40140-16-7; 21c, 76529-99-2; 22a, 76530-00-2; 22c, 76530-01-3; 23c, 67509-39-1; 25,4835-90-9; 27,76530-02-4; 28,76530-03-5; 29,76530- 04-6; 30, 76530-05-7; 31, 71404-95-0; 32, 76530-06-8; 33,76530-07-9; 34, 76530-08-0; p-methoxyphenylacetic acid, **104-01-8;** p-methoxyphenylacetyl chloride, **4693-91-8;** p-hydroxybenzaldehyde, **123-08-0;** (p-hydroxypheny1)acetic acid, **156-38-7; 0-pivaloylhydroxylamine, 35657-34-2; 0-tert-butylhydroxylamine** HCl, **39684-28-1;** 0-tritylhydroxylamine, **31938-11-1;** 0-benzylhydroxylamine, **622-33-3.**

Oxidation of Hydrazines with Benzeneseleninic Acid and Anhydride^{1a}

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Received October *1,* 1980

Benzeneseleninic acid (1) and anhydride (2) oxidize hydrazine or 1,2-disubstituted derivatives to the corresponding diazenes. Hydrazides afford selenoesters **4,** N,N'-diacyl- or -diaroylhydrazines **5,** and carboxylic acids. Benzeneselenenic acid **(7)** is a required intermediate in selenoester formation and may be generated independently by the reaction of triphenylphosphine with **1.** Selenoesters are efficiently prepared by the slow addition of a mixture of the hydrazide and triphenylphoephine to **1** in &chloromethane solution. **Polar** solvents are unsuitable. Inverse addition provides compounds **5 as** the major products. Oxidation of hydrazides of structure HO- $(CH₂), COMHNH₂$ gives the corresponding selenoesters 14 and acids 16 when $n = 11$ or 14 and lactones 17 and 18 when *n* = **4** or **3.** Arylhydrazines react with **1** or **2** to furnish arenes **23** and aryl phenyl selenides **24.**

Benzeneseleninic acid (1) and anhydride (2) are stable, readily available, odorless solids which serve as oxidants of diverse organic substrates. The latter include sulfur compounds,2 nitrogenous species? compounds containing hydroxyl⁴ or carbonyl^{3d,5} functions, and benzylic hydro $carbons.^{5b}$ A number of synthetically useful transformations have resulted from these studies.

0 00 PhSeOH PhSeOSePh II II II **1 2**

Recently, one of us observed that variously substituted hydrazines react vigorously with 1 or 2 at room temperature to produce diazenes or products derived from their fragmentation.6 The dehydrogenation of hydrazo compounds to diazenes has been accomplished by numerous methods in the past.7 However, limitations of scope and attendant side reactions frequently curtail their effectiveness. New methods for producing diazenes **as** producta or as unstable intermediates (e.g., as in the case of mon-

preliminary communications **see** ref 3c,d. **(7)** B. T. Newbold in "The Chemistry of the Hydrazo, Azo and Azoxy Groups", S. Patai, Ed., Wiley, London, **1975, Part** 1, Chapter **14.**

osubstituted derivatives) are therefore of continuing interest. In view of the rich and varied chemistry of species containing the **-N=N-** linkage, we performed the studies of hydrazine oxidations with **1** and **2** described herein.

Results and Discussion

Rheinboldt and Giesbrecht⁸ observed that seleninic acids are reduced to selenenic acids (RSeOH) when treated with hydrazine hydrate, hydrochloride, or sulfate. We have found that an initial dehydrogenation produced diazene (diimide) when hydrazine hydrate was oxidized with **1** or 2. Evidence for diazene formation derived from the in situ conversion of added azobenzene or cinnamic acid to N, **as** shown in eq la,b. Since diazene may itself be easily

Conversion of added axobenzene or chnamic acid to
$$
N
$$
,
\n N' -diphenyhydrazine or hydrocinnamic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,⁹
\nas shown in eq 1a,b. Since diagramic acid, respectively,¹⁰
\n $N_2 + H_2O$ (1a)
\n $10r^2$
\n $10r^2$

PhNHNHPh

oxidized, its efficient generation requires the presence of excess hydrazine hydrate during the reaction. Under such conditions the oxidant reacts preferentially with the hydrazine. The oxidation of N , \bar{N}' -diphenylhydrazine back to azobenzene (vide infra) is similarly avoided.

The reactions of two symmetrically disubstituted hydrazines with **1** or 2 were also studied. The oxidation of N , N' -diphenylhydrazine with 2 afforded azobenzene in 97 % yield while **N,"-diisopropylhydrazine was** converted to the corresponding diazene (azo compound) quantitatively by an equimolar amount of **1** or by 0.5 molar equiv of **2.** When 0.5 molar equiv of **1** were used in **the** oxidation, only a small amount $($ <10%) of the hydrazine remained

⁽¹⁾ (a) Financial support from the University of Calgary, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Research Corp. **is** gratefully acknowledged. (b) Holder of an NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship.

⁽²⁾ (a) H. Rheinboldt and E. Giesbrecht, *Chem. Ber.,* **88,1037 (1955); (b) J.** L. Kice and T. W. S. Lee, *J. Am. Chem.* **SOC., 100,5094 (1978);** (c) **D.** H. R. Barton, N. J. Cussans and S. V. Ley, J. *Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.,* **751 (1977);** (d) **D.** H. R. Barton, N. J. Cussans, and S. V. Ley, *ibid.,* **393 (1978);** (e) L. G. Faehl and J. L. Kice, *J. Org. Chem.,* **44, ²³⁵⁷ (1979); (f) R. A.** Gancarz and J. L. Kice, *Tetrahedron* Lett., **21, 1697**

^{(1980).&}lt;br>
(3) (a) T. G. Back and N. Ibrahim, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 4931 (1979); (b)

(3) H. R. Barton, D. J. Lester, and S. V. Ley, *J. Chem. Soc.*, *Perkin Trans*

1, 1212 (1980); (c) D. H. R. Barton, D. J. Lester, and S.

