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-hydroxyphenyl)acetic acid, 156-38-7; O-pivaloylhydroxylamine, 35657-34-2; O-tert-butylhydroxylamine HCl, 39684-28-1; O-tritylhydroxylamine, 31938-11-1; O-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 selencesters 4, N,N'-diacyl- or -diaroylhydrazines 5, and carboxylic acids. Benzeneselenenic acid (7) is a required intermediate in selencester formation and may be generated independently by the reaction of triphenylphosphine with 1. Selencesters are efficiently prepared by the slow addition of a mixture of the hydrazide and triphenylphosphine to 1 in dichloromethane solution. Polar solvents are unsuitable. Inverse addition provides compounds 5 as the major products. Oxidation of hydrazides of structure HO- $(CH_2)_n CONHNH_2$ gives the corresponding selencesters 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,³ compounds containing hydroxyl⁴ or carbonyl^{3d,5} functions, and benzylic hydro-carbons.^{5b} A number of synthetically useful transformations have resulted from these studies.

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 products 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 $N_{,-}$ N'-diphenylhydrazine or hydrocinnamic acid, respectively,⁹ as shown in eq 1a,b. Since diazene may itself be easily

$$NH_2NH_2 H_2O \xrightarrow{1 \text{ or } 2} (HN = NH) \xrightarrow{PhCH = CHCO_2H} PhCH = CHCO_2H + N_2 (1b)$$

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, 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,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 (1999). (1980).

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(3) (</sup>a) T. G. Back and N. Ibrahim, Tetrahedron Lett., 4931 (1979); (b)
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M. R. Czarny, *ibid.*, 81 (1976).
(4) (a) D. H. R. Barton, A. G. Brewster, R. A. H. F. Hui, D. J. Lester, S. V. Ley, and T. G. Back, J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 952 (1978);
(b) D. H. R. Barton, S. V. Ley, P. D. Magnus, and M. N. Rosenfeld, J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans 1, 567 (1977); (c) T. Frejd and K. B. Sharpless, Tetrahedron Lett., 2239 (1978).

⁽b) Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans 7, 567 (1977); (c) 1. Freducind R. B. Sharpless, Tetrahedron Lett., 2239 (1978).
(5) (a) D. H. R. Barton, D. J. Lester, and S. V. Ley, J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 130 (1978); (b) D. H. R. Barton, R. A. H. F. Hui, D. J. Lester, and S. V. Ley, Tetrahedron Lett., 3331 (1979).
(c) The ordering of computer head concentration of the computer state involtes and the computer state.

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

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

⁽⁹⁾ The hydrogenation of azo compounds and α , β -unsaturated carboxylic acids with diazene is well-known. (a) S. Hünig, H. R. Müller, and W. Thier, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl., 4, 271 (1965); (b) H. O. House, "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.¹⁰ The process depicted in eq 2 thus provides a clean method of converting $N_{\rm e}N'$ -dialkyl- or -diarylhydrazines to diazenes.¹¹

RNHNHR
$$\xrightarrow{1 \text{ or } 2}$$
 RN=NR (R = Ph or i -C₃H₇) (2)

Admixture of benzeneseleninic acid (1) and acyl- or aroylhydrazines (hydrazides) 3 in chloroform or dichloromethane solution at room temperature affords selencesters 4 and N,N'-diacyl- or N,N'-diaroylhydrazines (5, eq 3) as

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 cuprous¹² 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,

(15) Reich^{16a} and Sharpless^{16b} have both pointed out that electrophilic reactions attributed to 7 may actually be perpetrated by other selenenylating species (e.g., PhSeOSePh or PhSe(O)OSePh) derived from 7. Such considerations apply here as well. (16) (a) H. J. Reich, S. Wollowitz, J. E. Trend, F. Chow, and D. F.

