

Reaction of Diphenylcyclopropenone with Primary and Secondary Enaminones. Synthetic and Mechanistic Implications

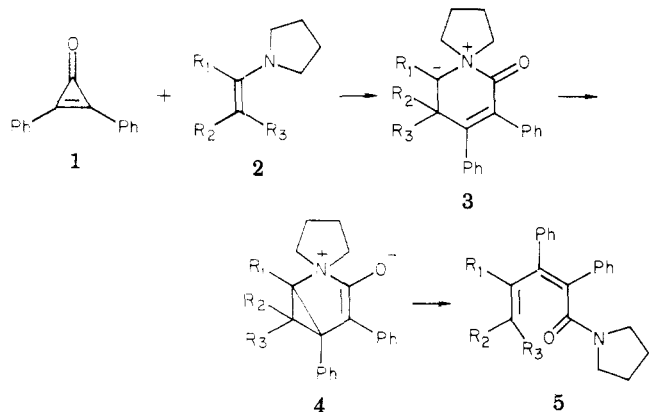
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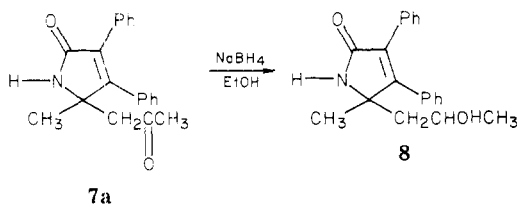
Diphenylcyclopropenone (1) reacts with the primary and secondary acyclic enaminones 6a-c in toluene at reflux to afford the 1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-ones 7a-c in good yield. The reaction of the primary cyclic enaminone 13a produces a 1,5-dihydro-4H-pyrrol-4-one 14, while the secondary cyclic enaminone 13b yields a 2:1 product (16b) as the principal cycloadduct. Mechanisms are discussed.

The reaction of diphenylcyclopropenone (1) with a variety of enamines (2) has been suggested to proceed through ylide (3) and ammonium enolate (4) intermediates to afford the C-N insertion products (5).¹ Stable examples



of 4 have been reported.² Intermediates analogous to 3 and 4 have been proposed in the reaction of tertiary enaminones (2, R₂ = COR) with 1, where C-N insertion products are also observed.³ Although primary and secondary enaminones have long been known,⁴ the utilization of these systems as mechanistic probes in the above reaction, where rapid proton transfer in intermediates might permit the isolation of interesting heterocycles, has not been explored.

We began our study with the acyclic enaminones 6a-c for which a smooth reaction with 1 was observed in toluene under reflux conditions (3 days), affording the 1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-ones 7a (76%), 7b (66%), and 7c (77%), respectively (Scheme I, Table I). Evidence for the structural assignments was obtained from the spectral data. The IR spectrum of 7a, for example, showed ketone C=O (1725 cm⁻¹) and amide NH (3320 cm⁻¹) and C=O (1700 cm⁻¹). The NMR spectrum of 7a contained an AB quartet at δ 2.8 (J = 17 Hz). Sodium borohydride reduction of 7a produced the diastereomeric alcohols 8, the IR spectrum of which showed a single carbonyl absorption at 1690 cm⁻¹.⁵ These results permit an alternative representation (Scheme I) of the reaction of 1 with acyclic enaminones as a cycloaddition at NC_β of the enaminone to afford intermediate 9, which could also account for the formation of the previously reported³ C-N insertion products 10 obtained from tertiary enaminones. Under our conditions the reaction of 6d formed 10 in 38% yield.