Chem. SOC., Perkin Tram **1,567 (1977); (c) T.** Frejd and K. B. Sharpless, *Tetrahedron Lett.,* **2239 (1978).**

I etraneuron Lett., 2253 (1910).
Chem. Commun., 130 (1978); (b) D. H. R. Barton, R. A. H. F. Hui, D.
Chem. Commun., 130 (1978); (b) D. H. R. Barton, R. A. H. F. Hui, D.
J. Lester, and S. V. Ley, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 3331

⁽⁶⁾ The oxidation of several hydrazines with **2** was reported simuita-neously and independently by D. H. R. Barton and co-workers. For

⁽⁸⁾ H. Rheinboldt and E. Gieebrecht, *Chem. Ber.,* **88,666 (1955).**

⁽⁹⁾ The hydrogenation of azo compounds and α, β -unsaturated car-boxylic acids with diazene is well-known. (a) **5.** Hunig, **H**. **R. Muller**, and W. mer, *Angew. Chm., Int. Ed.* Engl., **4,271 (1965);** (b) H. **0.** Houee, "Modern Synthetic Reactions", 2nd ed., W. A. Benjamin, London, **1972,** Chapter **4.**

unreacted. Further oxidation of the product diazene to the azine or azoxy derivative did not occur in the presence of a threefold excess of **2.** A small amount of acetone (ca. **10%)** was detected in the latter reaction after **18** h.l0 The process depicted in eq 2 thus provides a clean method of converting N, N' -dialkyl- or -diarylhydrazines to diazenes.¹¹ eacted. Further oxidation of the product diazene to
azine or azoxy derivative did not occur in the presence
threefold excess of 2. A small amount of acetone (ca.
) was detected in the latter reaction after 18 h.¹⁰ The
e

$$
RNHNHR \xrightarrow{1 \text{ or } 2} RN = NR (R = Ph \text{ or } i-C_3H_7) (2)
$$

Admixture of benzeneseleninic acid **(1)** and acyl- or aroylhydrazines (hydrazides) **3** in chloroform or dichloromethane solution at room temperature affords selenoesters

4 and N,N'-diacyl- or N,N'-diarylhydrazines (5, eq 3) as
\n
$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n0 & 0 & 0 \\
\parallel & \parallel & \parallel \\
\parallel & \parallel & \parallel \\
3a, R = c - C_6 H_{11} & 4a, 40\% & 5a, 39\% \\
b, R = Ph & b, 47\% & b, 28\% \\
\downarrow & & & \\
c, R = \bigcup_{\text{Weyl}}\n\end{array}
$$
\n7. (3)

the principal isolated products. The latter compounds precipitate and so avoid further oxidation to diazenes. Products **4a-c** and **5a-c** were thus obtained.

The intriguing formation of these products warranted further study. Moreover, selenoesters are valuable acyltransfer agents. They are relatively stable both thermally and hydrolytically but acylate a variety of nucleophiles when activated by species such as cup rous¹² or mercuric ion.13 Existing procedures for selenoester synthesis generally employ air-sensitive or malodorous reagents.^{12b,13,14} Such objections are circumvented by employing the reaction of readily available hydrazides with **1.** We therefore endeavored to optimize selenoester yields in the above process.

Since the formation of N, N' -diacyl- or N, N' -diaroylhydrazines **(5)** occurs at the expense of the desired selenoesters **4** and requires 2 mol of hydrazide, we reasoned that slow addition of hydrazides to the seleninic acid would suppress the production of compounds **5.** However, this expedient proved only partly successful in enhancing selenoester yields. Further improvements derived from mechanistic considerations.

By analogy to the reaction of hydrazine or its N , N '-disubstituted derivatives with **1,** the initial oxidation of a hydrazide is expected to generate the corresponding acylor aroyldiazene (6) and benzeneselenenic acid (7) .^{15,16} Further reaction of these species to produce the hypothetical intermediate 8, followed by nitrogen extrusion,

(c) H.-J. Gais and T. Lied, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 17, 267 (1978);
(d) H.-J. Gais, *ibid.*, 16, 244 (1977); (e) G. S. Bates, J. Diakur, and S.
Masamune, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 4423 (1976).
(15) Reich¹⁶⁴ and Sharp

Such considerations apply here as well.
(16) (a) H. J. Reich, S. Wollowitz, J. E. Trend, F. Chow, and D. F.
Wendelborn, J. Org. Chem., 43, 1697 (1978); (b) T. Hori and K. B.
Sharpless, i*bid.*, 43, 1689 (1978).

leads to selenoester formation via Scheme I. Alternatively, free acyl radicals generated by the homolytic fragmentation of diazenes 617 could react with diphenyl diselenide by a radical substitution process¹⁸ to produce selenoesters. The diselenide is an observed byproduct in the reaction. Its formation is expected from the **known** disproportionation of the selenenic acid16 (eq **4).** In principle, selenoesters

$$
3PhSeOH \rightleftharpoons PhSeO2H + PhSeSePh + H2O \quad (4)
$$

could **also** be produced by the reaction of acyl anions derived from the base-catalyzed fragmentation of 619 with selenenylating species. However, the absence of the required *strong* base **permits** the exclusion of this possibility.

If the mechanism depicted in Scheme I is correct, then removal of 7 from the reaction by means of a scavenger should impede selenoester formation. Conversely, generation of additional 7 during the reaction by a simultaneous and independent process should increase selenoester yields. The facile electrophilic addition of 7 to olefins is well documented,^{16,20} and we chose cyclohexene for a scavenging experiment. When hydrazide **3a** was added slowly to seleninic acid **1** in a **1:l** mixture of dichloromethane and

cyclohexene (eq 5), the yield of selenoester 4a was only
\n
$$
3a + 1 + \boxed{1 - 4a + 5a + \frac{5a + 1}{2a + 5b + 6a + 6b}}
$$
\n(5)

31 % , compared to 62% in the absence of the olefin. The major byproducts were N,N'-diacylhydrazine **5a** and **trans-2-(phenylseleno)cyclohexanol(9),** obtained in yields of **11** % and **47** % , respectively.