(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, *ibid.*, 43, 1689 (1978).



leads to selencester formation via Scheme I. Alternatively, free acyl radicals generated by the homolytic fragmentation of diazenes 6^{17} could react with diphenyl diselenide by a radical substitution process¹⁸ to produce selencesters. 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, selencesters

$$3PhSeOH \Longrightarrow PhSeO_2H + PhSeSePh + H_2O \quad (4)$$

could also be produced by the reaction of acyl anions derived from the base-catalyzed fragmentation of 6^{19} 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 selencester formation. Conversely, generation of additional 7 during the reaction by a simultaneous and independent process should increase selencester 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 1:1 mixture of dichloromethane and cyclohexene (eq 5), the yield of selencester **4a** was only

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

$$Ph_{3}P + 1 - Ph_{3}P = 0 + 7 - 9$$
 (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.^{3b}

⁽¹¹⁾ Alternative oxidation methods have been reviewed.⁷
(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); (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) Reich^{76a} and Sharpless^{16b} have both pointed out that electrophilic reactions attributed to 7 may actually be presentented by other selence.

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

⁽¹⁸⁾ A similar reaction between ethyl radicals and diethyl diselenide has been reported: R. J. Cross and D. Millington, J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 455 (1975).
(19) J. S. McFadyen and T. S. Stevens, J. Chem. Soc., 584 (1936).

 ⁽¹⁹⁾ J. S. McFadyen and T. S. Stevens, J. Chem. Soc., 584 (1936).
 (20) D. Labar, A. Krief, and L. Hevesi, Tetrahedron Lett., 3967 (1978).

⁽²¹⁾ D. L. Klayman, ref 14a, Chapter 4.

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



 a Py = pyridine.

equiv of seleninic acid 1 in dichloromethane solution produced selencester 4a in 86% vield. This result and the observed suppression of selencester 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 selencesters 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 selencester to only 29%. This may be explained by assuming 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 benzeneselenenic 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 (11) and pyridine produced 47% of selenoester 4b. This reaction is shown in Scheme II 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. We therefore studied the feasibility of employing more 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_i .



^{*a*} $R' = CH_3$ or H.

dimethylformamide (DMF), and methanol are shown in Table II. Results obtained in dichloromethane solution are included for comparison. Under these conditions the corresponding carboxylic acids were formed along with selencesters 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 selencesters themselves are hydrolytically inert under such conditions.²⁵ Although the putative intermediate 8 is expected to possess acylating powers (path a, Scheme III), 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 III 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.26 Path b may be favored in polar media as the result of a possible 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), selencester 4b remained largely unchanged.

⁽²⁶⁾ W. Jenny, Helv. Chim. Acta, 35, 1429 (1952).

Table I. Preparation of Selenoesters^a

RC(O)NHNH2 + PhSeO2H Ph3P RC(O)SePh

		3	1 4		
product	R	solve	isolated nt yield, %	$\nu_{co}, b \text{ cm}^{-1}$	mp, °C
4a	c-C ₆ H ₁₁	CH ₂ Cl ₂ DMF CH ₃ OH CH ₃ CN dioxane pyridine	86 20 21 32 20 30	1723	oil¢
4 b	Ph	CH ₂ Cl ₂ 1% CH ₃ OH	-CH ₂ Cl ₂ 77 88	1690^{d}	35-37 <i>°</i>
	UCH3	020-2			
4d 4e	$t - C_4 H_9^g$ CH = CH (CH) ^h	CH ₂ Cl ₂	83 81	$1724 \\ 1720$	oil
40 4f	$PhCH_2^{ij}$	CH ₂ Cl ₂	73	1710	41-43
4g	CH ₃	CH ₂ Cl ₂	94	1720^{k}	oil
4n 4i	c-C ₃ H ₅ .	CH ₂ Cl ₂ CH ₂ Cl ₂	89 89	1710 1676	011 63-64
4 j		CH ₂ Cl ₂	23	1692	39-41
10	CH ₃ O ^o	CH,Cl,	67	1720	oil