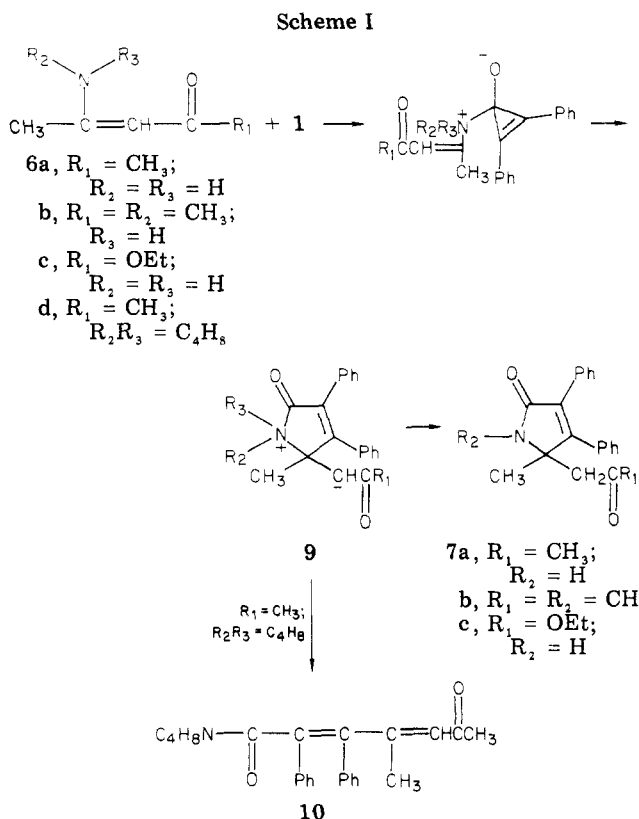


(1) V. Bilinski, M. A. Steinfelds, and A. S. Dreiding, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 55, 1075 (1972).

(2) T. Eicher and S. Bohm, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2603 (1972).

(3) V. Bilinski and A. S. Dreiding, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 57, 2525 (1974).

(4) J. V. Greenhill, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 6, 277 (1977).



Under our conditions the reaction of 6d formed 10 in 38% yield.

The reaction of 6b gave a small amount (10%) of a 2:1 adduct which was assigned structure 11 on the basis of IR absorptions at 1755 and 1645 cm⁻¹, the latter suggesting a 1,5-dihydro-4H-pyrrol-4-one structure.⁶ The formation of 11 is consistent with the participation of an imine intermediate 12 resulting from initial nucleophilic attack of the enaminone oxygen at C-1 of 1.⁷ Imines have been

(5) An unusual feature in the NMR spectrum of 7a is the presence of the amide NH at δ 2.0. Examination of a model indicates a favorable conformation for 7a in which the ketone C=O is situated above this hydrogen. In any case, the reduction product 8 shows the amide NH at δ 7.85.

(6) T. Eicher, J. L. Weber, and G. Chatila, *Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem.*, 1203 (1978).

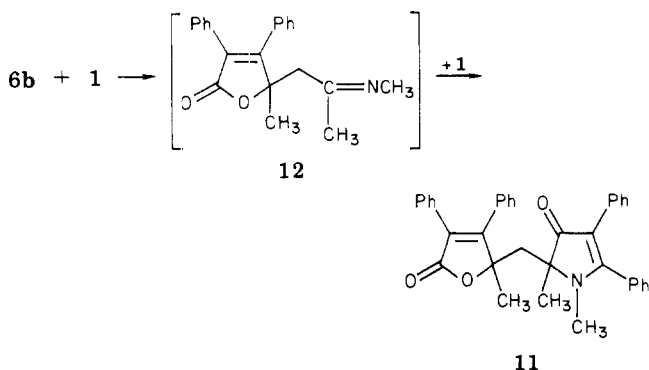
(7) An analogous lactone structure has been proposed for the dimer of 1: R. Breslow, T. Eicher, A. Krebs, R. A. Peterson, and J. Posner, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 87, 1320 (1965).

Table I. Products from the Reaction of 1 with Enaminones in Toluene at Reflux

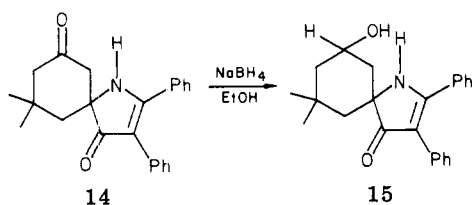
enaminone	reaction time, days	1:1 adduct (% yield, mp, °C)	2:1 adduct (% yield, mp, °C)	PhC=CPh, % yield
6a	3	7a (76, 171-172)		7
6b	3	7b (66, 85-87)	11 (10, 233-236)	5
6c	3	7c (77, 120-120.5)		6
6d	3	10 (38, 167-168.5 ^a)		5
13a	7	14 (43, 258-259)	16a (5, 243-246)	16
13b	7	18 (14, 129.5-130)	16b (25, 256.5-257)	36
13c	7			57 ^b

^a Melting point is of the major isomer. ^b In addition, 37% 1 and 78% 13c were recovered.