We **also** sought a method for independently generating selenenic acid 7 in situ by reducing benzeneseleninic acid with a suitable reagent which could be added together with the hydrazide. A number of known candidates for this $process^{20,21}$ were unsuitable because of solubility or other problems. However, we observed that triphenylphosphine reacts readily with **1** to afford triphenylphosphine oxide and 7,22 confirmed by trapping the latter compound **as** its cyclohexene adduct **9** (eq 6). Slow addition of equimolar **Phase 12 Phase 12**

$$
Ph_3P + 1 \to Ph_3P = 0 + 7 \xrightarrow{\qquad} 9 \qquad (6)
$$

amounts of the phosphine and hydrazide **3a** to 2 molar

⁽¹⁰⁾ The presumably related regeneration of ketones from their hydrazones, oximes, and semicarbazones has been reported.⁸

^(1 1) Altemative oxidation methods have been reviewed.' (12) (a) A. P. Kozikowski and A. Ames, *J. Am. Chem.* **SOC., 102,860**

^{(1980). (}b) S. Masamune, Y. Hayase, W. Schilling, W. K. Chan, and *G.* **S. Bates,** *ibid.,* **99 6756 (1977).**

⁽¹³⁾ A. P. Kozikowski and A. Ames, *J. Org. Chem.,* **43, 2735 (1978). (14) (a) For a review of older methods see: K. A. Jensen in "Organic** Selenium Compounds: Their Chemistry and Biology", D. L. Klayman
and W. H. H. Günther, Eds., Wiley, London, 1973, Chapter 8; (b) P. A.
Grieco, Y. Yokoyama, and E. Williams, *J. Org. Chem*., 43, 1283 (1978);

⁽¹⁷⁾ Benzoyl radicals are suspected intermediates in the oxidation of 3b with **silver oxide: D. Mackay, U. F. Mm, and W. A. Waters,** *J. Chem.* **SOC., 4793 (1964).**

⁽¹⁸⁾ A similar reaction between ethyl radicals and diethyl diselenide has been rewrted: R. J. Crow and D. Millinaton, -. *J. Chem.* **Soc.,** *Chem. Commun.,* **a56 (1975). (19) J. S. McFadyen and T. S. Stevens,** *J. Chem.* **SOC., 584 (1938).**

⁽²⁰⁾ D. Labar. *k* **Krief. and L. Hevesi.** *Tetrahedron Lett..* **3967 (1978).** .. **(21) D. L. Kkyman, ref 14a, Chapter 4.**

⁽²²⁾ An independent study by Faehl and Kice^{2e} confirms this obser**vation.**

 a **Py** = **pyridine**.

equiv of seleninic acid **1** in dichloromethane solution produced selenoester 4a in 86% yield. **This** result and the observed suppression of selenoester formation by cyclohexene confirm that benzeneselenenic acid is a required intermediate in the formation of 4a. Although this conclusion is entirely consistent with the process shown in Scheme I, other mechanisms, such as ones involving free radicals, cannot be entirely excluded. However, when 3a and 3b were oxidized with **1** in the presence of 20 mol % of **2,6-di-tert-butyl-p-cresol** and 10 mol % of benzoquinone, respectively, only slightly lower yields of selenoesters were obtained. These inhibition experiments indicate that a mechanism involving free radicals is improbable, although the recombination of radicals formed by the extrusion of nitrogen from 8 within a solvent cage remains a possibility. Finally, the oxidation of 3a with **1** in the presence of a stream of oxygen gave a sharp reduction in the yield of the selenoester to only 29%. This may be explained by **as**suming that diazene 6 is consumed by oxygen²³ and so is prevented from reacting with **7** in the usual manner.

A wide variety of hydrazides was oxidized with **1** in the presence of triphenylphosphine in dichloromethane. Excellent yields of alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, and heterocyclic selenoesters were generally obtained²⁴ (Table I). Highly hindered **systems** such **as** 4c and 4d presented no difficulty. The method is compatible with unsaturated substrates **as** shown by the high yield of product 4e. Evidently under these conditions olefins do not react with benzeneaelenenic acid to an appreciable extent unless they are present in large excess. Phenylacetaldehyde and benzyl phenyl selenide were coproducts of selenoester 4f. Methyl carbazate gave O-methyl Se-phenyl selenocarbonate **(10)** in 67% yield. **This** method clearly provides a convenient, versatile, and efficient preparation of selenoesters.

We note that treatment of benzhydrazide (3b) with benzeneselenenyl chloride (**1 1)** and pyridine produced 47 % of selenoester 4b. This reaction is shown in Scheme I1 and may proceed by way of the same intermediates **6** and 8 **as** in Scheme I. It is inferior to the use of **1** and triphenylphosphine if a high selenoester yield is desired.

Certain hydrazides whose conversion to selenoesters is of special interest have low solubilities in dichloromethane. polar solvents, using hydrazides 3a and 3b as standard substrates. When the former compound was oxidized with **1** in the presence of triphenylphosphine in a variety of polar solvents, consistently low yields of selenoester 4a were obtained, in contrast to the 86% yield produced in dichloromethane (Table I). The product distributions resulting from the oxidation of both hydrazides with **1** in the absence of triphenylphosphine in acetonitrile, N,N-

$$
RCO_2H + R'OSePh
$$

 a R' = CH, or H.

