

Equilibrium Acidities and Homolytic Bond Dissociation Energies of the H-O Bonds in Oximes and Amidoximes

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The equilibrium acidities of 14 aldoximes, 4 amidoximes, and 19 ketoximes have been measured in DMSO solution. Homolytic bond dissociation energies (BDEs) for the O-H bonds in these oximes have been estimated by combining the pK_{HA} values thus obtained with the oxidation potentials of their conjugate bases. The acidities of the corresponding radical cations ($pK_{HA^{\cdot}}$) were estimated for 32 of these oximes by combining pK_{HA} , $E_{ox}(A^-)$, and $E_{ox}(HA)$. Homohydrogen bonding was observed to be as strong for oximes in DMSO as for phenols. The pK_{HA} values for *syn*-benzaloxime and acetaldoxime were found to be 20.2 and 28.5, respectively. Comparison of these values with those reported in water led to the conclusion that the pK_{HA} values reported in water for the oximes derived from acetaldehyde, acetone, and 3-pentanone and that for acetamidoxime are merely lower limits. The BDEs of the O-H bonds in acetaldoxime and *syn*-benzaloxime were estimated to be 6 and 14 kcal/mol lower, respectively, than those reported for the O-H bond in alcohols. The O-H bonds in most oximes were found to be in the range of 90 ± 2 kcal/mol; *anti*-benzaloximes were found to have BDEs about 2 kcal/mol lower than for *syn*-benzaloximes. The presence of α -dialkylamino groups in acetophenone oximes or β -dialkylamino groups in propiophenone oximes failed to evoke through-space electron transfer on oxidation of their anions, contrary to expectations based on a literature report.

Early acidity measurements by conductivity for benzaloxime and several ring-substituted benzaloximes showed that in aqueous solutions *syn*-benzaloximes were slightly more acidic than their *anti* isomers. (For *syn*- and *anti*-benzaloximes the pK_{HA} values reported were 10.68 and 11.33, respectively.¹) The acidities of the oximes of acetaldehyde, 3-pentanone, and acetone were determined some time later by measuring the hydroxide ion concentrations generated in reactions where the oximes were acting as acids.² The pK_{HA} values obtained for $Me_2C=NOH$ and $Et_2C=NOH$ were 12.42 and 12.60, respectively, and the pK_{HA} value for $CH_3CH=NOH$ at ionic strength, $\mu \approx 0.075$, agreed with a pK_{HA} value of 12.3 obtained earlier by another kinetic method. Kinetic methods were used because of the difficulty encountered in obtaining accurate pK_{HA} values in the 12-13 region by other methods.² A few years later Bell and Higginson estimated the pK_{HA} of acetaldoxime to be 12.42 by fitting the rate of the acetaldoxime-catalyzed dehydration of acetaldehyde hydrate to a linear $\log k$ vs pK_{HA} Brønsted plot constructed by using rate data for other weak acids for which the pK_{HA} values were known.³ To the best of our knowledge, no other determinations of pK_{HA} values for aliphatic aldoximes or ketoximes in water have appeared in the literature in the ensuing 42 years. Acetamidoxime, $CH_3C(NH_2)=NOH$, has been reported to have a pK_{HA} of 12.9 in aqueous solution,⁴ but no experimental information was given as to how this value was obtained. Kurtz and D'Silva have recently developed an equation to estimate pK_{HA} values for oximes in water based on these early pK_{HA} values and the NMR chemical shifts of the oximino proton in DMSO solution. They have estimated the pK_{HA} values for over 200 oximes in water in this way.^{5a}

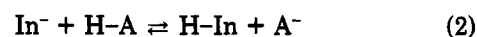
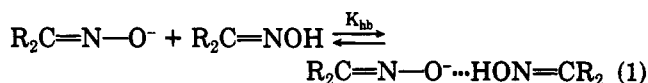
In view of the difficulties in making pK_{HA} measurements in the 12-13 aqueous region it seemed desirable to study the effect of structural changes on acidities of oximes and amidoximes in DMSO solution where a wider range of acidities could be examined. It was also of interest to make estimates of the homolytic bond dissociation energies (BDEs) of the O-H bonds in these oximes by measuring the oxidation potentials of their conjugate bases and also

to make estimates of the acidities of the corresponding radical cations. The only report of the BDE value for the O-H bonds in oximes of which we are aware is an approximate value of 86 kcal/mol.⁶ No information appears to be available as to the acidities of the corresponding radical cations.

Results and Discussion

Equilibrium Acidities of Aldoximes, Ketoximes, and Amidoximes. The equilibrium acidities in DMSO of representative oximes are shown in Table I.

Oximes, like most weak oxygen acids, undergo homohydrogen bonding with their conjugate bases in DMSO solution (eq 1). Homo-H-bonding interferes with pK_{HA}



determinations by the overlapping indicator method because eq 2 is perturbed during the titration. This effect can be minimized, however, by keeping the ratio of $[A^-]/[HA]$ near unity,^{7a} and the measurements in Table I were made in this way. We have also made measurements for a few oximes under conditions where the $[A^-]/[HA]$ ratio was varied so as to allow calculations of the K_{hb} constants. The values of $\log K_{hb}$ obtained were 2.5 for $Ph_2C=NOH$, 3.45 for $CH_3CH_2CH=NOH$, 3.24 for cyclohexanone oxime, and 4.26 for $CH_3COCH=NOH$. No ion pairing^{7b} was observed between oximide ions and K^+

