

Heterocyclic Syntheses Based on the Reactions of Dimethyl Acetylenedicarboxylate with the 2-Amino-5-chlorobenzophenone Oximes

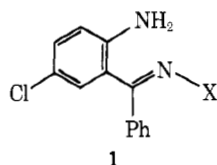
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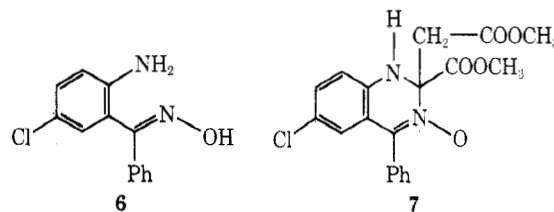
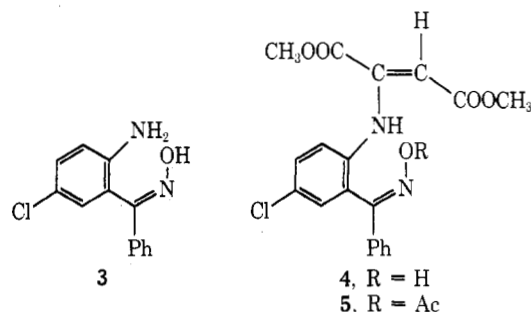
The reaction of dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate with the 2-amino-5-chlorobenzophenone oximes was studied. It was found that the *Z* oxime gave (2-benzoyl-4-chloroanilino)fumaric acid dimethyl ester (*Z*)-oxime (4) and the *E* oxime gave 2-carboxy-6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-4-phenyl-2-quinazolineacetic acid dimethyl ester 3-oxide (7). Each of these compounds (7 and 4) reacted with triphenylphosphine and carbon tetrachloride to give products resulting from Beckmann rearrangements of the respective oximes.

The utility of acetylenedicarboxylic acid esters for the preparation of a variety of five- and six-membered heterocyclic systems has been amply demonstrated during the past decade¹ and at least one example of the formation of a seven-membered ring system has been reported.² Our interest in the preparation of benzodiazepines for potential use as medicinal agents^{3,4} prompted us to examine the possibility of condensing a bifunctional molecule such as 1 with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (2) to produce

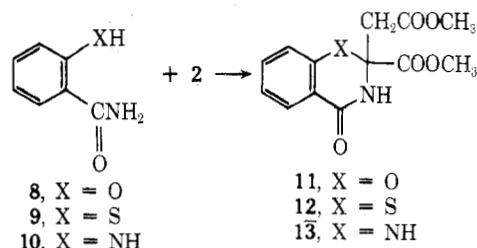


a new benzodiazepine system. Although this objective was not realized, the chemistry resulting from this study is of sufficient interest to merit reporting at this time.

The facile condensation of 2 with 2-aminobenzophenones to give 4-phenylquinoline-2,3-dicarboxylates has been reported.⁵ Since this reaction must proceed *via* a nucleophilic addition of the initially formed enamine system to the benzophenone carbonyl carbon, it occurred to us that the direction of addition might be reversed by altering the electrophilicity of the carbonyl system. We thus investigated the addition of 2 to the aminobenzophenone oximes 3 and 6. It was found that the reaction was dependent on the geometry of the oxime system. Thus reaction of 2 with the α (*Z*) oxime (3)⁶ gave the uncyclized adduct (4), while the analogous reaction with the β (*E*) oxime (6)⁶ gave the quinazoline 3-oxide (7). Assignment of structure 4 was supported by the vinyl proton signal in the nmr spectrum at δ 5.41 and the NH/OH signals at δ 9.66 and 12.23. The thermodynamically more stable fumarate stereochemistry⁷ has generally been assigned to the reaction products of 2 with anilines in alcoholic solvents.^{8,9,10,13} In this case the fumarate assignment was supported by the low-frequency ester carbonyl absorption at 1690 cm^{-1} which has been attributed to intramolecular hydrogen bonding of the ester carbonyl with the adjacent NH.⁸ Structure 7 is analogous to the six-membered ring

