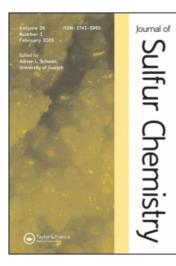
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Advances in the Chemistry of Sulfimides and Related Compounds Ivan V. Koval^a

^a Institute of Chemical Technology, Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine

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ADVANCES IN THE CHEMISTRY OF SULFIMIDES AND RELATED COMPOUNDS

IVAN V. KOVAL

Institute of Chemical Technology, UKR-320005 Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine

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The present review deals with the chemistry of sulfimides and related compounds. Some problems concerning the nature of the S=N bond, methods of synthesis, spectral and chemical properties of sulfimides and iminosulfinic acid derivatives (chlorides, amides, esters) are considered.

Key words: Oxidative imination, oxidative halogenation, oxidative amidation, oxidative alkoxylation, sulfimides, iminosulfinic acid derivatives

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sulfimides (or sulfilimines) are compounds with the general structure $R^1R^2S = NR^3$ ($R^1 = Alk$, Ar, Het; $R^2 = Alk$, Ar, Het; $R^3 = H$, Cl, Br, Alk, Het, ArSO₂, ArCO etc.). The compounds most closely related to sulfimides are the derivatives of iminosulfinic or imidosulfinic acids normally formed when one of the substituents at the sulfimide sulfur atom is a halogen atom (iminosulfinic acid halides), an amido group (iminosulfinic acid amides) or an alkoxy group (iminosulfinic acid esters).

The chemistry of sulfimides and related compounds dates back to 1917 when oxidative imination was discovered as a means to solve the problem of yperite decontamination.¹ Since that time the chemistry of these compounds has been developed rather actively and at present it represents a comparatively advanced branch of sulfurorganic chemistry. Appropriate methods to obtain these compounds have been developed, their properties have been studied comprehensively, and practical applications have been found for these compounds.

The interest displayed by many researchers in the chemistry of sulfimides and related compounds is, first of all, due to its synthetic importance. The lability of the S=N bond, its ability to cleave under the action of both nucleophilic and electrophilic reagents as well as the presence of two reaction centers (sulfur and nitrogen) make these compounds useful synthons. On the other hand, some representatives of this group of compounds are useful as polyolefin antioxidants,^{2,3} pesticides,⁴⁻⁸ bactericides,⁹⁻¹¹ and pharmaceutical¹²⁻¹⁴ preparations, electrolytic additives,^{15,16} and as sensitizers of water photolysis¹⁷ which is of some interest as well.

A number of reviews on certain aspects of the chemistry of sulfimides¹⁸⁻²⁰ and iminosulfinic acid derivatives^{21,22} have been published. However, the most comprehensive review²⁰ is now approximately ten years old. The present review is intended to supplement and update this information.

2. SYNTHESIS

2.1. Synthesis of Sulfimides

All presently known methods for the synthesis of sulfimides are based on sulfides and sulfoxides as well as another tetracoordinate sulfur compounds as starting materials.

2.1.1. Synthesis of Sulfimides from Sulfides

2.1.1.1. Oxidative Imination of Sulfides with N-Halo Compounds It is customary to call conversions accompanied by element oxidation and imino group formation oxidative imination.²¹ Sulfide oxidative imination was first discovered by Raper who showed that yperite (β,β') -dichlorodiethyl sulfide) when reacting with chloramine-T forms a physiologically inactive substance. Further it has been reported²³ that the product of the reaction of diethyl sulfide with the same reagent was a colorless crystalline substance. The authors failed to determine its structure and it was not until 1922 that Mann *et al.*²⁴ showed that the reaction of sulfides with *N*-chloroarenesulfonamide salts produced sulfimides (Scheme 1).

 $R_2S + ArSO_2NNaCl \longrightarrow R_2S=NSO_2Ar + NaCl R = Et, Cl(CH_2)_2$

Scheme 1

Not all sulfides, however, can react with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts to vield sulfimides. Mann et al.^{24,25} noted that an increase in the number of chlorine atoms in the alkyl groups of the sulfide reduces the ability of the latter to become iminated by N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts. Using as an example the reaction of chloramine-T with bis-sulfides RS-X-SR (X = C_6H_4 , CH=CH, CH₂, CH₂--CH₂, etc.) the authors²⁶ showed that electron acceptor groups, both terminal and internal, hinder the imination and that the p-toluenesulfonylimino group introduced at the first sulfur atom hinders the imination of the second sulfur atom. Therefore, bis-sulfimides were obtained only with bis-sulfides in which the sulfur atoms are separated by three or more methylene groups. A more detailed study of the effect of the nature of the substituents at the sulfur atom upon the ability of sulfides to become iminated by N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts is presented in papers by Kucsman et al.²⁷⁻³⁰ These authors established that in the reaction of sulfides with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in water the corresponding sulfoxides are formed together with N-arenesulfonyl sulfimides (Scheme 2).

$$R_{2}S + ArSO_{2}NNaCi \xrightarrow{H_{2}O} R_{2}S=NSO_{2}Ar + NaCi$$
$$R_{2}S=O + ArSO_{2}NH_{2} + NaCi$$
Scheme 2

In this case the ratio of sulfimide to sulfoxide depends on the nature of substituents in the sulfide, the pH of the reaction medium, and the solvent type. In the authors' opinion^{27,28} reactivity of sulfides towards N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts requires an electron density at the sulfur atom which must be sufficient for the displacement of the incipient chloride anion by the sulfur atom, *i.e.*, these authors think that the oxidative imination of sulfides involves a nucleophilic displacement mechanism and that the sulfoxide is formed by hydrolysis of the sulfimide. Later on, the same group^{31,32} came to the conclusion that sulfide imination with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts is more complicated. In an aqueousalcoholic medium the N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts is transformed, in an equilibrium reaction, to N-chloramide (fast) and N,N-dichloramide (slow) which are rather reactive electrophilic reagents (Scheme 3).

$$2 \text{ Arso}_{2}\text{NNaCl} \xrightarrow{H_{2}O} 2 \text{ Arso}_{2}\text{NHCl} + \text{NaOH}$$

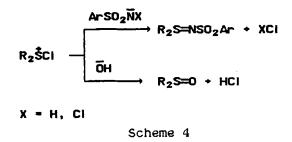
$$Arso_{2}\text{NHCl} \xrightarrow{} Arso_{2}\overline{\text{Ncl}} + \text{H}^{+}$$

$$Arso_{2}\text{NHCl} + Arso_{2}\overline{\text{Ncl}} - \rightarrow Arso_{2}\text{NCl}_{2} + Arso_{2}\overline{\text{NH}}$$

$$Scheme 3$$

The formation of N-chloroarenesulfonamides and N-dichloroarenesulfonamides from N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts has also been mentioned in other papers³³⁻³⁵ and the involvement of N,N-dichloroarenesulfonamides in this reaction is supported by their application as iminating agents in the reaction with sulfides³⁶⁻³⁹ which, however, is often accompanied by side reactions.

Upon reaction with N-chloroarenesulfonamides or N,N-dichloroarenesulfonamides a sulfide forms a chlorosulfonium cation R_2SCl which reacts further with the sulfonamide anion ArSO₂NX (X = H, Cl) to form a sulfimide, whereas hydrolysis of the chlorosulfonium cation leads to a sulfoxide^{31,40,41} (Scheme 4).



This interpretation is in good agreement with the effect of various factors on this process, namely, pH solvent and the nature of the substituents in the starting sulfide. A low pH of the medium favors the conversion of N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts to the more active N-chloro- and N,N-dichloroarenesulfonamides, but decreases the concentration of the sulfonamide anion. In the opinion of the authors,⁴¹ in the case of the imination of dialkyl and alkyl aryl sulfides with chloramine-T, pH 6 is the optimum.

Solutions of N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts being alkaline, the addition of a small amount of acetic acid to the reaction medium increases the yield of the

sulfimide.⁴²⁻⁴⁴ Because of the poor solubility of N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in organic solvents use is made of aqueous methanol, acetone, or dioxane as well as of two-phase media, *e.g.* water-methylene chloride which, however, decreases the sulfimide yield and favors the formation of sulfoxide. As shown,⁴⁵ use of water-free organic solvents, *e.g.* methylene chloride, and of N-chloro-N-(N',N'-dialkylamino)arenesulfonamides (which are readily soluble in such solvents) instead of N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts, brings about the selective formation of sulfimides in quantitative yield (Scheme 5).

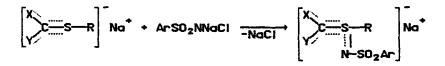
 $R_{2}S + R^{1}(R^{2})NN(CI)SO_{2}Ar \longrightarrow R_{2}S=NSO_{2}Ar + R^{1}R^{2}NCI$ $R = (CH_{2})_{4}, PhCH_{2}, Ph, 4-MeC_{6}H_{4}, 4-CIC_{6}H_{4};$ $R^{1} = Me, Bu; R^{2} = Me, Bu, Ph, CH_{2}$

Scheme 5

In two-phase reaction media the formation of the sulfimide is also favored by phase-transfer catalysts.^{46,47}

The susceptibility of sulfide sulfur to electrophilic attack by a chlorine cation is directly related to its electron density which is governed by the substituents of the sulfide. In this connection methods to increase the electron density on the sulfur atom in sulfides are theoretically and synthetically important. The analysis of the effective charge on the sulfur atom of methanethiol and its C-anion obtained by CNDO/2 quantum mechanical calculations shows⁴⁸ that one such method is the creation of an α -C-anionic center in the sulfide molecule. A decrease in the electron density on the sulfide sulfur of the starting sulfide is compensated in the C-anion at the expense of the electron displacement from the carbanionic center.

It has been shown⁴⁹ that (diacyl)methyl aryl sulfides containing, along with electron acceptor groups, a mobile α -H-atom can be arenesulfonyliminated, although the sulfimides formed in this case undergo further transformations due to their imino ylide tautomerism. Use of the sodium salts instead the present sulfides facilitates the arenesulfonylimination of these compounds in the anion form and the stabilization of the anion of the *N*-arylsulfonyl sulfimides formed (Scheme 6).^{48,51-53}



 $R = 2 - NO_2C_6H_4, 4 - NO_2C_6H_4, 2,4 - (NO_2)_2C_6H_3; X = Y = PhCO,$ X = Y = MoCO, X = Y = CN, X = Y = ELOCO; X = MoCO, Y = ÉLCO

Scheme 6

SULFIMIDES

Other N-chloro compounds such as chloramines,⁵⁴ N-chlorocarboxamides, Nchlorourethane,⁵⁶ N-chloramidines,⁵⁷ N-chloroguanidines,⁵⁸ N-chlorourea and its derivatives^{59,60} form with dialkyl and alkyl aryl sulfides aminosulfonium salts which are converted by base to the corresponding sulfimides (Scheme 7).

Scheme 7

For the chlorination use can also be made of chlorine,⁶¹ t-butyl hypochlorite,⁶²⁻⁶⁶ sulfuryl chloride,⁶⁷ N-chlorosuccinimide,^{68,69} and other heterocyclic Nchloro compounds⁶¹ which, when reacting with sulfides at low temperatures, form chlorosulfonium intermediates which are converted to sulfimides by the action of N-nucleophiles (Scheme 8).

$$R_{2}S + CI - Z \longrightarrow [R_{2}S - Z]\overline{C}I \xrightarrow{R^{1}NH_{2}} R_{2}SNHR^{1}\overline{C}I \xrightarrow{HB} R_{2}S=NR^{1}$$

$$Z = CI, t-Bu0, SO_{2}CI, \bigcup_{N} N, \bigcup_{N} N$$
Scheme 8

Aliphatic, aromatic and heterocyclic amines, N-aminophthalimide, cyanamide, and sodio amides of sulfonic and carboxylic acids are used as N-nucleophiles.

