

6-Acetamido-3-carboxy-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2-dithiolo[4,3-*b*]pyrrole (11b). A solution of KOH (25 mg, 0.45 mmol) in methanol (0.5 mL) was added to the ester 11a (8.7 mg, 0.032 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (5 mL). After 7 h at room temperature crystals of the sodium salt of 11b were separated by filtration and washed by tetrahydrofuran. A solution of this salt in water (0.3 mL) was acidified with excess 2 N HCl and the precipitated 11b filtered and washed with water. Drying in vacuo and crystallization from tetrahydrofuran gave the acid 11b as solvated orange crystals (4.1 mg, 50%): mp 201–202 °C (TLC of material recovered from the melting point determination showed the presence of holomycin formed by thermal decarboxylation); MS (70 eV) *m/e* (rel intensity) 214 ($M^+ - CO_2$, 40), 172 ($M^+ - CO_2 - CH_2CO$, 81), 44 (CO_2 , 100).

Anal. Calcd for $C_8H_8N_2O_4S_2 \cdot \frac{2}{3}(C_4H_8O)$: C, 41.82; H, 3.73; N, 9.15. Found: C, 41.54; H, 3.87; N, 8.96.

6-Acetamido-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2-dithiolo[4,3-*b*]pyrrole (Holomycin, 11c). A mixture of the ester 11a (10 mg, 0.037 mmol) and anhydrous LiI (70 mg, 0.52 mmol) in pyridine (2 mL) was heated on a steam bath for 35 h. Dilute HCl was added and the products extracted into ethyl acetate which was then washed with dilute HCl and brine. After drying ($MgSO_4$) the solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue purified by TLC (silica gel, ethyl acetate–hexane–acetic acid, 1:1:0.04) yielding holomycin (11c) as an orange powder (3.5 mg, 44%), mp 265–270 °C dec. A sample sublimed at 200 °C (0.4 mm) had mp 271–274 °C dec, not depressed by admixture with an authentic sample of mp 270–273 °C⁶ (lit.^{2,4b} 264–271 °C dec); UV max (CH_3OH) 230 (sh), 246 (sh), 299, 386 nm ($\log \epsilon$ 3.48, 3.37, 3.11, 3.54); IR (KBr) 1660, 1635, 1595, 1545 cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) *m/e* (rel intensity) 214 (M^+ , 19), 172 (50), 43 (100). The physical data are consistent with the literature values.^{2,4b}

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Registry No.—3, 62698-38-8; 4, 62698-39-9; 4 *p*-nitrobenzoyl derivative, 62698-37-7; 5, 62698-40-2; 6, 62698-41-3; 7, 62698-42-4; 8, 62698-43-5; 9, 62698-44-6; 10a, 62698-45-7; 10b, 62698-46-8; 11a, 62698-47-9; 11b Na salt, 62698-48-0; 11b, 62698-49-1; 11c, 488-04-0; *p*-methoxyacetophenone, 100-06-1; methyl thioglycolate, 2365-48-2; methoxalyl chloride, 5781-53-3; methanesulfonyl chloride, 124-63-0; *p*-methoxybenzylamine, 2393-23-9; *N*-methanesulfonyl-*p*-methoxybenzylamine, 42060-31-1.

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Nucleophilic Substitution Reactions on *N*-Nitropyrazoles¹

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1,4-Dinitropyrazoles 1c–d undergo "cine" substitution with secondary amines to give 3(5)-di-*R*-amino-4-nitropyrazoles. 1-Nitro-4-bromo- and 1,3-dinitropyrazoles 1a and 1b with cyclic secondary amines undergo displacement on the nitrogen of the *N*-nitro group to give the *N*-nitro amines.

The examples reported in the literature of aromatic nucleophilic substitution in azole rings² all follow, according to Miller,³ an addition–elimination mechanism. In the case of halogeno pyrazoles the presence of strong electron-withdrawing groups appears to be required for the reaction to proceed as was recently confirmed by Alcalde et al.⁴ Nevertheless, aromatic nucleophilic substitution in pyrazoles^{2,5–7} has not been studied extensively and nothing systematic is known about the susceptibility or the point of attack in the ring and of its dependence on the activating effect of substituents in other positions in the ring.