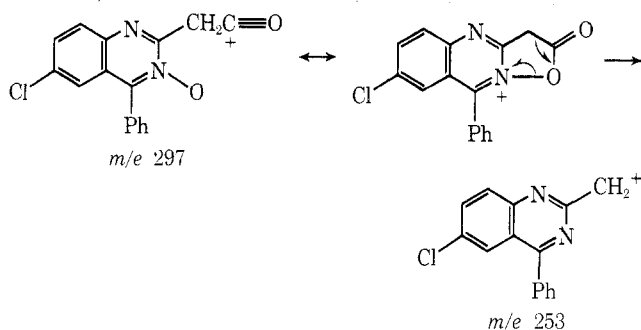


adducts (11-13) formed by the reaction of 2 with the ortho-substituted benzamides (8-10).¹¹⁻¹³ The methylene



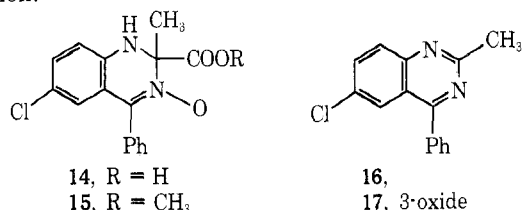
protons of 7 were represented in the nmr spectrum by an AB quartet centered at δ 3.34 ($J = -17$ Hz). For compounds 11, 12, and 13 the corresponding protons were represented by signals at δ 3.31 (AB quartet, $J = -18$ Hz),¹¹ 3.35 (s),¹² and 3.17 (s),¹⁴ respectively. The mass spectrum of 7 was similar to that of 13;¹³ the major peaks resulted from fragmentation of the C-2 substituents with loss of the N-oxide. Thus the parent ion (m/e 388) suffered successive losses of COOCH_3 (m/e 329), CH_3OH (m/e 297), and CO_2 (m/e 253). The m/e 329 and 297 fragments are analogous to those derived from the C-2 substituents of

13; the m/e 253 ion probably results from fragmentation of the m/e 297 ion as shown. Each of these transitions was

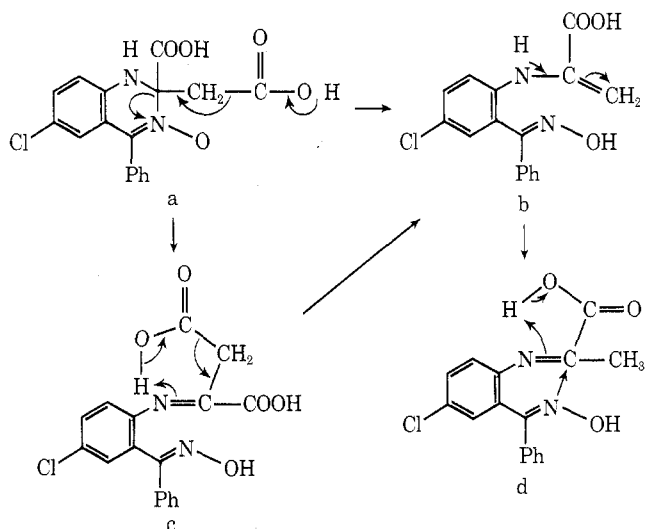


supported by a metastable peak. The electronic spectrum of 7 was similar to that recently reported for 6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-4-phenylquinazoline 3-oxide, which had λ_{max} 234 nm (ϵ 23,140), 252 (sh, 20,610), 294-304 (7390), 390 (3940).¹⁵

Saponification of 7 with excess sodium hydroxide and acidification of the resulting salt gave a crystalline product which was insoluble in cold organic solvents. When this material was warmed in methanol it dissolved with vigorous gas evolution to give 14, which could be converted to the methyl ester 15 with diazomethane. In the nmr the CCH_3 signals for 14 and 15 appeared at δ 1.95 and 1.97, respectively. The mass spectrum of 14 had no molecular ion; the spectrum was essentially identical with that of 16,¹⁶ which may have been formed by thermolysis of 14 in the inlet port of the instrument. Minor peaks at m/e 270 and 269 suggested that 6-chloro-2-methyl-4-phenylquinazoline 3-oxide (17),^{16,17} resulting from the loss of CO_2 and H_2 from 14, may also have been formed during this process. Thermolysis of 14 occurred almost explosively at about 160° to give a 49% yield of 16. None of the quinazoline 3-oxide (17) was detected in the reaction mixture; however, we did not exclude the possibility that a small amount of this material might have been formed in the reaction.