dimethylformamide **(DMF),** and methanol are shown in Table 11. Results obtained in dichloromethane solution are included for comparison. Under these conditions the corresponding carboxylic acids were formed along with selenoesters and N,N'-diacylhydrazines. In methanol or 10% methanol-dichloromethane, methyl esters were also produced. These results indicate the presence of an acylating intermediate since the selenoesters themselves are hydrolytically inert under such conditions.26 Although the putative intermediate 8 is expected to possess acylating powers (path a, Scheme 111), the observation that carboxylic acid formation is significant (compared to that of the methyl ester) even in neat methanol suggests the coexistence of an alternative mechanism. Such a process is displayed in path b of Scheme I11 where the mixed carboxylic-selenenic anhydride **13** is formed by an intramolecular rearrangement of species **12** and reacts with methanol (or water) to form the corresponding carboxylic acid and selenenic ester (or acid). Analogous alcoholysis of a selenenyl acetate **has** been previously reported.% Path b may be favored in **polar** media **as** the result of a poasible enhancement of the seleninylating ability of 1 and low selenenic acid concentrations ensuing from a shift in the disproportionation equilibrium. To verify that the carboxylic acid is not formed from adventitious hydrolysis of 8 (or **12),** we oxidized 3a with benzeneseleninic anhydride **(2)** in dichloromethane in the presence of anhydrous magnesium sulfate. **As** expected, the more strongly seleninylating anhydride **2** afforded a slightly greater yield of cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (after workup) than when the oxidation was performed with **1** in the absence of magnesium sulfate. The failure of anhydrous conditions

⁽²³⁾ This reaction has precedent; phenyldiazene is known to react readily with oxygen. E. M. Kosower, Acc. Chem. Res., 4, 193 (1971). (24) Preliminary paper: T. G. Back and S. Collins, Tetrahedron Lett., **2661 (1979).**

⁽²⁵⁾ Even under more forcing conditions *(50%* **acetic acid-water, 6 days), selenoester 4b remained largely unchanged.**

⁽²⁶⁾ W. Jenny, *Helu. Chim.* **Acta, 36, 1429 (1952).**

Table I. Preparation of Selenoesters^a

RC(O)NHNH₂ + PhSeO₂H ^{Ph₃P} RC(O)SePh

^a See the Experimental Section for a typical procedure. All products had satisfactory 'H NMR and mass spectra. b Spec-</sup> Boiling point (bulb to bulb) 100 Lit.³³ 1686 cm⁻¹. *e* Lit.³³ mp 40 °C. *f* [α]_D +43° (*c* 0.2, CHCl₃). Previously reported;³⁴ no physical data given. tra of oils were recorded **as** thin films; spectra of solids were recorded in CHCI, solution. ^oC(0.01 mm) [lit.^{14b} bp 118–123 °C(0.12 mm)]. ^d Lit.³³ 1686 cm⁻¹. clit.³³ mp 40 °C. $f[\alpha]_{\rm D}+43^{\circ}$ (c 0.2, CHCl₃).
Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₈O₂Se: C, 67.44; H, 6.60. Found: C, 67.50; H, 6.72. Septerious Calcd for C₁₂H₂₄OSe: C, 63.13; H, 7.49. Found: C, 62.80; H, 7.62. ⁱ Previously reported;³⁴ no physical data given.
Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂OSe: C, 61.08; H, 4.40. Found: C, 61.19; H, 4.44. *ⁱ* GC analysis detec hyde in the reaction mixture. In refluxing CH,Cl,, benzyl phenyl selenide **was** isolated (preparative TLC) in **22%** yield. Lit.)) **1723** cm-'. Anal. Calcd for C,,H,,OSe: C, **53.32;** H, **4.48.** Found: C, **53.59;** H, **4.62.** Anal. Calcd for C,,H,OSSe: **C, 49.42;** H, **3.02; S, 12.01.** Found: C, **49.54;** H, **3.05; S, 12.14.** H, **3.46; N, 5.34.** Found: C, **55.09;** H, **3.77; N, 4.93.** *O* Anal. Calcd for C,H,O,Se: C, **44.65;** H, **3.75.** Found: C, **44.30;** H, **3.72.** Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₂NOSe: C, 54.95;

^a See the Experimental Section for the general procedure. \overrightarrow{b} GC yield reported unless otherwise noted. \overrightarrow{c} Isolated yield. ^d GC yield of corresponding methyl ester reported after treatment with CH₂N₂.

to block carboxylic acid formation thus lends credence to path b. Similarly, the reaction of oxygen with diazenes **6** could account for the genesis of carboxylic acids. However, their continued formation under oxygen-free **con-**- RCNHNHCR **(7)** II + **inverse addltion** ditions *again* supporta an alternative mechanism **as** in path

zides produces N,N'-diacylhydrazines **(5)** as the chief products. Thus, slow addition of **1** to hydrazides **3a** and 3f in dichloromethane or chloroform afforded the corresponding N,N'-diacyl compounds **5a** and **5f** in yields of 60% and **80%,** respectively (eq 7). **A** similar conversion

of hydrazides to N , N' -diacylhydrazines has also been accomplished with diphenyl selenoxide. 27

6 could account for the genes is of carboxylic acids. How-
\never, their continued formation under oxygen-free con-
\nditions again supports an alternative mechanism as in path
\nb.
$$
3a, R = c - C_6 H_{11}
$$
 B RCNHNH₂ + 1 B INverse addition of benzeneseleninic acid (1) to hydra-
\n $f, R = PhCH_2$ $f, R = PhCH_2$ B

Thioesters of ω -hydroxycarboxylic acids undergo intra-

⁽²⁷⁾ K. Balenovic, R. La&, V. Polak, and P. Stem, *Bull.* **Sci., Sect.** *A (Zagreb),* **17, 147 (1972);** *Chem. Abstr.,* **77, 139499 (1972).**

molecular acylation under suitable activating conditions. This makes them of considerable value **as** precursors of macrocyclic lactones (macrolides).28 The possibility of exploiting analogous selenoesters in a similar manner has been but briefly explored,^{12b} and their potential utility makes their preparation of interest. We therefore attempted to synthesize w-hydroxy selenoesters **14** from the corresponding hydrazides by oxidation with **1.** Unfortunately, these hydrazides are highly insoluble in dichloromethane or other relatively nonpolar solvents, thereby precluding our usual methodology. When hydrazides **15a** and **15b** were stirred with **1** in dichloromethane, gradual dissolution was observed, and selenoesters **14a** and **14b** were obtained in modest yields of 34% and **40%** along with the parent carboxylic acids **16a** and **16b (38%** and 4170, respectively). *Similar* treatment of hydrazidea **1%** and **15d** furnished δ -valerolactone **(17)** and γ -butyrolactone **(18)** as the principal products.²⁹ No significant lactone formation was detected in the case of **15a** and **15b.** It therefore appears that lactonization is only observed when the product has a favored ring size. It may take place via intramolecular acylation in an intermediate such **as 8** or, alternately, through spontaneous cyclization of an initially formed w-hydroxy carboxylic acid (Scheme IV).