To our knowledge, in all but one of the reported examples for pyrazoles, the activating group was at C-4 and the halogen displaced by nucleophiles was in either the 3(5) position for *N*-unsubstituted pyrazoles or C-5 for *N*-arylpyrazoles. The one exception reported by Coburn⁸ is the reaction of 4-bromo-3,5-dinitro-1-methylpyrazole with amines to give the 4-amino derivatives, the nucleophilic substitution taking place in the 4 position and the two activating groups situated in positions 3 and 5.

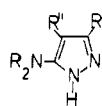
In continuation of our investigations of *N*-nitroazoles^{1,9} we were interested in the reactivity toward nucleophiles of *N*-nitro-substituted pyrazoles. Therefore we investigated the reaction of some 3- and 4-substituted *N*-nitropyrazoles with secondary amines as nucleophiles.

Expecting nucleophilic substitution at the 4 position we refluxed 4-bromo-1-nitropyrazole (1a) with piperidine in



- 1a, $R' = H$; $R'' = Br$
 b, $R' = NO_2$; $R'' = H$
 c, $R' = H$; $R'' = NO_2$
 d, $R' = CH_3$; $R'' = NO_2$

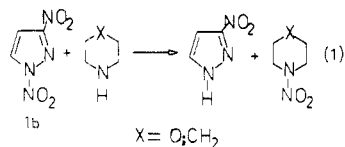
ethanol solution and in excess piperidine, respectively. However, the reaction products were a trace of 4-bromo-3(5)-piperidylpyrazole (2a), 4-bromopyrazole, and *N*-nitro-



- 2a, $R' = H$; $R'' = Br$; $R_2N =$ piperidyl
 b, $R' = H$; $R'' = NO_2$; $R_2N =$ piperidyl
 c, $R' = H$; $R'' = NO_2$; $R_2N =$ morpholyl
 d, $R' = H$; $R'' = NO_2$; $R_2N = (C_2H_5)_2N$
 e, $R' = CH_3$; $R'' = NO_2$; $R_2N =$ piperidyl
 f, $R' = CH_3$; $R'' = NO_2$; $R_2N =$ morpholyl

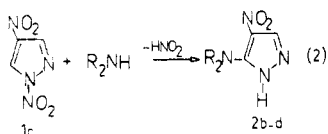
piperidine, the latter compound most likely originating from a nucleophilic displacement by piperidine on the nitrogen of the *N*-nitro group of 1a. Assuming then that dinitropyrazoles might be even better molecules to undergo such a displacement reaction by considering that 3- or 4-nitropyrazole anions would be even better leaving groups than 4-bromopyrazole anion, we treated 1,3-dinitropyrazole (1b) and 1,4-dinitropyrazole (1c) with morpholine and with piperidine. The re-

action of **1b** at reflux temperature either in ethanol or in acetonitrile solution indeed afforded respectively *N*-nitromorpholine and *N*-nitropiperidine besides 3(5)-nitropyrzazole (see reaction 1). The only other product observed in both instances



was a nitroso amine, i.e., nitrosomorpholine and nitrosopiperidine, respectively.

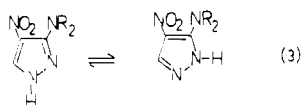
On the other hand, the isomeric 1,4-dinitropyrzazole (**1c**) when subjected to reaction with piperidine in ethanol solution at room temperature afforded chiefly 4-nitro-3(5)-piperidylpyrzazole (**2b**) and no formation of *N*-nitropiperidine was observed (reaction 2). In the same way, from the reactions with



morpholine and with diethylamine 3(5)-morpholyl-4-nitropyrzazole (**2c**) and 3(5)-diethylamino-4-nitropyrzazole (**2d**) were obtained. Again, no nitro amines were formed, whereas just as in the reactions of **1b** *N*-nitroso amines were formed as minor products. In the reactions of **1c** these nitroso amines presumably are formed in a secondary reaction, a nitrosation of the amine by the nitrous acid produced along with the aromatic nucleophilic substitution in the ring (reaction 2). However, the question remains how to explain the occurrence of *N*-nitroso amines as by-products in the reactions of **1b** with secondary amines, i.e., how to explain the presence of a nitrosating agent when no products of a nucleophilic aromatic substitution are observed.

The results described above clearly indicate two modes of nucleophilic substitution on *N*-nitropyrzazoles: an aromatic nucleophilic substitution in the pyrzazole ring (reaction 2) and a nucleophilic displacement on the nitrogen of the *N*-nitro group as depicted in reaction 1.

