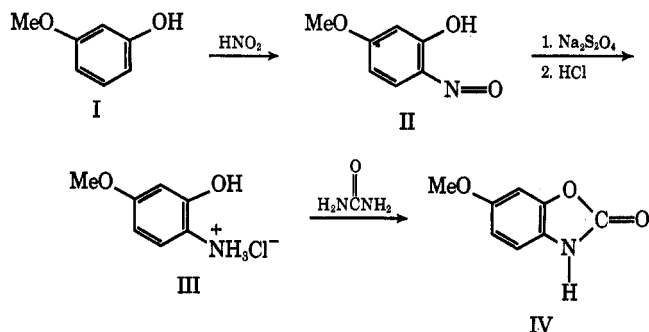


thosporium leaf blight of corn, we attempted to synthesize this compound according to reported methods.⁴⁻⁶ These methods gave very low yields. One of the procedures was hazardous because phosgene was used.⁵

A shorter method with higher yield was developed. The first objective was to prepare the immediate precursor of IV, 2-amino-5-methoxyphenol hydrochloride (III), in high yield with a minimum number of steps. The orthoaminophenol obtained by reducing 2-nitroso-5-methoxyphenol (II) was not isolated. To



maximize the yield of III, neutralization of the reducing solution and other steps including the urea fusion were carried out in the dark or with photographic safety lights. Separatory funnels and flasks were flushed with N₂ gas. The uv, ir, melting point, and derivative data for IV were in good agreement with the literature values.⁴⁻⁷

Preparations of the amine hydrochloride which were black, blue, green, purple, or red reduced the yields of IV. Apparently some of the colored substances were partial oxidation products known as Wurster's salts.⁸ Usually the white amine hydrochloride samples became grayish white and then blue. These blue preparations were fused with urea to yield about 17% IV when calculated on the basis of the initial starting material, *m*-methoxyphenol (I). This overall yield was about 60 times as great as the yield which we obtained by the use of the method of Klun and Brindley.⁶

Experimental Section⁹

2-Nitroso-5-methoxyphenol (II).—This compound was prepared in yields of 87–93% by the procedure of Hodgson and Clay.¹⁰ The reaction mixture was held at 4° in the dark for 24 hr and the precipitate was isolated by filtration.

Preparation of 2-Amino-5-methoxyphenol Hydrochloride (III) for Fusion with Urea.—2-Nitroso-5-methoxyphenol (5.37 g) was suspended in 300 ml of water. Solid sodium hydrosulfite (18.5 g) was added slowly with continuous rapid stirring.^{5,11} The reducing solution (bright yellow) was heated at 50–60° for 15 min, cooled, and neutralized to pH 6 with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ added slowly by the drop with very rapid stirring. 2-Amino-5-methoxyphenol was extracted from the reducing solution (pH 6) with peroxide-free diethyl ether (eight 100-ml portions). The ether extract was passed through an-

hydrous Na₂SO₄. The 250-ml round-bottom flask containing the dry ethereal solution of the aminophenol was gently agitated and flushed with dry HCl gas for 1 min. The amine hydrochloride precipitated immediately as a white solid which became gray-white and then blue if water and O₂ were present. The ether was removed by rotatory evaporation *in vacuo* at 20°. The dry amine hydrochloride was mixed with urea (6 g) in a flask fitted with an air condenser, and heated in an oil bath at 170–180° for 2.5 hr.⁴ Owing to its extreme instability, the orthoaminophenol was converted without delay to the hydrochloride. Highest yields were obtained when the amine hydrochloride was prepared and fused with urea as a continuous operation in the same flask in the absence of water.