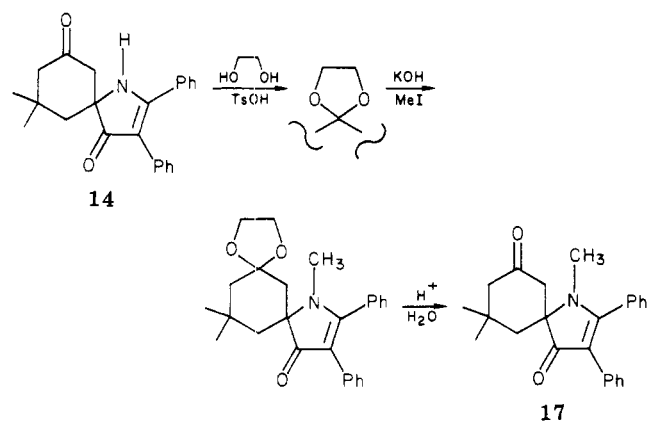
shown to react with 1 to afford 1,5-dihydro-4H-pyrrol-4-ones.⁶



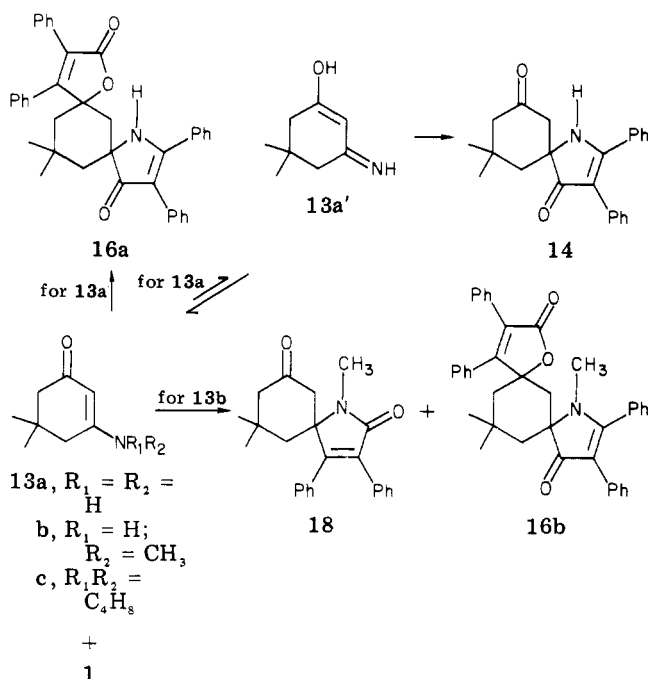
The cyclic enaminones 13a-c proved to be much less reactive. In the case of 13c, which was the least reactive, a 7-day reaction afforded only diphenylacetylene (57%) in addition to unreacted 1 (37%) and 13c (78%). The principal product of the reaction of 13a, a 1:1 adduct, was assigned the 1,5-dihydro-4H-pyrrol-4-one structure 14 (Scheme II, Table I) on the basis of the IR spectrum which showed absorptions at 3165 (NH), 1720 (C=O), and 1635 (N-C=C-C=O). Sodium borohydride reduction of 14 gave the diastereomeric alcohols 15 (IR 3330, 3220, 1640



cm⁻¹). A small amount of 2:1 adduct 16a (5%) was also obtained. In the case of 13b, the 2:1 product (16b) was the principal cycloadduct. A 1:1 adduct was also isolated, but could not be assigned as a pyrrol-2-one or -4-one by spectroscopic means alone (carbonyl at 1665 cm⁻¹). Therefore, N-methylation of 14 was performed according to the sequence shown below. The product 17 (N-C=



Scheme II



C-C=O, 1645 cm⁻¹) proved to be isomeric with that of the reaction of 13b, thereby defining the latter as the 1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 18. Thus, of the 1:1 adducts isolated in this study, 14 was the only 1,5-dihydro-4H-pyrrol-4-one observed. The difference here is consistent with reaction of 13a through an imino tautomer, i.e., 13a', a form generally considered to make little contribution to the structure of enaminones.⁴ It is interesting to note that primary cyclic enaminones show a weak absorption in their IR spectra at 1650-1690 cm⁻¹, which is absent in those of the secondary and tertiary derivatives.⁸