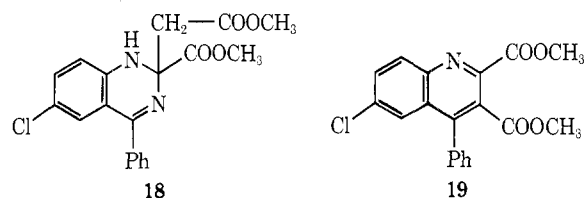


The mechanism for the conversion of 7 to 14 is of passing interest, since, at first, it might appear that the carboxymethyl function should not be particularly suscepti-

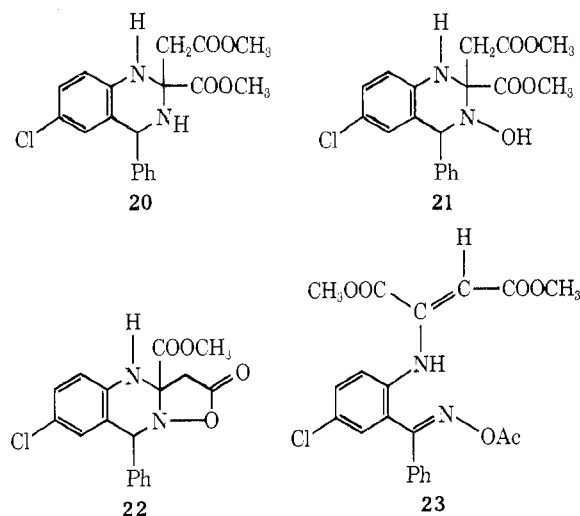


ble to decarboxylation. We presume that the dibasic acid a is the initial solid isolated from the saponification reaction and suggest that decarboxylation of this material may proceed with ring opening by a 1,4-elimination with cleavage¹⁸ to give b. Alternatively ring opening could precede decarboxylation (*viz.* a \rightarrow c \rightarrow b). The intermediate b would be expected to undergo a facile ring closure (*via* d) to give the final product (14).

Phosphorus trichloride^{6,19} effectively cleaved the *N*-oxide bond of 7 to give 18 in about 25% yield. It is interesting that dimethyl 6-chloro-4-phenylquinoline-2,3-dicarboxylate⁵ (19), obtained in 17% yield, was a major by-



product of this reaction. Apparently the reaction of phosphorus trichloride with the *N*-oxide was accompanied by some ring opening (reversal of the original cyclization reaction). Recyclization of the resulting intermediate then occurred at the original carbonyl carbon to give 19. This cyclization is analogous to the formation of 19 by the reaction of 2-amino-5-chlorobenzophenone with 2.⁵ Catalytic hydrogenation of 18 with platinum oxide in acetic acid gave 20 in 41% yield. This same material (20) was obtained as a by-product from the catalytic reduction of 7 under the same conditions. The major product from the latter reaction was 21A, which was accompanied by a small amount of lactone 22. Structure 22 was supported



by ester and lactone bands at 1745 and 1780 cm^{-1} , respectively, in the ir and an AB quartet centered at δ 3.15 ($J = -16.5$ Hz) for the methylene protons in the nmr spectrum. In addition to the molecular ion (m/e 358), the mass spectrum of 22 had a minor peak (m/e 314) corresponding to loss of CO_2 from the molecular ion and major peaks at m/e 299 and 255 corresponding to successive losses of $COOCH_3$ and CO_2 from the molecular ion. In an attempt to convert 21A to 22 the former compound was subjected to refluxing toluene for several hours. Although a very small amount of 22 was obtained from this reaction, the major product was a second diastereoisomer (21B) of 21. These two compounds (21A and 21B) were readily distinguishable by ir and nmr. For example, 21A had ir bands at 1740 and 1725 cm^{-1} for the ester carbonyls while 21B had only one band at 1725 cm^{-1} . In the nmr the methylene protons of 21A were represented by an AB quartet centered at δ 3.12 ($J = -15.5$ Hz) while 21B had

