(m, 4), 7.2-7.75 (m, 9). **25h**: 4.81 (m, 2), 7.12 (d, 1, J = 8), 7.35-7.74(m, 5), 7.86 (dd, 1, J = 2, J = 8), 8.20 (d, 1, J = 2). 25i: 4.00 (s, 4), 4.91 (s, 2), 5.79 (s, 1), 7.25 -7.65 (m, 8), 8.01 (d, 1, J = 2). 25j:^{41e} 5.20 (s, 2), 7.5–7.95 (m, 6), 8.10 (dd, 1, J = 2, J = 8), 8.50 (d, 1, J = 2). 25k:^{41d} 3.30 (s, 3), 5.24 (s, 2), 7.5-7.95 (m, 6), 8.19 (dd, J = 2, J = 9, 8.48 (d, 1, J = 2). 25e: 5.05 (s, 2), 7.2-8.0 (m, 7), 8.3 (s, 1). 25m: 1.34 (s, 9), 4.86 (s, 2), 7.25-7.75 (m, 7), 7.92 (d, 1, J = 1.5). 26a: 3.42 (s, 3), 5.03 (s, 2), 7.3-7.8 (m, 8). 26b: 5.21 (s, 2), 7.2-7.9 (m, 8). 26c: 5.42 (s, 2), 7.35-8.2 (m, 8). 26d: 3.5 (s, 3), 5.08 (s, 2), 6.9-7.1 (m, 1), 7.35-7.8 (m, 7). 26e: 5.15 (s, 2), 7.3-8.0 (m, 8). 31: 6.52 (s, 2), 7.3-7.8 (m, 10), 8.45-8.9 (m, 3). 32: 0.8-1.4 (m, 9), 2.1-2.3 (m, 2), 2.4-2.8 (m, 4), 3.6-3.7 (m, 4), 4.21 (dd, 1, J = 3.5, J = 10.5), 7.54 (d, 2, J = 9), 8.32 (d, 2, J = 9) 9). 33: 0.8-1.5 (m, 5), 2.0-2.5 (m, 2), 2.9-3.4 (m, 4), 3.6-3.8 (m, 4), 4.22 (dd, 1, J = 4, J = 9), 7.61 (d, 1, J = 9), 7.75 (s, 1), 8.05 (d, 1, J = 9). 34: 3.0–3.3 (m, 4), 3.6–3.7 (m, 4), 5.52 (s, 1), 7.82 (d, 2, J = 8.5), 8.30 (d, 2, J = 8.5), 35: 3.60 (s, 3), 7.22 (s, 1), 7.50(s, 5), 8.43 (d, 1, J = 8), 8.6 (dd, 1, J = 2, J = 8), 8.90 (d, 1, J = 1)2)

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Registry No. 1, 7205-98-3; 2, 39542-27-3; 3, 98-95-3; 4, 34063-53-1; 5, 89303-08-2; 6, 69709-34-8; 7, 89303-09-3; 8a, 100-00-5; 8b, 100-23-2; 8c, 100-17-4; 8d, 620-88-2; 8e, 100-12-9; 8f, 3282-56-2; 8g, 2403-53-4; 8h, 92-93-3; 8i, 701-57-5; 8j, 586-78-7; 8k, 636-98-6;

81, 350-46-9; 8m, 100-25-4; 8n, 619-72-7; 8o, 402-54-0; 8n, 2976-30-9; 8r, 62-23-7; 9a, 89303-10-6; 9b, 89303-11-7; 9c, 69709-39-3; 9d, 89303-12-8; 9e, 89303-13-9; 9f, 89303-14-0; 9g, 89303-15-1; 9h, 69709-40-6; 9i, 89303-16-2; 9j, 69709-38-2; 9k, 89303-17-3; 9l, 89303-18-4; 9m, 89303-19-5; 9n, 89303-20-8; 9o, 89303-21-9; 9p, 89303-22-0; 9r, 89303-23-1; 10a, 69709-37-1; 11, 20808-12-2; 12, 19169-90-5; 13, 65492-21-9; 14, 69709-41-7; 15, 5533-31-3; 16, 31540-74-6; 17, 69709-35-9; 18, 69709-36-0; 19, 7693-38-1; 20a, 88-73-3; 20b, 610-17-3; 20c, 91-23-6; 20d, 2216-12-8; 20e, 88-72-2; 20f, 384-22-5; 20g, 528-29-0; 20h, 1886-57-3; 21a, 86434-25-5; 21b, 89303-24-2; 21c, 89303-25-3; 21d, 89303-26-4; 21e, 89303-27-5; 21f, 89303-28-6; 21g, 89303-29-7; 22a, 86434-29-9; 22b, 89303-30-0; 22c, 89303-31-1; 22d, 89303-32-2; 22e, 89303-33-3; 22f, 89303-34-4; 23a, 99-08-1; 23b, 121-73-3; 23c, 585-79-5; 23d, 555-03-3; 23e, 402-67-5; 23f, 619-31-8; 23g, 620-55-3; 23h, 645-00-1; 23i, 6952-67-6; 23j, 619-24-9; 23k, 2976-32-1; 23l, 98-46-4; 23m, 23132-52-7; 23n, 99-65-0; 24a, 86434-26-6; 24b, 89303-35-5; 24c, 89303-36-6; 24d, 86434-27-7; 24e, 86434-28-8; 24f, 89303-37-7; 24g, 89303-38-8; 24h, 89303-39-9; 24i, 89303-40-2; 24j, 89303-41-3; 24k, 89303-42-4; 24l, 89303-43-5; 24n, 89303-44-6; 25a, 86434-30-2; 25b, 89303-45-7; 25c, 89303-46-8; 25d, 86434-31-3; 25e, 86434-32-4; 25f, 89303-47-9; 25g, 89303-48-0; 25h, 89303-49-1; 25i, 89303-50-4; 25j, 89303-51-5; 25k, 89303-52-6; 251, 89303-53-7; 25m, 89303-54-8; 26a, 86434-33-5; 26b, 89303-55-9; 26c, 89303-56-0; 26d, 86434-34-6; 26e, 86434-35-7; 27, 69083-63-2; 28, 69083-62-1; 29, 71376-64-2; 30, 69083-60-9; 31, 89303-57-1; 32, 89303-58-2; 33, 89303-59-3; 34, 89303-60-6; 35, 89303-61-7; sodium benzenesulfinate, 873-55-2; chlorobromomethane, 74-97-5; dibromomethane, 74-95-3.