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Table I. Equilibrium Acidities of Aldoximes, Ketoximes, and Amidoximes in DMSO

oxime	HIn ^a	pK _{HIn}	pK _{HA}	pK _{HA} ^(avg)
C ₆ H ₅ CH=NOH syn	2NPANH	20.66	20.21 ± 0.01 20.20 ± 0.01	20.2 ± 0.01
	anti	2NPANH	20.66 20.28 ± 0.04 20.29 ± 0.05	
<i>p</i> -MeC ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH syn	2NPANH	20.66	20.56 ± 0.01 20.54 ± 0.01	20.55 ± 0.01
	anti	2NPANH	20.66 20.65 ± 0.01 20.63 ± 0.01	
<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH syn	2NPANH	20.66	20.80 ± 0.01	20.80 ± 0.01
	anti	2NPANH	20.66 20.73 ± 0.02 20.71 ± 0.05	
<i>m</i> -NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH syn	Ph ₂ CHCN ^b	17.5	17.73 ± 0.02 17.73 ± 0.01	17.73 ± 0.02
	anti	Ph ₂ CHCN ^b	17.5 17.59 ± 0.01 17.61 ± 0.01	
<i>p</i> -NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH syn	Ph ₂ CHCN ^b	17.5	17.02 ± 0.03 17.00 ± 0.01	17.01 ± 0.03
			20.49 ± 0.01 20.48 ± 0.01	
PhCH=CHCH=NOH	2NPANH	20.66	20.48 ± 0.01	20.48 ± 0.01
PhCOCH=NOH	PhSFH	15.4	14.90 ± 0.03	14.9 ± 0.05
CH ₃ COCH=NOH	PhSFH	15.4	14.83 ± 0.05 15.19 ± 0.14 15.10 ± 0.10	15.1 ± 0.14
Ph ₂ C=NOH				20.1 ± 0.01 ^c
Fl=NOH				16.2 ± 0.01 ^c
2,7-diBrFl=NOH				14.0 ^c
2-PhSO ₂ Fl=NOH				14.2 ± 0.01 ^c
PhC(CH ₃)=NOH syn	2NPANH	20.66	21.18 ± 0.03 21.16 ± 0.01	21.17 ± 0.02
	anti	2NPANH	20.66 21.65 ± 0.03 21.77 ± 0.02	
Et ₂ C=NOH	FH	22.6	21.91 ± 0.01 21.94 ± 0.04	21.7 21.8 ± 0.15
	(PhCH ₂) ₂ C=NOH	FH	22.6 22.58 ± 0.04 22.52 ± 0.05	
(PhCH ₂) ₂ C=NOMe	PXH	27.9	27.80 ± 0.01 27.81 ± 0.02	22.55 ± 0.05
	PMPXH	28.43	27.76 ± 0.02 27.78 ± 0.02	
cyclohexanone oxime	9- <i>t</i> -BuFH	24.3	24.26 ± 0.05 24.28 ± 0.06	24.27 ± 0.06
cyclododecanone oxime	TP2H	25.6	25.04 ± 0.01 24.98 ± 0.05	25.0 ± 0.04
Et ₂ C=NOH	HB1	26.1	24.69 ± 0.03	25.2 ± 0.15
	TP2H	25.6	25.14 ± 0.04 25.24 ± 0.08	
Me ₂ C=NOH	TP2H	25.6	25.35 ± 0.04 26.02 ± 0.05 25.97 ± 0.07	26.0 ± 0.15
	HB1	26.1	26.25 ± 0.04	
CH ₃ CH=NOH (syn-anti mixture)	PMPXH	28.43	25.91 ± 0.07 28.52 ± 0.01 28.54 ± 0.02	28.48 ± 0.06
	PXH	27.90	28.42 ± 0.04 28.42 ± 0.03	
CH ₃ CH ₂ CH=NOH (syn-anti mixture)	PMPXH	28.43	28.79 ± 0.03 28.77 ± 0.02 28.80 ± 0.07	28.80 ± 0.03
			25.81 ± 0.01 25.82 ± 0.01	
CH ₃ C=NOH NH ₂	MCLPXH	26.6	25.82 ± 0.02 25.84 ± 0.02	25.82 ± 0.02
	TP2H	25.6	25.80 ± 0.02	
PhC=NOH NH ₂	HB1	26.1	25.80 ± 0.02	25.82 ± 0.02
	TBUFH	24.35	22.93 ± 0.02 23.05 ± 0.02 22.97 ± 0.04	
PhC=NOMe NH ₂	FH	22.6	23.08 ± 0.05 23.03 ± 0.04	23.0 ± 0.06
	MCLPXH	26.6	25.92 ± 0.01	
	TP2H	25.6	25.98 ± 0.02 26.02 ± 0.02	26.0 ± 0.05

Table I (Continued)

oxime	HIIn ^c	pK _{HIIn}	pK _{HA}	pK _{HA} ^(avg)
HC(NH ₂)=NOH	TP2H	25.6	25.58 ± 0.03 25.63 ± 0.02	25.61 ± 0.04
	TBUFH	24.35	23.80 ± 0.04 23.843 ± 0.01	23.82 ± 0.04
	2NPANH	20.66	20.53 ± 0.01 20.51 ± 0.02	20.52 ± 0.01
	2NPANH	20.66	21.03 ± 0.02 20.97 ± 0.01	21.00 ± 0.04
	2NPANH	20.66	20.94 ± 0.01 20.99 ± 0.03	20.96 ± 0.04
	2NPANH	20.66	20.15 ± 0.05 20.14 ± 0.04	20.15 ± 0.01
	2NPANH	20.66	20.80 ± 0.02 20.79 ± 0.01	20.80 ± 0.01
	CNAH	18.9	18.90 ± 0.02 18.88 ± 0.02	18.89 ± 0.02

^a Indicators: 2NPANH, 2-naphthylacetone; CNAH, 4-chloro-2-nitroaniline; PhSFl, 9-(phenylthio)fluorene; FH, fluorene; PXH, 9-phenylxanthene, PMPXH, 9-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)xanthene; 9-*t*-BuFH, 9-*tert*-butylfluorene; TP2H, 1,3,3-triphenylpropene; HBl, iminostilbene; MCLPXH, 9-(*m*-chlorophenyl)xanthene. ^b CH₃SOCH₂K quenched with (PhCH₂)₂SO₂ to prevent electron transfer. ^c Measured by C. A. Wilson.

or even with Li⁺ under the conditions of the pK_{HA} measurements.

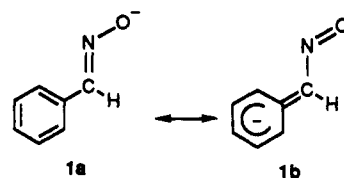
Examination of Table I shows that *syn*- and *anti*-benzaldoximes have nearly the same acidities, contrary to the finding in aqueous solution where the *anti* isomers are less acidic. The lower acidity of the *anti* isomer in aqueous solution is probably due to steric inhibition of solvation of the strongly hydrogen-bonded oxide ion by the phenyl group, a factor that is absent in DMSO. The essential identity of the acidities of the *syn* and *anti* isomers in DMSO made us wonder whether isomerization was occurring during our pK_{HA} determinations, but NMR experiments ruled out this possibility (see the Experimental Section).