Isolation of 6-Methoxybenzoxazolinone (IV) from the Fusion Mixture.—The fusion mixture was washed with 1.2 *N* HCl. The remaining residue was dissolved in ethyl alcohol, and about 50 ml of 1.2 *N* HCl was added. The alcohol was removed by rotatory evaporation *in vacuo* at 28°. The product (IV) was isolated from the acidic aqueous solutions by continuous extraction with diethyl ether. The wet ether was removed, and the residues were dissolved in a minimum amount of warm dry ether. The ethereal solution of crude IV was loaded on a silica gel (Adsorbosil-1) column which had been pressure packed in diethyl ether–petroleum ether (75:25 v/v) (EPE). The column was developed with EPE under low N₂ pressure and 5-ml fractions were collected (1 ml/min). IV was the first major compound to be eluted from the column and was detected in the fractions by thin layer chromatography on silica gel (microscope slides) developed with EPE (*R_f* 0.58). All compounds appeared as yellow spots on a purple background when the plates were sprayed with 3% aqueous KMnO₄. Fractions containing IV were combined and the solvent was removed. The light pink solid was decolorized with activated charcoal and recrystallized in water to give colorless needles: mp 154–155° (lit.⁴ mp 154–155°); uv max (absolute EtOH) 231 mμ (ε 9138), 291 (5230); uv max (water) 230 mμ (ε 10,000), 286 (5380) [lit.¹² uv max (water) 230 mμ (ε 10,000), 287 (4500); lit.⁵ uv max (water) 285–286 mμ (ε 5500)]; ir (KBr) 1326 (C–N stretching in AR-NHR), 1498 (N–H bending, amide II band), 1620 (C=C aromatic skeletal in plane vibr), 1787 (C=O stretching, carbamate), 3330–3060 cm⁻¹ (N–H stretching, multiple amide I band); mass spectrum (70 eV) *m/e* (rel intensity) *M* + 165.0428 (100%), calcd for C₈H₇O₂N 165.0426. The ir and uv spectra were primarily the same as those reported in the literature.^{6,7}

Anal. Calcd for C₈H₇O₂N: C, 58.18; H, 4.27; N, 8.48. Found: C, 57.96; H, 4.28; N, 8.42.

The benzimide was prepared: mp 165–167° (lit.⁴ mp 163–164°); mass spectrum (70 eV) *m/e* (rel intensity) *M* + 269.0669 (14%), calcd for C₁₆H₁₁O₄N 269.0688.

Registry No.—IV, 532-91-2.

Acknowledgment.—We thank Dr. J. M. Ruth, Entomology Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md., for making mass measurements.

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The Mechanism of Formation of Pentaazadecanetetraones in the Reaction of Aryl Isocyanates with *N,N*-Dimethylformamide

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The reaction of aryl isocyanates with *N,N*-dimethylformamide gives *N*-dimethyl-*N'*-arylformamidines¹

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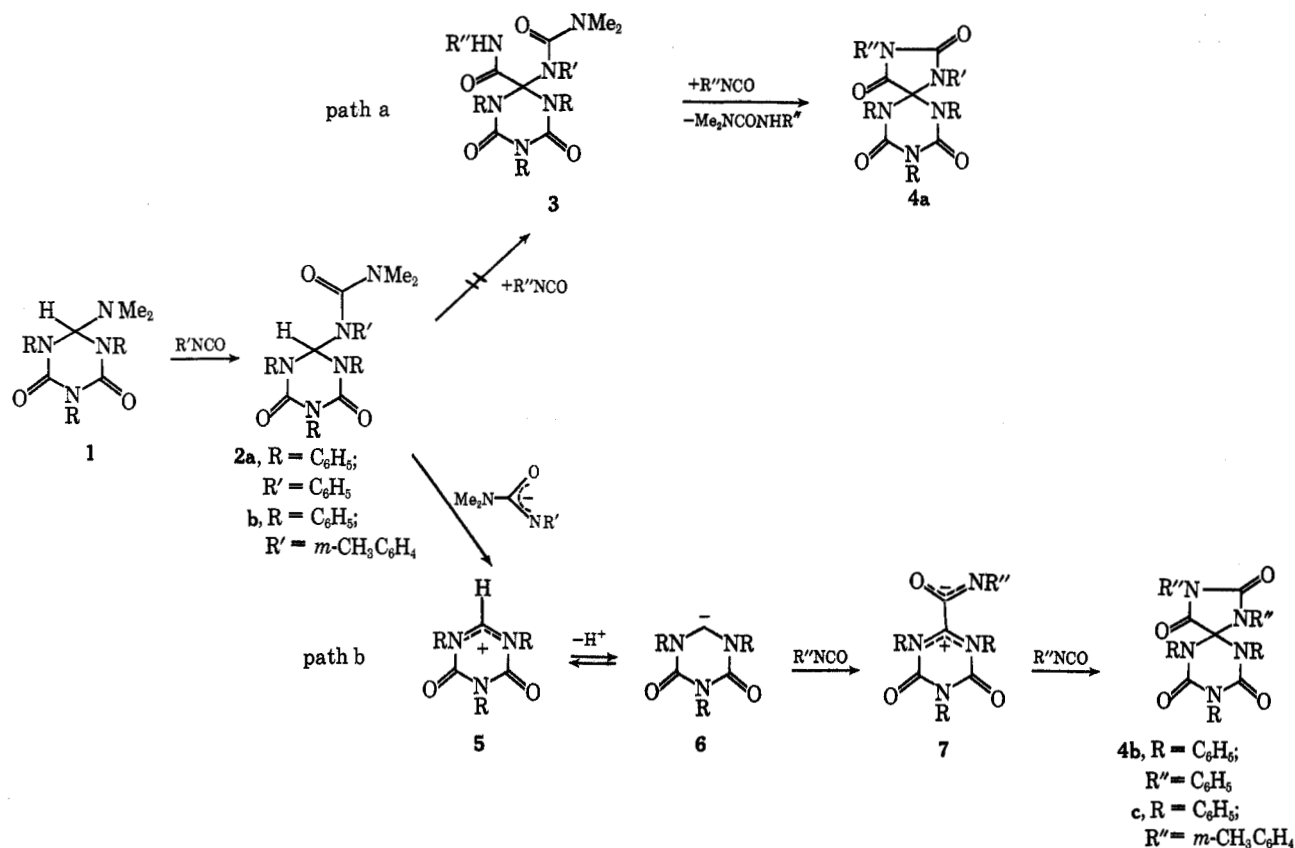
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SCHEME I