Vicarious Nucleophilic Substitution of Hydrogen in Nitroarenes with α -Substituted Nitriles and Esters. Direct α -Cyanoalkylation and α -Carbalkoxyalkylation of Nitroarenes¹

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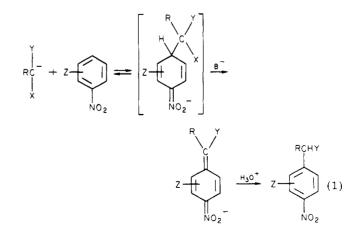
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Carbanions generated from alkanenitriles bearing α -chloro, α -OR, or α -SR groups and from aliphatic esters bearing α -SR groups react with mononitroarenes to replace hydrogen atoms of the nitroaromatic ring ortho or para to the nitro group with α -cyanoalkyl or α -carbalkoxyalkyl substituents. The nucleophilic replacement of hydrogen with such carbanions proceeds faster than substitution of halogen ortho or para to the nitro group.

Introduction

In our studies of the vicarious nucleophilic substitution of hydrogen in nitroarenes by carbanions.^{2,3} We have shown that a variety of carbanions RXYC⁻ enter this reaction, which proceeds via fast and reversible addition of the carbanions to nitroarenes, giving the σ complexes, followed by base-induced elimination of HX (eq 1).⁴ X is a leaving group and Y a carbanion stabilizing group. We have demonstrated that acetonitrile derivatives could serve as sources of carbanions for this reaction.² Although



there are a few reports of reactions that appear to involve vicarious substitution of hydrogen in aromatic nitro compounds,⁵ no systematic study of the reaction has been

⁽¹⁾ Part 110 in the series reactions of organic anions. Part 109: J. Org.

⁽¹⁾ Part 110 in the series reactions of organic amons. Fart 105. 5. Org. Chem., preceding paper in this issue.
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(3) (a) Goliński, J.; Makosza, M. Tetrahedron Lett. 1978, 3495. (b) Makosza, M.; Goliński, J.; Pankowski, J. Synthesis 1983, 40. (c) Goliński, J.; Makosza, M. Angew. Chem. 1982, 88, 468. (d) Makosza, M. In "Current Trends in Organic Synthesis"; Nozaki, H., Ed.; Pergamon Press: Organic Synthesis"; Nozaki, H., Ed.; Pergamon Press: Oxford, 1983; p 401.

⁽⁴⁾ Makosza, M.; Glinka, T. J. Org. Chem. 1983, 48.

Table I. Reactions of Nitroarenes with 1a (eq 2)

Z	solvent	total yield, ^a %	o/p
Н	NH ₃	9.2 ^b	3.7 ^c
	Me,SO	46^{b}	4.8^{c}
2-Cl	$Me_{2}SO$ NH ₃	6	7.5 ^c 5 ^{d,e}
3-Cl	NH,	38	$5^{d,e}$
4-Cl	NH_{3}	75	only o
	Me,SO	40	only o
	NH,	75	30 ^e
$C_4 H_4^{f}$	Me ₂ SO	62	13 ^e

^a Yields of isolated mixture of isomers. ^b 10-fold molar excess of nitrobenzene. ^c Determined by GC. ^d Only one ortho isomer: $2\text{-}Cl-6\text{-}O_2NC_6H_3CH_2CN$ was formed. Another isomer (4-Cl-2- $O_2NC_6H_3CH_2CN$) was not detected. ^e Determined by NMR. ^f 1-Nitronaphthalene.

made. In the preceding paper¹ we reported on α -haloalkyl aryl sulfones and sulfonamides as sources of carbanions for vicarious substitution of hydrogen in nitrobenzenes. We now report on a study of the vicarious substitution of hydrogen in nitroarenes with carbanions derived from aliphatic nitriles and esters bearing halogen, OR, or SR groups in the α position.

Results and Discussion

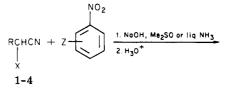
Reactions of α -Chloronitriles with Nitroarenes. We have reported the cyanomethylation of 4-chloronitrobenzene and 1-nitranaphthalene with chloroacetonitrile (1a) in the presence of sodium hydroxide Me_2SO^2 Further examples of the reactions of 1a with nitroarenes in the presence of sodium hydroxide in Me₂SO or liquid ammonia are given in Table I. Chloroacetonitrile undergoes rapid self-condensation in the presence of strong bases. Hence it reacts in vicarious substitution only with active nitroarenes such as halonitrobenzenes and 1-nitronaphthalene. Its reaction with nitrobenzene proceeds slowly and is very sensitive to reaction conditions. Even with a 10-fold excess of nitrobenzene in Me₂SO the yield, a mixture of 2- and 4-nitrophenylacetonitriles, is only 46%. In all reactions of 1a there is a strong preference for the formation of the ortho over the para isomer, from 4:1 with nitrobenzene to 30:1 with 1-nitronaphthalene.⁶ In the reaction of 1a with 2-chloronitrobenzene, substitution takes place mainly at the ortho' 6 position. More surprising is that in 3chloronitrobenzene substitution at the 2 position predominates over that at the 4 position, whereas the 6 isomer is not formed. The assignments of product structures were based on NMR spectra and physical properties of the three

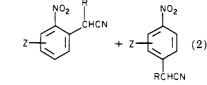
Table II. Reaction of Nitroarenes with 2a and 3a (eq 2)

substrates		substi- tution at	yield, ^a	
Z	nitrile	position	%	
Н	2a	р	34	
2-Cl	2a	р	38	
2-F	2a	р	41	
4-Cl	2a	o	14	
Н	3a	р	60	
2-Cl	3a	p	51	
4-Cl	3a	o	13 ^b	

^a Yields of isolated compounds. ^b $4-O_2NC_6H_4CH(CN)$ -CHMe₂ (yield 14%) was also isolated.

isomeric (chloronitrophenyl) acetonitriles: 2-Cl-6-NO₂, 2-Cl-4-NO₂, and 4-Cl-2-NO₂; the last compound was formed in the reaction of 3-chloronitrobenzene with 1b.