The substituent effects on the acidities of the benzaldoximes are for the most part small because the substituents are relatively far from the acidic site.

In aqueous solution the pK_{HA} values for the oximes derived from aliphatic ketones have been reported to be only about 1 pK_{HA} unit higher than that of benzaldoxime, but in DMSO solution we find differences of 4–6 pK_{HA} units. Also, our pK_{HA} value in DMSO for acetaldoxime is 8.5 units higher than for benzaldoxime, whereas that reported in aqueous solution is only about 1 unit higher. The pK_{HA} value in DMSO for *syn*-benzaldoxime is 9.4 units higher than that in water, which agrees reasonably well with the 8 unit higher pK_{HA} value for phenol in DMSO than in water. (The higher acidities in water are due to strong stabilization of the oxide anions by hydrogen bonding. DMSO is a good H-bond acceptor, but does not act as an H-bond donor.) The differences between the pK_{HA} values in DMSO and the *apparent* pK_{HA} values in H₂O for benzaldehyde, 3-pentanone, acetone, and acetaldehyde oximes become progressively larger as the pK_{HA} values in DMSO increase. They are higher in DMSO than H₂O by 12.9, 17.3, 18.6, and 22 kcal, respectively. In view of the difficulties in measuring pK_{HA} values above 12 in water,² we interpret the increasing differences to mean that the pK_{HA} values reported in water above 12 are merely lower limits and that the true values are much higher. If we take the difference of about 13 kcal (9.4 pK_{HA} units) between pK_{HA} of *syn*-benzaldoxime in H₂O and DMSO as

a bench mark, the pK_{HA} values in water estimated for the oximes of 3-pentanone, acetone, and acetaldehyde from the pK_{HA} values in DMSO would be about 15.5, 16.5, and 19, respectively. Since the equation used by Kurtz and D'Silva was anchored, in part, on oxime pK_{HA}s presumed to be in the 12–13 region,^{5a} their estimates of acidities need to be revised.

The 8.5 pK_{HA} unit difference between the acidity of acetaldoxime and benzaldoxime in DMSO points to appreciable delocalization of the negative charge in the benzaldoximide ion into the benzene ring (1a ↔ 1b). Similar stabilization of the anions derived from the oximes of acetophenone, cinnamaldehyde, benzophenone, etc. accounts for the higher acidities of most of the other oximes in Table I bearing a phenyl ring.



The pK_{HA} values of the aldoximes wherein the phenyl group in benzaldoxime has been replaced by PhCO or CH₃CO are about 5 pK_{HA} units lower because of the more effective delocalization of the negative charge in the anion by the carbonyl group than by the phenyl group. The pK_{HA}s for CH₃COCH=NOH and PhCOCH=NOH have each been reported to be 8.3 in aqueous solution.^{5b} This is 2.4 units lower than the pK_{HA} of *syn*-PhCH=NOH. A test for ion pairing with K⁺ in DMSO for PhCOCH=NO⁻ ion was negative, so the smaller difference in H₂O must be due to a solvent effect.

The two phenyl groups in the Ph₂C=NO⁻ ion are no better than the one in the benzaldoximide ion at delocalizing the charge in the anion, but the fluorene ring is as effective as a carbonyl group in this respect because of the stabilization provided by the 14 π electron fluorenyl moiety.

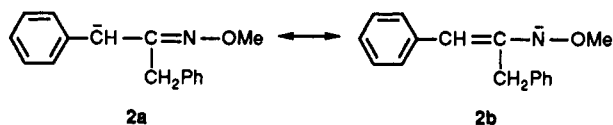
The *O*-methyl derivative of the oxime of dibenzyl ketone (2) is less acidic than the parent oxime by over 5 pK_{HA} units because a change from an O–H to a C–H acid has

Table II. Homolytic Bond Dissociation Energies and Radical Cation Acidities of Oximes

no.	oxime	pK_{HA}^a	$E_{ox}(A^-)^b$	$E_{ox}(HA)^b$	BDE ^c	pK_{HA}^{+d}
1	CH ₃ CH=NOH	28.5	-0.613 (107)	1.104 (235)	98.2	-0.4
2	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH=NOH	28.8	-0.635 (84)	1.083 (160)	98.1	-0.12
3	Me ₂ C=NOH	26.0	-0.569 (108)	1.984 (112)	95.8	-17
4	Et ₂ C=NOH	25.2	-0.673 (83)	1.856 (191)	92.3	-17
5	(PhCH ₂) ₂ C=NOH	22.5	-0.653 (60)		89.1	
6	c-C ₆ H ₁₀ C=NOH	24.2	-0.700		90.3	
7	c-C ₁₁ H ₂₂ C=NOH	25.0	-0.749	1.753	90.3	-17
8a	<i>syn</i> -PhCH=NOH	20.2	-0.342 (54)	1.663	90.2	-13
8b	<i>anti</i> -PhCH=NOH	20.3	-0.422 (54)	1.620	86.9	-15
9a	<i>syn-p</i> -MeC ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH	20.55	-0.395 (107)	1.448	89.0	-11
9b	<i>anti-p</i> -MeC ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH	20.64	-0.529 (107)	1.432	86.5	-12
10a	<i>syn-p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH	20.8	-0.527 (67)	0.667 (155)	89.9	0.7
10b	<i>anti-p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH	20.7	-0.616 (60)	0.616 (107)	87.5	0.1
11a	<i>syn-m</i> -NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH	17.7	-0.390 (71)	1.937 (143)	88.6	-21
11b	<i>anti-m</i> -NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH	17.6	-0.521 (71)	1.893 (143)	86.9	-22
12	<i>syn-p</i> -NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ CH=NOH	17.0	-0.371 (66)	1.956 (172)	88.0	-22
13	<i>syn</i> -PhCH=CHCH=NOH	20.48	-0.555 (66)		88.6	
14a	<i>syn</i> -CH ₃ C(Ph)=NOH	21.17	-0.485 (72)	1.558	91.1	-13
14b	<i>anti</i> -CH ₃ C(Ph)=NOH	21.8	-0.521 (72)	1.526	91.2	-13
15	<i>anti-p</i> -MeC ₆ H ₄ SCH ₂ C(Ph)=NOH	18.89	-0.425 (72)	1.008	89.4	-5.2
16	Ph ₂ C=NOH	20.1	-0.525		89.0	
17	Fl=NOH	16.2	-0.347		87.5	
18	2,7-diBrFl=NOH	14.0	-0.125 (48)	1.583	89.6	-13
19	2-PhSO ₂ Fl=NOH	14.2	-0.192	1.807	89.0	-17
20	CH ₃ COCH=NOH	15.1	-0.192 (60)	1.526	89.6	-14
21	PhCOCH=NOH	14.9	-0.210 (60)	1.510	88.9	-14