The low yields of the long-chain ω -hydroxy selenoesters **14a** and **14b** prompted us to seek a more efficient route to such compounds. Methyl **15-hydroxypentadecanoate (19)** was treated sequentially with tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride-imidazole³⁰ and hydrazine to provide hydrazide **20** in 88% yield. The solubility of the later compound in dichloromethane permitted its oxidation with **1** under our standard conditions in the presence of triphenylphosphine. The silylated selenoester **21,** obtained in 81% yield, was then converted quantitatively to the free hydroxy derivative **14a,** by acid hydrolysis (Scheme V). The latter approach, though more circuitous than direct oxidation, is the method of choice when high selenoester yields are required.

Oxidation of arylhydrazines **22a** and **22b** with **1** or **2** afforded the corresponding arenes **23a** and **23b** and aryl

Scheme IV phenyl selenides **24a** and **24b** (eq 8). Product formation

may result from the collapse of an N -aryl- N' -(benzeneseleno)diazene (25, analogous to 8), or via homolytic decomposition of diazene **26.31**

$$
ArN=NSePh
$$

$$
ArN=NH
$$

Finally, we note that the oxidation of sulfonhydrazides with 1 has been reported elsewhere.³²

Experimental Section

Melting points were obtained on an A. H. Thomas hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 467 spectrometer. NMR spectra were taken on a Hitachi Perkin-Elmer R24B instrument at 60 MHz with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard in CDCl₃ solution. A Varian MAT CH5 spectrometer was used to record mass spectra. GC analyses were performed on a Pye-Unicam Series 104 chromatograph equipped with a flame-ionization detector and a Varian CDS lllC electronic integrator. Glass columns *(5* ft) containing 5% SE-30 on Chromosorb G-HP were employed. Internal **stmdards** were used in **all** analyses. Preparative TLC was carried out on Analtech 20 \times 20 cm glass plates (silica gel GF, 1000 μ m). Slow additions were performed with a Sage Instruments Model **355** syringe pump. Elemental analyses were obtained by Mr. H. S6guin (National Research Council of Canada), Ms. B. Gibson (University of Calgary), or Guelph Chemical Laboratories. Solvents were reagent grade and dried over molecular sieves. Pyridine was distilled from KOH prior to **use.** Oxidation reactions employing slow additions were performed under nitrogen. Hydrazides were obtained by hydrazinolysis of carboxylic esters or chlorides under standard conditions or from commercial sources unleas otherwise noted. Benzeneseleninic acid and anhydride were either purchased (Aldrich Chemical Co.) or prepared by a literature method.4b All other reagents were commercially available and were purified by crystallization or distillation as required. Physical, spectral, and analytical data for selenoesters **4** are presented in Table I. Diphenyl diselenide was detected (TLC) in all hydrazide oxidations but was only isolated in a few representative examples.

Caution: Selenium **compounds** are toxic and should be **handled** with care. Hydrazine derivatives react very vigorously with **1** or **2** in the abaence of solvent. Even a solid mixture of benzhydrazide and **1** was observed to decompose violently after an induction period of several minutes.

Diazene **Reduction** of **Azobenzene.** A solution of benzeneseleninic anhydride **(2;** 456 *mg,* 1.27 mmol) in 3 **mL** of DMF was added over 15 min to a solution of hydrazine hydrate (232 mg, 4.66 mmol) and azobenzene (91 mg, 0.50 mmol) in 5 mL of DMF. After *5* **min,** the solvent was removed in vacuo. Preparative TLC in carbon tetrachloride provided 94 mg (102%) of N, N' -diphenylhydrazine, identified by comparison with an authentic sample (melting point, IR).

Diazene Reduction of Cinnamic Acid. Benzeneseleninic acid **(1;** 95 mg, 0.50 mmol) in 2 mL of pyridine was added over

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30 min **to** a solution of hydrazine hydrate **(120** mg, **2.4** mmol) and cinnamic acid **(37** mg, **0.25** mmol) in **1** mL of pyridine. After 5 min, pyridine was removed in vacuo, and the residue was treated with excess ethereal diazomethane. Preparative TLC in benzene afforded **37** mg **(90%)** of methyl hydrocinnamate, identified by comparison (NMR, no signals between 6 5.0 and **7.0)** with an authentic sample.

Oxidation of 12-Diphenylhydrazine with 2. The hydrazine **(30** mg, **0.16** mmol) and **2 (72** mg, **0.20** mmol) were stirred **30** min in **5** mL of dichloromethane. Preparative TLC in 50% carbon tetrachloride-hexane gave **29** mg **(97%)** of trans-azobenzene, identified by comparison (melting point, IR, TLC) with an authentic sample.

Oxidation of **1,Z-Diisopropylhydrazine** with **1** or 2. **1,2-** Diisopropylhydrazine hydrochloride³⁵ (30 mg, 0.20 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of CDCl_3 and shaken with 5% K₂CO₃ solution. The organic layer was removed by pipet and filtered through anhydrous MgSO₄. Anhydride 2 (36 mg, 0.10 mmol) was added, and an NMR analysis performed after 15 min showed quantitative conversion to N,N'-diisopropyldiazene. Additional 2 (72 mg, 0.20 mmol) was added, and the mixture was shaken periodically for **18** h. Appearance of a new signal at 6 **2.1** indicated the presence of acetone **(10%** by NMR integration). In a separate experiment performed in carbon tetrachloride, volatile material was distilled at 20 mm into a cooled (-78 °C) receiver. The presence of the diazene was confirmed by its UV spectrum.