- $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{H}$; 1a, $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Cl}$; 1b, $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{PhS}$; 1c, $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Me}_2\mathbf{NCS}_2$; 1d, $\mathbf{X} =$
- MeS; 1e, X = PhO
- R = Me; 2a, X = Cl; 2b, X = PhS
- $\begin{array}{l} R = CHMe_{2}, \ \textbf{3a}, \ X = Cl; \ \textbf{3b}, \ X = PhS \\ R = Ph; \ \textbf{4e}, \ X = PhO; \ \textbf{4f}, \ X = 4 \ -ClC_{6}H_{4}O; \ \textbf{4g}, \ X = \\ \end{array}$

 $2,4-Cl_2C_6H_3O$, **4h**, X = MeO

Self-condensation of α -chloroalkanenitriles 2a and 3a in the presence of bases is slower than that of 1a. As a result they usually react with nitroarenes better than 1a, although the yields of products are still not very high (Table II). In accord with our previous observation that tertiary carbanions stabilized by sulfonyl groups do not replace hydrogen ortho to the nitro group,^{1,3a} the tertiary carbanions formed from these nitriles react preferentially at the para position. Nevertheless, in the reaction with 4-chloronitrobenzene, both 2a and 3a replace some ortho hydrogen; obviously the cyano group has a smaller steric effect than the sulfonyl group. In the reaction of 3a with 4-chloronitrobenzene, 2-(4-nitrophenyl)isovaleronitrile is also formed, apparently via the substitution of halogen by 3a followed by reductive dechlorination of the initial product (Table II).

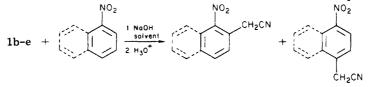
Although the yields reported in Tables I and II are only moderate, they can probably be improved with further study of reaction conditions. Thus the conditions for cyanomethylation of 4-chloronitrobenzene with 1a were varied to increase the yield of (5-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile to 75%.

Reactions of α **-OR and** α **-SR Substituted Nitriles.** In constrast to halogen, OR and SR substituents are not easily replaced in $S_N 2$ reactions with other nucleophiles, and the nitriles RCHXCN (X = OR, SR) (eq 2) are relatively stable in the presence of strong base. We have reported that 1a and 4e react with some nitroarenes to effect vicarious substitution.² Further studies have shown that nitriles 1b-d, 2b, 3b, and 4e-h react with a variety of nitroarenes in the presence of NaOH in Me₂SO to give α -cyanoalkyl derivatives. Yields of products are given in Tables III-V, and physical properties are given in the

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⁽⁶⁾ We reported earlier² that the principal product of the reaction of chloroacetonitrile with 1-nitronaphthalene was the 1,4 isomer and the minor product the 1,2 isomer. This report was in error; it was based on a misinterpretation of the ¹H NMR spectrum and the fact that the principal product on reduction gave an aminonitrile rather than cyclizing to an indole derivative.²¹ We have now shown that the principal product is the 1,2 isomer by hydrolyzing it to the known (1-nitro-2-naphthyl)acetic acid (see Experimental Section). In addition, the minor product has been shown to be identical with the nitrile prepared from known (4-nitro-1-naphthyl)acetic acid.¹³ The main product upon alkylation with methyl iodide gave the product different from that obtained via the vicarious substitution of hydrogen in 1-nitronaphthalene with 2-thiophenoxypropionitrile (see infrared data). It is well documented that tertiary carboanions replace hydrogen para to the nitro group.^{1,3e}

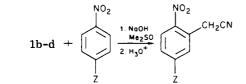
Table III. Reactions of Nitriles 1b-e with Nitrobenzene and 1-Nitronaphthalene



nitrile solvent		molar	f temp, °C	nitrobenzene		1-nitronaphthalene		
		excess of NaOH		total yield, ^a %	0/p ^b	total yield, ^a %	o/p ^c	
1e	Me ₄ SO	0.5	5	25	37	7.1	80	13
1c	Me ₂ SO	0.5	5	25	68	1.4		
1d	Me ₂ SO	0.5	5	25	43	1.1	88	8
1b	pyridine	0.5	5	25	31	1.9	75	7
1b	Me ₂ SO	0.5	5	25	80	0.91	94	11
1b	Me ₂ SO	0.5	5	40	68	0.67		
1b	Me ₂ SO	0.125	5	40	56	0.17		
1b	Me ₂ SO	0.125	20	40	62	0.46		

^a Yields of isolated mixture of isomers. ^b Determined by GC. ^c Determined by 'H NMR.

Table IV. Reaction of Nitroarenes with 1b, 1c, 1d



<u> </u>	substrates		
	Z	nitrile	yield, ^a %
	Cl F MeO EtO	1c 1b 1c 1c	19 ^b 31 ^c
	MeS MeS PhS <i>t</i> -Bu Ph	1e 1d 1b 1b 1b	39 74 58

^a Yields of isolated compounds. ^b A mixture of products Z = PhS (19%) and $4 \cdot O_2NC_6H_4CH(CN)SPh (41\%)$ was formed. ^c A 50% molar excess of 1c was used.

Experimental Section. Structures of the products were confirmed by spectral and elemental analyses. In addition, the reaction product of 4e with 1-nitronaphthalene was converted into the known 1-(acetylamino)-4-benzoylnaphthalene in order to establish independently the orientation of substitution (see also note 6).