^a See Table I. ^b Irreversible oxidation potentials measured in DMSO by cyclic voltammetry using platinum working and auxiliary electrodes and a Ag/AgI reference electrode with 0.1 M Et₄N⁺BF₄⁻ electrolyte and Fc/Fc⁺ as a standard. Wave widths are given in parentheses. Potentials more positive than 0.7 V were measured in MeCN solution. ^c Calculated using eq 3. The oxidation potentials are reported relative to the ferrocene/ferrocenium couple, rather than to the standard hydrogen electrode, as was done in our earlier papers on BDEs and pK_{HA}^{+} values. This results in a shift of 0.750 V to more negative potentials and a change in the value of *C* in eq 3 from 56 to 73.3 kcal/mol; the reasons for making this change are given in ref 9b. Reference 9b contains examples of 31 compounds where BDEs have been established by this method to ± 2 kcal/mol, or better. ^d Calculated using eq 4, with $E_{ox}(A^-)$ and $E_{ox}(HA)$ referenced to Ag/AgI, i.e., with 0.750 V added to each potential.

been made. The acidity of this C-H acid depends on charge delocalization into the phenyl ring and allylic-type resonance (2b). Delocalization of the charge as in 2b is



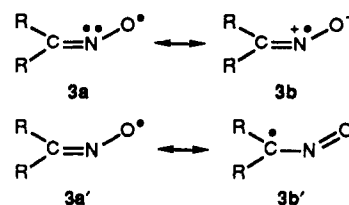
evidently far less effective at stabilizing the anion than delocalization of the charge in the anion of the corresponding ketone where the charge can reside on oxygen, since the latter is more acidic than 2b by 12.5 kcal.^{8a}

Acetamidoxime, CH₃C(NH₂)=NOH, has a pK_{HA} value in DMSO of 25.8, which is close to that of acetamide (25.5),^{8b} and the pK_{HA} of benzamidoxime (23.0) is close to that of benzamide (23.35). Nevertheless, the amidoximes are O-H acids, not N-H acids, as is brought out by the appreciably higher pK_{HA} of benzamidoxime *O*-methyl derivative (26.0). The latter has a pK_{HA} in DMSO close to that of benzamidine, PhC(NH₂)=NH (26.7).^{9a} If we assume that the acidity of acetamidoxime will be about 9.5 pK_{HA} units lower in water than in DMSO (see above) its aqueous pK_{HA} value will be about 16, instead of the value of 12.9 reported earlier.⁴

Electronegativity Effects in Hetero-Allylic-Type Radicals on RSEs (kcal/mol will be abbreviated as kcal). In an earlier paper we presented evidence to support the postulate^{11a} that radical stabilization energies (RSEs) for hetero-allylic-type radicals decrease dramatically as the electronegativities of the terminal atoms increase from

carbon in C=C-C[•] (RSE = 18 kcal^{10a}) to nitrogen in N=C(Ph)-N[•] (5 kcal) to oxygen in O=C(Ph)-O[•] (0 kcal).^{11b} The nature of the substituent in N=C(R)-N[•] when changed from R = Ph to R = Me had little or no effect on the RSE, which is not surprising since the central atom in an allylic system is a position of low electron density. On the other hand, when R in the allylic-type radical, O=C(Ph)CHR, is on the terminal carbon, a change from H to Me caused a 5 kcal increase in RSE, and a change from H to Ph caused the RSE to increase by 10 kcal.^{8a}

Aldoximes and Ketoximes. The radicals derived by homolytic cleavage of the H-O bond in oximes differ from the allylic-type radicals examined earlier in having nitrogen as the central atom. The BDEs of the H-O bonds in both acetaldoxime and propionaldoxime (entries 1 and 2 in Table II) are each 98 kcal. The Δ BDEs, relative to that of the H-O bond in alcohols (104 kcal^{10b}) give the RSEs as 6 kcal. This extra stabilization of the radical could possibly come from delocalization involving the lone pair on nitrogen, as in 3a \leftrightarrow 3b, or alternatively the oxygen



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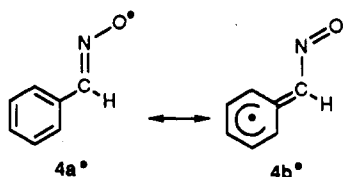
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Table III. Homolytic Bond Dissociation Energies of the H-O Bonds in α - and β -Dialkylamine Ketoximes

no.	oxime	pK_{HA}^a	$E_{ox}(A^-)^b$	$E_{ox}(HA)^b$	BDE ^c	pK_{HA}^{**d}
1	Et ₂ NCH ₂ C(CH ₃)=NOH	23.82	-0.632 (95)	0.577 (104)	91.4	3.5
2	anti-Me ₂ NCH ₂ C(CH ₃)=NOH	23.5	-0.587 (71)	0.603 (125)	92.0	3.5
3	syn-Me ₂ NCH ₂ C(Ph)=NOH	20.52	-0.562 (60)	0.547 (205)	88.5	1.9
4	anti-Me ₂ NCH ₂ C(Ph)=NOH	21.00	-0.626 (83)	0.577 (105)	87.6	0.8
5	syn-(c-OC ₄ H ₉ N)CH ₂ C(Ph)=NOH	20.15	-0.533 (80)	0.720 (120)	88.6	-0.9
6	anti-(c-OC ₄ H ₉ N)CH ₂ C(Ph)=NOH	20.80	-0.551 (112)	0.734 (115)	89.1	-0.8
7	syn-Me ₂ NCH ₂ CH ₂ C(Ph)=NOH	20.96	-0.578 (48)	0.497 (85)	88.7	2.9