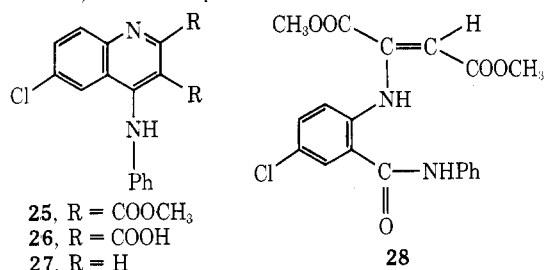
an AB quartet centered at δ 3.16 ($J = -16$ Hz). The methyl ester protons were represented by three-proton singlets at δ 3.59 and 3.60 for **21A** and at δ 3.72 and 3.75 for **21B**. The benzyl protons were represented by singlets at δ 5.25 and 5.17 for **21A** and **21B**, respectively. Each compound had two peaks corresponding to the exchangeable protons. The mass spectra of **21A** and **21B** were similar but not identical.

When compound **7** was warmed with acetic anhydride a ring-opened acetoxy oxime (**23**) was obtained. Structure **23** was supported by ester carbonyl bands at 1785, 1735, and 1690 cm^{-1} in the ir and a singlet for the vinyl hydrogen at δ 5.49 in the nmr spectrum. An isomeric material, compound **5**, was obtained from the oxime **4** by its reaction with warm acetic anhydride under similar experimental conditions. From the method of synthesis we must conclude that compounds **23** and **5** are isomeric about the oxime nitrogen. Thus **5** which was obtained by acylation of the *Z* oxime (**4**) must retain the *Z* configuration at the oxime nitrogen. On the other hand, simple fragmentation of the quinazoline C-2-N-3 bond would be expected to give oxime derivatives with the *E* configuration. In this regard it is noteworthy that alkaline hydrolysis of 6-chloro-4-phenylquinazoline 3-oxide is a useful method for preparing the β (*E*) oxime (**6**) in pure form.²⁰ It is probable that the enamine system of **23** has the fumarate stereochemistry analogous to that of **4** and, therefore, **5** (*vide supra*). Thus the ir bands and nmr peaks attributable to this system are similar for each of the three compounds. Compare, for example, the ester carbonyl bands in the ir and the methyl ester and vinyl proton signals in the nmr spectra.

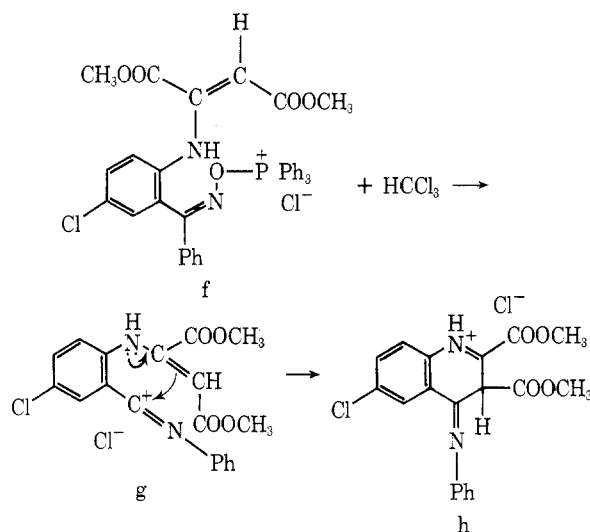
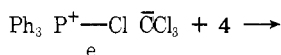
We next directed our attention to potential methods for obtaining heterocyclic systems from compound **4**. After initial abortive attempts to cyclize **4** under thermal (pyrolysis at 170–175°) or base-catalyzed (sodium hydride in refluxing benzene) conditions from which only unchanged starting material was recovered, we decided to investigate the possibility of creating an electrophilic center at the oxime nitrogen which might then undergo a cyclization by reacting with the adjacent enamine system. A promising reagent for this purpose appeared to be the triphenylphosphine-carbon tetrachloride combination (**24**), which has become increasingly useful for removing oxygen (OH or H₂O) from various systems with the concomitant formation of triphenylphosphine oxide. Thus **24** has been found to convert alcohols to alkyl halides²¹ and carboxylic acids to acid chlorides²² or, in the presence of amines, to amides.²³ With added base, **24** is useful for converting primary amides²⁴ and aldoximes²⁵ to nitriles and formamides to isonitriles.²⁶