As indicated by the data in Tables III–V, α -cyanoalkylation with carbanions of these nitriles can be applied to a range of mononitroarenes with generally good yields. Acetonitriles 1b-e can replace hydrogen in positions both ortho and para to the nitro group. The o/p ratios appear to be strongly influenced by the nature of the leaving group and to a smaller extent by the reaction conditions. In reactions of α -substituted acetonitriles with nitrobenzene, the leaving groups can be put in the following order of decreasing o/p ratio: PhO (7.1), Cl (4.8), Me₂NCS₂ (1.4), MeS (1.1), and PhS (0.91). In reactions of 1-nitronaphthalene the o/p ratio is much higher, ranging from 30 to 8, and is less sensitive to the nature of the leaving group. The o/p ratio also depends on the reaction conditions. When cation-carbanion association is strong (e.g., in pyridine rather than Me_2SO , or using higher concentrations of reactants and base in Me_2SO), the ortho orientation is preferred. The complex correlation of the orientation with the structural feactures of the reactants and reaction conditions is being studied further.

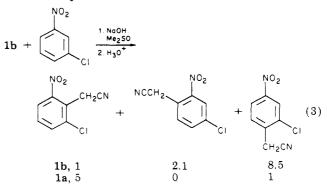
Table V. Reactions of Nitroarenes with 2b, 3b, 4e-h

2b,3b, 4e-h +	Z - NO2	1 NoOH Me2SO 2. H30 ⁺	Z RCHCN
			RUTUN

substrates		
Z	nitrile	yield," %
Н	2b	79
2-Cl	2b	72^{b}
$C_4 H_4^c$	2b	71
H	3b	69
3-Cl	3b	63
2-MeO	3b	17
$C_4 H_4^c$	3b	47
H	4e	42
2-Cl	4e	55
$C_4 H_4^c$	4e	77
Н	4 f	59
$\mathrm{C}_4\mathrm{H}_4{}^c$	4 f	81
Н	4g	57
$C_4 H_4^c$	4g	76
H	$4\bar{h}$	42
$C_4 H_4 c$	4h	49

^a Yields of isolated compounds. ^b A mixture of the products Z = Cl and Z = PhS, ratio ca. 1:1.2 was formed. ^c 1-Nitronaphthalene.

Cyanomethylation of 3-chloronitrobenzene with 1b leads to three isomeric products in a total yield of 92%. The ratio of the isomers compared to that formed from 1a is shown in eq 3.



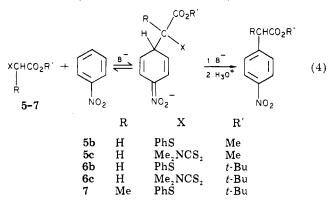
Nitriles 2-4 substitute only the hydrogen para to the nitro group, which is typical for tertiary carbanions. When

the para position is occupied by a substituent, the reaction may not proceed (e.g., **3b** does not react with 4-nitrobiphenyl); however, if the para substituent has nucleofugal character, typical nucleophilic substitution of it takes place. For example, **4h** and 4-chloronitrobenzene form α -methoxy- α -(4-nitrophenyl)phenylacetonitrile.⁷ In general, when there are no obstacles to the vicarious substitution of hydrogen, substitution of halogen does not compete. Only in the reaction of 4-fluoronitrobenzene with nitrile 1**b** do both substitution of halogen and hydrogen by the carbanion occur.

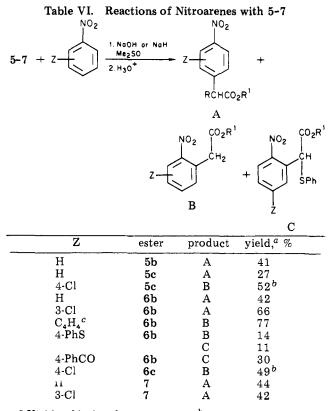
Since the PhS⁻ anion produced in the reactions of 1b, 2b, and 3b with nitroarenes is a powerful nucleophile, reactions of these nitriles with o- and p-halonitrobenzenes give not only the expected products of the substitution of hydrogen but also products of the replacement of halogen by the PhS group (Table IV and V). This replacement can occur via reaction of PhS⁻ with the starting halonitrobenzene as well as with the products of hydrogen replacement. This complication of the reaction course can be eliminated by the use of nitriles containing the Me₂NCS₂ leaving group (e.g., 1c). The dithiocarbamate anion produced during this reaction does not replace chlorine in the nitroarene ring: reaction of 1c with 4chloronitrobenzene gives (5-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile in a yield of 71%.

 α -Cyanobenzylation of nitroarenes does not proceed with α -chlorolphenylacetonitrile because of its rapid base-induced self-condensation to produce dicyanostilbene;⁸ accordingly α -(aryloxy) and α -methoxy nitriles **4e-h** are the reagents of choice. On the other hand, their thio analogues do not react with nitroarenes in basic media, perhaps because of the lower nucleophilicity of the corresponding carbanions.

Reactions of Esters of α -Thio Substituted Carboxylic Acids. Reactions of ethyl or *tert*-butyl chloroacetates and ethyl α -chloropropionate with nitroarenes in the presence of NaH or NaOH in Me₂SO give only traces of products of vicarious substitution of hydrogen. In analogy to the nitriles, esters of α -thio substituted acids were expected to be more efficient reactants, and 5, 6, and 7 were found to react readily with nitroarenes by vicarious substitution to give esters of α -(4-nitroaryl)alkanoic acids.



Since methyl esters are more sensitive to alkaline hydrolysis than the corresponding nitriles, the reactions of these esters were carried out in the presence of NaH in Me₂SO, whereas reactions of the *tert*-butyl esters were run with sodium hydroxide in Me₂SO. Results are given in Table VI, and physical characteristics of the products are given in the Experimental Section. The yields of products



 a Yields of isolated compounds. b A 50% molar excess of ester was used. c 1-Nitronaphthalene.

are usually lower than those from the corresponding nitriles.