^a See Table I. ^b Irreversible oxidation potentials measured in DMSO by cyclic voltammetry using platinum working and auxiliary electrodes and a Ag/AgI reference electrode with 0.1 M Et₄N⁺BF₄⁻ electrolyte and Fc/Fc⁺ as a standard. Wave widths are given in parentheses. ^c Calculated using eq 3. The oxidation potentials are reported relative to the ferrocene/ferrocenium couple, rather than to the standard hydrogen electrode, as was done in our earlier papers on BDEs and pK_{HA}^{**} values.^{9b} This results in a shift of 0.750 V to more negative potentials, and a change in the value of *C* in eq 3 from 56 to 73.3 kcal/mol; the reasons for making this change are given in ref 9b. Reference 9b contains examples of 31 compounds where BDEs have been established by this method to ± 2 kcal/mol or better. ^d Calculated using eq 4.

atom bearing the odd electron could align itself parallel to the π system, and the donor properties of the Me (or Et) group could be used for stabilization 3a' \leftrightarrow 3b'). (In any event the resonance energy in the parent C=N-O[•] radical, where nitrogen is the central atom, appears to be small.) The increased RSEs observed for aliphatic ketoximes (entries 3-7), relative to acetaldoxime, are evidence that the latter is the better representation. This view is strongly supported by the 9-11 kcal increase in RSE for benzaldoxime (entries 8a and 8b) compared to acetaldoxime, which is best accounted for by the increased possibility for delocalization of the odd electron into the Ph ring.



The relatively high acidity of benzaldoxime (Table I) points to a structure for the benzaldoxime anion in which there is overlap between the oxide anion and the benzene ring, as shown in 1b. Loss of an electron will naturally lead to a radical wherein there is overlap of the odd electron with the benzene ring (4a' \leftrightarrow 4b'). The (less stable) anti-benzaldoxime isomers have H-O BDEs that are about 2 kcal lower than those of the syn isomers in the four anti-syn pairs (entries 8-11 in Table II).

Examination of eq 3 reveals that, since the pK_{HA} values in DMSO are nearly the same for syn and anti isomers, the lower BDEs for the anti isomers must arise from more negative $E_{ox}(A^-)$ values. The greater ease of oxidation of the anti isomer is probably associated with a higher ground-state energy and smaller degree of solvation in a more congested oxide ion, but, if so, it is surprising that the anti isomers do not have higher pK_{HA} values, as is true in water.

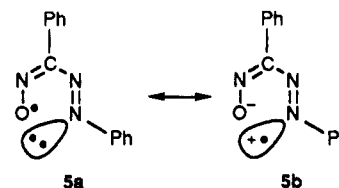
$$\text{BDE} = 1.37pK_{HA} + 23.06E_{ox}(A^-) + C \quad (3)$$

Remote substituents in benzaldoximes have small effects on anion stabilities, as judged by pK_{HA} values, and usually have small effects on radical stabilities,^{11c} so the failure of the para substituents to have much effect on the BDEs of benzaldoximes is not surprising.

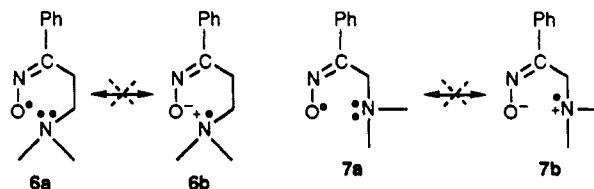
Replacement of the =CH hydrogen in PhCH=NOH by Me to give PhC(Me)=NOH (entries 14a and 14b) causes a small increase in BDE attributable to steric inhibition of resonance. Similar effects in other oximes where Ph is part of the function (entries 8-12 and 14-20) cause the BDEs to fall in the range 89 ± 2 kcal. Aldoximes in which PhCH=CH, PhCO, or CH₃CO have replaced the Me

group of acetaldoxime (entries 13, 20, and 21) also fall in this range.

α - and β -Dialkylamino Ketoximes. The BDEs of the H-O bonds in oximes derived from a number of α - and β -(dialkylamino)alkyl ketones have been included in this study (Table III) in order to test for through-space stabilization of the imidoxyl radicals by electron transfer from the dialkylamino groups. A report of detecting a through-space interaction of this type for 5a \leftrightarrow 5b by ESR made such a phenomenon appear likely.^{12a}



One would expect at least analogous through-space electron transfer in 6a \leftrightarrow 6b and/or 7a \leftrightarrow 7b because dialkylamino groups are much better donors than the PhN=N moiety. If intramolecular electron transfer oc-



curs one would expect to find a lowering of the BDE of the H-O bond in the corresponding oxime. Examination of Table III shows, however, that the BDEs of the H-O bonds in the syn isomers, where the H-O bond is on the same side as the dialkylamino group, are within experimental error (± 2 kcal) of those of the anti isomers.

Amidoximes and Related Compounds. In an earlier section we have seen that the RSE of the allylic-type radical, C=N-O[•], is small, but that attachment of groups such as Me, Ph, PhCH=CH, or RCO at carbon produces a sizable increase in RSE, presumably because of the ability of these groups to delocalize the odd electron. Amidoximes are of interest in this respect because they allow the effect on BDE of attaching an amino group to carbon to be tested. Formamidoxime has been shown by X-ray crystallography to be a planar molecule with a C-NH₂ distance of 1.33 Å, i.e., close to that of the C=N bond (1.30 Å).^{12b} The similarity in these bond distances indicates extensive delocalization of the nitrogen lone pair

