1100  $cm^{-1}$ ).

**Method 2.**—Hydrazones **10** (0.01 mol) in 25 ml of methylene chloride were added to trimethyl or triethyloxonium fluoroborate (0.01 mol) in 50 ml of methylene chloride during 1 hr. The solution was heated at reflux temperature for 1 hr and the solvent was evaporated. Recrystallization from alcohol gave pure **13** and **14**.

**Preparation 2,2-Dimethylglutaronitrile (15).**—The method of Smith and Walker<sup>2</sup> was utilized. Recrystallized 4-cyano-2,2-dimethylbutyraldehyde trimethylhydrazonium salt (**3,  $A^- = I^-$** ), 276 g (0.9 mol) was dissolved in 600 ml of absolute methanol and heated at reflux with 48.6 g (0.9 mol) of sodium methoxide until the odor of trimethylamine disappeared. Addition of water (500 ml) and extraction with benzene (700 ml) gave **15**: ir (neat)  $-C\equiv N$  (2250  $cm^{-1}$ ).

*Anal.* Calcd for  $C_7H_{16}N_2$ : C, 68.88; H, 8.19; N, 22.95. Found: C, 68.70; H, 8.16; N, 22.68.

**Pyrolysis of Hydrazonium Salts 11–14. Method P<sub>1</sub>.**—Each quaternary salt (0.013 mol) was placed in a 6-in. glass tube (1.25-in. i.d.) and sealed. The tube was lowered into a Wood's metal bath preheated to 240°. Each sample was pyrolyzed for 2 min. The tube was cooled and broken, and the residue was extracted with benzene. Analysis by vpc revealed nitrile **15** and hydrazones **10** (Table II). The benzene-insoluble materials, under analysis by ir, revealed prominent bands at 2760–2765 ( $-NH^+$ ) and 1000–1100  $cm^{-1}$  for **16** ( $A^- = BF_4^-$ ).

**Method P<sub>2</sub>.**—Each salt was placed in a Hickman-type microdistillation flask equipped with two condensation alembics, heated slowly to 200° in a sand bath, and kept at that temperature for 30 min. The residues were cooled, extracted with benzene, and analyzed for **15** and **10** as in method P<sub>1</sub>.

**Registry No.**—**11a**, 23649-85-6; **11b**, 23649-86-7; **11c**, 23649-87-8; **11d**, 23649-88-9; **12a**, 23674-47-7; **12b**, 23645-66-1; **12c**, 23645-67-2; **12d**, 23645-68-3; **13b**, 23645-58-1; **13c**, 23645-59-2; **13d**, 23645-60-5; **14b**, 23645-61-6; **14c**, 23645-62-7; **14d**, 23645-63-8.

(13) The pyrrolidine hydrazone **10**,  $Z = (CH_2)_4$ , was prepared by treating *N*-aminopyrrolidine hydrochloride with triethylamine followed by reaction with aldehyde **8**.