As we have pointed out, the orientation in the vicarious nucleophilic substitution of hydrogen depends strongly on steric factors. Since carboalkoxy groups are bulkier than the cyano group, the reactions of secondary carbanions of esters 5-7 with nitrobenzene proceed exclusively at the para position. It is of interest to compare the orientation in reactions of esters and of nitriles containing different leaving groups with nitrobenzene. The values of the o/pratios are PhOCH₂CN, 7.1, ClCH₂CN, 4.8, PhSCH₂CN, 0.91, and PhSCH₂CO₂Me, only para. Nevertheless, substitution at the ortho position by 5 and 6 does occur when the para position is occupied by a substituent such as Cl. Substitution at the ortho position also takes place in the reaction of 6b with 1-nitronaphthalene. Like other carbanions containing leaving groups, carbanions of 5 and 6 replace hydrogen much faster than halogen located in an activated position.

In two reactions of **6b**, with 4-(phenylthio)nitrobenzene and with 4-(benzoyl)nitrobenzene, there were formed products of the direct nucleophilic substitution of hydride anion without elimination of the leaving group (Table VI). These products were apparently formed via oxidation of the intermediate σ complex by an external oxidant, probably Me₂SO or another molecule of the nitroarene. This interesting reaction is now under investigation. Reactions of this type have previously been observed with carbanions of ketones and nitriles.⁹

Experimental Section

Starting materials were commercially available or were prepared by known methods. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on an JEOL-MH-100 spectrometer in $CDCl_3$ with Me₄Si as the internal

⁽⁷⁾ Makosza, M.; Goetzen, T. Rocz. Chem. 1972, 46, 1239. See also: Kalir, A.; Balderman, D. Synthesis 1973, 358.

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standard. Chemical shifts are reported downfield from Me₄Si. Abbreviations of the multiplicity of the signals are s singlet, d doublet, dd doublet of doublets, t triplet, q quartet, m multiplet; m and p proton couplings are omitted. IR spectra were recorded on a UR-100 Zeiss-Jena spectrometer in CHCl₃. GC analyses were accomplished on a Gedeon GCHF 18.3 instrument using columns packed with 5% silicon OV-17 or OV-101 on Chromosorb. Column chromatography was accomplished on silica gel using hexane-chloroform or hexane-benzene mixtures as eluents. Reactions were carried out by one of the following procedures. Exceptions from these general methods are noted in the tables. All new compounds gave satisfactory microanalyses.

Procedure A (Sodium Hydroxide, Liquid Ammonia). A solution of chloroacetonitrile (0.01 mol) and nitroarene (0.01 mol) in 10 mL of ether was added dropwise to a vigorously stirred suuspension of powdered NaOH (4 g, 0.1 mol) in ca. 20 mL of liquid ammonia. The reaction was carried out -30 to -50 °C for 1 h. Ammonia was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in water and acidified with hydrochloric acid, and the products were extracted with methylene chloride. The extracts were washed with water and dried and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was chromatographed.

Procedure B (Sodium Hydroxide, Me₂SO). A solution of nitrile 1-4 or ester 6-7 (0.01 mol) and nitroarene (0.01 mol) in 10 mL of Me₂SO was added dropwise to a vigorously stirred suspension of powdered NaOH (4 g, 0.1 mol) in 10 mL of Me₂SO. The addition results in deep coloration (red, blue or violet) of the mixture and exothermic reaction. The temperature was kept below 30 °C with external cooling when necessary. The reaction was carried out at the room temperature for 1 h, the mixture was poured into ice-hydrochloric acid, and the products were extracted with methylene chloride or chloroform. The extracts were washed with water and dried, and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was chromatographed.

Procedure C (Sodium Hydride, Me_2SO). The reactions of esters 5 with nitroarenes were carried out according to Procedure B, using sodium hydride (0.022 mol) instead of sodium hydroxide. Reaction mixtures were poured onto ice and then acidified with acetic acid.

Product (procedure, Table): physical properties.

(2-Nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (A, B, I, III): mp 81-83 °C (lit.¹⁰ mp 81.5-82.5 °C).

(4-Nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (A, B, I, III): mp 114-116 °C (lit.¹⁰ mp 116 °C).

(3-Chloro-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (A, I): mp 61–63 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 3.77 (s, 2 H), 7.53 (s, 3 H); IR 1365, 1540 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

(3-Chloro-4-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (A, I): mp 49–50 °C (benzene-hexane); NMR δ 3.90 (s, 2 H), 7.37 (d, 1 H), 7.53 (s, 1 H), 7.88 (d, 1 H); IR 1355, 1540 (NO₂), 2270 (CN).

(2-Chloro-6-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (A, B, I, eq 3): mp 68-70 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 4.25 (s, 2 H), 7.59 (t, 1 H), 7.85 (d, 1 H), 8.08 (d, 1 H); IR 1355, 1540 (NO₂), 2270 (CN).

(4-Chloro-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (B, eq 3): mp 86–88 °C (methanol); NMR δ 4.26 (s, 2 H), 7.78 (s, 2 H), 8.28 (s, 1 H); IR 1350, 1540 (NO₂), 2265 (CN).

(2-Chloro-4-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (A, B, I, eq 3): mp 76–77.5 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 4.03 (s, 2 H), 7.73 (d, 1 H), 8.25 (d, 1 H), 8.25 (d, 1 H), 8.35 (s, 1 H); IR 1355, 1530 (NO₂), 2270 (CN).

(5-Chloro-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (A, B, I, IV): mp 94-95.5 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 4.18 (s, 2 H), 7.52 (d, 1 H), 7.71 (s, 1 H), 8.14 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

(5-Methoxy-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (B, IV): mp 82-84 °C; (lit.¹¹ mp 84 °C); NMR δ 3.91 (s, 3 H), 4.21 (s, 2 H), 6.96 (d, 1 H), 7.14 (s, 1 H), 8.21 (d, 1 H); IR 1345, 1525 (NO₂) 2270 (CN).

(5-Ethoxy-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (B, IV): mp 78-81 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.46 (t, 3 H), 4.16 (q, 2 H), 4.21 (s, 2 H), 6.94 (d, 1 H), 7.16 (s, 1 H), 8.22 (d, 1 H); IR 1345, 1520 (NO₂) 2265 (CN).