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Table IV. Homolytic Bond Dissociation Energies for the Acidic Bonds in Amidoximes and Related Molecules

no.	oxime	p <i>K</i> _{HA} ^a	<i>E</i> _{ox} (A ⁻) ^b	<i>E</i> _{ox} (HA) ^b	BDE ^c	p <i>K</i> _{HA} ^{++d}
	HC(NH ₂)=NOH	25.6	-0.850 (95)	0.757 (200)	88.8	1.6
	CH ₃ C(NH ₂)=NOH	25.8	-0.951 (84)	0.460 (120)	86.7	4.2
	PhC(NH ₂)=NOH	23.0	-0.776 (96)	0.595 (90)	86.9	2.0
	PhC(NH ₂)=NOMe	26.0	-0.607 (48)	0.685	94.9	-4.3
	PhC(NH ₂)=NH	26.7	-0.348	1.272	102	-0.6
	PhC(NHNMe ₂)=NPh	22.9	-0.867 (60)	0.753	84.7	8.3
	(PhCH ₂) ₂ C=NOH	27.8	-1.235 (62)		82.9	
	(PhCH ₂) ₂ C=O	18.7	-0.720		82.3	

^a See Table I. ^b Irreversible oxidation potentials measured in DMSO by cyclic voltammetry using platinum working and auxiliary electrodes and a Ag/AgI reference electrode with 0.1 M Et₄N⁺BF₄⁻ electrolyte and Fc/Fc⁺ as a standard. Wave widths are given in parentheses. ^c Calculated using eq 3. The oxidation potentials are reported relative to the ferrocene/ferrocenium couple, rather than to the standard hydrogen electrode, as was done in our earlier papers on BDEs and p*K*_{HA}⁺⁺ values.^{9b} This results in a shift of 0.750 V to more negative potentials and a change in the value of C in eq 3 from 56 to 73.3 kcal/mol; the reasons for making this change are given in ref 9b. Reference 9b contains examples of 31 compounds where BDEs have been established by this method to be ±2 kcal/mol, or better. ^d Calculated using eq 4.

Table V. Melting Points and ¹H NMR Spectra of Oximes

oxime	mp, °C	lit. mp, °C	ref	¹ H NMR CDCl ₃ (δ)
<i>anti-p</i> -methylbenzaldoxime	121-122	122-124	14	
<i>syn</i> -acetophenone oxime	57-58	59	15	7.73-7.41 (m, 5 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H)
<i>anti</i> -acetophenone oxime	79-81	81-82	16	
<i>syn-m</i> -nitrobenzaldoxime	120-121	121-123	17	8.5 (m, 1 H), 8.33-8.38 (m, 2 H), 8.00-7.55 (m, 3 H)
<i>anti-m</i> -nitrobenzaldoxime	90-91			8.4 (m, 1 H), 8.25-8.17 (m, 2 H), 7.93-7.47 (m, 3H)
<i>syn-p</i> -methoxybenzaldoxime	64-65	65	17	8.07 (s, 1 H), 7.53-6.78 (q, 4 H), 3.80 (s, 3 H)
<i>anti-p</i> -methoxybenzaldoxime	73-74			8.07 (s, 1 H), 7.57-6.82 (q, 1 H), 3.80 (s, 3 H)
<i>anti-α</i> -(dimethylamino)acetone	97-97.5	98-98.5	18	8.27 (b, 1 H), 2.95 (s, 2 H), 2.23 (s, 6 H), 1.93 (s, 3 H)
<i>anti-α</i> -(diethylamino)acetone	44-45	40	19	2.97 (s, 2 H), 2.42 (q, 4 H), 1.86 (s, 3 H), 0.95 (t, 6 H)
<i>anti-α</i> -(dimethylamino)acetophenone	87-89	80-83	19	7.7-7.37 (m, 5 H), 3.40 (s, 2 H), 2.30 (s, 6 H)
<i>syn-α</i> -(dimethylamino)acetophenone	118-120	117-119	20	7.72-7.60 (m, 2 H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 3 H), 3.75 (s, 2 H), 2.42 (s, 6 H)
<i>syn-β</i> -(dimethylamino)propionophenone	106-108	108	21	7.67-7.57 (m, 2 H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 3 H), 3.03-2.90 (m, 2 H), 2.6-2.5 (m, 2 H), 2.33 (s, 6 H)
<i>syn-α</i> -morpholinoacetophenone	140-141	146-149	3	7.67-7.3 (m, 5 H), 3.77 (m, 6 H), 2.67-2.53 (m, 4 H)
<i>anti-α</i> -morpholinoacetophenone	115-117	116-120	20	7.67-7.43 (m, 5 H), 3.70 (m, 4 H), 3.35 (s, 2 H), 2.52 (m, 4 H)
<i>anti-α</i> -(<i>p</i> -tolylthio)acetophenone	80-82	84-85	3	7.7-7.0 (m, 9 H), 4.18 (s, 2 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H)
propionaldoxime	bp 130-134	131.5	23	9.70 (s, 1 H), 7.20 (dt, 1 H), 2.33 (m, 2 H), 1.10 (t, 3 H)
<i>syn-p</i> -nitrobenzaldoxime	128-130	129	17	8.32 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (m, 2 H), 7.78 (s, 2 H), 7.68 (s, 1 H)
dibenzyl ketone oxime	118-120	122	24	8.13 (br, 1 H), 7.27 (m, 10 H), 3.67 (s, 4 H), 3.43 (s, 4 H)
<i>O</i> -methyl-dibenzyl ketone oxime	bp 130-134 (0.4 mm)	100-110 (3 mm)	25	7.23 (m, 10 H), 3.93 (s, 3 H), 3.55 (s, 4 H), 3.38 (s, 4 H)
1,1-dimethyl-2-(<i>N</i> -phenylbenzimidoyl)-hydrazine	69-71	71-72.5	26	

within the π system. We can expect similar delocalization to occur in the radical. Examination of the first entries in Table IV shows that the BDE of the H-O bond in formamidoxime is 88.8 kcal, which leads to a RSE of 15 kcal when compared to that of the H-O bond in an alcohol (104 kcal^{10b}). (For comparison, the RSE of the H₂N-C(Ph)=O radical is ~22 kcal.^{9c}) The presence of a Me or Ph group at the central carbon atom in entries 2 and 3 causes a further increase of about 2 kcal in RSE.