^a See the Experimental Section for a typical procedure. All products had satisfactory ¹H NMR and mass spectra. ^b Spectra of oils were recorded as thin films; spectra of solids were recorded in CHCl₃ solution. ^c Boiling point (bulb to bulb) 100 [°]C (0.01 mm) [lit.^{14b} bp 118-123 [°]C (0.12 mm)]. ^d Lit.³³ 1686 cm⁻¹. ^e Lit.³³ mp 40 [°]C. ^f [α]_D + 43[°] (c 0.2, CHCl₃). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₈O₂Se: C, 67.44; H, 6.60. Found: C, 67.50; H, 6.72. ^g Previously reported by Gais.^{14d} ^h Anal. Calcd for C_{1,2}H₂₄OSe: C, 63.13; H, 7.49. Found: C, 62.80; H, 7.62. ⁱ Previously reported,³⁴ no physical data given. Anal. Calcd for C_{1,4}H_{1,2}OSe: C, 61.08; H, 4.40. Found: C, 61.19; H, 4.44. ^j GC analysis detected 19% of phenylacetaldehyde in the reaction mixture. In refluxing CH₂Cl₂, benzyl phenyl selenide was isolated (preparative TLC) in 22% yield. ^k Lit.³³ 1723 cm⁻¹. ⁱ Anal. Calcd for C_{1,0}H₁₀OSe: C, 53.32; H, 4.48. Found: C, 53.59; H, 4.62. ^m Anal. Calcd for C_{1,1}H₃OSse: C, 49.42; H, 3.02; S, 12.01. Found: C, 49.54; H, 3.05; S, 12.14. ⁿ Anal. Calcd for C_{1,2}H₀NOSe: C, 54.95; H, 3.46; N, 5.34. Found: C, 55.09; H, 3.77; N, 4.93. ^o Anal. Calcd for C₈H₈O₂Se: C, 44.65; H, 3.75. Found: C, 44.30; H, 3.72.

lab	le	Π	•	0	xic	lati	ion	of	H	yd	iraz	id	es	3	wit	h 1	1	in	Po	lar	So	lve	ent	s	
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			molar ratio		yield, %						
entry	substrate	solvent	of 3/1	4 ^b	5 ^c	RCO ₂ H ^d	RCO ₂ CH ₃ ^b				
1	3a	CH,Cl,	1:1	62 ^c	10	15	<u></u>				
2	3a	CH ₃ CN	1:1	42	16	26					
3	3a	DMF	1:1	17	22	34					
4	3a	10% CH,OH-CH,Cl,	$1\!:\!2$	34		16	14				
5	3a	CH,OH	1:2	10		44 ^c	13				
6	3b	CH,Cl,	1:2	55	11	28					
7	3b	CH ₃ CN	1:2	39	13	37					
8	3b	DMF	1:2	11	15	46					
9	3b	10% CH,OH-CH,Cl,	1:2	58		26	16				
10	3 b	СН3ОН	$1\!:\!2$	16		18	56				

^a See the Experimental Section for the general procedure. ^b GC yield reported unless otherwise noted. ^c Isolated yield. ^d GC yield of corresponding methyl ester reported after treatment with CH_2N_2 .

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 conditions again supports an alternative mechanism as in path b.

Inverse addition of benzeneseleninic acid (1) to hydrazides 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

$$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ || \\ RCNHNH_2 + 1 \end{array} \xrightarrow{inverse addition} RCNHNHCR (7) \\ \mathbf{3a}, R = c-C_6 H_{11} \\ \mathbf{f}, R = PhCH_2 \end{array}$$

Thioesters of ω -hydroxycarboxylic acids undergo intra-

⁽²⁷⁾ K. Balenovic, R. Lazić, V. Polak, and P. Stern, 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 selencesters in a similar manner has been but briefly explored,^{12b} and their potential utility makes their preparation of interest. We therefore attempted to synthesize ω -hydroxy selencesters 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 41%, respectively). Similar treatment of hydrazides 15c 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 ω -hydroxy carboxylic acid (Scheme IV).