2.1.1.2. Oxidative Imination of Sulfides with Hydroxylamine Derivatives The oxidative imination of sulfides by hydroxylaminosulfuric acid, described in^{70,71} for the first time, is a particular case of the general reaction of sulfide imination with hydroxylamine derivatives and, in particular, with N-arylsulfonyl-O-(p-nitrophenylsulfonyl)hydroxylamine,⁷² N-(ethoxycarbonyl)-O-(p-nitrophenylsulfonyl)hydroxylamine,⁷² and O-(mesitylsulfonyl)hydroxylamine^{73,74} (Scheme 9).

$$R_2S + XNHOY \longrightarrow R_2SNH(X)OY \xrightarrow{HB} R_2S=NX$$

 $X = H, ArSO_2, ELOCO; Y = HSO_3, 2,4,6-(Me)_3C_6H_2SO_2, 4-NO_2C_6H_4SO_2$
Scheme 9

The mechanism of this reaction has not been investigated; nevertheless, relying upon the literature data⁷⁵ on the oxidative imination of tertiary phosphines with hydroxylaminosulfuric acid two versions of a mechanism may be suggested: the first one, involving generation of imene ($\ddot{N}H$) and the second, more probable version, involving nucleophilic attack of the sulfide on the electron-deficient nitrogen atom.

2.1.1.3. Reaction of Sulfides with Nitrenes Sulfimides are formed in good to moderate yield by the reaction of sulfides with nitrenes generated by photochemical, thermal or chemical methods. The most widely applied method includes the photolysis of various organic azides in the presence of excess sulfide (Scheme 10).

> $XN_3 \xrightarrow{h\nu} :NX \xrightarrow{R_2S} R_2S = NX$ X = ArSO₂, PhCO, EtOCO, R₂PO Scheme 10

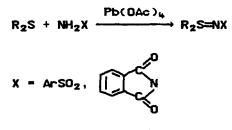
The reaction has been studied with arenesulfonyl,⁷⁶ acyl,⁷⁷ alkoxycarbonyl,⁷⁷ diphenylphosphonyl, and dialkoxyphosphonyl azides.⁷⁸ It is expected⁷⁹ that sulfides react most likely with singlet nitrenes rather than with triplet ones since the presence, in the reaction mixture, of substances causing the formation of triplet nitrenes inhibits the formation of sulfimides. The photochemical instability of sulfimides may be the cause of the low yields. Under photolytic conditions sulfimides themselves are the source of nitrenes as noted⁷⁷ in the case of the photolysis of *S*,*S*-dimethyl-*N*-(ethoxycarbonyl) sulfimide. Another nitrene source are some unstable heterocyclic compounds, the photolysis of which in the presence of sulfides brings about the formation of sulfimides (Scheme 11).⁸⁰

$$\frac{N-Q}{Ph} \leftarrow \frac{1}{Q} + Me_2S \xrightarrow{h\nu} Me_2S = NCOPh + CO_2$$

Scheme 11

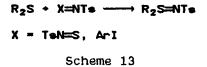
The principal shortcoming of the synthesis of sulfimide by reaction of sulfides with thermally generated nitrenes is the thermal instability of the sulfimides formed as noted in the thermolysis of acyl azides,⁸¹ alkoxycarbonyl azides,^{81,82} and arylsulfonyl azides^{81,83} in the presence of sulfides. In the presence of copper,⁸⁴ azide thermolysis and hence the reaction of nitrenes with sulfides proceeds at a lower temperature, thus increasing the yield of sulfimide.

Chemical generation of nitrenes for the preparation of sulfimides is used more rarely. The synthesis of only a few sulfimides by the reaction of sulfides with arenesulfonamides^{85,86} and *N*-aminophthalimide¹⁸ in the presence of lead tetra-acetate has been described (Scheme 12).

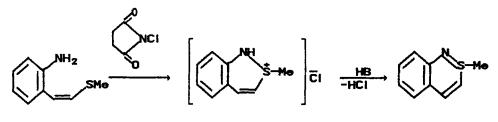


Scheme 12

It is also possible that the formation of sulfimides in the reaction of sulfides with E=N (E = S, I) compounds^{87,88} also proceeds via nitrene generation (Scheme 13).



2.1.1.4. Oxidative Cyclization of Amino Sulfides Aromatic amines containing an alkylthio group in o-position form, when treated with N-chlorosuccinimide, cyclic aminosulfonium salts which are converted to cyclic sulfimides^{89,90} in the presence of base (Scheme 14).



Scheme 14

2.1.2. Synthesis of Sulfimides from Sulfoxides

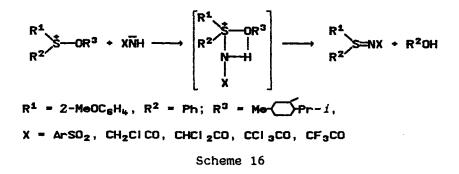
2.1.2.1. Condensation of Sulfoxides with Amides and Amines in the Presence of Activating Electrophilic Reagents This method hinges upon the generation of active sulfonium salts as a result of electrophilic attack on the sulfoxide oxygen which thus is incorporated into a good leaving group (Scheme 15).

$$R_{2}S=0 \xrightarrow{E^{+}} R_{2}SOE \xrightarrow{R^{1}NH_{2}} R_{2}S=NR^{1}$$
-HOE, -H⁺ R₂S=NR¹

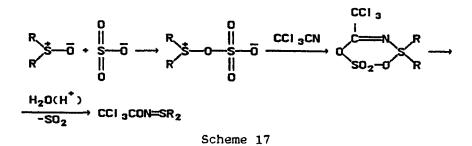
Scheme 15

Phosphorus pentoxide,⁹¹ trifluoroacetic anhydride,^{91,92} sulfur trioxide, sulfuric acid, and boron trifluoride⁹³ are used as activating electrophiles. Sulfonic and carboxylic acid amides and certain amines are used as N-nucleophiles. A number of sulfimides have been obtained by the reaction of sulfonic and carboxylic acid sodio amides with alkoxysulfonium salts.^{65,94}

The reaction is stereospecific and proceeds with retention of the sulfur atom configuration due, in the opinion of this author, to the formation of an intermediate four-membered cyclic compound stabilized by an intramolecular hydrogen bond (Scheme 16).

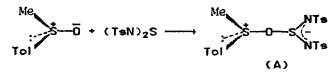


The sulfonium salts formed in the reaction of sulfoxides with sulfur trioxide react with nitriles to form sulfimides.⁹⁵ The likely mechanism of this reaction involves attack by the electron deficient carbon atom of the nitrile group on one of the oxygen atoms in the sulfonium salt and takes place only with nitriles containing strong electron acceptor groups (Scheme 17).



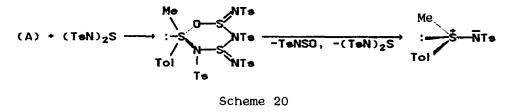
2.1.2.2. Condensation of Sulfoxides with N-Substituted Amides The condensation of sulfoxides with some N-substituted amides containing groups with polar double bonds as substituents proceeds in the absence of activating electrophilic reagents (Scheme 18).⁹⁶⁻⁹⁹

 $R_2S=0 + YN=X \longrightarrow R_2S=NY + XO$ X = SD, CO, S=NSO₂Ar, SCi₂; Y = ArSO₂, RCO, EtOCO, Ar Scheme 18 Its mechanism has been studied in detail in the reaction of methyl-*p*-tolyl sulfoxide with N,N'-bis-(*p*-toluenesulfonyl)sulfur diimide.¹⁰⁰ The attack by the electron deficient atom of the polar group on the sulfoxide oxygen forms a sulfonium salt the further transformation of which depends on the nature of the solvent (Scheme 19).



Scheme 19

In pyridine, reaction of the sulfonium salt with a second molecule of sulfur diimide results in the formation of a six-membered transition state, the transformation of which to the sulfimide is accompanied by inversion of the configuration of the chiral sulfur atom (Scheme 20).



In benzene the reaction proceeds via a four-membered transition state with retention of the configuration of the sulfur atom (Scheme 21).



Scheme 21

2.1.2.3. Reaction of Sulfoxides with Arenesulfinyl Azides Unlike arenesulfonyl azides which form N-arenesulfonyl sulfoximides¹⁰¹ with sulfoxides, arenesulfinyl azides react with sulfoxides to yield N-(arenesulfonyl)sulfimides.¹⁰² It is supposed that the intermediately formed arenesulfinyl nitrenes produce with sulfoxides unstable four-membered cyclic compounds en route to the final sulfimides (Scheme 22).

Scheme 22

2.1.3. Use of Other Tetracoordinate Sulfur Compounds in Sulfimide Synthesis

2.1.3.1. Nucleophilic Substitution at the Tetracoordinate Sulfur Atom The nucleophilic substitution of various atoms and groups at a tetracoordinate sulfur atom to obtain sulfimides is used in two versions. The first one involves the nucleophilic substitution of halogen atoms^{103,104} or alkoxy groups^{103,105,106} to create an S^{TV}==N bond (Scheme 23).

```
RSX_{2} + 3 \text{ NH}_{3} \longrightarrow RS=NH + 2 \text{ NH}_{4}X
R = Ar, CF_{3}; X = CI, Br
Ph_{2}S[OC(CF_{3})_{2}Ph]_{2} + RNH_{2} \longrightarrow Ph_{2}S=NR + 2 PhC(CF_{3})_{2}OH
R = H, AIk, Ar, ArSO_{2}
Scheme 23
```

The second version involves nucleophilic substitution of halogen atoms at the tetracoordinate sulfur atom with formation of an S^{IV} =N bond (Scheme 24).^{107,108}

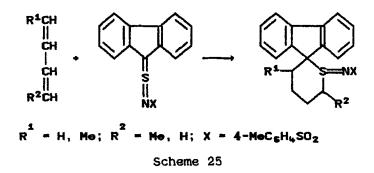
 F_2 SNPh + 2 PhLi \longrightarrow Ph₂S=NPh + 2 LiF

 $ArS(=NR)CI + CH_2XY \xrightarrow{(EL)_3N} X$

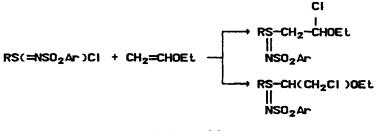
 $R = (Me)_3C$, $(Me)_2C(CN)$, $ArSO_2$; X = CN, MeCO; Y = CN, MeCO, ELOCO

Scheme 24

2.1.3.2. Reaction of Thione S-Imines with Dienes It has been shown¹⁰⁹ that N-substituted thione S-imines containing arenesulfonyl groups are substituents can play the role of active dienophiles in [4 + 2]-cycloadditions with conjugated dienic hydrocarbons to form cyclic sulfimides containing the sulfur atom in the ring (Scheme 25).



2.1.3.3. Addition of Iminosulfinic Acids Chlorides to Double Bonds N-(Arenesulfonyl)iminosulfinic acid chlorides relatively easily add to the double bond of ethyl vinyl ether to form mixtures of isomeric sulfimides (Scheme 26).¹¹⁰





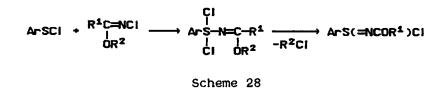
2.2. Synthesis of Iminosulfinic Acid Halides

2.2.1. Oxidative Imination of Sulfenyl Chlorides with N-Halo and N,N-Dihalo Compounds As shown by Levchenko et al., ²¹ N-arenesulfonyl areneiminosulfinic acid chlorides are formed smoothly by reaction of arenesulfenyl chlorides with N-chloro- and N,N-dichloroarenesulfonamides in anhydrous media (Scheme 27).

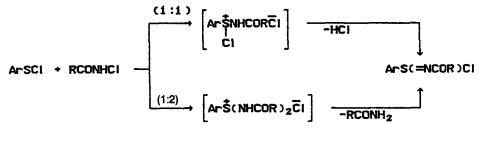
RSCI + $ArSO_2NXCI \rightarrow HCI$ RS(=NSO₂Ar)CI X = Na, CI, (CH₃)₃Si Scheme 27

To obtain N-substituted iminosulfinic acid chlorides containing other substituents on the nitrogen atom, use is made of N,N-dichlorourethane and esters of N-(chloroimino)carbonic acid,²¹ N-chloro-N-methyl-t-butylamine,¹¹¹ N-chlorocarboxamides,¹¹² and N-chloroketimines.¹¹³

Arenesulfenyl chlorides have been shown¹⁴ to react with esters of N-chloroiminocarbonic acid to yield sulfuranes which form N-acyliminosulfinic acid chlorides by loss of alkyl halides (Scheme 28).

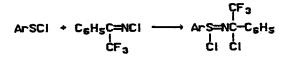


The intermediates in the reaction of arenesulfenyl chlorides with N-chlorocarboxamides,¹¹² depending on the ratio of reactants, are aryl(acylamino)sulfonium chlorides (Scheme 29).





Arenesulfenyl chlorides react with N-chloroketimines in different ways.¹¹³ Formation of the corresponding iminosulfinic acid chlorides was observed when arenesulfenyl chlorides reacted with N-chloro(trifluoromethyl)phenylketimine (Scheme 30).