A difference in reactivity for cyclic vs. acyclic enaminones has been observed previously⁴ and should be related to the existence of the former in a fixed trans-trans form. Increased electron delocalization from N to O has been suggested for this case,⁹ which is consistent with the observed greater participation of a pathway involving reaction of 1 at the oxygen of cyclic enaminones. The failure of 13c to afford a product of reaction at oxygen suggests that proton transfer from nitrogen, in an intermediate or transition state, plays an important role in preventing reversibility of the process.

The reaction described here provides a convenient route to 5-functionalized 1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-ones, a process

(8) K. Ramalingam, M. Balasubramanian, and V. Baliah, *Indian J. Chem.*, 10, 62 (1972).

(9) D. Smith and P. J. Taylor, *Spectrochim. Acta, Part A*, 32, 1477 (1976).

which appears to be particularly favorable when applied to acyclic enaminones. The resulting systems may find utility as intermediates in the synthesis of more complex heterocycles.

Experimental Section

The melting points are uncorrected. The IR spectra of KBr disks were measured with a Perkin-Elmer 337 spectrophotometer, NMR spectra (in CDCl₃, unless otherwise stated) with a Varian T-60 instrument with Me₄Si as an internal standard, and mass spectra with a Varian MAT 311A spectrometer (unless otherwise indicated).

The enaminones⁴ and diphenylcyclopropenone⁷ were prepared according to known procedures.

Reaction of Enaminones 6a-d with Diphenylcyclopropenone (1). In a typical reaction, a solution of 1 (2 mmol) and 6 (2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was heated at reflux for 3 days after which time the solvent was evaporated. The crude reaction mixture was treated as follows.

A. Reaction of 6a. Trituration with ethyl ether gave 71% of the insoluble 1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 7a: NMR δ 1.55 (s, 3 H), 2.0 (s, 1 H, NH), 2.15 (s, 3 H), 2.8 (AB, 2 H, $J = 17$ Hz), 7.15–7.6 (m, 10 H); IR 3320, 1725, 1700 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 305 (42), 249 (17), 248 (100), 178 (16).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₂: C, 78.66; H, 6.27; N, 4.59. Found: C, 78.83; H, 6.15; N, 4.63.

Chromatography of the soluble material on silica gel afforded 7% diphenylacetylene (eluted with benzene, identical in all respects with an authentic sample) and 7a (5%; with 10% ethyl ether–benzene).

B. Reaction of 6b. Chromatography of the residue on silica gel with benzene as eluant afforded diphenylacetylene (5%) and with 2% ethyl ether–benzene afforded the 2:1 adduct 11 (10%): NMR δ 1.45 (s, 3 H), 1.6 (s, 3 H), 2.05 (d, 1 H, $J = 15$ Hz), 2.75 (d, 1 H, $J = 15$ Hz), 3.1 (s, 3 H), 7.1–7.6 (m, 20 H); IR 1755, 1645 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 525 (100), 276 (15), 263 (25), 262 (35), 178 (31).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₆H₃₁NO₃: C, 82.26; H, 5.94; N, 2.66. Found: C, 82.41; H, 6.02; N, 2.55.

Elution with 10% ethyl ether–benzene gave the 1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 7b (66%): NMR δ 1.45 (s, 3 H), 2.1 (s, 3 H), 2.85 (AB, 2 H, $J = 16$ Hz), 3.05 (s, 3 H), 7.15–7.6 (m, 10 H); IR 1720, 1680 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 319 (30), 263 (19), 262 (100), 178 (5).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO₂: C, 78.97; H, 6.63; N, 4.39. Found: C, 78.88; H, 6.55; N, 4.25.

C. Reaction of 6c. Trituration with ethyl ether afforded 67% of the 1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 7c which was recrystallized with methylene chloride–hexane: NMR δ 1.25 (t, 3 H, $J = 7$ Hz), 1.55 (s, 3 H), 2.7 (s, 2 H), 4.25 (q, 2 H, $J = 7$ Hz), 7.15–7.65 (m, 11 H) (10 H, D₂O); IR 3165, 3060, 1730, 1695 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 335 (39), 249 (18), 178 (14).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO₃: C, 75.20; H, 6.31; N, 4.18. Found: C, 75.33; H, 6.28; N, 4.25.