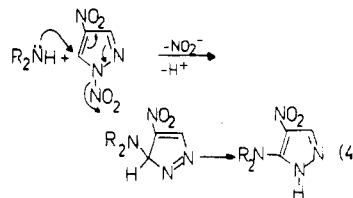
From the products of the aromatic substitution in **1c** no conclusion can be drawn about the point of attack in the ring. Attack on either the 3 or the 5 position affords 3(5)-substituted 4-nitropyrzazoles **2b-d** because these actually consist of equilibrium mixtures of two tautomers.²



To determine whether the nucleophile attacks the 3 or the 5 position in the ring in **1c** we synthesized 1,4-dinitro-3-methylpyrzazole (**1d**) and subjected it to the reaction with piperidine and with morpholine. The products isolated were 3(5)-methyl-4-nitro-5(3)-piperidylpyrzazole (**2e**) and 3(5)-methyl-5(3)-morpholyl-4-nitropyrzazole (**2f**) establishing unambiguously that **1d** and consequently also **1c** undergoes the aromatic nucleophilic substitution reaction in the 5 position of the ring and not in the 3 position.

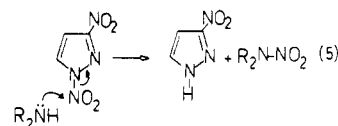
These examples of aromatic nucleophilic substitution in the pyrzazole ring show that we are dealing here with a "cine" substitution reaction¹⁰ of the 1,2-addition-elimination type as described by Miller.³ In general the occurrence of a "cine" substitution, i.e., the entering group comes in ortho to the leaving group, is evidence for a 1,2-elimination-addition mechanism. In such a 1,2-elimination-addition sequence the elimination step gives the aryne intermediate and the following addition step commonly gives a mixture of two prod-

ucts, one of which is a "cine" substitution product. However, no aromatic nucleophilic substitution proceeding via a heteraryne intermediate has ever been established unambiguously for a five-membered heterocycle.¹¹ Therefore, we assume that we are dealing here with the less common "cine" substitution reaction of the 1,2-addition-elimination mechanism, the actual molecule initially formed being a 3*H*-pyrzazole:



The ultimate product obtained is then formed in a subsequent fast hydrogen rearrangement reaction.

The other nucleophilic substitution reaction consists of a displacement on the *N*-nitro group by a nucleophile of a pyrzazole anion (see reaction 1). Such nucleophilic substitution reactions on the nitrogen of a nitro group are well documented. For example, the use of nitrate esters for the preparation of *N*-nitro amines is considered to be a nucleophilic displacement on the nitro group of the ester.¹² Another example is the alkaline hydrolysis of tetranitromethane where the trinitromethane anion is the leaving group.¹³



In *N*-nitropyrzazoles presumably a delicate balance operates between the capacities of a 3 or a 4 substituent for activating the 5 position in the ring for nucleophilic attack and for making the pyrzazole anion a better leaving group. Apparently a nitro group in the 4 position activates primarily for nucleophilic attack in the ring whereas for a 3-nitro group no such activation is found and nucleophilic displacement takes place on the *N*-nitro group. The fact that the reactions of **1c**, contrary to those of **1a** and **1b**, occur at room temperature almost instantaneously supports this assumption.

Finally, 3(5)-(N,N-dialkylamino)pyrzazoles cannot be synthesized by alkylation of the 3(5)-amino group because that would also result in alkylation of the pyrzazole nitrogen giving a mixture of 1,3 and 1,5 isomers. In fact no 3(5)-(N,N-dialkylamino)pyrzazoles are described in the literature.⁷ Consequently, this "cine" substitution reaction of 1,4-dinitropyrzazoles, in addition to its mechanistic merits, provides a convenient way for the synthesis of 3(5)-[N,N-dialkylamino]pyrzazoles.

Experimental Section

General. NMR spectra (δ expressed in parts per million) were recorded on a JEOL 60-MHz Minimar or on a JEOL PS-100 instrument; IR spectra (KBr) were recorded on a Beckman IR-10 instrument; mass spectra were recorded on a AE MS-902 spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed by Mr. W. J. Buis, TNO Laboratory of Organic Chemistry, Utrecht, The Netherlands. For the separation of products the short-column chromatography technique of Hunt and Rigby¹⁴ was used on silica gel H according to Stahl (Merck). Spraying with Rhodamine B solution (0.05% in ethanol) was used for detection of nitropyrzazoles on TLC.