The reaction of arenesulfenyl chlorides with N-chlorodiphenylketimine leads to N-arenesulfenyldiphenylketimines (Scheme 31).

$$\operatorname{ArSCI} * (\operatorname{Ph})_2 \operatorname{C=NCI} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} (\operatorname{Ph})_2 \operatorname{C=NS}^{-} \operatorname{Ar} \\ C \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\operatorname{CI}} (\operatorname{Ph})_2 \operatorname{C=NSAr} \\ C \end{bmatrix}$$

Scheme 31

Arenesulfenyl chlorides do not react with N-chlorobis(trifluoromethyl) ketimine.

2.2.2. Oxidative Imination of Thiols and Disulfides with N,N-Dihalo Compounds Depending on the ratio of reagents and the order of mixing the formation of N-arenesulfonylareneiminosulfinic acid chlorides in the reaction of thiophenols with N,N-dichloroarenesulfonamides can proceed in two alternative directions (Scheme 32).¹¹⁵

2 ArSH + PhSO₂NCl₂
$$\rightarrow$$
 PhSO₂NH₂ 2 ArSCl \rightarrow

 $2PhSO_2NC1_2$ $-C1_2$ $2 ArS(=NSO_2Ph)C1$ 2ArSH -2 HCI ArSSAr $\frac{2 PhSO_2NC1_2}{-C1_2, -2 ArSC1}$ Scheme 32

The intermediate arenesulfonamides decrease the yield of iminosulfinic acid chlorides therefore the synthesis of iminosulfinic acid chlorides from disulfides and N,N-dihalo compounds¹¹⁵⁻¹²² is more convenient (Scheme 33).

RSSR + 2 R¹NCl₂
$$\xrightarrow{-Cl_2}$$
 2 RS(=NR¹)Cl
R = Alk, Ar; R¹ = ArSO₂, ArCO, *t*-Bu
Scheme 33

As shown by Levchenko *et al.*,^{120,121} the imination of asymmetric disulfides with N,N-dihalo compounds occurs on the more nucleophilic sulfur atom which requires that the incipient sulfenyl chloride attached to the sulfur atom possesses strongly electron withdrawing groups. In the opinion of the authors¹²¹ the formation of iminosulfinic acid chlorides can proceed, in this case, in two alternative directions, yielding tetracoordinate sulfur compounds or *N*-chlorosulfenamides as intermediates (Scheme 34).

$$R^{1}SSR^{2} + R^{3}NCI_{2} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} CI \\ R^{1}-S-S-R^{2} \\ | \\ N-CI \\ R^{3} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow R^{2}SCI + R^{1}S(=NR^{3})CI$$



The latter direction is more likely since the formation of sulfenyl chlorides and the corresponding sulfenamides was also observed in the reaction of disulfides with N-chloroimino esters¹²³ (Scheme 35).

```
ArSSAr + CIN=C(OR)Ph \longrightarrow ArSCI + ArSN=C(OR)Ph
ArSCI + CIN=C(OR)Ph \xrightarrow{-RCI} ArS(=NCOPh)CI
```

Scheme 35

Trimethylsilyl aryl sulfides¹²⁴ react with N,N-dihalo compounds in much the same way as asymmetric disulfides (Scheme 36).

```
ArSSi(CH_3)_3 + PhSO_2NCI_2 \longrightarrow ArS(=NSO_2Ph)CI + (CH_3)_3SiCI
PhSO_2NNaCI
-NaCI \longrightarrow ArS(=NSO_2Ph)Si(CH_3)_3 \longrightarrow CI_2
```

Scheme 36

2.2.3. Halogenation of Sulfenamides As illustrated by Markovski et al.,¹²⁵ N-substituted iminosulfinic acid chlorides are formed when N-substituted sulfenamides are chlorinated with chlorine in anhydrous organic solvents (Scheme 37).

ArSNHR + CI 2 -HCi ArS(=NR)Ci Scheme 37

N-Chloroimides, N,N-dichloroamides, and t-butyl hypochlorite are also used as chlorinating agents. The susceptibility of sulfenamides to chlorination is dependent upon the electron density on the sulfur atom; the presence of electronacceptor groups at the sulfur or nitrogen atom of sulfenamides impedes this process or makes it impossible. In this connection the use of sulfenamide sodium salts, instead of sulfenamides, considerably increases the ratio of chlorination due to an increase in the electron density on the sulfur atom at the expense of its displacement from the α -N-anionic center (Scheme 38).¹²⁶

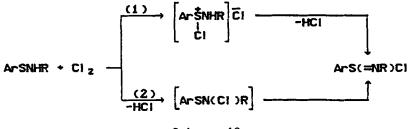
$$ArSN(Na)SO_2Ph + Cl_2 \longrightarrow ArS(=NSO_2Ph)Cl$$

Scheme 38

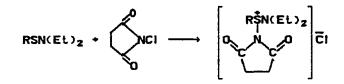
Sometimes the chlorination of sulfenamides with low electron density on the sulfur atom is performed in the presence of catalysts, *e.g.* mercury(II) difluoride (Scheme 39).¹²⁷



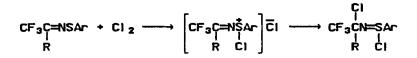
With regard to the possibility of attack of a chlorine cation on both the sulfur atom and the nitrogen atom, two alternative modes of formation of iminosulfinic acid chlorides in the oxidative chlorination of sulfenamides have been suggested (Scheme 40).¹²⁵



The first is more likely since N-chlorosulfenamides cannot always rearrange to iminosulfinic acid chlorides.¹²⁵ At the same time the formation of azasulfonium chlorides was noted in the reactions of N,N-dialkylsulfenamides with N-chlorosuccinimide (Scheme 41)¹²⁸ and of N-arenesulfenylketimines with chlorine (Scheme 42).^{113,129}



Scheme 41



Scheme 42

Attack of the chlorine cation on the nitrogen atom is likely to occur in the case of low electron density on the sulfur atom, *e.g.* with strong electron-acceptor groups attached to the sulfur atom.

The halogenation of N,N-bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoromethanesulfenamide is accompanied by stepwise cleavage of the N—Si bonds and formation of N-(trimethylsilyl)trifluoromethaneiminosulfinic acid halides and N-(chloro)fluorotrifluoromethaneiminosulfinic acid halides (Scheme 43).¹³⁰

$$CF_{3}SN(SiMe_{3})_{Z} \xrightarrow{X_{2}} CF_{3}S(=NSiMe_{3})X \xrightarrow{X_{2}} CF_{3}S(=NX)X$$

$$X=CI,B_{2}$$
Scheme 43

The chlorination of bis(trifluoromethanesulfenyl)imide involves one sulfur atom only and leads the formation of N-(trifluoromethanesulfenyl)trifluoromethaneiminosulfinic acid chloride (Scheme 44).¹³⁰

$$(CF_3S)_2NH + CI_2 \xrightarrow{-HCI} CF_3S(=NSCF_3)CI$$

Scheme 44

The fluorination of trifluoromethanesulfenamide with trifluoromethylsulfur trifluoride is accompanied by the replacement of one of the amido group hydrogen atoms with a trifluoromethylthio group and the formation of N-(trifluoromethylthio)trifluoromethaneiminosulfinic acid fluoride (Scheme 45).¹³⁰

$$CF_3SNH_2 + CF_3SF_3 \longrightarrow CF_3S(=NSCF_3)F + 2 HF$$

Scheme 45

In the literature¹³¹ the preparation of N-(fluorocarbonyl)trifluoromethaneiminosulfinic acid fluoride by fluorination of trifluoromethanesulfenyl isocyanate with fluorine has been reported (Scheme 46).

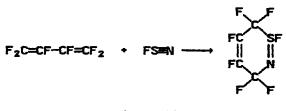
```
CF_3SNCO + F_2 \longrightarrow CF_3S(=NCOF)F
Scheme 46
```

It is evident that in this case the fluorine adds to the N=C bond of trifluoromethanesulfenyl isocyanate and that the *N*-fluoro(fluorocarbonyl)trifluoromethanesulfenamide formed is subsequently isomerized.

2.2.4. Addition of Tetracoordinate Sulfur Halides to Multiple Bonds The first representatives of N-substituted iminosulfinic acid fluorides were obtained by addition of iminothionyl fluorides to unsaturated perfluorides (Scheme 47).¹³²

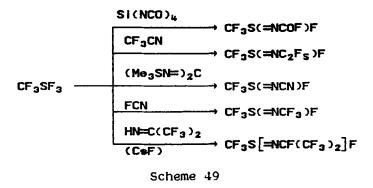
 $CF_{3}CF=CF_{3} \qquad (CF_{3})_{2}CFS(=NR)F$ $RN=CF_{2} \qquad CF_{3}C=CF \qquad CF_{2}CF=CFS(=NR)F$ R = Et, i-PrScheme 47

As shown,¹³³ the addition of thiazyl fluoride to perfluorobutadiene leads to the formation of an iminosulfinic acid fluoride with a cyclic structure (Scheme 48).



Scheme 48

The addition of trifluoromethylsulfur trifluoride to compounds with nitrogencarbon multiple bonds such as silicon tetraisocyanate,¹³⁴ trifluoroacetonitrile,¹³⁵ N,N-bis(trimethylsilyl)carbodiimide,¹³³ ketimines,¹³⁵ and cyanogen fluoride¹³⁶ has found wide application in the synthesis of N-substituted iminosulfinic acid fluorides (Scheme 49).

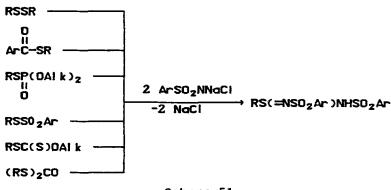


2.3. Synthesis of Iminosulfinic Acid Amides

2.3.1. Oxidative Imination of Thiols and Compounds Containing the Thio Group with N-Halo Compounds The first representatives of iminosulfinic acid amides to become known were N-arenesulfonylamides of N'-arenesulfonyliminosulfinic acids or N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines obtained in 1930 by Klarke *et al.*¹³⁷ by the reaction of thiols with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in aqueous media (Scheme 50).

> RSH • 2 ArSO₂NNaCl \rightarrow 2 NaCl \rightarrow RS(=NSO₂Ar)NHSO₂Ar R = Et, Ph; Ar = 4-MeC₆H₄ Scheme 50

Later on it could be shown that N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamides are also formed by reaction of N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts with disulfides, ¹³⁸⁻¹⁴¹ esters of thiocarboxylic acids, ^{141,142} thiolphosphoric acids, ¹⁴² thiolsulfonic acids, ¹⁴³ xanthogenic acids, and dithiocarbonic acids (Scheme 51).¹⁴⁴



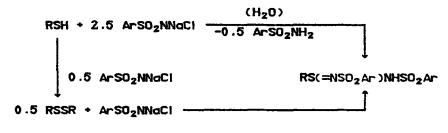
N,N'-Bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines are also formed by reaction of some unstable sulfur-containing heterocyclic compounds, *e.g.* 1,3-oxathiolanes, with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in aqueous media (Scheme 52).¹⁴⁵

$$\begin{array}{c} R & 0 & --CH_2 \\ C & | & + 2 \text{ Arso}_2\text{NNaC}! & -2\text{NaC}! & +0CH_2CH_2S(==NSO_2Ar)\text{NHSO}_2Ar \\ R & S & --CH_2 \end{array}$$

Scheme 52

Explaining the low yields of N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines in the reaction of thiols with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts the authors¹³⁷ suggest that in aqueous media the N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts are subject to hydrolysis resulting in the formation of arenesulfonamides though they did not study this reaction in anhydrous media.

Later on it was shown¹⁴⁴ that the formation of arenesulfonamides in the reaction of thiols with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts has other reasons. The authors¹⁴⁴ established that a portion of the N-chloroarenesulfonamide salt is spent to oxidize the thiol prior to the formation of the disulfide, further imination of which brings about the formation of the N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidine (Scheme 53).