which undergo further reaction with aryl isocyanates to yield heterocyclic 2:1 adducts 1, 3:1 adducts 2, and spiro compounds 4.²⁻⁵

The formation of the ureido-*s*-triazine derivative 2 from its precursor 1 is readily explained by an "insertion reaction" of the heterocumulene into the exocyclic CN single bond in 1.⁶ For the formation of 4, however, several mechanisms could be visualized. Addition of a second isocyanate molecule to 2, either by an insertion into the CH bond, as proposed by Dyer, *et al.* (path a, Scheme I), or by a repeated insertion into the exocyclic CN bond could lead to cyclization with formation of 4. In contrast, an elimination sequence (path b, Scheme I) could give rise to the formation of the heterocarbene intermediate 6, which would undergo further reaction with two isocyanate molecules to produce 4. In order to differentiate between an addition (a) and an elimination (b) mechanism, we investigated the reaction of 1 and 2 with different aromatic isocyanates.

In case of an addition sequence a mixed spiro compound 4a is expected, having one original aryl group (R') and the new aryl group (R'') attached to the five-membered ring portion of the molecule. In contrast, the elimination sequence would result in the formation of a spiro compound 4b having two new aryl groups (R'') incorporated into the molecule.

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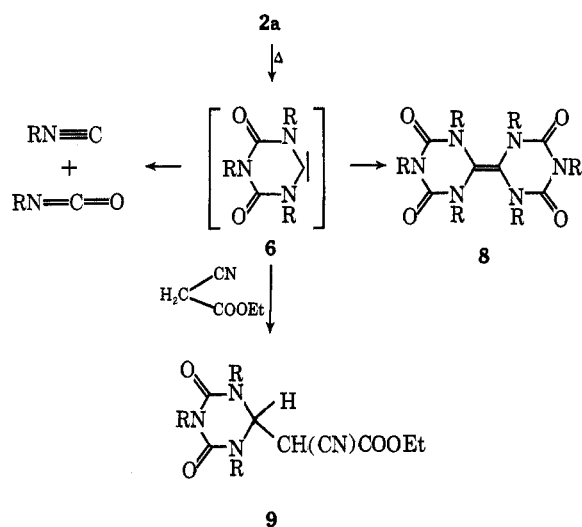
(6) For similar reactions, see H. Ulrich and A. A. R. Sayigh, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, **5**, 844 (1966).

The reaction of 1 (R = C₆H₅) with phenyl isocyanate, following a procedure by Dyer, *et al.*,⁴ gives the ureido-*s*-triazinedione 2a (R = R' = C₆H₅). By treating 1 with *m*-tolyl isocyanate under similar conditions, the corresponding 2b (R = C₆H₅; R' = *m*-CH₃C₆H₄) is obtained. Heating of both ureido-*s*-triazinediones 2a,b with excess phenyl isocyanate at 150° gives exclusively the spiro compound 4b (R = R'' = C₆H₅), identical with 4b prepared from 1 and phenyl isocyanate. On treatment of 2a with excess *m*-tolyl isocyanate at 150° the spiro compound 4c (R = C₆H₅; R'' = *m*-CH₃C₆H₄) is formed exclusively, thus proving that in both cases the aryl moiety in the acyclic urea group in 2 is being eliminated. Of course, heating 2b with excess *m*-tolyl isocyanate also affords 4c.