(5-(Methylthio)-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (B, IV): mp 90–93 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 2.55 (s,S H), 4.19 (s, 2 H), 7.27 (d, 1 H), 7.44 (s, 1 H), 8.11 (d, 1 H); IR 1340, 1520 (NO₂) 2270 (CN). [2-Nitro-5-(phenylthio)phenyl]acetonitrile (B, IV): mp 104–105 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 4.11 (s, 2 H), 7.09 (d, 1 H), 7.33 (s, 1 H), 7.51 (s, 5 H), 8.03 (d, 1 H); IR 1340, 1520 (NO₂), 2270 (CN).

(5-tert-Butyl-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile (B, IV): mp 58-60.5 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.35 (s, 9 H), 4.20 (s, 2 H), (7.53 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂) 2265 (CN).

(4-Nitro-3-biphenylyl)acetonitrile (B, IV): mp 123–124 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 4.24 (s, 2 H), 7.42–7.77 (m, 6 H), 7.90 (s, 1 H), 8.25 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂) 2260 (CN).

(1-Nitro-2-naphthyl)acetonitrile (A, B, I, III): mp 121.5–123 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 3.92 (s, 2 H), 7.5–8.1 (m, 6 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN). Hydrolysis of that compound with an acetic (20 mL) hydrochloric acid (8 mL) mixture gave 1-nitro-2-naphthylacetic acid, mp 208–210 °C (lit.¹² mp 206–207 °C).

(4-Nitro-1-naphthyl)acetonitrile (A, B, I, III): mp 140.5–141 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 4.18 (s, 2 H), 7.62–8.14 (m, 5 H), 8.46–8.56 (m, 1 H); IR 1350, 1525 (NO₂), 2265 (CN). This compound was identical with (4-nitro-1-naphthyl)acetonitrile (TLC, NMR, mp 142–144 °C) obtained from (4-nitro-1-naphthyl)acetic acid¹³ by action of (1) PCl₃, (2) NH₃, and (3) SOCl₂ in pyridine.

(4-Nitrophenyl)(phenylthio)acetonitrile (B, IVb): mp 57–60 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 4.89 (s, 1 H), 7.30–7.44 (m, 7 H), 8.12 (d, 2 H); IR 1355, 1535 (NO₂), 2250 (CN).

2-(4-Nitrophenyl)propionitrile (B, II, V): mp 72–74 °C; (lit.¹⁴ mp 73–75 °C); NMR δ 1.74 (d, 3 H), 4.15 (q, 1 H), 7.68 (d, 2 H), 8.35 (d, 2 H).

2-(5-Chloro-2-nitrophenyl)propionitrile (B, II): mp 93–95.5 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.78 (d, 3 H), 4.85 (q, 1 H), 7.58 (d, 1 H), 7.86 (s, 1 H), 8.13 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

2-(3-Chloro-4-nitrophenyl)propionitrile (B, II, V): oil; NMR 1.75 (d, 3 H), 4.08 (q, 1 H), 7.48 (d, 1 H), 7.60 (s, 1 H), 7.95 (d, 1 H); IR 1355, 1540 (NO₂), 2250 (CN).

2-(3-Fluoro-4-nitrophenyl)propionitrile (B, II): mp 55.5–56.5 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.76 (d, 3 H), 4.09 (q, 1 H), 7.3–7.5 (m, 2 H), 8.20 (t, 1 H); IR 1355, 1540 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

2-[4-Nitro-3-(phenylthio)phenyl]propionitrile (B, V): mp 80–82 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.45 (d, 3 H), 3.70 (q, 1 H), 6.78 (s, 1 H), 7.15 (d, 1 H), 7.55 (s, 5 H), 8.19 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

2-(4-Nitro-1-naphthyl)propionitrile (B, V): mp 62.5–64 °C (ethanol): NMR δ 1.81 (d, 3 H), 4.83 (q, 1 H), 7.60–8.18 (m, 5 H), 8.33–8.40 (m, 1 H); IR 1350, 1525 (NO₂), 2255 (CN).

2-(4-Nitrophenyl)isovaleronitrile (B, II, V): 71–74 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.05 (dd, 6 H), 2.17 (m, 1 H), 3.79 (d, 1 H), 7.48 (d, 2 H), 8.23 (d, 4 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 2250 (CN).

2-(5-Chloro-2-nitrophenyl)isovaleronitrile (B, II): mp 77–79 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.15 (dd, 6 H), 2.22 (m, 1 H), 4.87 (d, 1 H), 7.61 (d, 1 H) 7.83 (s, 1 H), 8.15 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

2-(3-Chloro-4-nitrophenyl)isovaleronitrile (B, II): oil; bp 144–146 °C (0.2 mmHg); NMR δ 1.06 (dd, 6 H), 2.16 (m, 1 H), 3.78 (d, 1 H), 7.39 (d, 1 H), 7.52 (s, 1 H), 7.90 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1535 (NO₂) 2250 (CN).

2-(2-Chloro-4-nitrophenyl)isovaleronitrile (B, V): mp 49–50 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.13 (dd, 6 H), 2.26 (m, 1 H), 4.27 (d, 1 H), 7.74 (d, 1 H), 8.13–8.28 (m, 2 H); IR 1355, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

2-(3-Methoxy-4-nitrophenyl)isovaleronitrile (B, V): mp 63.5-64.5 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.05 (dd, 6 H), 2.16 (m, 1 H), 3.70 (d, 1 H), 3.95 (s, 3 H), 6.88–6.98 (m, 2 H), 7.82 (d, 1 H); IR 1360, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

2-(4-Nitro-1-naphthyl)isovaleronitrile (B, V): mp 134–137 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.11 (dd, 6 H), 2.30 (m, 1 H), 4.52 (d, 1 H), 7.66–8.18 (m, 5 H), 8.44–8.57 (m, 1 H); IR 1350, 1525 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

 α -(4-Nitrophenyl)phenylacetonitrile (B, V): mp 69–70 °C (lit.¹⁵ mp 70–72 °C); NMR δ 5.24 (s, 1 H), 7.35 (s, 5 H), 7.52 (d, 2 H), 8.18 (d, 2 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

 α -(3-Chloro-4-nitrophenyl)phenylacetonitrile (B, V): mp 54-57 °C (methanol); NMR δ 5.16 (s, 1 H), 7.28-7.44 (m, 6 H), 7.51 (s, 1 H), 7.86 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂) 2250 (CN).