Scheme 53

The formation of disulfides and arenesulfonamides was also observed in the arenesulfonylimination of alkanethiols,¹⁴⁶ arenethiols,¹⁴⁷ 8-mercaptoquinoline,¹⁴⁸ arylcarbamoylmethanethiols,¹⁴⁹ and of alkoxycarbonylmethanethiols.¹⁵⁰ It follows that the iminations of thiols and disulfides with N-chloramides are similar and that the first stage of the thiol imination is its oxidation to the disulfide. In this case this stage is not a limiting one since the rate of thiol oxidation to disulfides with various oxidants decreases in the series¹⁵¹ ArSH > ROOCH₂SH > AlkSH while the reactivity of thiols towards N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts changes in the reverse direction and, as shown in the literature,¹⁴⁷ is determined by their acidity. Thiols with pK_a 7 are relatively readily iminated with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts. The reduction of the pK_a of the thiols to 5–6 leads to a decrease of the imination rate and of the yield of N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines. Thiols with pK_a < 5 are no longer iminated by N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts.

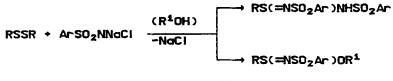
SULFIMIDES

As a rule these thiols have strong electron-acceptor groups on the sulfur atom. As shown,¹⁵² the imination of asymmetric disulfides with *N*-chloroarenesulfonamide salts proceeds at the more nucleophilic sulfur atom. With regard to the acid properties of the corresponding thiols this means that the pK_a value of the thiol corresponding to the RS group being iminated is higher than that of the thiol corresponding to the RS group being removed (Scheme 54).

```
R^{1}SSR^{2} + 2PhSO_{2}NNaCl \cdot xH_{2}O \xrightarrow{-2NaCl , -0.5 (R^{2}S-)_{2}} R^{1}S(=NSO_{2}Ph)NHSO_{2}Ph
-2NaCl , -0.5 (R<sup>2</sup>S-)<sub>2</sub>
R^{1} = Bu; R^{2} = 4-NO_{2}C_{6}H_{4}, 2,4-(NO_{2})_{2}C_{6}H_{3}
```

Scheme 54

In the reaction of disulfides with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in alcoholic media the formation of iminosulfinic acids esters, along with iminosulfinic acid amides, has been noted (Scheme 55).^{153,154}





In the author's opinion¹⁵⁴ these products are due to the reaction of the intermediate iminosulfinic acid chlorides with arenesulfonamide anion and alkoxide anion.

As demonstrated by Levchenko *et al.*^{155,156} the reaction of diaryl disulfides with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in anhydrous media leads to the formation of N-arenesulfenyl-N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines (Scheme 56).

RSSR * 2 ArSO₂NNaCl \rightarrow RS(=NSO₂Ar)N(SR)SO₂Ar Scheme 56

These compounds are assumed^{22.156} to be intermediates in the reaction of disulfides with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in aqueous media which is quite probable since N-arenesulfenyl-N, N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)-sulfinamidines are readily cleaved in the presence of nucleophilic reagents giving iminosulfinic acid amides in quantitative yields (Scheme 57).¹⁵⁷ In this connection, iminosulfinic acid amides and esters in the reaction of disulfides with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in an alcohol medium are likely to be formed as a result of the following conversions (Scheme 58).

```
RSSR + 2 \ ArSO_2NNaCl \xrightarrow{-2 \ NaCl} RS(=NSO_2Ar)N(SR)SO_2Ar \xrightarrow{R^1OH}
\longrightarrow RS(=NSO_2Ar)NHSO_2Ar + RSOR^1
Scheme 57
RSOR^1 + ArSO_2NNaCl \xrightarrow{-NaCl} RS(=NSO_2Ar)OR^1
```

Scheme 58

The imination of thiols and disulfides with N-chloramides of carboxylic^{158,159} and phosphoric¹⁶⁰ acids is carried out in anhydrous organic solvents in the presence of pyridine (Scheme 59).

 $5 \text{ AcNHCI} + 2 \text{ RSH} \qquad \frac{4 \text{ C}_{S}\text{H}_{S}\text{N}}{-\text{AcNH}_{2}, -3 \text{ C}_{S}\text{H}_{S}\text{N} \cdot \text{HCI}, -\text{C}_{S}\text{H}_{S}\text{NCI}_{2}}$ 2 RS(=NAc)NHAc $4 \text{ AcNHCI} + \text{RSSR} \qquad \frac{3 \text{ C}_{S}\text{H}_{S}\text{N}}{-2 \text{ C}_{S}\text{H}_{S}\text{N} \cdot \text{HCI}, -\text{C}_{S}\text{H}_{S}\text{N} \cdot \text{CI}_{2}}$ $Ac = \text{PhCO}, (\text{PhO})_{2}\text{PO}; \text{ R} = \text{AI} \text{ k}, \text{ Ar}, \text{Het}$ Scheme 59

In this case the formation of iminosulfinic acid amides results from the following transformations (Scheme 60).¹²²

RSSR + AcNHCI -----→ RSCI + RSNHAc

 $\begin{array}{c} C_{S}H_{S}N \\ RSCI + AcNHCI & -C_{S}H_{S}N \cdot HCI \end{array} RS(=NAc)CI$

 $\frac{C_{S}H_{S}N}{-C_{S}H_{S}N \cdot HCI}$ $RS(=NAc)CI + AcNHCI \qquad C_{S}H_{S}N \cdot CI_{2}$ $RS(=NAc)CI + AcNHCI \qquad C_{S}H_{S}N \cdot CI_{2}$

Scheme 60

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2.3.2. Oxidative Imination of Sodium Thiolates with N,N-Dihalo Compounds The oxidative imination of sodium thiolates with N,N-dihalo compounds with the formation of sodium salts of iminosulfinic acid amides was first studied by Kremlev *et al.*¹⁶¹ in the case of the reaction of sodium thiophenolate with N,N-dichloroarenesulfonamides (Scheme 61).

5 RSNa + 2 ArSO₂NCl₂ \longrightarrow RS(=NSO₂Ar)N(Na)SO₂Ar + 2 RSSR + 4 NaCl Scheme 61

The reaction has been widely used with alkanethiols,¹⁴⁶ thiourea derivatives,¹⁶² 8-mercaptoquinoline,^{163,164} and other heterocyclic compounds.¹⁶⁵ Carboxylic^{166,167} and phosphoric¹⁶⁸ acid dichloramides as well as N,N-dichlorobis(cyanoethyl)urea¹⁶⁹ are also used as iminating agents.

The reactivity of sodium thiolates towards N,N'-dihalo compounds has been shown¹⁷⁰ to be influenced by the acidity of the thiols. Sodium salts of thiols with pK_a > 8 are readily iminated by N,N-dihalo compounds, a decrease in the pK_a value of the thiols to 5–7 reduces the reactivity of sodium thiolates towards N,N-dihalo compounds. Sodium salts of thiols with pK_a < 5 are no longer iminated by N,N-dihalo compounds.

It has been established¹⁵⁷ that N-arenesulfenyl-N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)arenesulfinamidines formed in the reaction of sodium arenethiolates with N,N-dichloroarenesulfonamides in a ratio of 4:2 are the intermediates in the above reaction (Scheme 62).

```
4 RSNa + 2 ArSO<sub>2</sub>NCl<sub>2</sub> \rightarrow RS(=NSO<sub>2</sub>Ar)N(SR)SO<sub>2</sub>Ar + RSSR + 4 NaCl
```

 $R = Ph, 4-MeC_6H_4; Ar = Ph, 4-MeC_6H_4$

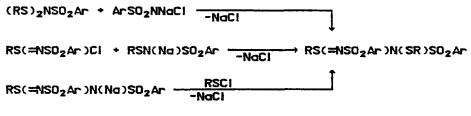
Scheme 62

These compounds are suggested¹¹⁵ to result from the following conversions (Scheme 63).

2 RSNa + 2 ArSO₂NCl₂ \longrightarrow 2 RSCl + 2 ArSO₂NNaCl 2 RSCl + 2 RSNa \longrightarrow 2 RSSR + 2 NaCl 2 ArSO₂NNaCl + RSSR \longrightarrow RS(=NSO₂Ar)N(SR)SO₂Ar Scheme 63

In the presence of the 5th mole of sodium arenethiolate the N-arylsulfenyl-N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines are cleaved and yield disulfides and sodium salts of N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines (Scheme 64).¹⁵⁷

 $RS(=NSO_{2}Ar)N(SR)SO_{2}Ar + RSNa^{4} \longrightarrow RS(=NSO_{2}Ar)N(Na)SO_{2}Ar + RSSR$ Scheme 64 As shown, 171,172 N-arenesulfenyl-N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines are also generated as a result of the following conversions (Scheme 65).





2.3.3. Oxidative Imination of Sulfenamides with N-Halo Compounds Goerdeler et al.¹⁷³ demonstrated that sulfenamides $ArSNR^1R^2$ ($R^1 = H$, Alk; $R^2 = Alk$) react with chloramine-T according to a general scheme of oxidative imination to form N,N'-substituted amides of iminosulfinic acids (Scheme 66).

ArSNR¹R² + TeNNaC1 -NaCI ArS(=NTe)NR¹R²

Scheme 66

Sulfenamides of the type ArSNHX $[X = C(=NH)NH_2, C(=NH)Alk, C(=NH)S-Alk, C(=NH)OAlk]$ can be iminated with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts,¹⁷³ N-chlorobenzamide,¹⁷⁴ and N-bromobenzamidine.¹⁷⁵ In the presence of bases N-acylsulfenamides such as 4-NO₂C₆H₄SNHAc can be iminated with N-chloracet- and N-chlorobenzamide¹⁷⁶ as well as with N-bromobenzamidine;¹⁷⁴ however, the authors attempts¹⁷³ to iminate N-acyl- and N-arenesulfonylarene-sulfenamides with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in acetone proved abortive which can be attributed to the lower electron density of the sulfur atom in these sulfenamides.

The mechanism of the oxidative imination of sulfenamides with N-halo compounds has not been investigated in detail, however, from analogy with the imination of sulfides the chlorine atom of the N-halo compound is assumed^{177,178} to attack, in an electrophilic manner, the sulfur atom of the sulfenamide to yield the corresponding chlorosulfonium intermediate (Scheme 67).

 $ArSNR_{2} + CINHR^{1} \longleftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} ArSNR_{2}\overline{N}HR^{1} \\ CI \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-HCI} ArS-NR_{2}$ HR^{1} Scheme 67

In this connection it is of particular interest that it is possible to activate the sulfur atom towards oxidative imination by creation of an α -N-anionic center¹⁷⁹ which makes it possible to iminate N-substituted sulfenamides containing elec-

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tron-acceptor groups attached to the sulfur and nitrogen atoms. In this case the choice of the imination condition is determined by the pK_a value of the *N*-substituted sulfenamide.¹⁸⁰ Sulfenamides with $pK_a > 11$ are iminated by *N*-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in acetone in the molecular form (Scheme 68).^{181,182}

```
RSNHR^{1} + ArSO_{2}NNaCl \longrightarrow RS(=NSO_{2}Ar)NHR^{1}
R = Ph, 2-NO_{2}C_{6}H_{4}, 4-NO_{2}C_{6}H_{4}, R^{1} = H;
R = CH_{2}Cl, R^{1} = AlkCO, ArCO; R = Ph, R^{1} = AlkCO, ArCO;
R = Ph, 4-MeC_{6}H_{4}, R^{1} = ArSO_{2}
Scheme 68
```

Sulfenamides with a pK_a value of 8–11 are not iminated in acetone, but in superbasic solvents with a high dielectric constant (aqueous alkaline media, pyridine, etc.) facilitating the dissociation of the sulfenamide to form the α -N-anionic center (Scheme 69).^{183,184}

```
RSNHR^{1} \longleftrightarrow RSNR^{1} + H^{+}RSNR^{1} \longleftrightarrow RSSNR^{1}Scheme 69
```

The sodium salts of such sulfenamides are readily iminated by sulfonic acid sodium chloramides in acetone (Scheme 70).