A mechanism consistent with the observed facts is shown in Scheme I (b). Elimination of an urea anion in 2 gives 5, which loses a proton to yield the heterocarbene 6. Reaction of 6 with aryl isocyanate affords, via a delocalized zwitterion 7, the spiro compound 4b and c.

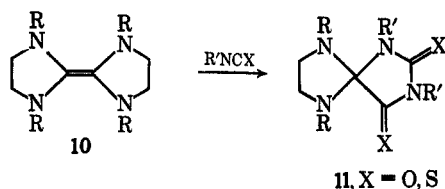
Heating of 2a in the absence of aryl isocyanate to 330–340° and under constant removal of volatile decomposition products caused the formation of a solid material, mp >360°, analyzing for C₄₂H₃₀N₆O₄. The molecular weight of 682, determined by mass spectroscopy, indicates that the compound may be the dimer 8 of the heterocarbene 6. Dyer, *et al.*,⁴ found also that thermal decomposition of 4b at 330–360° yields besides 2 mol of phenyl isocyanate a colorless high melting solid which we found to be identical with 8 (by comparison of ir and nmr spectra). Pyrolysis of 4c also gave only 8, thus indicating that the imidazolidinedione rather than the *s*-triazine ring is cleaved in this reaction.

(The presence of *m*-tolyl groups in **8** could have been easily detected by nmr spectroscopy.) The characteristic odor of isonitriles was also noted in the volatile decomposition products indicating some degradation of **6** into isonitrile and isocyanate. The ir spectrum of **8** (KBr) shows two strong bands of almost equal intensity in the double bond region at 1710 and 1745 cm^{-1} . Similar ir absorptions (1696 and 1731 cm^{-1} in dioxane) were observed for the methyl homolog of **8**, previously obtained by Piskala⁷ upon pyrolysis of 2-methoxy-1,3,5-trimethyltriazine-4,6-dione. Attempts to oxidize **8** to triphenyl isocyanurate (with H_2O_2 -formic acid, peracetic acid, potassium permanganate in pyridine or acetic acid) were unsuccessful; only unreacted starting material was recovered. Insertion of the heterocarbene



intermediate **6** into a carbon-hydrogen bond was observed in the reaction of **2a** with ethyl cyanoacetate. Thus heating of **2a** with ethyl cyanoacetate at 140–145° for 1 hr yields the insertion product **9**.

The further reaction of the heterocarbene **6** with isocyanate to produce **4**, as outlined in Scheme I, is quite similar to the reaction of bis(1,3-diphenylimidazolinyldiene-2) (**10**) with isocyanates or isothiocyanates, which yields the spiro compound **11**.^{8,9}



The dimer **8** in contrast to **10** does not undergo a reverse reaction with aryl isocyanates (*via* the monomer) as evidenced by the fact that refluxing of **8** with excess phenyl or *p*-chlorophenyl isocyanate for 24 hr resulted in complete recovery of the starting material.

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Experimental Section¹⁰

2-[1-(*m*-Tolyl-3,3-dimethylureido)]-1,3,5-triphenylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazine-4,6-dione (2b**).—A mixture of 5.0 g (0.013 mol) of 2-dimethylamino-1,3,5-triphenylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazine-4,6-dione (**1**) and 25.0 g (0.19 mol) of *m*-tolyl isocyanate was kept at 80–85° for 16 hr. On cooling colorless crystals separated from the reaction solution. Filtration and thorough washing with ether left 3.70 g (53%), mp 205°. Recrystallization from acetone-ether gave tiny white needles: mp 207–210°; ir (KBr) 1715, 1670, 1650 cm^{-1} (C=O); nmr (CDCl_3) δ 2.15 (s, 3, CH_3C), 2.4 (s, 6, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{N}$), 6.30–6.50 (m, 2, aromatic), 6.8–7.6 (m, 18, aromatic and CH).**

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3$: C, 71.66; H, 5.63; N, 13.48. Found: C, 71.63; H, 5.62; N, 13.22.