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 α -(4-Nitro-1-naphthyl)phenylacetonitrile: mp 117-121 °C (methanol); NMR δ 5.87 (s, 1 H), 7.34 (s, 5 H), 7.57-8.18 (m, 5 H), 8.69-8.44 (m, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 2260 (CN).

Methyl (4-nitrophenyl)acetate (C, VI): mp 53-55 °C (lit.¹⁶ mp 52.4-53.3 °C); NMR δ 3.64 (s, 5 H), 7.41 (d, 2 H), 8.12 (d, 2 H); IR 1355, 1530 (NO₂) 1745 (CO).

Methyl (5-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)acetate (C, VI): oil (lit.¹⁷); NMR δ 3.69 (s, 3 H), 3.96 (s, 2 H), 7.31–7.48 (m, 2 H), 8.05 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 1740 (CO).

tert-Butyl (4-nitrophenyl)acetate (B, VI): mp 34-36 °C (lit.¹⁸ mp 37-38 °C); NMR δ 1.43 (s, 9 H), 3.61 (s, 2 H), 7.42 (d, 2 H), 8.16 (d, 2 H); IR 1350, 1525 (NO₂), 1730 (CO).

tert-Butyl (2-chloro-4-nitrophenyl)acetate (B, VI): mp 49-52 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.43 (s, 9 H), 3.75 (s, 2 H), 7.46 (d, 1 H), 8.06 (d, 1 H), 8.22 (s, 1 H); IR 1355, 1525 (NO₂), 1730 (CO).

tert-Butyl (1-nitro-2-naphthyl)acetate (B, VI): mp 97–98 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.43 (s, 9 H), 3.71 (s, 2 H), 7.1–7.9 (m, 6 H); IR 1525 (NO₂), 1730 (CO). Hydrolysis in acetic acid-hydrochloric acid mixture gave (1-nitro-2-napthyl)acetic acid, mp 209–212 °C (lit.¹³ mp 206–207 °C).

tert-Butyl [2-nitro-5-(phenylthio)phenyl]acetate (B, VI): mp 62-63 °C; NMR δ 1.50 (s, 9 H), 3.89 (s, 2 H), 7.03-7.13 (m, 2 H), 7.53 (s, 5 H), 8.00 (d, 1 H); IR 1345, 1520 (NO₂), 1730 (CO).

tert -Butyl 2-[2-nitro-5-(phenylthio)phenyl](phenylthio)acetate (B, VI): oil; NMR δ 1.27 (s, 9 H), 5.39 (s, 1 H),

6.95-7.45 (m, 12 H), 7.75 (d, 1 H); IR 1345, 1520 (NO₂), 1730 (CO).
 tert-Butyl 2-(5-benzoyl-2-nitrophenyl)(phenylthio)acetate
 (B, VI): mp 80-81.5 °C; NMR δ 1.36 (s, 9 H), 5.44 (s, 1 H),

(B, VI): inp 30–31.5 °C; NiNK δ 1.36 (S, 9 H), 5.44 (S, 1 H), 7.15–8.15 (m, 13 H); IR 1355, 1530 (NO₂), 1670 (CO).

tert-Butyl (5-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)acetate (B, VI): mp 61–63 °C; NMR δ 1.48 (s, 9 H), 3.99 (s, 2 H), 7.30–7.45 (m, 2 H), 8.04 (d, 1 H); IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 1735 (CO).

tert -Butyl 2-(4-nitrophenyl) propionate (B, VI): oil; NMR δ 1.36–1.42 (m, 12 H), 3.63 (q, 1 H), 7.41 (d, 2 H), 8.12 (d, 2 H); IR 1355, 1525 (NO₂) 1730 (CO).

tert-Butyl 2-(2-chloro-4-nitrophenyl)propionate (B, VI): oil; NMR δ 1.45–1.50 (m, 12 H), 4.20 (q, 1 H), 7.54 (d, 1 H), 8.15 (d, 1 H), 8.30 (s, 1 H); IR 1360, 1530 (NO₂), 1730 (CO).

(5-Chloro-2-nitrophenyl)acetonitrile.¹⁹ To a solution of p-chloronitrobenzene (8 g, 0.05 mol) in dry ether (50 mL) was added liquid ammonia (ca. 120 mL) followed by powdered NaOH (10 g, 0.25 mol) and the whole mixture stirred for 10 min. To the stirred mixture was added a solution of chloroacetonitrile (4.2 g, 0.055 mol) in ether (10 mL) dropwise during 40 min. After the addition was completed the reaction was carried out for 1 h, and then NH₄Cl (10 g) was added portionwise and ammonia evaporated on a water bath. During the evaporation CCl₄ (ca. 120 mL) was added portionwise so the volume was kept approximately constant. Finally the bath temperature was raised and ether distilled off until the CCl₄ began to reflux. The warm mixture was filtered and the solid was refluxed with two portions of CCL (120 mL) and filtered. The combined filtrates were evaporated and the residue boiled with hexane (100 mL) and filtered to give pure product (mp 89-90 °C, 7.8 g). An additional 0.6 g of the product was isolated from the hexane solution. The total yield was 8.4 g, 75%.

2-(1-Nitro-2-naphthyl)propionitrile. 1-Nitro-2-naphthylacetonitrile (1 g, 4.7 mmol), methyl iodide (0.7 g), K_2CO_3 (2 g), and acetone (20 mL) were stirred and refluxed for 4 h. Inorganic salts were filtered off, the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was chromatographed to give 0.85 g, (80%) of the product: mp 92.5–95 °C (ethanol); NMR δ 1.78 (d, 3 H), 4.20 (q, 1 H), 7.63–8.18 (m, 6 H); IR 1365, 1535 (NO₂), 2265 (CN).