 $\begin{bmatrix} RS & MR^{1} \end{bmatrix}^{-}Na^{+} + ArSO_{2}NNaCI & -NaCI & \begin{bmatrix} ArSO_{2}N & S & MR^{1} \\ R \end{bmatrix}^{-}Na^{+}$ $R = 4 - NO_{2}C_{6}H_{4}, R^{1} = AI kCO, ArCO;$ $R = 4 - CIC_{6}H_{4}, 2 - NOC_{6}H_{4}, 4 - NO_{2}C_{6}H_{4}, R^{1} = ArSO_{2}$ Scheme 70

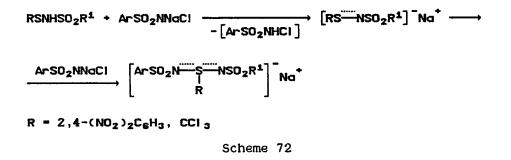
Sulfenamides with $pK_a < 8$ are iminated in acetone as well as in aqueousalkaline media and pyridine since the concentration of sulfenamide N-anion is already rather high, though they are not iminated in benzene, toluene, hexane and solvents of low dielectric constant suppressing the dissociation of sulfenamides (Scheme 71).^{150,185,186}

$$\begin{bmatrix} RS & -NR^{1} \end{bmatrix}^{-}H^{+} + ArSO_{2}NNaCI \xrightarrow{-NaCI} \begin{bmatrix} ArSO_{2}N & S & -NR^{1} \\ R \end{bmatrix}^{-}H^{+}$$

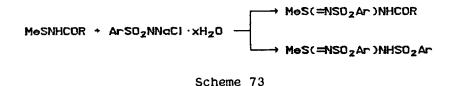
$$R = EtOCOCCI_{2}, R^{1} = ArCO, R = CCI_{3}, R^{1} = AI kCO, ArCO;$$

$$R = CFCI_{2}, R^{1} = AI kCO; R = CF_{2}CI, R^{1} = AI kCO, ArCO$$
Scheme 71

Since in the reaction of sulfenamides with $pK_a < 6$ with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts (N-chlorobenzenesulfonamide has $pK_a 9.5^{187}$) initially the sodium salts of sulfenamides are formed; their imination is performed with a reagent ratio of 1:2 (Scheme 72).^{180,188}



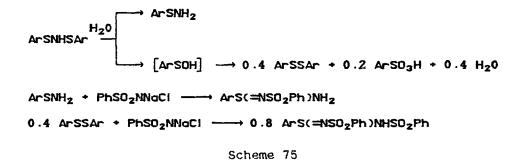
The direction of the reaction of N-acyl-4-nitrobenzenesulfenamides with Nchloroarenesulfonamide salts depends on the reaction conditions: these sulfenamides are iminated in aqueous medium whereas in pyridine the reaction is accompanied by S—N bond breaking and the formation of symmetric N,N'bis(arenesulfonyl)-4-nitrobenzenesulfinamides.¹⁸⁴ A similar symmetrization has also been observed¹⁸⁹ in the reaction of N-acylmethanesulfenamides with N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts in acetone (Scheme 73).



This process has been studied in more detail in the reaction of N-chloroarenesulfonamide salts with bis(arenesulfenyl)imides the products of which are also mixtures of N, N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)arenesulfinamidines and N-arenesulfonylarenesulfinamidines (Scheme 74).¹⁹⁰

ArSNHSAr * 3 PhSO₂NNaCl
$$\times$$
H₂O
ArS(=NSO₂Ph)NH₂
ArS(=NSO₂Ph)NH₂
ArS(=NSO₂Ar)NHSO₂Ar
Ar = 2-NOC₆H₄, 4-NO₂C₆H₄
Scheme 74

The formation of the product mixture is explained by two factors: first, the low rate of sulfenamide imination due to the low electron density on the sulfur atoms and the impossibility of its compensation by the formation of an α -*N*-anionic center because bis(arenesulfenyl)imides are relatively weak NH-acids with pK_a 10.8;¹⁹⁰ second, the lability of the sulfur-nitrogen bond, its breaking in the presence of the water of crystallization contained in the *N*-chloroarenesul-fonamide salt giving diaryl disulfides and arenesulfenamides further imination of which leads to the reaction products (Scheme 75).

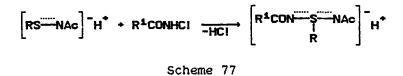


This concept was supported in a study of the reaction of bis(2,4-dinitroben-zenesulfenyl)imide with chloramine-B in acetone yielding N-benzenesulfonyl-2,4-dinitrobenzenesulfinamidine and bis-(2,4-dinitrophenyl) disulfide which, as known,¹⁷⁰ is not iminated by chloramine-B (Scheme 76).

 $[2,4-(NO_2)_2C_6H_3S]_2NH \xrightarrow{PhSO_2NNaCl \cdot xH_2D}$ $\longrightarrow 2,4-(NO_2)_2C_6H_3S(=NSO_2Ph)NH_2$ $\longrightarrow [2,4-(NO_2)_2C_6H_3S-]_2$ Scheme 76

The imination of N-acyl- and N-arenesulfonylsulfenamides with carboxylic acid N-chloroamides^{191,192} is carried out in the presence of organic bases which not

only act as acceptors of hydrogen chloride but also favor the dissociation of the starting sulfenamides (Scheme 77).

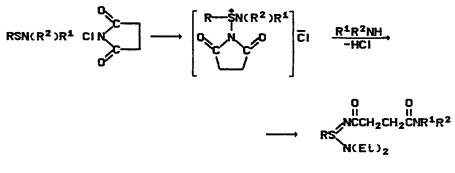


2.3.4. Oxidative Amidation of Sulfenamides The chlorination of sodium salts of N-arenesulfonylarenesulfenamides with chlorine in the presence of dialkylamines gives N,N-dialkyl-N'-arenesulfonylarenesulfinamidines (Scheme 78).¹⁹³

 $ArSN(Na)SD_2Ph + Cl_2 + 2 R_2NH \longrightarrow$ $ArS(=NSD_2Ph)NR_2 + NaCl + R_2NH HCl$ $Ar = 2-NO_2C_5H_4; R = Et, C_5H_{11}$ Scheme 78

The mechanism of this reaction has not been studied but it is quite possible that chlorosulfonic salts or *N*-arenesulfonyliminosulfinic acid chlorides are intermediates in this reaction.

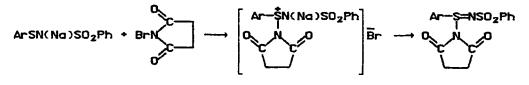
2.3.5. Reaction of Sulfenamides with N-Halosuccinimides Two methods for the preparation of iminosulfinic acid amides with sulfenamides and N-halosuccinimides as the starting compounds have been reported in the literature.^{128,194} One of these¹²⁸ involves the reaction of N,N-dialkylsulfenamides with N-chlorosuccinimide to yield azasulfonium chlorides. Amines then cleave the succinimide ring with formation of iminosulfinic acid amides (Scheme 79).



Scheme 79

SULFIMIDES

The other method¹⁹⁴ consists of the reaction of the sodium salts of *N*-arenesulfonylarenesulfenamides with *N*-bromosuccinimide yielding azasulfonium bromides which finally lose sodium bromide (Scheme 80).





2.3.6. Reaction of Sulfur Diimides with CH-Acids In the case of nucleophilic addition of a CH-acid to one of the S=N bonds of sulfur diimides,^{195,196} imino-sulfinic acid amides are formed in relatively good yields (Scheme 81).

With weak CH-acids use is made of their lithium salts (Scheme 82).¹⁹⁷

```
RN=S=NR + CH_2(X)_2 \longrightarrow (X)_2 CHS(=NR)NHR

R = Ar, ArSO<sub>2</sub>; X = MeCO, PhCO

Scheme 81

=S=NR + t-BuLi (ester, -80°C) t-BuS(=NR)N(Li)R
```

R = t - Bu, SiMe₃

Scheme 82

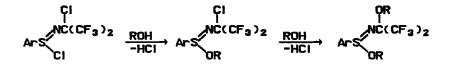
2.4. Synthesis of Iminosulfinic Acid Esters

2.4.1. Reaction of Iminosulfinic Acid Chlorides with Alcohols N-Arenesulfonyliminosulfinic acid esters are rather easily obtained by the reaction of N-arenesulfonyliminosulfinic acid chlorides with alcohols or alkoxides (Scheme 83).¹⁹⁸

$$RS(=NSD_2Ar)CI + R^1OH \longrightarrow RS(=NSD_2Ar)OR^1$$

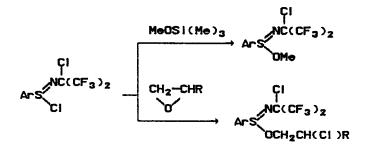
Scheme 83

The replacement of the chlorine atoms by alkoxy groups in N-(α -chloroal-kyl)areneiminosulfinic acid chlorides proceeds stepwise, first on the sulfur atom and then on the carbon atom (Scheme 84).^{113,129}



Scheme 84

Sometimes use is made of siloxanes and epoxy compounds instead of alcohols (Scheme 85).



Scheme 85

2.4.2. Oxidative Imination of Sulfenic Acid Esters with N-Halo Compounds Esters of N-benzenesulfonyl-2-nitrobenzeneiminosulfinic acid have been obtained by oxidative imination of 2-nitrobenzenesulfenic acid esters with chloramine B (Scheme 86).¹⁹⁸

Scheme 86

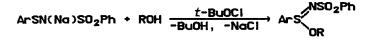
2.4.3. Oxidative Imination of Disulfides with N,N-Dihalo Compounds Esters of N-benzenesulfonyl-8-quinolineiminosulfinic acid are formed by the reaction of bis-(8-quinolyl) disulfide with N,N-dichloroarenesulfonamides in alcoholic media in the presence of alkali (Scheme 87).¹⁹⁹

RSSR + 2 PhSO₂NCl₂ + 2 R¹OH + Na₂CO₃
$$\rightarrow$$

 \rightarrow 2 RS(=NSO₂Ph)OR¹ + 2 NaCl + 2 CO₂ + H₂O + Cl₂
R = \bigwedge , R¹ = Me, Et

Scheme 87

2.4.4. Oxidative Alkoxylation of Sulfenamides It has been established²⁰⁰ that esters of N-arenesulfonylareneiminosulfinic acids are readily obtained by chlorination of the sodium salts of N-arenesulfonylarenesulfenamides with t-butyl hypochlorite in alcoholic media (Scheme 88).



Scheme 88

3. PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES AND STRUCTURE

3.1. Physicochemical Properties and Structure of Sulfimides

3.1.1. S=N Bond Nature and Sulfimide Structure There is no unified concept of the nature of the S=N bond in sulfimides and other iminosulfinic compounds despite special emphasis on this problem in papers.²⁰¹⁻²²¹ This is due to the fact that the S=N bond differs from the normal double bond since the overlapping of p-atomic orbitals is energetically disadvantageous for the elements of the 3rd and subsequent periods of the Periodic Table. At the same time, the structural characteristics indicate definitely that this bond is of a multiple nature, but of low π -order and of a length exceeding the corresponding sum of covalent radii. They are also indicative of high polarity and a low-potential barrier of inner rotation which prevents the formation of diastereomeric compounds due to hindered rotation about the S=N bond. Depending on the nature of the substituents at the sulfur and the nitrogen atoms, the lability of the S=N bond changes over a wide range. An analysis of these factors and the analysis of data on the nature of the E=N bond in other elemento-organic compounds give grounds to conclude that the d-orbitals of the sulfur atom participate in the formation of the S=N bond in sulfimides. This statement includes three major views on the nature of the S=N bond in sulfimides established in the last few years.

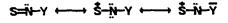
1. The S=N bond is a normal double bond in which the π -bonding is formed by overlapping of p-orbitals of the nitrogen atom and symmetrically corresponding d-orbitals of the sulfur atom.

2. The S=N bond is semipolar with the σ -bond formed by p-atomic orbitals of the sulfur and nitrogen atoms and the other bond is ionic, stabilized by the formation of a complex with charge transfer from the electron-saturated nitrogen atom (=NR group) onto the sulfur atom with a positively charged R₂S group.

3. The S=N bond is a double bond in which the π -bond is stabilized by interaction of p_{π^-} (or n-) orbitals of the nitrogen atom with d_{π^-} -orbitals of the sulfur atom or by hyperconjugation brought about by interaction of the unshared electron pair of nitrogen with electrons of antibonding σ -orbitals of the adjacent S-C-bond (n_N - σ_S^* -interaction).

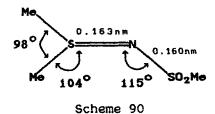
A detailed analysis of the three viewpoints on the nature of the S==N bond involving quantum mechanical calculations, structural and spectral data has failed to bring the authors²²¹ to an unambiguous conclusion concerning the nature of the S==N bond in sulfimides.