N-Nitropyrzazoles **1a-c** were prepared as has been previously described;⁹ these compounds must be stored under exclusion of moisture to prevent slow hydrolysis to nitric acid and the original *N*-unsubstituted pyrzazole.

N-Nitropiperidine and *N*-nitromorpholine were identified by comparison with an independently synthesized specimen.¹² The identification of *N*-nitrosopiperidine and *N*-nitrosomorpholine was based on comparison of NMR and mass spectral data reported in the

literature.^{15,16} The structure assignments of compounds **2a–f** were primarily based on NMR and IR spectra. In particular the NMR spectra recorded in acetone-*d*₆ of **2b–d** showed two signals for the 3(5) proton. This, according to Elguero and Jacquier et al.,¹⁷ is typical for NMR spectra of 3(5)-substituted 4-nitropyrzoles taken in acetone-*d*₆ only and not in other solvents.

Reactions of 1a–b. TLC analysis showed that after refluxing for 10 min of 1 g of **1a** in 4 mL of piperidine all **1a** had reacted, whereas after refluxing for 5 days in ethanol (15 mL) solution of 0.6 g of **1a** and 0.3 g of piperidine some unreacted **1a** was still present. Column chromatography (heptane–acetone, 7:1) of the first reaction mixture afforded 0.2 g of *N*-nitropiperidine (30% based on **1a**), 0.42 g of 4-bromopyrazole (53%), and 0.14 g of a mixture of **2a** and 4-bromopyrazole according to the NMR spectrum. By sublimation enough of **2a** was isolated to obtain a mass spectrum, mol wt 231.01890 and 229.02045 (calcd for C₈H₁₂BrN₃, 231.01954 and 229.02151).

1b was reacted with piperidine and morpholine in a number of ways and the reactions were followed by TLC (chloroform–ethyl acetate, 9:1). The reaction with piperidine in acetonitrile was very slow at room temperature (5 days); after refluxing, however, for 0.75 h all **1b** had reacted. Also **1b** reacted very slowly with morpholine in ethanol solution at room temperature; on the other hand, the reaction in refluxing ethanol was completed in 16 h. No difference was observed on addition of urea, K₂CO₃, or MgCO₃ to the reaction mixture in an attempt to suppress the formation of nitroso amines. Column chromatography (chloroform–ethyl acetate, 9:1) afforded pure samples of *N*-nitro- and *N*-nitrosopiperidine, *N*-nitro- and *N*-nitrosomorpholine, and 3(5)-nitropyrzole. No other products were obtained. In one case the reaction of **1b** with morpholine in refluxing ethanol afforded after column chromatography 84% of *N*-nitromorpholine, 14% of *N*-nitrosomorpholine, and 84% of 3(5)-nitropyrzole.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 2b–f. To a solution of 3 mmol of the *N*-nitropyrzole in 10–15 mL of ethanol, under stirring and while maintaining the temperature under 30 °C, a solution of 1.1–2.0 equiv of the secondary amine in 5 mL of ethanol was added slowly. Completion of the reaction was determined by TLC (chloroform–ethyl acetate, 9:1). Workup, i.e., separation from the nitroso amine, was done either by column chromatography or in the following way. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the residue taken up in 5% sodium hydroxide solution, which solution in turn was evaporated. This residue was then dissolved in a small amount of water, the resulting solution was acidified, and the precipitate was collected on a Buchner funnel and recrystallized from the appropriate solvent. No attempts were made to optimize the yields, which varied from 85 to 20%.

4-Nitro-3(5)-piperidylpyrazole (2b): pale yellow, mp 129 °C (from benzene); IR 3130, 2950, and 2860 (NH and CH), 1600 and 1315 cm⁻¹ (NO₂); NMR (100 MHz, Me₂SO-*d*₆) δ 1.64 (m, 6, β and γ piperidyl H), 3.26 (m, 4, α piperidyl H), and 8.32 [s, 1, 5(3)-H]; (100 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 1.76 (m, 6, β and γ piperidyl H), 3.36 (m, 4, α piperidyl H) and two signals for the 5(3)-H at 8.32 and 8.52 in the ratio 1:15 consistent for a 3(5)-substituted 4-nitropyrzole.¹⁷ Anal. Calcd for C₈H₁₂N₄O₂: C, 48.97; H, 6.17; N, 28.56. Found: C, 48.70; H, 6.42; N, 28.56.