Chromatography of soluble part on silica gel gave diphenylcyclopropenone (6%, elution with benzene) and 7c (10%, elution with 10% ethyl ether–benzene).

D. Reaction of 6d. Chromatography on silica gel gave several fractions of a mixture of the two 1:1 insertion products 10³ (14%, eluted with 5% ethyl ether–benzene) and several fractions of one component of this mixture (24%): mp 167–168.5 °C; NMR δ 1.83 (m, 4 H), 2.1 (d, 3 H, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 2.25 (s, 3 H), 3.2–3.75 (2 overlapping t, 4 H), 6.45 (br s, 1 H), 7.1–7.4 (m, 10 H); IR 1690, 1620 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 359 (2), 316 (100), 261 (32).

Reaction of Enaminones 13a–c with Diphenylcyclopropenone (1). The general procedure was the same as above except that the reaction time was 7 days. After evaporation of toluene the crude residue was treated as follows.

A. Reaction of 13a. Trituration with ethyl ether afforded 43% of the 1,5-dihydro-4H-pyrrol-4-one 14 which was recrystallized with methylene chloride–hexane: NMR δ 1.1 (s, 6 H), 1.4–2.7 (m, 5 H), 2.9 (d, 1 H, $J = 17$ Hz), 5.5 (br s, 1 H), 7.3 (s, 5 H), 7.5 (s, 5 H); IR 3165, 1720, 1635 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 345 (63), 178 (100).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₃NO₂: C, 79.97; H, 6.71; N, 4.05. Found: C, 80.16; H, 6.86; N, 3.98.

Chromatography with silica gel afforded diphenylacetylene (16%, elution with benzene) and the 2:1 adduct 16a (5%, elution with benzene) which was recrystallized with methylene chloride–hexane: NMR δ 1.1 (s, 3 H), 1.5 (s, 3 H), 1.6–2.0 (m, 5 H), 2.45 (d, 1 H, $J = 14$ Hz), 6.55 (s, 1 H), 7.15–7.6 (m, 20 H); IR 3400, 1760, 1665 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 551 (100), 178 (70).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₈H₃₃NO₃: C, 82.73; H, 6.03; N, 2.54. Found: C, 82.54; H, 6.14; N, 2.61.

B. Reaction of 13b. Chromatography of the residue on silica gel with benzene as eluant afforded diphenylacetylene (36%) and the 2:1 adduct 16b (25%) which was recrystallized with methylene chloride–hexane: NMR δ 1.2 (s, 3 H), 1.4 (s, 3 H), 1.55–2.45 (m, 5 H), 2.65 (d, 1 H, $J = 15$ Hz), 3.1 (s, 3 H), 7.1 (s, 5 H), 7.15–7.6 (m, 15 H); IR 1760, 1650 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 565 (100), 178 (93).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₈H₃₅NO₃: C, 82.81; H, 6.24; N, 2.48. Found: C, 83.02; H, 6.15; N, 2.59.

Elution with 2% ethyl ether–benzene afforded the 1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 18 which was recrystallized from cold isopropyl ether: NMR δ 1.25 (s, 3 H), 1.3 (s, 3 H), 1.7–2.7 (m, 5 H), 2.9 (d, 1 H, $J = 17$ Hz), 2.95 (s, 3 H), 7.25 (s, 5 H), 7.3–7.6 (m, 5 H); IR 1715, 1665 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 359 (61), 178 (100).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₅NO₂: C, 80.19; H, 7.01; N, 3.90. Found: C, 80.00; H, 7.13; N, 4.08.

C. Reaction of 13c. Chromatography of the residue with silica gel afforded diphenylacetylene (57%, elution with benzene), unreacted diphenylcyclopropenone (37%, elution with 5% ethyl ether–benzene), and unreacted enaminone 13c (78%, 3% methanol–ethyl ether).