These authors state that sulfimides R_2S =NY and isoelectronic analogs are characterized by a mobile π -electronic system including, as an important factor, three d-orbitals the population of which rises with increasing effective electronegativity of the substituents on the sulfur atom and decreases in the presence of π -electron-acceptor groups on the nitrogen atom. The energy of the S=N bond stabilization by d_{π} - p_{π} -conjugation is not high, as a rule, and varies depending on the properties of the substituents R and Y. Stabilization is achieved, to a greater degree, by electrostatic interaction of the oppositely charged centers, the R_2S^+ and the NY group. Proceeding from this, the authors²²¹ suggest that the electronic structure of the S=N bond should be presented in the form of three main resonance structures (Scheme 89).



Scheme 89

The crystal and molecular structures of S,S-dimethyl-N-methanesulfonyl sulfimide and of some N-arenesulfonyl sulfimides obtained by X-ray structural analysis have been reported in the literature.^{204,205,211,214,221-224} A characteristic feature of these structures is that the tetracoordinate sulfur atom together with the surrounding valence bonds forms a trigonal pyramid which is rather resistant to pyramidal inversion. This is confirmed by the existence of sulfimides with the corresponding substituents in the enantiomeric forms stipulated by the chirality of the sulfur atom. Characteristic bond lengths and angles for a typical representative of sulfimides, S,S-dimethyl-N-methanesulfonyl sulfimide, are presented below (Scheme 90).



The two C—S^{IV} bonds in this sulfimide in the crystalline state differ in length (0.180 and 0.178 nm) while in solution or in the liquid state these bonds are nearly the same which can be explained by the relatively low rotation barrier of the S=N bond the value of which can be estimated from data calculated for the hypothetical molecule H₂S=NH (9.60 kcal·mol⁻¹).²²⁵ The average length of the S^{IV}—C bond is less than the sum of the corresponding covalent radii (0.183 nm)

which can be explained in terms of likely interaction of the methyl groups with the sulfur atom by hyperconjugation. The bond lengths and valence angles of other sulfimides (Table 1) are very close to the ones mentioned above.

A comparison of the physical parameters of the E=N bond (E = S, Se, Te) of sulfimides, selenimides²²⁶ and tellurimides²²⁷ showed an increase in the length of this bond in going from sulfur to tellurium which is in accord with the increase of the covalent radii of the corresponding elements.

According to the literature data²²⁹⁻²³¹ the polarity of the S^{IV}=N bond varies depending on the nature of groups attached to the nitrogen atom over a wide range leading to dipole moments from 1.56 to 10.1 D. A sharp decrease of the dipole moment when the arenesulfonyl groups at the nitrogen atom is replaced by an aryl group is explained¹⁸ by conjugation of the lone electron pair of the nitrogen atom with π -electrons of the aromatic ring and by involvement of this conjugated system in the delocalization of the negative charge of the nitrogen atom.

3.1.2. Spectral Properties The wavenumbers of the S=N bond stretching vibrations in sulfimides (Table 2) occupy a wide spectral range from 750 to 1400 cm⁻¹ which allows the conclusion that the polarizability of the π -system of the S=N bond is high. Naturally, the high polarizability of the bond accounts for the great dependence of the absorption band location on the nature of substituents on the sulfur and nitrogen atoms.

The UV absorption spectra of N-arenesulfonyl sulfimides^{234,242-246} exhibit absorption bands with maxima at 230 nm (log ϵ 4.0–4.5) and 270 nm (log ϵ 3.0–4.5). In the UV absorption spectra of N-acyl and N-ethoxycarbonyl sulfimides^{233,234,242,243,247} there is an absorption band with a maximum in the 217–231 nm region (log ϵ 4.1–4.3). The UV absorption spectra of N-aryl-S,Sdialkyl sulfimides are more complicated due to the presence of absorption maxima at 240–250 nm (log ϵ 3.6–4.0), 270–280 nm (log ϵ 3.7–4.0), and 315–325 nm (log ϵ 3.2–3.6). This character of the UV absorption spectra of N-aryl-S,S-dialkyl

| | n. di at | Valence angles, deg. | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Sulfimide | Bond length, nm | C-S ^{IV} —N | C-S ^{IV} —C | References |
| Me ₂ S=NC ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ -2 | 0.1622 | 106.5 | 99.5 | 214 |
| $(CH_2)_3$ S=NC ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ -4 | 0.1649 | | | 220 |
| Me ₂ S=NC ₄ H ₄ NO ₂ -4 | 0.1651 | 104.1 | | 220 |
| Me ₂ S=NSO ₂ Me | 0.1627 | 102.2 | 98.2 | 212 |
| Me ₂ S=NSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Me-4 | 0.1628 | 103.8 | 101 | 221 |
| Me ₂ S=NCOPh | 0.1659 | 104.2 | 101 | 204 |
| Me ₂ S=NCOCCl ₃ | 0.1667 | 104.7 | 99.9 | 228 |
| Et ₂ S=NCOCHCl ₂ | 0.1633 | 103.8 | 99.3 | 221 |

TABLE 1 Lengths and Valence Angles of the S^{IV}=N Bond

| Sulfimide | S==N, cm^{-1} | References |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| Ph ₂ S=NH | 910-940 | 103 |
| Et ₂ S=NH | 900-910 | 221 |
| $(p-MeC_{6}H_{4})_{2}S==NH$ | 920 | 221 |
| Ph ₂ S=NCl | 860 | 237 |
| Ph ₂ S=NBr | 860 | 221 |
| Ph ₂ S=NMe | 1080, 1140 | 103 |
| Ph ₂ S=NBu | 1090 | 221 |
| Ph ₂ S=NBu | 1030 | 221, 232, 233 |
| Me ₂ S==NCOMe | 797 | 232 |
| Me ₂ S=NCOPh | 805, 1330 | 221 |
| Et ₂ S=NCOCHCl ₂ | 810, 825 | 232 |
| $Ph_2S=N(C=NH)NH_2$ | 840 | 238 |
| Me ₂ S=NCO ₂ Et | 782, 821 | 239-242 |
| Ph(Me)S=NSO ₂ Me | 952 | 221 |
| Me ₂ S=NSO ₂ Me | 954 | 234-236 |
| Ph ₂ S=NSO ₂ Ph | 767, 968, 970 | 221 |
| Me ₂ S=NSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Me-p | 750, 956 | 221 |
| Ph ₂ S=NSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Me-p | 981 | 221 |
| $(p-MeC_6H_4)_2S=NSO_2C_6H_4Me-p$ | 970 | 221 |

TABLE 2 Stretching Vibrations of the S=N Bond in Sulfimides

TABLE 3 Chemical Shift of the Methyl Group Protons of S,S-Dimethyl sulfimides

| Sulfimide | Chemical shift (δ) | References | |
|---|--------------------|------------|--|
| | 2.05 | 248 | |
| Me ₂ S=NSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Me-4 | 2.68 | 249 | |
| $Me_2S = NSO_2CF_3$ | 3.03 | 250 | |
| Me ₂ S=NCOPh | 2.76 | 251 | |
| Me ₂ S=NCO ₂ Et | 2.71 | 239 | |
| Me ₂ S=NCOCHCl ₂ | 2.80 | 252 | |

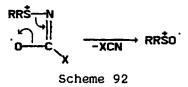
sulfimides is caused by conjugation of the S=N bond electrons with the π -electrons of the aromatic ring.

The position of the signals of the methyl group protons in the NMR spectra of S,S-dimethyl sulfimides depends on the nature of the groups on the nitrogen atom (Table 3).

The mass spectrum of S,S-diphenyl sulfimide^{247,252} shows peaks of ionized molecules of diphenyl sulfide (m/z 186) and thiophenol (m/z 109). The formation of a peak in the spectra of N-alkyl-S,S-diphenyl sulfimides at m/z 200 has also been reported.²⁵³ The mass spectra of N-alkyl-S,S-diphenyl sulfimides²⁵³ and N-aryl-S,S-dimethyl sulfimides^{67,103} lack molecular ion peaks. The base peaks correspond to the ionized molecules of the sulfides and of the N-unsubstituted sulfimides. The primary fragmentation of the molecular ions of N-acyl sulfimides^{234,243,247} and other carbonyl-containing sulfimides is the elimination of the group bound to the carbonyl group (Scheme 91).

$$\begin{array}{cccc} RRS & \xrightarrow{-NCOX} & \xrightarrow{-X} & RRS & \xrightarrow{-NCO} & \xrightarrow{-NCO} \\ \hline & X & = Me, Ph, OEt, NHPh \\ & Scheme 91 \end{array}$$

The appearance of a sulfoxide ion peak in the mass spectra of N-acetyl and N-benzoyl sulfimides is explained^{234.254} by rearrangement of the primary ion (Scheme 92).



The mass spectral fragmentation of N-arenesulfonyl sulfimides involves the formation of SO₂, R₂SNSO and other fragments.

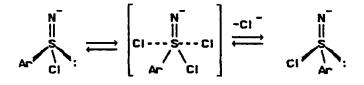
3.2. Physical and Spectral Properties of Iminosulfinic Acid Derivatives

3.2.1. Physical and Spectral Properties of Iminosulfinic Acid Chlorides The chlorides of N-substituted iminosulfinic acids are colorless or slightly yellowish crystalline substances (the fluorides are liquids in most cases) the stability of which is governed by the nature of the substituents on the sulfur and the nitrogen atom. The N-arenesulfonylalkaneiminosulfinic acid chlorides are unstable and used *in situ* without isolation from the reaction mixture. The chlorides of N-substituted areneiminosulfinic acids containing arenesulfonyl, acyl, perfluoromethyl and t-butyl groups are substituents are relatively stable compounds while the chlorides of N-methyl- and N-ethylareneiminosulfinic acids could not be isolated²² because of their instability.

Spectroscopic studies of N-substituted areneiminosulfinic acid chlorides have shown²² that the electron system of the S=N bond is relatively labile and the nature of the substituents on the sulfur and the nitrogen atom affects both the charge value on these atoms and the degree of their double bonding.

The IR absorption bands of the S=N bond stretching vibrations of N-substituted iminosulfinic acid chlorides²²¹ occur in the 950–1200 cm⁻¹ region depending on the nature of the substituents. The bathochromic shift of the S=N bond absorption band (950 cm⁻¹) in the case of N-acyliminosulfinic acid chlorides is explained²² by conjugation in the S=N-C=O fragment.

The diastereotopy of the X group in iminosulfinic acid halides $R^{1}S(=NCH_{2}R^{2})Y$ (X = F, CF₃; $R^{1} = CF_{3}$, Ar; $R^{2} = CI$; Y = F, CI) has been established²⁵⁶ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy. In this case it was noted that in the presence of tetraethylammonium chloride the clearly defined signals of the diastereotopic trifluoromethyl groups appear as a broadened signal which, in the authors' opinion,²⁵⁶ is caused by rapid inversion of the chiral sulfur atom as a result of chloride ion attack (Scheme 93).



Scheme 93

3.2.2. Physical and Spectral Properties of Iminosulfinic Acid Amides Iminosulfinic acid amides are colorless or slightly yellowish crystalline substances readily soluble in many organic solvents.

In accordance with the literature data^{22,221} the wavenumbers of the S=N bond stretching vibrations in the IR spectra of iminosulfinic acid amides (Table 4) occupy a relatively narrow spectral region from 950 to 1000 cm⁻¹.