3(5)-*N*-Morpholyl-4-nitropyrzole (2c): pale yellow, mp 162 °C (from ethyl acetate); IR 3220, 3160 (CH and NH), 1600 and 1310 cm⁻¹ (NO₂); NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 3.32 (m, 4) and 3.82 (m, 4) and two signals for the 5(3)-H in the ratio of 14:3 at 8.44 and 8.52 (see **2b**; ref 17). Anal. Calcd for C₇H₁₀N₄O₃: C, 42.42; H, 5.09; N, 28.27. Found: C, 42.77; H, 5.21; N, 28.08.

3(5)-Diethylamino-4-nitropyrzole (2d): pale yellow, mp 82–83 °C (sublimation); IR 3120 (NH), 1490 and 1320 cm⁻¹ (NO₂); NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.76 (t, 6, CH₃), 3.43 (q, 4, CH₂), and 8.26 [s, 1, 5(3)-H]. Anal. Calcd for C₇H₁₂N₄O₂: C, 45.64; H, 6.57; N, 30.42. Found: C, 45.54; H, 6.36; N, 30.24.

3(5)-Methyl-4-nitro-5(3)-*N*-piperidylpyrazole (2e): yellow crystals, mp 124 °C (petroleum ether, bp 80–100 °C); IR 3230 (NH), 1600 (C=C), 1500 and 1322 cm⁻¹ (NO₂); NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.70 (m, 6, CH₂), 2.56 (s, 3, CH₃), and 3.24 (m, 4, CH₂). Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₄N₄O₂: C, 51.42; H, 6.71; N, 26.65; O, 15.22. Found: C, 51.02; H,

6.63; N, 26.21; O, 15.43. High-resolution mass spectrum: calcd for C₉H₁₄N₄O₂, 210.1117; found, 210.1120.

3(5)-Methyl-5(3)-morpholyl-4-nitropyrzole (2f): yellow crystals, mp 165 °C (ethyl acetate); IR 3230 (NH), 1600 (C=C), 1530 and 1360, 1380 cm⁻¹ (NO₂); NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.71 (s, 3, CH₃), 3.46 (m, 4, CH₂) and 3.96 (m, 4, CH₂). Anal. Calcd for C₈H₁₂N₄O₃: C, 45.28; H, 5.70; N, 26.40; O, 22.62. Found: C, 45.24; H, 5.83; N, 26.20; O, 22.73.

3-Methyl-1,4-dinitropyrzole (1d) was synthesized according to the previously described procedure^{9,18} by nitration of 0.87 g of 3(5)-methyl-4-nitropyrzole in 3 mL of acetic acid by successive treatment with 0.7 mL of nitric acid (*d* = 1.52) and 2 mL of acetic anhydride while maintaining the temperature below 25 °C. For workup the reaction mixture was poured onto 50 mL of ice and the formed precipitate was filtered off affording 0.74 g of **1d**. Crystallization from hexane gave colorless crystals: mp 47 °C (lit. 48 °C¹⁸); IR 1640 and 1270 (N–NO₂), 1565 and 1370 cm⁻¹ (C–NO₂); NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.73 (s, 3, CH₃) and 9.13 (s, 1, H). Neutralization of the filtrate with sodium carbonate, extraction with ether, drying the ether extracts over magnesium sulfate, and evaporation of the ether afforded 0.38 g of a yellow oil. The NMR spectrum of this oil (100 MHz, CDCl₃) showed this oil to be a mixture of **1d** (79%) and its isomer 5-methyl-1,4-dinitropyrzole (21%), with signals for the latter compound at 3.12 (s, 3, CH₃) and 8.12 (s, 1, H) confirming that indeed in **1d** the methyl group occupies the 3 position.

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Registry No.—**1a**, 7185-93-5; **1b**, 38858-81-0; **1c**, 35852-77-8; **1d**, 62563-09-1; **2a**, 62563-10-4; **2b**, 62563-11-5; **2c**, 62563-12-6; **2d**, 62563-13-7; **2e**, 53960-82-0; **2f**, 53960-83-1; piperidine, 110-89-4; morpholine, 110-91-8; 5-methyl-1,4-dinitropyrzole, 62563-14-8.

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