1,3,6,8,10-Pentaphenyl-1,3,6,8,10-pentaazaspiro[4.5]decane-2,4,7,9-tetraone (4b**).—A mixture of 1.0 g (0.0019 mol) of **2b** and 7.0 ml of phenyl isocyanate was kept for 2 hr at 150°. After the reaction the excess isocyanate is removed by vacuum distillation and the residue is treated with ether. This was allowed to stand at room temperature; 0.93 g (81%) of **4b** separated in colorless crystals, mp 228–234°. A mixture with authentic **4b** (prepared according to *loc. cit.*,^{3,4}) did not give a melting point depression; the material is identical in ir and nmr with authentic **4b**.**

1,3-Di-*m*-tolyl-6,8,10-triphenyl-1,3,6,8,10-pentaazaspiro[4.5]decane-2,4,7,9-tetraone (4c**). A. From **2b** and *m*-Tolyl Isocyanate.—A mixture of 1.0 g (0.0019 mol) of **2b** and 6.0 g (0.045 mol) of *m*-tolyl isocyanate was treated as described above for the preparation of **4b** yielding 1.0 g (78%) of **4c**: mp 270–273°, after recrystallization from chloroform-ether; ir (KBr) 1790, 1725, 1695 cm^{-1} (C=O); nmr (CDCl_3) δ 6.2–7.6 (m, 23, aromatic protons), 2.42 (s, 3, CH_3), 2.2 (s, 3, CH_3).**

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_4$: C, 73.13; H, 4.81; N, 11.53. Found: C, 72.87; H, 4.64; N, 11.34.

B. From **2a and *m*-Tolyl Isocyanate.**—A mixture of 5.0 g (0.01 mol) of **2a** and 25 g (0.19 mol) of *m*-tolyl isocyanate was kept for 3 hr at 145–150°. Work-up as described above gave 5.3 g (87%), mp 270–272°, identical in comparison (ir, nmr, mixture melting point) with **4c** prepared under A.

1,1',3,3',5,5'-Hexaphenyl[$\Delta^{2,2'}$ (*1H,1'H*)-bis-*s*-triazine]-4,4',6,6'-(3H,3'H,5H,5'H**)-tetraone (**8**). A. From **2a**.—A sample of 1.5 g (0.003 mol) of **2a** was placed into a preheated salt bath and kept at 330–340° for 7 min. During the reaction a liquid product was distilled off under reduced pressure (20–30 mm), which on standing solidified partly: 0.32 g; ir (in CHCl_3) and nmr (CDCl_3) indicated the presence of *N,N*-dimethyl-*N'*-phenylurea; no ir bands in the 2000–2500- cm^{-1} region, indicating the absence of isocyanate or isonitrile. The dark brown residue was taken up in acetone, leaving 0.05 g (5%) of **8** undissolved, creamy crystals, mp >360°. A sample was recrystallized for analysis from DMF: ir (KBr) 1740, 1710 cm^{-1} (C=O); nmr ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 7.36 (s, C_6H_5), 7.46 (s, C_6H_5).**

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_6\text{O}_4$: C, 73.89; H, 4.43; N, 12.31; mol wt, 682. Found: C, 73.70; H, 4.58; N, 12.13; mol wt, 682 (from mass spectral data).

The material is identical (ir) with a sample prepared from **4b** following the procedure of Dyer, *et al.*⁴

B. From **4c.**—A sample of 5.0 g (0.008 mol) **4c** was kept for 25 min in a preheated salt bath at 345–350°. Under reduced pressure (20–30 mm) 1.90 g of a yellowish liquid was distilled off [ir (CHCl_3) 2220 cm^{-1} (N=C=O)]. The residue was taken up in acetone and the undissolved colorless crystals were filtered off, 0.45 g (16%), mp >360°. The material is identical (ir) with a sample prepared under A.

[2-(1,3,5-Triphenyl-4,6-dioxohexahydro-*s*-triazinyl)]ethyl Cyanoacetate (9**).—A mixture of 3.0 g (0.006 mol) of **2a** and 5.0 g (0.048 mol) of ethyl cyanoacetate was kept at 140–145°. After 1 hr the formed clear solution was diluted with ether and kept at room temperature overnight. The formed crystals were filtered off and washed with ether leaving 2.1 g (78%) of **9**: mp 175–179°, after recrystallization from acetone-water; nmr (CDCl_3) δ 7.35–7.70 (m, 15, C_6H_5), 6.2 (d, 1, tertiary proton on triazine), 3.98 (d, 1, $-\text{CH}(\text{CN})\text{COOEt}$), 3.75 (q, 2, CH_2), 1.0 (t, 3, CH_3).**

(10) Elemental analyses were by Galbraith Laboratories, Knoxville, Tenn.; ir spectra were taken on a Perkin-Elmer Model 21 spectrophotometer, nmr spectra on a Varian T-60 spectrometer with TMS as internal standard, and mass spectra on a CH-4 mass spectrograph. All melting points (uncorrected) were determined on a Fisher-Johns apparatus.

