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Explosion hazard

2-FLUORO[(DIMETHYLAMINO)METHYL]FERROCENE. A WARNING

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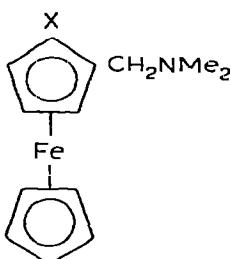
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In our investigations of 2-substituted [(dimethylamino)methyl] ferrocenes (I) [1] we have obtained the halogeno compounds (I; X = Cl, Br, I) [2]. The fluoro derivative (I; X = F) was of interest to complete the studies on the proton magnetic resonance spectra of the halogeno compounds [3], but has so far been unobtainable.

Hedberg and Rosenberg recently reported [4] the preparation of fluoroferrocene from lithioferrocene and perchloryl fluoride. A preliminary investigation of the preparation of the 2-fluoro compound (I; X = F) by the reaction between the lithio amine (I; X = Li) and perchloryl fluoride at



-78°C proceeded smoothly yielding a small quantity of material which appeared to be the required substance. However, when the reaction was repeated a violent explosion occurred, resulting in burns and cuts to the worker. Fortunately, the application of basic safety precautions reduced the injuries to a minimum. Since we have not been able to confirm the cause of the explosion, we would draw the attention of other workers to this potential hazard in the preparation.

References

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