The BDE of the H-N bond of benzamidoxime *O*-methyl ether (entry 4) is 95 kcal, which leads to an RSE for the corresponding radical of 12 kcal (assuming a BDE = 107 kcal for the H-N bond in NH₂). The RSE of the radical derived by removing a hydrogen atom from the NH₂ group of PhC(NH₂)=NH is only 5 kcal,^{9a} which indicates that the stabilizing effect of the MeO group on the N=C-N[•] radical is worth about 7 kcal. A similar analysis of entry 6 shows that the Me₂N and Ph groups at the termini of the N=C-N[•] radical increases the RSE to 20 kcal. The RSE of the PhC-C=N-OMe radical formed from entry 7 by breaking the benzylic H-C bond is 22 kcal (relative) to the H-C bond of 105 kcal in CH₃-H). This combined effect of the Ph and OMe groups at the termini is about equal to the effect of Ph alone on the RSE of the Ph-C-C=O radical derived from entry 8.

Radical Cation Acidities. Estimates of radical cation acidities are also given in Table II. The acidities of radical cations are usually dictated primarily by the size of the

*E*_{OX}(HA) term in eq 4. Molecules with *E*_{OX}(HA) values above 1.7 V vs Ag/AgI cannot be measured in DMSO because of solvent oxidation, but the *E*_{OX}(HA) values can be measured in MeCN. This allows p*K*_{HA}⁺ values to be estimated since the potentials in the two solvents below 1.7 V usually do not differ greatly, but such values are subject to an additional uncertainty.

$$pK_{HA^{++}} = pK_{HA} + [E_{ox}(A^-) - E_{OX}(HA)]23.06/1.37 \quad (4)$$

Examination of Table II shows that the radical cations derived from benzaldoxime and the oximes of acetophenone, aliphatic ketones, fluorenones and the like have p*K*_{HA}⁺ values in the -11 to -17 region. The presence of a *p*-MeO group in benzaldoxime decreases the acidity of the radical cation dramatically, and a *m*- or *p*-NO₂ group has the opposite effect. Acetaldoxime and propionaldoxime have higher p*K*_{HA} values and appreciably lower *E*_{OX}(HA) values than other oximes. This combination leads to higher radical cation acidities.

The presence of an amino function in the oxime provides a site for stabilizing the radical cation and decreases its acidity markedly. Similar effects of structural changes on radical cation acidities have been reported in earlier papers from this laboratory.

Conclusions

The p*K*_a values for aliphatic aldoximes and ketoximes obtained in aqueous solutions by kinetic methods are

shown to be merely lower limits. Measurements in DMSO predict that the values in water should be higher by about 3–6.5 pK_a units. The inherent resonance energy of the parent iminoxyl radical, H₂C=N–O•, is judged to be small, but when one (or both) of the hydrogen atoms is (are) replaced by Me, Ph, PhCO, or NH₂, the radical stabilization energy (RSE) is increased by 5–15 kcal. Similarly, the RSE of the N=C–N• radical, which is inherently ca. 5 kcal, is increased to ca. 12 kcal by attachment of a MeO group at one of the termini and to ca. 20 kcal when Me₂N and Ph groups are present at the termini.

Experimental Section

The oximes were obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co. and purified by crystallization or were prepared by the general method of Vogel¹³ or by literature methods.

anti-Benzaldoxime was prepared from *syn*-benzaldoxime (Aldrich) by acidifying the salt of hydrogen chloride according to the method of Vogel.¹³ Initial attempts were unsuccessful, but repetition of the procedure using *recovered syn*-benzaldoxime proved successful; mp 127 °C (lit.¹³ mp 128–130 °C). Melting points for representative oximes are compared with literature mps in Table V. NMR resonances are listed for oximes where this information is lacking in the literature.

Tests of the Stability of *anti*- and *syn*-Benzaldoximes in Basic DMSO Solution. A 50–100-mg sample of *anti*-oxime dissolved in 0.16 mL of DMSO-*d*₆ gave a sharp signal at δ 10.58 for the OH proton in a ¹H NMR spectrum. Addition of 3 drops of ~200 mM CH₃SOCH₂K, an excess, caused this peak to disappear completely, but addition of 50 mg of 9-PhS-fluorene (pK_{HA} = 15.4) caused the peak to reappear. Repetition of this experiment with the *syn* isomer showed that its proton at δ 11.6 exhibited the same behavior. These experiments show that no rearrangement of the *syn* or *anti* isomers occurs during the pK_{HA} measurements.

Acknowledgment is made to Craig A. Wilson for pK_{HA} measurements for cyclohexanone, benzophenone, and fluorenone oximes. This work was sponsored by the National Science Foundation. We thank the Gaylord Chemical Corp., P. O. Box 1209, Slidell, LA 70459-1209 for a generous gift of DMSO.

Registry No. *syn*-C₆H₅CH=NOH, 622-32-2; *anti*-C₆H₅CH=NOH, 622-31-1; *syn-p*-MeC₆H₄CH=NOH, 3717-16-6; *anti-p*-