The oxidation was repeated with seleninic acid 1 **(38** mg, **0.20** mmol). NMR analysis showed quantitative conversion to the *azo* compound. With **19** mg **(0.10** mmol) of 1, the conversion was **>90%** complete (NMR integration).

Oxidation of Cyclohexanecarboxylic Acid Hydrazide (3a) with 1 and 2. (a) The hydrazide **(43** mg, **0.30** mmol) was added in one portion to 1 **(63** mg, **0.33** mmol) in **3 mL** of dichloromethane. After the mixture was stirred for **10** min, **15** mg **(39%)** of N,- **N'-bis(cyclohexylcarbony1)hydrazine** (5a) was filtered off: mp **275** "C (sublimes) (lit.% mp **281** "C); IR identical with that of an authentic sample. Preparative TLC of the filtrate in **20%** benzene-hexane gave **27** mg **(0.087** mmol) of diphenyl diselenide, identical with an authentic sample (melting point, TLC), and **32** mg **(40%)** of Se-phenyl **cyclohexanecarboselenoate** (4a).

(b) By Slow Addition. The hydrazide **(71** mg, **0.50** mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane was added over **30** min to **1 (95** mg, **0.50** mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane. The solution was concentrated to ca. **3** mL and worked up **as** in the preceding experiment to furnish **83** mg **(62%)** of 4a and **6** mg **(10%)** of 5a. In a separate experiment, the reaction mixture was treated with excess ethereal diazomethane. GC analysis showed the presence of **11** mg **(15%)** of methyl cyclohexanecarboxylate.

(c) In the Presence of Radical Inhibitors. The preceding reaction was repeated in the presence of 2.6-di-tert-butyl-p-cresol **(22** mg, **0.10** mmol) to afford **72** mg **(54%)** of 4a. In a control experiment the p-cresol derivative **(22** mg, **0.10** mmol) remained almost completly unreacted when treated with **1 (47** mg, **0.25** mmol) in CDCl₃ for 1 h (NMR analysis). Procedure b was repeated while a slow stream of oxygen was passed through the reaction mixture. The yield of 4a was **38** mg **(29%).**

(d) In the Presence of Cyclohexene. The hydrazide **(71** mg, 0.50 mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane was added over **30** min to 1 **(95** mg, 0.50 mmol) in 10 mL of 50% cyclohexane-dichloromethane. The usual workup afforded **7** mg **(11%)** of 5a and **41** mg **(31%)** of 4a. The base-line component from the TLC of 4a was rechromatographed in 50% ether-hexane to give **60** mg **(47%)** of **trans-2-(phenylseleno)cyclohexanol (9),"** identified by its IR, *NMR,* and mass spectra. A complex mixture of unidentified byproducts was detected by GC analysis prior to workup.

(e) By Inverse Addition. The seleninic acid 1 **(95** mg, 0.50 mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane was added over **1** h to the hydrazide **(71** mg, 0.50 mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane. The solution was concentrated in vacuo and hexane was added to precipitate **38** mg **(60%)** of 5a.

0.50 mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane was added over **1** h to **2 (180** mg, **0.50** mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane containing 0.5 g of anhydrous $MgSO₄$ in oven-dried glass apparatus. The mixture was **fiitered,** concentrated, and separated by preparative TLC to afford *83* mg **(62%)** of 4a. The baseline component was removed with methanol, evaporated to dryness, and triturated with ether. The ether was filtered, washed twice with water, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and evaporated in vacuo to furnish 15 mg **(23** %) of cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, identified by comparison with an authentic sample (IR, NMR, GC).

(f) Under Anhydrous Conditions. The hydrazide **(71** mg,

Oxidation of Benzhydrazide (3b) with 1. (a) The hydrazide **(68** mg, 0.50 mmol) was added in one portion to 1 **(104** mg, 0.55 mmol) in **1** mL of chloroform. After 5 min, the solution was filtered to provide 17 mg (28%) of N,N'-dibenzoylhydrazine (5b): mp 232-234 °C (lit.³⁸ mp 241 °C); IR identical with that of an authentic sample. Preparative TLC of the filtrate in **20%** benzene-hexane gave **61** mg **(47%)** of Se-phenyl selenobenzoate $(4b)$

(b) By Slow Addition. The reaction was performed with **0.50** mmol of 3b and **1.00** mmol of 1 as described for 3a to give the products shown in Table 11.

(c) In the Presence of Benzoquinone. The preceding reaction was repeated with **1.00** mmol of 3b and **1.00** mmol of 1 in the presence of benzoquinone **(11** mg, **0.10** mmol) to afford **130** mg (50%) of 4b.

Oxidation of 0-Methylpodocarpic Acid Hydrazide (3c) with 1. The hydrazide³⁹ (64 mg, 0.21 mmol) was added in one portion to 1 **(44** *mg,* **0.23** mmol) **in 2 mL** of dichloromethane. After 5 min, preparative TLC in 5% methanol-chloroform afforded **12** mg (19%) of N,N'-bis(O-methylpodocarpoyl)hydrazine (5c): mp $108-110$ °C; $[\alpha]_D +128$ ° (*c* 0.1, CHCl₃); IR (Nujol) 3290, 1665 cm⁻¹ Anal. Calcd for C₃₆H₄₆N₂O₄: C, 75.47; H, 8.45; N, 4.90. Found: C, **75.11;** H, **8.62; N,** 4.78. More mobile material was removed and rechromatographed in benzene to furnish 55 mg **(61%)** of Se-phenyl **0-methylselenopodocarpoate** (4c).