We found that compound **4** reacted rapidly with 2 equiv of triphenylphosphine in refluxing carbon tetrachloride solution to give, in addition to triphenylphosphine oxide, a mixture of two products which have been identified as **25** and **28**. The structure of **28**, a minor product of the reaction, was established by direct comparison with an authentic sample.¹³ The major product of the reaction (**25**) was obtained in 60% yield. Its functional groups were limited to two methyl esters, identified by bands at 1745 and 1680 cm^{-1} in the ir and singlets at δ 3.91 and 4.03 in the nmr, and an NH which was established by the ir absorption at 3270 cm^{-1} and a D₂O-exchangeable peak at δ 9.72 in the nmr. The low-frequency ester carbonyl absorption in the ir is undoubtedly due to the vinylogous relationship of the C-3 ester function with the C-4 nitrogen substituent. Saponification of **25** with sodium hydroxide gave the dibasic acid **26**, which was decarboxylated by heating at 259–268° to give **27**. This compound was identi-

cal with an authentic sample which was prepared by the reaction of 4,6-dichloroquinoline^{27,28} with aniline.²⁹

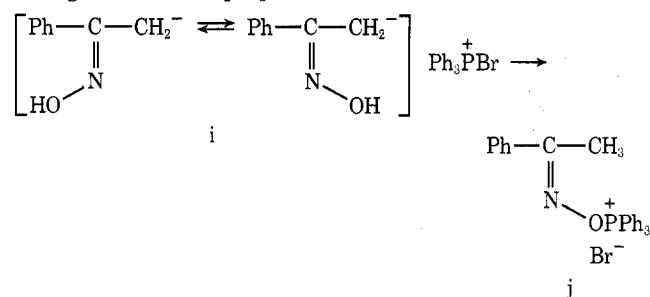


An interpretation of the reaction of **4** with **24** is shown below. The initial reaction of triphenylphosphine with carbon tetrachloride is the result of attack by phosphorus on halogen to give the chlorophosphonium trichloromethylide (**e**), which is apparently the intermediate responsible for the reactions of **24** with oxygen-containing substrates.^{30,31} The reaction of **e** with the oxime **4** would be expected to give the quasiphosphonium salt **f**, which could undergo a Beckmann rearrangement with elimination of triphenylphosphine oxide. The resulting intermediate, which may be formulated as the iminocarbenium ion **g**, could accept a pair of electrons from the enamine system to give **h**, which is a double-bond tautomer of the observed product (**25**).^{32,33} Alternatively the reaction of **g** with chloride ion would give the imino chloride. Although this derivative could also react with the enamine system to give **h**, it might survive to be hydrolyzed to the amide **28** during the aqueous work-up.