The low yields of the long-chain ω -hydroxy selencesters 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 silvlated selencester 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 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

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 111C electronic integrator. Glass columns (5 ft) containing 5% SE-30 on Chromosorb G-HP were employed. Internal standards were used in all analyses. Preparative TLC was carried out on Analtech 20 \times 20 cm glass plates (silica gel GF, 1000 $\mu m).$ Slow additions were performed with a Sage Instruments Model 355 syringe pump. Elemental analyses were obtained by Mr. H. Séguin (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 unless 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 absence 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 δ 5.0 and 7.0) with an authentic sample.

Oxidation of 1,2-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 1,2-Diisopropylhydrazine with 1 or 2. 1,2-Diisopropylhydrazine hydrochloride³⁵ (30 mg, 0.20 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of CDCl3 and shaken with $5\%~K_2CO_3$ 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 δ 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 $N_{\rm r}$ -N'-bis(cyclohexylcarbonyl)hydrazine (5a) was filtered off: mp 275 °C (sublimes) (lit.³⁶ 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),³⁷ 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.

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 filtered, concentrated, and separated by preparative TLC to afford 83 mg (62%) of 4a. The base-line component was removed with methanol, evaporated to dryness, and triturated with ether. The ether was filtered, washed twice with water, dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$ and evaporated in vacuo to furnish 15 mg (23%) of cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, identified by comparison with an authentic sample (IR, NMR, GC).

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 II.

(c) In the Presence of Benzoguinone. 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 O-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; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ +128° (c 0.1, CHCl₃); IR (Nujol) 3290, 1665 cm⁻¹ Anal. Calcd for $C_{36}H_{48}N_2O_4$: 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 O-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 selencester 4a: 115 mg (86%); R_f 0.5; NMR δ 7.6–7.1 (complex, 5 H), 2.6 (m, 1 H), 2.3–1.0 (complex, 10 H); mass spectrum, m/e 268 (M⁺, ⁸⁰Se), 266 (M⁺, ⁷⁸Se); for IR and boiling point data, see Table I. The base-line component was removed and rechromatographed in 20% ether-chloroform to give 136 mg (98%) of triphenylphosphine oxide $(R_f 0.5)$, identified by comparison (melting point, TLC, IR) with an authentic sample.

Oxidation of Hydrazide 3a with 1 in Polar Solvents (See Table II). General Procedure. The hydrazide (0.50 mmol) in 10 mL of the solvent was added over 1 h to 1 (95 mg, 0.50 mmol, 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 II). The general procedure for hydrazide 3a was employed.

Reaction of Hydrazide 3b with Benzeneselenenyl Chloride (11). 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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⁽f) Under Anhydrous Conditions. The hydrazide (71 mg, 0.50 mmol) in 10 mL of dichloromethane was added over 1 h to

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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-Phenyl 15-Hydroxypentadecanecarboselenoate (14a). (a) By Direct Oxidation with 1. 15-Hydroxypentadecanoic acid hydrazide⁴¹ (15a; 68 mg, 0.25 mmol) and seleninic acid 1 (95 mg, 0.50 mmol) were stirred in 20 mL of dichloromethane. The 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⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₃₄O₂Se; 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 silvl ether hydrazide 20 as a waxy semisolid (0.51 g, 88%) of sufficient purity for further use: IR (Nujol) 3320, 3180, 1630 cm⁻¹.

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⁻¹. 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 Na_2SO_4 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 $C_{12}H_{26}N_2O_2$: 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 mmol) 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 C₂₅H₃₃NO₃Se: 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 (15c) 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.³⁸ 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):44 mp 129-130 °C (from methanol); NMR δ 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 C₁₂H₈N₂O₄Se: 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 its IR, NMR, and mass spectra.

The hydrazine (50 mg, 0.25 mmol) was oxidized with 1 (50 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, 613-94-5; 3c, 76582-30-4; 3d, 42826-42-6; 3e, 5458-77-5; 3f, 937-39-3; 3g, 1068-57-1; 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; 15a, 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; 18, 96-48-0; 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-C₆H₁₁)CO₂H, 98-89-5; (c-C₆H₁₁)CO₂CH₃, 4630-82-4; PhCO₂H, 65-85-0; PhCO₂CH₃, 93-58-3.

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