A distinctive characteristics of the IR spectra of N,N'-disubstituted amides of iminosulfinic acids consists in the fact that the NH-bond stretching vibrations are

| A | Stretching vibrations of groups, cm ⁻¹ | | | | | |
|---|---|------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Amide | NH | C=O | SO ₂ (as) | SO ₂ (sym) | NO ₂ (as) | NO ₂ (sym) |
| $BuS(=NSO_2Ph)NHSO_2Ph$ | 3100-3200 | | | 1175 | | |
| C ₆ H ₃ CH ₂ SNHSÓ ₂ Ph | 3050, 3100 | | | 1160 | | |
| PhSNHSO ₂ C ₆ H₄Me-4 ∥ NSO ₃ Ph | 3000, 3160 | | 1310 | 1150 | 1500 | 1340 |
| 4-NO ₂ C ₆ H₄SNHSO ₂ Ph ∥ NSO ₂ Ph | 3065, 3111 | | 1320 | 1150 | 1520 | 1350 |
| 2,4-(NO ₂) ₂ C ₆ H ₃ SNHSO ₂ Ph ∥ NSO ₂ Ph | 3260, 3350 | | 1320 | 1160 | 1540 | 1340 |
| $PhS(=NSO_2Ph)NHCOPh$ | 3000, 3060 | 1680 | 1320 | 1160 | | |
| PhSNHCOC ₆ H ₄ Me-4 | 3050, 3110 | 1670 | 1310 | 1160 | | |
| 4-NO ₂ C ₆ H₄SNHCOPh ∥ NSO ₂ C ₆ H₄Me-4 | 3050, 3100 | 1670 | 1310 | 1150 | 1530 | 1350 |
| 4-NO₂C ₆ H₄SNHCOMe ∥ NSO₂Ph | 3100, 3180 | 1680 | 1310 | 1150 | 1520 | 1320 |
| CCl ₃ S- (=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOPh | 3020, 3180 | 1680 | 1320 | 1170 | | |

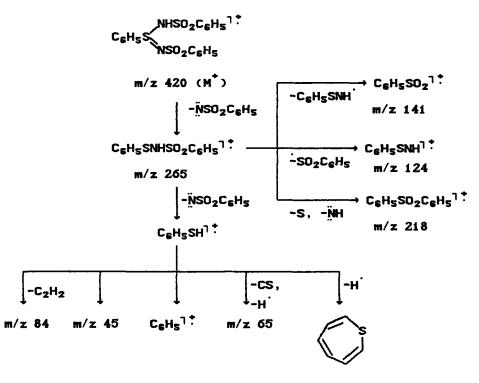
TABLE 4 Infrared Spectra of Iminosulfinic Acid Amides^{147,180}

nearly always represented by two absorption bands: a narrow band in the region of $3000-3200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and a broad band of low intensity at $3100-3400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

The UV spectra of N,N'-bis(benzenesulfonyl)arenesulfinamidines 4-RC₆H₄S-(=NSO₂Ph)NHSO₂Ph (R = CH₃, H, Cl, NO₂) show intense absorption bands with maxima at 250–300 nm (log ϵ 3.8–4.5) the position and intensity of which depend on the nature of substituents R.¹⁷⁰ In case of electron-acceptor substituents a bathochromic shift of the absorption maximum is observed, with electron-donor substituents a hypsochromic shift.

The NH group in the ¹H NMR spectra of iminosulfinic acid amides is gives rise to a signal at δ 8–8.5 (cf. Table 5).¹⁵⁹

The mass spectra of N,N'-disubstituted iminosulfinic acid amides lack molecular ion peaks. The base peaks correspond to arenesulfonyl ions. The primary fragmentation of ionized N,N'-bis(benzenesulfonyl)benzenesulfinamidine¹⁷⁰ is elimination of benzenesulfonylnitrene with formation of an intense peak of the N-benzenesulfonylbenzenesulfenamide ion (m/z 265). Its subsequent breakdown can follow several directions (Scheme 94).



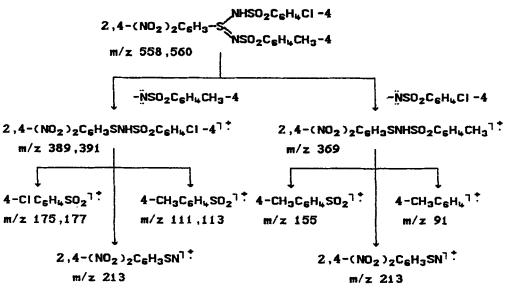
Scheme 94

The identity of the thiophenol ion peak $(m/z \ 110)$ in the mass spectrum is confirmed by its characteristic fragmentation (ions with $m/z \ 45, \ 65, \ 77, \ 84, \ 100)$). The maximum peaks in the mass spectrum of N-(4-chlorobenenesulfonyl)-N'-(4-

| | Chemical shift of protons (δ) | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|--|
| Amide | CH ₃ | CH ₂ CH ₂ | -CH ₂ S | Har | References | |
| BuS(==NCOPh)NHCOPh | 0.89 t | 1.161 m | 3.54 t | 7.2-7.9 m | 159 | |
| BuS(=NSO2Ph)NHSO2Ph | 0.31 t | 1.04 m | 3.34 t | 7.1–7.7 m | 147 | |
| PhCH ₂ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHSO ₂ Ph | | | 5.0 s | 7.0–7.8 m | 147 | |
| 2-NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NEt ₂ | 1.35 t | 3.3 g (—CH ₂) | | 7.5–7.9 m | 193 | |

TABLE 5 ¹H NMR Spectra of Iminosulfinic Acid Amides

(methylbenzensulfonyl)-2,4-dinitrobenzenesulfinamidine¹⁸⁰ are the peaks of the aryl moieties 4-MeC₆H₄^{7⁺} (m/z 91) and 4-ClC₆H₄^{7⁺} (m/z 111) as well as the peaks of the arenesulfonyl moieties 4-MeC₆H₄SO₂^{7⁺} (m/z 155) and 4-ClC₆H₄SO₂^{7⁺} (m/z 175). Most likely is also the formation of unstable ions of *N*-arenesulfonyldinitrobenzenesulfenamides (m/z 389 and 391) which is in agreement with the fragmentation shown below (Scheme 95).¹⁸⁰





3.2.3. Physical and Spectral Properties of Iminosulfinic Acid Esters Esters of Narenesulfonyliminosulfinic acids are colorless or slightly yellowish crystalline substances readily soluble in organic solvents, stable to storage. The spectral characteristics of these compounds are not completely understood. In the literature²⁰⁰ the IR spectra of the methyl and the ethyl ester of N-benzenesulfonyl-2-nitrobenzeneiminosulfinic acid comprising the following absorption bands (cm⁻¹): 1525, 1345 (NO₂), 1310, 1140 (SO₂), 980 (S=N) have been described. In the NMR spectrum of N-benzenesulfonyl-2-nitrobenzeneiminosulfinic acid methyl ester there are signals of the protons of the methyl ($\delta 3.61$) and aryl groups ($\delta 7.2$ -8.5).

4. REACTIONS

4.1. Reactions of Sulfimides

According to the nature of the change at the S=N bond all reactions involving sulfimides can be divided into three groups: a) reactions not affecting the S=N bond; b) reactions involving conversion of the S=N bond to S^{II} -N and S^{IV} -N bonds; c) reactions proceeding with cleavage of the S=N bond.

4.1.1. Reactions Not Affecting the S=N Bond

4.1.1.1. Basicity of Sulfimides Owing to the presence of a nitrogen atom with a high electron density sulfimides exhibit basic properties which change over a wide range depending on the nature of the substituents on the nitrogen and the sulfur atom (Table 6).¹⁸ As seen from Table 6, the basicity of *N*-unsubstituted sulfimides is comparable with that of primary amines. These sulfimides, when reacting with the corresponding acids, easily form stable perchlorates,^{257,258} hydrochlorides,⁷⁰ toluenesulfonates,^{241,259} and picrates.^{70,260}

N-Acyl sulfimides^{261,262} form hydrochlorides when treated with anhydrous hydrogen chloride in organic solvents; N-alkyl and N-ethoxycarbonyl-S,S-

| Sulfimide | pK, |
|--|--------|
| 4-MeC ₆ H ₄ S(==NH)Ph | 8.79 |
| 2-Me-C ₆ H ₄ S(=NH)Ph | 8.70 |
| Ph ₂ S=NH | 8.56 |
| 4-CIC ₆ H ₄ S(=:NH)Ph | 8.05 |
| 2-NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ S(=NH)Ph | 7.96 |
| $4 - NO_2C_6H_4S(=NH)Ph$ | 7.30 |
| Me ₂ S=NH | 4.28 |
| Et ₂ S=NTs | 4.70 |
| Me ₂ S=NTs | 0.57 |
| 4-MeOC ₆ H₄S(==NTs)Me | -1.78 |
| PhS(=NSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ OMe-4)Me | -2.13 |
| PhS(=NTs)Me | -2.23 |
| 4-MeOC ₆ H ₄ S(==NTs)Me | -2.26 |
| PhS(=NSO ₂ Ph)Me | -2.36 |
| 4-ClC ₆ H₄S(=NTs)Me | -2.32 |
| $PhS(=NSO_2C_6H_4Cl-4)Me$ | -2.55 |
| 3-CIC ₆ H ₄ S(=NTs)Me | -2.48 |
| $3-NO_2C_4H_4S(=NT_5)Me$ | -2.85 |
| $4-NO_2C_6H_4S(=NT_8)Me$ | -2.93 |
| $PhS(=NSO_2C_4H_4NO_2-4)Me$ | - 3.00 |
| Ph ₂ S=NTs | -3.60 |

TABLE 6 pK, Values of Sulfimide Conjugated Acids¹⁸

diphenyl sulfimides^{56,103} decompose under these conditions. Hydrophilic picrates are also formed by *N*-substituted sulfimides containing aryl,^{67,263} hetaryl,²⁶⁴ imidoyl,^{265,266} phthalimido,²⁶⁷ and sulfonyl²⁶⁸ groups. The expected dependence between the pK_a and the Hammett σ -constants of the arenesulfonyl group substituents ($\rho = +0.82$) has been found for a series of *N*-arenesulfonyl-*S*-phenyl-*S*-methyl sulfimides;²⁶⁹ and one between the pK_a and the Hammett σ -constants of the aryl group substituents ($\rho = +0.89$) for a series of *N*-tosyl-*S*-aryl-*S*-methyl sulfimides.³⁰

In a reaction with Pd(II) and Pt(II) salts N-aryl-S,S-dimethyl sulfimides produce complexes.^{251,270,271} N-Benzoyl-S,S-dimethyl sulfimide forms an orange crystalline complex [(PPh₃)₂PdCl₂·Me₂SNCOPh] in its reaction with [bis(triphenylphosphine)palladium] dichloride.

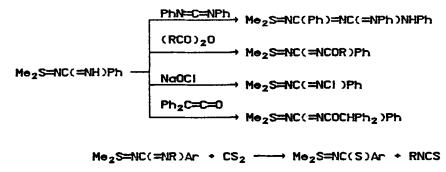
4.1.1.2. Modification of Substituents on the Sulfur and the Nitrogen Atom The directed chemical modification of various groups on the sulfur and the nitrogen atom in sulfimides is widely used in the synthesis of new types of these compounds. Particularly convenient as starting materials are S-(haloalkyl sulfimides which can be readily converted to new types of sulfimides by nucleophilic replacement of the halogen atoms²⁷² or by dehydrohalogenation (Scheme 96).²⁷³

ArSO₂N=S(Me)CH₂X + RNa $\rightarrow NaX$ ArSO₂N=S(Me)CH₂R X = CI, Br; R = AIkO, ArO, PhS, NCS ArSO₂N=S(R)CH₂CH₂X $\rightarrow HB \rightarrow ArSO_2N=S(R)CH=CH_2$ X = CI, Br; R = Ph, 4-MeC₅H₄ Scheme 96

The replacement of the cation in the metal salts of N-arenesulfonyl sulfimides with alkyl groups also leads to new types of sulfimides (Scheme 97).^{48,51-53}

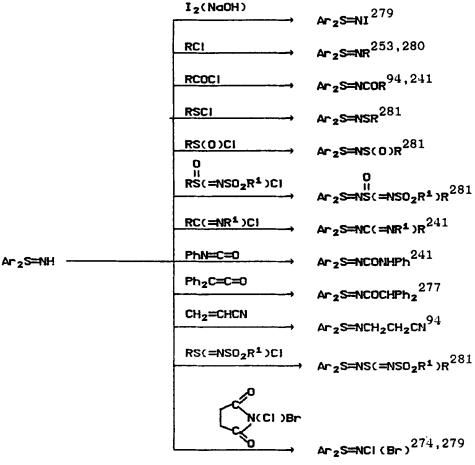
 $\begin{bmatrix} X & & & \\$

Some examples of modification of groups attached to the nitrogen atom of *N*-substituted sulfimides are provided by reactions of these groups with different reagents described in^{57,274,275} (Scheme 98).