Reduction of 7a with Sodium Borohydride. To an ethanol solution (10 mL) of 7a (100 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added sodium borohydride (40 mg, 1.1 mmol). After 17 h, the solvent was evaporated and the solid residue treated with 10% ammonium chloride (6 mL). The methylene chloride extract (3 × 10 mL) was dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated, yielding 94 mg (93%) of the diastereomers 8; IR 3400, 3200, 1690 cm⁻¹. One isomer was obtained pure by recrystallization from methylene chloride–hexane: mp 175–177 °C; NMR δ 1.25 (d, 3 H, $J = 6.5$ Hz), 1.5 (s, 3 H), 1.7–2.1 (m, 2 H), 4.15 (br s, 2 H, OH, CH), 7.1–7.5 (m, 10 H), 7.85 (br s, 1 H, NH); IR 3425, 3180, 1690; mass spectrum, m/e (relative intensity) 307 (31), 249 (25), 248 (100), 179 (10), 178 (15).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NO₂: C, 78.15; H, 6.89; N, 4.56. Found: C, 78.26; H, 6.73; N, 4.62.

Reduction of 14 with Sodium Borohydride. A suspension of 14 (256 mg, 0.742 mmol) and sodium borohydride (52 mg, 1.37 mmol) in ethanol (25 mL) was left at room temperature with stirring for 17 h after which time the solvent was evaporated and 10% ammonium chloride (10 mL) added to the residue. The solid product was filtered, washed with water, and air-dried, yielding 250 mg (97%) of the diastereomers 15: mp 102–120 °C; IR 3330, 3220, 1640 cm⁻¹; NMR δ 0.95 (s, 3 H), 1.3 (s, 3 H), 1.5–1.85 (m, 6 H), 2.2 (br, 1 H), 4.3 (m, 1 H), 6.8 (br, 1 H), 7.2–7.5 (m, 10 H).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₅NO₂: C, 79.51; H, 7.25; N, 4.03. Found: C, 79.68; H, 7.41; N, 4.17.

N-Methylation of 14 via Ketal. A solution of 14 (165 mg, 0.478 mmol), ethylene glycol (0.03 mL, 0.05 mmol), *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (10 mg), and benzene (3 mL) was left at reflux for 5 h with the reaction flask connected to a Dean–Stark trap. The reaction mixture was cooled, washed with a 10% sodium hydroxide solution (2 × 6 mL), followed by distilled water (2 × 6 mL), dried over anhydrous potassium carbonate, and filtered, and the solvent was evaporated, yielding 171 mg (92%) of crude ketal, IR 3370, 1670 cm⁻¹, which was used directly in the next step.

B. To a suspension of the ketal formed above (155 mg, 0.399 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (2 mL) was added approximately 150 mg of powdered potassium hydroxide. All of the ketal then dissolved and the solution turned dark orange. Methyl iodide (0.14 mL, 2.2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was left stirring for 0.5 h. Water (20 mL) was then added to the yellow reaction mixture and the product extracted with methylene chloride (3 × 20 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (6 × 20 mL), dried over anhydrous potassium carbonate, and

filtered, and the solvent was evaporated, yielding 152 mg of crude product. Trituration with hexane afforded the methylated ketal (70 mg, 44%): mp 132–140 °C; NMR δ 1.15 (s, 3 H), 1.20 (s, 3 H), 1.25–2.0 (m, 5 H), 2.35 (d, 1 H, $J = 16$ Hz), 3.05 (s, 3 H), 3.9–4.05 (m, 4 H), 7.05 (s, 5 H), 7.2–7.6 (m, 5 H); IR 1670 cm^{-1} .

C. A solution of the methylated ketal (70 mg, 0.17 mmol), 6 N hydrochloric acid (1 mL), and ethanol (3 mL) was left at room temperature for 10 h. The solvent was evaporated, water was added to the residue (15 mL), and the product was extracted with methylene chloride (2×20 mL). The organic layer was then washed with water (3×15 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and filtered, and the solvent was evaporated, yielding 56 mg of crude product which was recrystallized with isopropyl ether (left in freezer), affording 41 mg (67%) of pure 17: mp 147.5–148

°C; NMR (CCl_4) 1.15 (s, 3 H), 1.20 (s, 3 H), 1.6–2.55 (m, 5 H), 2.80 (d, 1 H, $J = 17$ Hz), 2.85 (s, 3 H), 7.1 (s, 5 H), 7.25–7.6 (m, 5 H); IR 1720, 1640 cm^{-1} ; mass spectrum (Finnigan 1015 S/L), m/e (relative intensity) 359 (2), 246 (10), 178 (100).