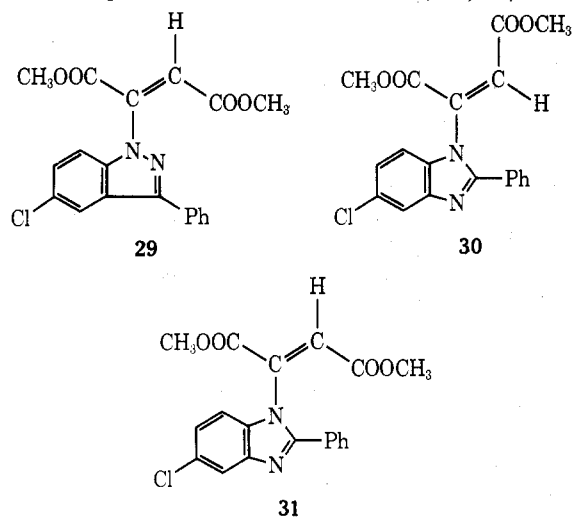
It was recently reported that 2-bromoacetophenone (*Z*)-oxime reacted with triphenylphosphine to give, after aqueous work-up, acetanilide. This same reaction, however, with 2-chloroacetophenone oxime gave (2-phenyl-2-oximinoethyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride.³⁴ A similar dichotomy was observed in the reactions of 2-bromo- and 2-chloroacetophenone with triphenylphosphine in the presence of a proton donor such as methanol or diethyl malonate.³⁵ The latter phenomenon was attributed to the propensity of trivalent phosphorus to attack either halogen or carbon of an alkyl halide.^{30,35} In an aprotic medium the two mechanisms give the same product, the phosphonium salt; however, in the presence of an acidic proton attack by phosphorus on halogen results in the reduction of the alkyl halide. Thus in the case of 2-bromoacetophenone oxime triphenylphosphine undoubtedly attacks bromine to give initially the enolate bromophosphonium ion pair (**i**), which proceeds to the quasiphosphonium salt **j**

and thence to the Beckmann products. This sequence is analogous to that proposed above for the reaction of 4



with 24. The reaction of triphenylphosphine dibromide and triethylamine with acetophenone (*E*)-oxime to give Beckmann products³⁴ is an additional example of this reaction.

Having thus demonstrated that 24 was able to achieve a Beckmann rearrangement, it was of interest to find a second example of this reaction. Since the quinazoline 3-oxide (7) was known to behave as an oxime under some circumstances (*viz.* 7 → 23), we next investigated the reaction of this compound with 24. When this reaction was carried out a mixture of four compounds was obtained. The mixture was separated by chromatography and the compounds were identified as 29, 31, 30, and 18.



Compound 18 was identical with the imine obtained by the reaction of 7 with phosphorus trichloride.³⁶

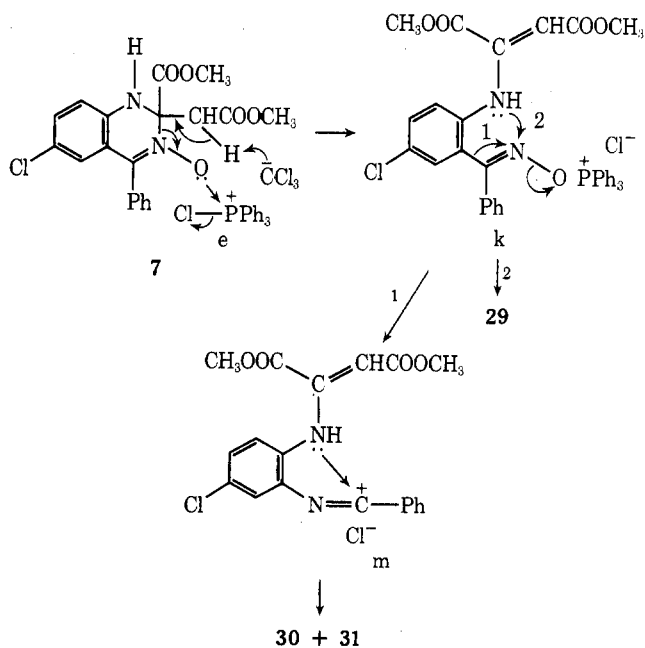
Structure 31 was suggested by the spectral data. The ir had bands at 1730 and 1645 cm^{-1} for the esters and carbon-carbon double bond, respectively, and the nmr had singlets at δ 3.56 and 3.64 for the methyl ester protons. The vinyl proton signal for this molecule fell within the aromatic multiplet at δ 6.94–7.86. An independent synthesis of 31 was achieved by the reaction of 5-chloro-2-phenylbenzimidazole³⁷ with 2 in refluxing benzene. Although the yield of 31 from this reaction was low (19%), it was the only crystalline product that could be isolated. Since 2 can react with 5-chloro-2-phenylbenzimidazole at either N-1 or N-3, this synthesis of 31 is ambiguous with regard to the exact nature of attachment of the vinyl side chain to the benzimidazole nucleus. We will infer, however, that the side chain is attached at N-1 based on our mechanistic interpretation of the reaction of 7 with 24 which is discussed below. Compound 30 had ester carbonyl bands at 1735 and 1715 cm^{-1} in the ir and peaks at δ 3.28, 3.98, and 6.69 in the nmr for the methyl ester and vinyl protons, respectively. The mass spectrum of 30 was essentially identical with that of 31, which suggests that the two compounds are closely related. Since double-bond isomers often behave in this manner, we propose that