Preparation of Selenoesters 4a-j and Selenocarbonate 10 **(See** Table I). Typical Procedure. Hydrazide 3a **(71** mg, **0.50** mmol) and triphenylphosphine **(131** mg, 0.50 mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane were added over 0.5 h to a stirred suspension of seleninic acid **1 (189** mg, **1.00** mmol) in **10** mL of dichloromethane. The clear, yellow solution was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was separated by preparative TLC in **30%** benzene-hexane to afford **62** mg **(0.20** mmol) of diphenyl diselenide $(R_f 0.8)$, identified by comparison (melting point, TLC) with an authentic sample, and selenoester 4a: **115** mg **(86%);** *R,* 0.5; *NMR* **6 7.67.1** (complex, **5 H), 2.6** (m, **1** H), **2.3-1.0** (complex, **10** H); maw spectrum, m/e **268** (M', ?3e), **266** (M', '%e); for IR and boiling point data, see Table I. The base-line component was removed and rechromatugraphed in **20%** ether-chloroform to give **136** *mg* **(98%)** of triphenylphosphine oxide *(Rf* 0.5), identified by comparison (melting point, TLC, IR) with an authentic sample.

Oxidation of Hydrazide 3a with 1 in Polar Solvents **(See** Table 11). General Procedure. The hydrazide (0.50 mmol) in **10** mL of the solvent was added over **1** h to **1 (95** mg, **0.50** mol, or **1.89** mg, **1.00** mmol) in **10** mL of the solvent. The yields of 4a and methyl cyclohexanecarboxylate were obtained by GC analysis. Cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde was not detected in significant amounts. The reaction mixture was concentrated, and addition of hexane precipitated 5a. In a separate experiment the reaction mixture was treated with excess ethereal diazomethane, and the yield of cyclohexanecarboxylic acid was determined by GC analysis of the resulting methyl ester. In entry **4,** the yield of the acid was determined by difference between analyses before and after addition of diazomethane. The isolation of the acid in entry 5 was performed **as** described previously.

Oxidation of Hydrazide 3b with **1** in Polar Solvents **(See** Table 11). The general procedure for hydrazide **3a** was employed.

Reaction of Hydrazide 3b with Benzeneselenenyl Chloride (1 **1).** The hydrazide **(41** mg, **0.30** mmol) in **5** mL of dichloromethane was added over **30** min to 11 **(191** mg, **1.00** mmol) in **10% pyridine-dichloromethane.** The solvent was removed in vacuo,

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and preparative TLC afforded 37 mg (47%) of selenoester **4b. Reaction of Phenylacethydrazide (3f) with 1 by Inverse**

Addition. Seleninic acid **1** (189 mg, 1.00 mmol) in 10 mL of chloroform was added over 1 h to **3f** (150 mg, 1.00 mmol) in 10 mL of chloroform. The solution was concentrated to ca. 4 mL, and hexane was added to precipitate 107 mg (80%) of **5f:** mp 235-236 °C (lit.⁴⁰ mp 243 °C); IR identical with that of an authentic sample.

Se-Phenyl15-Hydroxypentadecanecarboselenoate (14a). (a) By **Direct Oxidation with 1.** 15Hydroxypentadecanoic acid hydrazide4I **(15a;** 68 mg, 0.25 mmol) and seleninic acid **1** (95 mg, (0.50 mmol) were stirred in 20 mL of dichloromethane. hydrazide slowly dissolved, and **after** 24 h preparative TLC *(50%* ether-benzene) gave 34 mg (34%) of the title compound: mp 50-52 "C (from hexane); IR (Nujol) 3430,3370,1720 cm-'. Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{34}O_2Se$; C, 63.44; H, 8.63. Found: C, 63.21; H, 8.80. In a separate experiment, treatment of the reaction mixture with excess ethereal diazomethane followed by GC analysis indicated the presence of 26 mg (38%) of methyl **15-hydroxypentadecanoate** (19)

(b) Via Silyl Ether 21. Methyl 15-hydroxypentadecanoate⁴¹ **(19;** 0.41 g, 1.5 mmol), tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (0.30 g, 2.0 mmol), and imidazole (0.20 g, 3.0 mmol) were stirred 31 h in 3 **mL** of DMF. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was triturated with chloroform, washed thoroughly with water, dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$, and evaporated to dryness. The resulting crude silyl ether was refluxed 1 h in 3 mL of ethanol containing 0.5 mL of hydrazine. The ethanol was evaporated, and the product was taken up in chloroform, washed, dried **as** before, filtered through Celite, and evaporated to near dryness. Addition of hexane precipitated the silyl ether hydrazide **20** as a waxy semisolid (0.51 g, 88%) of sufficient purity for further use: IR (Nujol) 3320, 3180, 1630 cm-'.

Compound **20** (74 mg, 0.19 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (52 mg, 0.20 mmol) in 7 mL of dichloromethane were added over 40 min to **1** (85 mg, 0.45 mmol) in 5 mL of dichloromethane. Preparative TLC in 40% benzene-hexane gave 79 mg (81%) of **21 as** a pale yellow oil, **IR (film)** 1728 cm-'. The latter compound (41 mg, 0.080 mmol) was treated with 2 mL of 50% acetic acidwater containing sufficient acetone to effect dissolution. After 24 h, the solution was diluted with water and extracted **three** times with chloroform. The organic extracts were dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$ and evaporated to dryness. Preparative TLC as in procedure a provided 33 mg (100%) of selenoester **14a:** mp 49-51 **"C;** IR identical with that of an analytical sample.

12-Hydroxydodecanoic Acid Hydrazide (15b). Dodecanolide42 (1.98 g, 10 mmol) was refluxed 5 h in 4 mL of ethanol containing 2 mL of hydrazine. An additional **5** mL of ethanol was added, and 1.31 g (57%) of the title compound crystallized on cooling; mp $141-142$ °C, after recrystallization from methanol. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₂₂N₂O₂: C, 62.55; H, 11.38; N, 12.16. Found: C, 62.22; H, 11.36; N, 11.93.