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_2$: C, 80.19; H, 7.01; N, 3.90. Found: C, 80.08; H, 6.93; N, 4.01.

Registry No. 1, 886-38-4; 6a, 1118-66-7; 6b, 14092-14-9; 6c, 7318-00-5; 6d, 3389-57-9; 7a, 75476-11-8; 7b, 75476-12-9; 7c, 75476-13-0; 8 (isomer 1), 75476-14-1; 8 (isomer 2), 75476-15-2; 10, 75476-16-3; 11, 75495-03-3; 13a, 873-95-0; 13b, 701-58-6; 13c, 3357-16-2; 14, 75495-04-4; 14-ethylene ketal, 75476-21-0; 15 (isomer 1), 75476-17-4; 15 (isomer 2), 75476-23-2; 16a, 75495-05-5; 16b, 75476-18-5; 17, 75476-19-6; 17-ethylene ketal, 75476-22-1; 18, 75476-20-9.

Crystal and Molecular Structure of Di-*tert*-adamantyl Disulfide. Extension of the Correlation between the Sulfur-Sulfur Dihedral Angle and the Sulfur Lone-Pair Energy Gap¹

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The crystal and molecular structure of di-*tert*-adamantyl disulfide (1, DAD; $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{S}_2$) has been determined from diffractometer data. The unit cell is monoclinic: space group $P2_1/c$; $a = 12.015$ (3), $b = 11.556$ (3), $c = 12.959$ (3) Å; $\beta = 90.42$ (2)°; $V = 1799$ Å³; $Z = 4$; $d_{\text{calcd}} = 1.24$ Mg/m³. Least-squares refinements gave $R = 0.074$ for 649 observed reflections. The torsion angle $\theta(\text{CSSC}) = 110.5$ (9)°. The observation of an enlarged S–S dihedral angle permits a tentative extension of the correlation between $\theta(\text{CSSC})$ and the photoelectron spectroscopically determined ionization energy difference, $\Delta E(n_+ - n_-)$, and disulfide torsional angles above 90°. The molecular geometry of *t*-Bu–SS–*t*-Bu is revised accordingly.

Dialkyl disulfides represent a class of substances both intensely studied in the laboratory² and widely distributed in nature.³ A singular structural feature of the disulfide moiety is its S–S dihedral angle of 80–85° in an unstrained molecular environment.⁴ Deviations of up to 70° to smaller values of $\theta(\text{CSSC})$ have been forced on the system by the expediency of ring formation. Although the unsubstituted parent, H_2S_2 , enjoys an S–S torsional angle of 91°,⁵ very few other examples with expanded $\theta(\text{CSSC})$'s are known. Notable exceptions are cysteine derivatives either strongly hydrogen bonded in the solid phase^{6,7} or

Table I. Crystal Data for DAD

formula	$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{S}_2$	V	1799.13 Å ³
fw	334.59	Z	4
space group	$P2_1/c$	temp	295 K
a	12.015 (3) Å	μ (Mo K α)	0.62 mm ⁻¹
b	11.556 (3) Å	d_{calcd}	Mg m ⁻³
c	12.959 (3) Å	cryst dimens	0.80 × 0.10 ×
β	90.4 (2)°		0.20 mm

rigidly held in a protein.⁸ Very recently a dipyrimidyl disulfide was found to sustain $\theta(\text{CSSC}) = 180^\circ$ via the agency of copper complexation.⁹

Absent from the rich chemistry of the disulfide functionality is a series of simple derivatives with S–S dihedral angles spanning the 90–180° range. As part of a program designed to prepare and study these substrates, we have undertaken the X-ray structure determination of *t*-Ad-SS-*t*-Ad (DAD, 1). The results presented below confirm our molecular mechanics predictions of $\theta(\text{CSSC})$ enlargement by means of bulky substituents^{1b,10} and provide us with an opportunity to extend the $\theta(\text{CSSC})/\Delta E(n_+ - n_-)$ correlation beyond 90°.

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