compounds 30 and 31 are in fact isomeric about the side-chain double bond.

Acheson and coworkers have studied the reaction of 2 with a variety of heterocyclic systems. In general the Michael adducts obtained from these reactions have been assigned the fumarate stereochemistry.³⁸ Of particular interest for this discussion, the reaction of 2-benzylimidazole with 2 gave a normal Michael adduct which was also assumed to be a fumaric acid derivative.³⁹ It has been found that the vinyl proton of fumarate ester derivatives experiences a greater deshielding by the diamagnetic anisotropy of the adjacent ester carbonyls than does the vinyl proton of the corresponding maleate ester derivative.⁴⁰ This effect is useful for assigning stereochemistry when both isomers of a particular system are available.⁴¹ In the case at hand the vinyl proton absorption for compound 31 was at least 0.57 ppm downfield from that of compound 30. This is consistent with the stereochemical assignment for these compounds and supports Acheson's conclusions with regard to the stereochemistry of the Michael adducts (see above).

Compound 29 was isolated in low yield (4.5%). It was an isomer of compounds 30 and 31 which had ester carbonyl bands at 1730 and 1715 cm^{-1} in the ir and singlets at δ 3.82, 4.07, and 6.51 in the nmr for the methyl ester and vinyl protons, respectively. The mass spectrum was similar to but not identical with that of 30 and 31. The structure of 29 was established by an independent synthesis. Thus the reaction of 5-chloro-3-phenylimidazole with 2 in refluxing benzene gave the Michael adduct 29 in 5% yield. Assignment of the fumarate stereochemistry to the side chain was based on analogy with similar reactions in the literature.⁴²

The reaction of 7 with 24 must proceed in a manner somewhat analogous to that already discussed for the reaction of 4 with 24. The chlorophosphonium salt e apparently reacts with 7 to give the quasiphosphonium salt of the *E* oxime (k). In this intermediate the electron-deficient center which is being created on the oxime nitrogen by the departure of triphenylphosphine oxide may be satisfied in either of two ways. On the one hand, aryl migration leads to the Beckmann intermediate m, which can react with the anilino nitrogen to give 30 and 31. On the other hand, the anilino nitrogen apparently can react with the oxime nitrogen of k prior to aryl migration, with the result being the formation of 29.



These results would suggest that the triphenylphosphine-carbon tetrachloride combination may have some potential for carrying out Beckmann rearrangements under mild and essentially neutral conditions. This speculation must, however, await the results of future research in this area.

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Registry No.—3, 5013-10-5; 4, 51519-93-8; 5, 51519-94-9; 6, 15185-66-7; 7, 51519-95-0; 14, 51519-96-1; 15, 51519-97-2; 16, 4765-61-1; 18, 51519-98-3; 18 HBr, 51519-99-4; 20, 51520-00-4; 21A, 51520-01-5; 21B, 51520-02-6; 22, 51520-03-7; 23, 51520-04-8; 25, 51520-05-9; 26, 51520-06-0; 27, 51520-07-1; 28, 51703-31-2; 29, 51520-08-2; 30, 51520-09-3; 31, 51520-10-6; dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate, 762-42-5; phosphorus trichloride, 7719-12-2; triphenylphosphine, 603-35-0; carbon tetrachloride, 56-23-5; 4,6-dichloroquinoline, 4203-18-3; aniline, 62-53-3; 5-chloro-3-phenylindazole, 13097-03-5; 2-amino-5-chlorobenzophenone, 719-59-5; 5-chloro-2-phenylbenzimidazole, 4887-82-5.

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