Se-Phenyl 12-Hydroxydodecanecarboselenoate (14b). Hydrazide **15b** (58 mg, **0.25** mmol) and **1** (95 mg, **0.50** "01) were stirred 6 h in 20 mL of dichloromethane. The title compound was isolated **as** for **14a as** a pale yellow oil [36 mg (40%); IR (thin film) 3440 , 1720 cm^{-1} which gave a crystalline N-phenylurethane
with phenyl isocyanate: mp. $73-75$ °C. Anal. Calcd for with phenyl isocyanate; mp $73-75$ °C. Anal. $C_{26}H_{33}NO_3Se$: C, 63.28; H, 7.01; N, 2.95. Found: C, 63.81; H,

6.87; N, 3.11. GC analysis as for **16a** indicated the presence of 41% of **16b.**

Oxidation of 5-Hydroxypentanoic Acid Hydrazide (154 **with 1.** The hydrazide (66 mg, 0.50 mmol) was added in small portions over 45 min to **1** (189 mg, 1.00 mmol) in 40 mL of dichloromethane. After the mixture was stirred for 1 h, GC analysis indicated the presence of 50 mg (100%) of δ -valerolactone (17)

Oxidation of 4-Hydroxybutanoic Acid Hydrazide (15d) with 1. The hydrazide (30 mg, 0.25 mmol) and **1** (95 mg 0.50 mmol) were allowed to react **as** in the preceding experiment. GC analysis indicated the presence of 21 mg (96%) of γ -butyrolactone. The experiment was repeated with 5 mmol of **15d** and 10 mmol of **1.** The reaction mixture was distilled to provide 0.39 **g** (91%) of the lactone: bp $83-84$ °C (15 mm) [lit.³⁶ bp 89 °C (12 mm)]; identical with an authentic sample (IR, GC).

Oxidation of p-Nitrophenylhydrazine (22a) with 2. The hydrazine (77 mg, *0.50* mmol) was added in one portion to **2** (200 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 5 mL of dichloromethane. After 5 min the reaction mixture was separated by preparative TLC in 20% benzene-carbon tetrachloride to afford p-nitrophenyl phenyl selenide [24a; 83 mg (60%); mp 56-58 °C (from methanol) (lit.⁴³ mp 58 "C)] and nitrobenzene **(23a;** 12 mg, 20%), identified by comparison with an authentic sample (IR, NMR, TLC).

Oxidation of 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine (22b) with 1 or 2. The title hydrazine was oxidized **as** in the previous experiment. Preparative TLC in benzene afforded 92 mg (56%) of 2.4-dinitrophenyl phenyl selenide **(24b):4** mp 129-130 "C (from methanol); NMR *6* 9.19 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1 H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 9,2 *Hz,* 1 H), 8.0-7.4 (m, 5 H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 1 H). Anal. Calcd for $C_{12}H_8N_2O_4$ Se: C, 44.58; H, 2.50; N, 8.67. Found: C, 44.52; H, 2.55; N, 8.68. A band of greater polarity provided 25 mg (29%) of m-dinitrobenzene **[23b,** mp 81-85 "C (lit.38 mp 89.57 "C)] identified by ita IR, NMR, and mass spectra.

The hydrazine $(50 \text{ mg}, 0.25 \text{ mmol})$ was oxidized with 1 $(50 \text{ mg},$ 0.26 mmol) as in the previous procedure to afford 58% of **24b** and 24% of **23b.**

Registry No. 1, 6996-92-5; **2,** 17697-12-0; **3a,** 38941-47-8; **3b, 3g,** 106957-1; **3h,** 6952-93-8; **3i,** 2361-27-5; **3j, 54-85-3; 4a,** 60718-41-4; **4b,** 38447-68-6; **4c,** 76582-31-5; **4d,** 60718-40-3; **4e,** 73335-20-3; **4f,** 30876-65-4; **4g,** 1068-57-1; **4h,** 73335-19-0; **4i,** 76529-36-7; **4j,** 76529- 37-8; **5a,** 5814-04-0; **5b,** 787-84-8; **5c,** 76529-38-9; **5f,** 793-25-9; **9,** 35446-84-5; 10, 76529-39-0; **11,** 5707-04-0; **14a,** 73335-23-6; **14b,** 76529-40-3; **Ha,** 18270-60-5; **15b,** 76529-41-4; **15c,** 2034-25-5; **15d,** 3879-08-1; 16a, 4617-33-8; 16b, 505-95-3; 17,542-28-9; **lS,96-#0;** 19, 76529-42-5; 20, 73335-17-8; 21,73335-21-4; **22a,** 100-16-3; **22b,** 119- 26-6; **23a,** 98-95-3; **23b,** 99-65-0; **24a,** 6343-83-5; **24b,** 67516-66-9; hydrazine, 302-01-2; azobenzene, 103-33-3; N,N'-diphenylhydrazine, 122-66-7; cinnamic acid, 621-82-9; methyl hydrocinnamate, 103-25-3; **14b** (N-phenylurethane derivative), 76529-43-6; benzyl phenyl selenide, 18255-05-5; **1,2-diisopropylhydrazine** hydrochloride, 76529- 44-7; N, N' -diisopropyldiazene, 3880-49-7; diphenyl diselenide, 1666-13-3; phenylacetaldehyde, 122-78-1; **2,6-di-tert-butyl-p-cresol,** 128- 37-0; dodecanolide, 947-05-7; triphenylphosphine oxide, 791-28-6; phenyl isocyanate, 103-71-9; tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride, 18162-48-6; imidazole, 288-32-4; trans-azobenzene, 17082-12-1; **(c-**613-94-5; **3~,** 76582-30-4; **3d,** 42826-42-6; **3e,** 5458-77-5; **3f,** 937-39-3; C_6H_{11})CO₂H, 98-89-5; (c-C₆H₁₁)CO₂CH₃, 4630-82-4; PhCO₂H, 65-85-0; PhCO₂CH₃, 93-58-3.

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