MeC₆H₄CH=NOH, 3717-15-5; *syn-p*-MeOC₆H₄CH=NOH, 3717-22-4; *anti-p*-MeOC₆H₄CH=NOH, 3717-21-3; *syn-m*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NOH, 3717-20-2; *anti-m*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NOH, 3717-19-9; *syn-p*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NOH, 3717-20-2; PhCH=CHCH=NOH, 13372-81-1; PhCOCH=NOH, 532-54-7; CH₃COCH=NOH, 306-44-5; Ph₂C=NOH, 574-66-3; FI=NOH, 2157-52-0; 2,7-diBrFI=NOH, 139895-34-4; 2-PhSO₂FI=NOH, 139895-35-5; *syn*-PhC(CH₃)=NOH, 50314-86-8; *anti*-PhC(CH₃)=NOH, 10341-75-0; (PhCH₂)₂C=NOH, 1788-31-4; (PhCH₂)₂C=NOMe, 2913-02-2; Et₂C=NOH, 1188-11-0; Me₂C=NOH, 127-06-0; *syn*-CH₃CH=NOH, 5775-72-4; *anti*-CH₃CH=NOH, 5780-37-0; *syn*-CH₂CH₂CH=NOH, 22067-09-0; *anti*-CH₂CH₂CH=NOH, 22042-15-5; CH₃C(NH₂)=NOH, 22059-22-9; PhC(NH₂)=NOH, 613-92-3; PhC(NH₂)=NOMe, 4424-16-2; HC(NH₂)=NOH, 624-82-8; *anti*-Et₂NCH₂C(CH₃)=NOH, 139895-36-6; *syn*-Me₂NCH₂C(Ph)=NOH, 65986-58-5; *anti*-Me₂NCH₂C(Ph)=NOH, 16451-83-5; *anti*-Me₂N(CH₂)₂C(Ph)=NOH, 46313-77-3; *syn*-(*c*-OC₄H₉N)CH₂C(Ph)=NOH, 15437-08-8; *anti*-(*c*-OC₄H₉N)CH₂C(Ph)=NOH, 15437-09-9; *anti*-MeC₆H₄-*p*-SCH₂C(Ph)=NOH, 50314-84-6; Et₂NCH₂C(CH₃)=NOH, 673-20-1; *anti*-Me₂NCH₂C(CH₃)=NOH, 120724-26-7; cyclohexanone oxime, 100-64-1; cyclododecanone oxime, 2972-01-2; CH₃CH=NO⁻, 140390-74-5; CH₃CH₂CH=NO⁻, 140390-75-6; Me₂C=NO⁻, 42331-32-8; Et₂C=NO⁻, 42331-31-7; (PhCH₂)₂C=NO⁻, 140390-76-7; *c*-C₆H₁₀C=NO⁻, 140390-77-8; *c*-C₁₁H₂₂C=NO⁻, 140390-78-9; *syn*-PhCH=NO⁻, 52707-73-0; *anti*-PhCH=NO⁻, 52739-47-6; *syn-p*-MeC₆H₄CH=NO⁻, 52707-76-3; *anti-p*-MeC₆H₄CH=NO⁻, 52707-62-7; *syn-p*-MeOC₆H₄CH=NO⁻, 52707-85-4; *anti-p*-MeOC₆H₄CH=NO⁻, 52707-70-7; *syn-m*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NO⁻, 52707-82-1; *anti-m*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NO⁻, 52739-49-8; *syn-p*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NO⁻, 52707-83-2; *syn*-PhCH=CHCH=NO⁻, 140390-79-0; *syn*-CH₃C(Ph)=NO⁻, 140390-80-3; *anti*-CH₃C(Ph)=NO⁻, 101023-32-9; *anti-p*-MeC₆H₄SCH₂C(Ph)=NO⁻, 140390-81-4; Ph₂C=NO⁻, 58074-11-6; FI=NO⁻, 140390-82-5; 2,7-diBrFI=NO⁻, 140390-83-6; 2-PhSO₂FI=NO⁻, 140390-84-7; CH₃COCH=NO⁻, 75938-09-9; PhCOCH=NO⁻, 138888-62-7; Et₂NCH₂C(CH₃)=NO⁻, 140390-88-1; *anti*-Me₂NCH₂C(CH₃)=NO⁻, 140390-89-2; *syn*-Me₂NCH₂C(CH₃)=NO⁻, 140390-90-5; *anti*-Me₂NCH₂C(Ph)=NO⁻, 140390-91-6; *syn*-(*c*-OC₄H₉N)-CH₂C(Ph)=NO⁻, 140390-92-7; *anti*-(*c*-OC₄H₉N)CH₂C(Ph)=NO⁻, 57031-42-2; *syn*-Me₂N(CH₂)₂C(Ph)=NO⁻, 140390-93-8; HC(NH₂)=NO⁻, 140390-95-0; CH₃C(NH₂)=NO⁻, 42331-30-6; PhC(NH₂)=NO⁻, 140390-96-1; PhC(=NH)NH⁻, 136342-62-6; PhC(N⁻NMe₂)=NPh, 136342-67-1; (PhCH⁻)C(CH₂Ph)=NOMe, 140390-98-3; PhC(=NCMe)NH⁻, 140390-97-2; (PhCH₂)COCHPh, 140390-99-4; CH₃CH=NOH⁺, 140461-23-0; CH₃CH₂CH=NOH⁺, 140629-61-4; Me₂C=NOH⁺, 140409-83-2; Et₂C=NOH⁺, 140390-85-8; *c*-C₁₁H₂₂C=NOH⁺, 140390-86-9; *syn*-PhCH=NOH⁺, 140461-24-1; *anti*-PhCH=NOH⁺, 140461-25-2; *syn-p*-MeC₆H₄CH=NOH⁺, 140461-26-3; *anti-p*-MeC₆H₄CH=NOH⁺, 140461-27-4; *syn-p*-MeOC₆H₄CH=NOH⁺, 140461-28-5; *anti-p*-MeOC₆H₄CH=NOH⁺, 140461-29-6; *syn-m*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NOH⁺, 140461-30-9; *anti-m*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NOH⁺, 140461-31-0; *syn-p*-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NOH⁺, 140461-32-1; *syn*-CH₃C(Ph)=NOH⁺, 140461-33-2; *anti*-CH₃C(Ph)=NOH⁺, 140629-62-5; *anti-p*-MeC₆H₄SCH₂C(Ph)=NOH⁺, 140461-34-3; 2,7-diBrFI=NOH⁺, 140390-87-0; 2-PhSO₂FI=NOH⁺, 140409-94-5; CH₃COCH=NOH⁺, 140461-35-4; PhCOCH=NOH⁺, 140461-36-5; Et₂NCH₂C(CH₃)=NOH⁺, 140390-94-9; *anti*-Me₂NCH₂C(CH₃)=NOH⁺, 140629-63-6; *syn*-Me₂NCH₂C(Ph)=NOH⁺, 140461-37-6; *anti*-Me₂NCH₂C(Ph)=NOH⁺, 140461-38-7; *syn*-(*c*-OC₄H₉N)CH₂C(Ph)=NOH⁺, 140461-39-8; *anti*-(*c*-OC₄H₉N)CH₂C(Ph)=NOH⁺, 140461-40-1; *syn*-Me₂N(CH₂)₂C(Ph)=NOH⁺, 140461-41-2; HC(NH₂)=NOH⁺, 140391-00-0; CH₃C(NH₂)=NOH⁺, 140461-42-3; PhC(NH₂)=NOH⁺, 140461-43-4; PhC(NH₂)=NOMe⁺, 140391-01-1; PhC(NH₂)=NH⁺, 140391-02-2; PhC(NHNMe₂)=NPh⁺, 140391-03-3.

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