4-Nitro-1-naphthyl Phenyl Ketone. Hydrogen peroxide (30%, 20 mL) was added in several portions to a mixture of δ -(4-nitro-1-naphthyl)phenylacetonitrile (1 g), sodium hydroxide (3 g), methanol 20 mL), and water (20 mL). The solution was kept at room temperature for 10 h. Then the precipitate was filtered and recristallized from ethanol to give 0.5 g of the title compound: mp 83-84.5 °C; IR 1350, 1530 (NO₂), 1670 (CO) cm⁻¹.

4-(N-Actylamino)-1-naphthyl Phenyl Ketone. 4-Nitro-1naphthyl phenyl ketone (0.5 g), acetic acid (50 mL), acetic anhydride (10 mL), and iron powder (3 g) were refluxed for 5 h. The solution was filtered and diluted with water; the product filtered and recrystallized from ethanol to give 0.3 g of the title compound, mp 158-161 °C (lit.²⁰ mp 159-161 °C).

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Registry No. 1a, 107-14-2; 1b, 5219-61-4; 1c, 61540-35-0; 1d, 35928-65-5; 1e, 3598-14-9; 2a, 1617-17-0; 2b, 33695-43-1; 3a, 70477-21-3; 3b, 89278-07-9; 4e, 32121-27-0; 4f, 89278-08-0; 4g, 72301-64-5; 4h, 13031-13-5; 5b, 17277-58-6; 5c, 27888-12-6; 6b, 63006-68-8; 6c, 89278-15-9; 7, 89278-16-0; C₆H₅NO₂, 98-95-3; 2-ClC₆H₄NO₂, 88-73-3; 3-ClC₆H₄NO₂, 121-73-3; 4-ClC₆H₄NO₂, 100-00-5; 2-FC6H4NO2, 1493-27-2; 4-FC6H4NO2, 350-46-9; 4-BuC₆H₄NO₂, 3282-56-2; 4-PhC₆H₄NO₂, 92-93-3; 2-MeOC₆H₄NO₂, 91-23-6; 4-PhCOC₆H₄NO₂, 1144-74-7; 2-O₂NC₆H₄CH₂CN, 610-66-2; 4-O₂NC₆H₄CH₂CN, 555-21-5; 3-Cl-2-O₂NC₆H₃CH₂CN, 77158-79-3; $3-Cl-4-O_2NC_6H_3CH_2CN$, 80199-01-5; $2-Cl-6-O_2NC_6H_3CH_2CN$, 4-O₂NČ₆H₄CH(CH₃)CN, 50712-63-5; 3-Cl-4-O₂NC₆H₃CH(CH₃)CN, 86981-07-9; 3-F-4-O₂NC₆H₃CH(CH₃)CN, 85397-18-8; 5-Cl-2-O2NC6H3CH(CH3)CN, 89278-01-3; 4-O2NC6H4CH(CN)CHMe2, 81310-40-9; 3-Cl-4-O2NC6H3CH(CN)CHMe2, 89278-02-4; 5-Cl-2- $O_2NC_6H_3CH(CN)CHMe_2$, 89278-03-5; 5-PhS-2- $O_2NC_6H_3CH_2CN$, 72301-69-0; 5-MeO-2-O2NC6H3CH2CN, 89302-15-8; 5-EtO-2-O2NC6H3CH2CN, 89278-04-6; 5-MeS-2-O2NC6H3CH2CN, 72301-70-3: $5 - t - Bu - 2 - O_2 NC_6 H_3 CH_2 CN$, 89278-05-7; 5-Ph-2-O2NC6H3CH2CN, 72301-68-9; 4-O2NC6H4CH(CN)SPh, 89278-06-8; 3-PhS-4-O₂NC₆H₃CH(CH₃)CN, 89278-14-8; 2-Cl-4-O₂NC₆H₃CH-(CN)CHMe₂, 89278-10-4; 3-MeO-4-O₂NC₆H₃CH(CN)CHMe₂, 89278-11-5; $4 \cdot O_2 NC_6 H_4 CH(Ph) CN$, 7599-05-5; $3 \cdot Cl \cdot 4 \cdot O_2 NC_6 H_3 CH(Ph) CN$, 89278-13-7; $4 \cdot O_2 NC_6 H_4 CH_2 CO_2 Me$, 2945- $5-Cl-2-O_2NC_6H_3CH_2CO_2Me$, 08-6: 22908-29-8: 4. O₂NC₆H₄CH₂CO₂Bu-t, 29704-38-9; 2-Cl-4-O₂NC₆H₃CH₂CO₂Bu-t, 89278-17-1; 5-PhS-2-O₂NC₆H₃CH₂CO₂Bu-t, 89278-19-3; 5-PhS-2-O₂NC₆H₃CH(SPh)CO₂Bu-t, 89278-20-6; 5-PhCO-2- $O_2NC_6H_3CH(SPh)CO_2Bu-t$, 89278-21-7; 5-Cl-2-O₂NC₆H₃CH₂CO₂Bu-t, 81327-28-8; 4-O₂NC₆H₄CH(CH₃)CO₂Bu-t, 89278-22-8; 2-Cl-4-O₂NC₆H₃CH(CH₃)CO₂Bu-t, 89278-23-9; 1nitronaphthalene, 86-57-7; 1-nitro-2-naphthylacetonitrile, 89278-00-2; 1-nitro-2-naphthylacetic acid, 89278-24-0; 4-nitro-1naphthylacetonitrile, 72301-67-8; 4-nitro-1-naphthylacetic acid, 89278-25-1; 2-(4-nitro-1-naphthyl)propionitrile, 89278-09-1; 2-(4-nitro-1-naphthyl)isovaleronitrile, 89278-12-6; α -(4-nitro-1naphthyl)phenylacetonitrile, 72301-66-7; tert-butyl (1-nitro-2naphthyl)acetate, 89278-18-2; 2-(1-nitro-2-naphthyl)propionitrile, 89278-26-2; 4-nitro-1-naphthyl phenyl ketone, 89278-27-3; 4-(Nacetylamino)-1-naphthyl phenyl ketone, 89278-28-4.

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