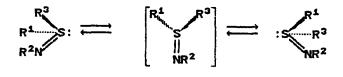
Scheme 98

For the synthesis of new types of N-substituted sulfimides use is often made of N-unsubstituted sulfimides formed by acid cleavage of the S^{VI}-N bond in N-arenesulfonyl sulfimides when they react with 90% sulfuric acid (Scheme 99).^{241,276,279}





4.1.1.3. Thermal Racemization of Sulfimides Sulfimides with different substituents on the sulfur atom can exist in enantiomeric forms due to the sulfur atom chirality. Enantiomer interconversion occurs with rising temperature by a pyramidal inversion mechanism via a planar transition state (Scheme 100).²⁸²



Scheme 100

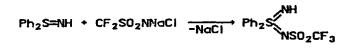
Kinetic investigations of the thermal racemization of optically active sulfimides 2-MeOC₆H₄S(=NR)Ph (R = PhSO₂, 4-MeC₆H₄SO₂, 4-MeOC₆H₄SO₂, MeCO, PhCO, CF₃CO, etc.) at 75 °C in chloroform have shown that, along with the known factors affecting the thermal racemization rate (solvent type, steric factors, etc.), an important role is played by the nature of the groups on the nitrogen atom. Strong electron-acceptor groups on the nitrogen atom reduce the thermal racemization rate. For example, the rate of thermal racemization of N-tosyl sulfimides is a factor of 15 lower than that of N-trifluoroethanoyl sulfimides. In the authors' opinion,²⁸³ this happens because strong electron-acceptor groups hinder 2p-3d transitions when the S=N bond is being formed in the transition state and the repulsion of the lone electron pairs essentially reduces the electron density on the pyramidal nitrogen atom of sulfimides. Therefore, N-substituted sulfimides containing weak electron-acceptor groups as substituents adopt a configuration near to planar. The pyramidal inversion rate decreases with a decrease in the wavenumbers of the S=N bond absorption stretching vibrations in the IR spectra which indicates that the increase in the dipolar nature of the S=N bond increases the pyramidal inversion barrier.

4.1.1.4. Oxidation of Sulfimides As a rule, sulfimides are resistant to the action of oxidants and are oxidized only by strong oxidants to yield sulfoximides (Scheme 101).

 $R_{2}^{1}S=NR^{2} \xrightarrow{"O"} R_{2}^{1}S=NR^{2}$ $R^{1} = Alk, Ar; R^{2} = H, ArSO_{2}, RCO, ROCO$ Scheme 101

Potassium permanganate,⁹⁴ peracids,^{241,281} ruthenium tetraoxide,²⁸⁴ hydrogen peroxide in alkaline medium,²⁸⁵ and sodium hypochlorite^{286,287} are used most fre-

quently as oxidants. For oxidations in two-phase media use is made of phase transfer catalysts such as $Bu_4N \cdot X$ (X = Cl, Br, ClO₄, HSO₄), PhCH₂N(Et)₃Cl, C₁₂H₁₅N(Me)₃Cl, etc.^{286,287} It has been shown²⁸⁸ that N-unsubstituted sulfimides are subject to oxidative imination under the action of the sodium salts of N-chlorosulfonamides (Scheme 102).



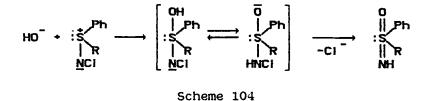


4.1.1.5. Alkaline Hydrolysis of Sulfimides The hydrolytic cleavage of sulfimides in the presence of mineral acids has long been known and well studied. As a rule, this results in the formation of the corresponding sulfoxides and the starting *N*-nucleophiles irrespective of the structure of the sulfimide. The hydrolysis of sulfimides in the presence of bases has not been studied properly. The composition and structure of the products of such hydrolyses depend frequently on various factors, primarily the structure of the sulfimide. The alkaline hydrolysis of *N*-(*p*-toluenesulfonyl)tetrahydrothiophene sulfimide in alcoholic media,²⁸⁹ for example, results in the formation of the corresponding 2-alkoxytetrahydrothiophene and *p*-toluenesulfonamide. The alkaline hydrolysis of *N*-chloro sulfimides in aqueous medium leads to *N*-unsubstituted sulfoximides (Scheme 103).²⁷⁸

$$R_{2}S=NC1 \xrightarrow{H_{2}O(OH^{-})} R_{2}S$$

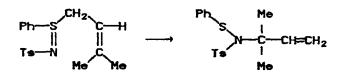
Scheme 103

The reaction is stereospecific and with optically active N-chloro sulfimides proceeds with 99% retention of the sulfur atom configuration. The hydrolytic mechanism includes a nucleophilic attack on the sulfur atom by the hydroxide anion resulting in a transition state stabilized by abstraction of a chloride ion (Scheme 104).



4.1.2. Reactions Involving Conversion of the S=N Bond to an S^{II}=N or S^{IV}-N Bond

4.1.2.1. Rearrangement of Sulfimides to Sulfenamides N-Substituted sulfimides containing an aryl group at the sulfur atom are subject to various facile sigmatropic rearrangements, therefore it is impossible to isolate them in many instances. One of the rearrangements of this type is the [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement consisting in allyl group migration from sulfur to nitrogen to yield N-substituted sulfenamides (Scheme 105).²⁹⁰

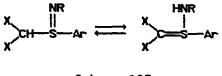


Scheme 105

When heated, S-alkyl sulfimides containing β -hydrogen atoms undergo rearrangement of the Pummerer type to yield sulfimides and alkenes (Scheme 106).^{66,291}

 $R^{1} \xrightarrow{R^{1}} A \xrightarrow{A} R^{2}SNHR^{3} + C$ $R^{1} \xrightarrow{H} H, Mo; R^{3} = Ar, MeCO$ Scheme 106

4.1.2.2. Formation of S-Aminosulfonium Ylides N-Substituted sulfimides containing a mobile α -hydrogen atom can undergo [1,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement to form S-aminosulfonium ylides (Scheme 107).

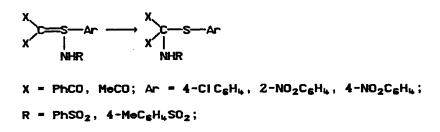


Scheme 107

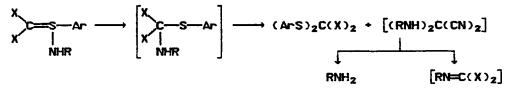
The rearrangement is essentially a prototropic shift in the C-S-N moiety, *i.e.*, imino ylide tautomerism, and the possibility of existence of any form depends on the nature of the X and R groups.

In accordance with the main principles of acid-base prototropic equilibrium²⁹² the tautomeric equilibrium is the case when the dissociation constants of the two forms differ by no more than one to three orders of magnitude. If the difference between the dissociation constants is great the equilibrium shifts nearly completely towards the form with the lesser dissociation constant. If this criterion is applied to the C-S-N imino ylide tautomerism of N-substituted sulfimides with a mobile α -hydrogen atom it will be clear that the transformation of imine to ylide occurs only when the acidity of the CH-form (imine) becomes comparable to or greater than that of the NH-form (ylide). To make the CH-form acidity equal or greater than the NH-form acidity a strong electron-acceptor effect of the X groups is required. Therefore, formation of S-aminosulfonium ylides is observed^{48,51-53,108} when strong electron acceptor groups such as PhCO, MeCO, CN, EtOCO, etc. are introduced as X. If X is a weak electron acceptor such as Ph,²⁹³ the prototropic tautomeric equilibrium completely shifts towards the weakly acidic imine form, i.e. the [1,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement does not occur.

The stability of S-aminosulfonium ylides resulting from [1,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of sulfimides is determined, to a greater extent, by the nature of the R groups on the nitrogen atom. A relatively high stability of S-aryl-S-(t-butylamino)- and S-aryl-S-(α -cyanoisopropylamino)sulfonium ylides has been reported¹⁰⁸ while S-aryl-S-(arenesulfonylamino)sulfonium ylides^{51-53,108} are unstable and undergo further transformations due to the migration of the arenesulfonamido group to the carbon atom (Schemes 108 and 109).



Scheme 108



 $X = CN, EtOCO; Ar = 4-CIC_{6}H_{4}, 2-NO_{2}C_{6}H_{4}, 4-NO_{2}C_{6}H_{4};$

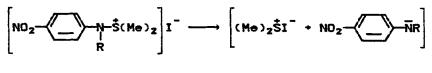
 $R = PhSO_2$, $4 - MeC_6H_4SO_2$

4.1.2.3. Formation of Aminosulfonium Halides N-Aryl sulfimides form unstable aminosulfonium halides in their reactions with alkylating or acylating agents (Scheme 110).²⁹³

 $Ar - N = S(Me)_2 + RX \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} Ar - N - \hat{S}(Me)_2 \\ I \\ R \end{bmatrix} X^{-1}$ $R = Me, X = I; R = ELOCO, X = CI; R = MeCO, X = MeCOO^{-};$ $Ar = p - NO_2C_6H_4, p - CIC_6H_4$

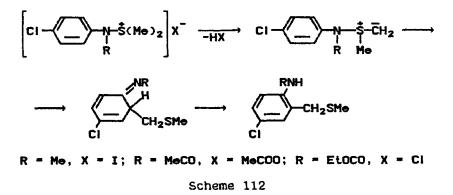
Scheme 110

Further transformations of such halides depend on the nature of the substituents of the aryl group and on the basicity of X. In the case of strong electron acceptor substituents (*e.g.* NO_2) and highly basic X⁻ an attack of X⁻ on the positively charged sulfur atom with subsequent S—N bond cleavage take place (Scheme 111).



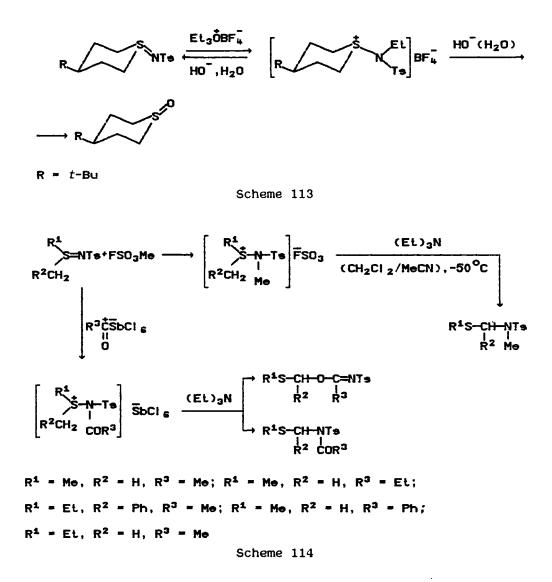
Scheme 111

With weak electron acceptor or electron donor substituents X^- abstracts a proton from the S-methyl group to form an intermediate ylide which further undergoes intramolecular sigmatropic rearrangement resulting in an unstable cyclohexadiene derivative which is converted to a more stable benzene derivative (Scheme 112).



When one of the methyl groups on the sulfur atom is replaced by an ethyl or propyl group the proton is abstracted from the S-methyl group only, but in case of a benzyl group the proton is abstracted from the benzyl group only, which is correlated with a decrease of acidity in the series $PhCH_2S > MeS > AlkCH_2S$.

N-Arenesulfonyl sulfimides give aminosulfonium halides in reactions with highly active acylating and alkylating agents such as oxonium salts (*e.g.* $Et_3OBF_4^{291}$), fluorosulfuric acid methyl ester,²⁹⁴ and complexes of carboxylic acid chlorides with SbCl₅.²⁹⁴ The aminosulfonium halides produced in this case are relatively stable and undergo further conversions under the action of mineral and organic bases only (Schemes 113 and 114).



4.1.3. Reactions with Complete Cleavage of the S=N Bond

4.1.3.1. Thermolysis and Photolysis of Sulfimides The composition and nature of the products of the thermal decomposition of sulfimides are determined, as a rule, by their structure and the reaction conditions. The thermal destruction processes are often accompanied by various rearrangements which also favor the observed diversity of thermolysis products. Thus, the thermolysis of N-acyl-S,S-diphenyl sulfimides,²⁹⁵ for example, is accompanied by rearrangement to a sulfide and an isocyanate (Scheme 115).

$$Ph_{2}SNCOR \xrightarrow{200^{\circ}C, 2h} RNCO + Ph_{2}S$$

$$R = PhCH_{2}, PhCH_{2}CH_{2}, 2,4,6-(Me)_{3}C_{6}H_{2}, Ph$$

Scheme 115

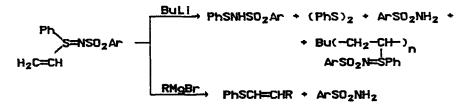
The thermolysis of N-(o-toluenesulfonyl)-S,S-dimethyl and -diphenyl sulfimide²⁹⁶ at 300 °C in a nitrogen stream is accompanied by reduction reactions to give a mixture of products from which Me₂S, (MeS)₂, (MeS)₂CH₂, 4-MeC₆H₄SO₂NH₂, PhMe, (4-MeC₆H₄S)₂, 4-MeC₆H₄SSMe could be isolated. The thermolysis of heterocyclic sulfimides is often accompanied by ring expansion.²⁹⁷ The primary products of sulfimide photolysis^{298,299} are normally the starting sulfides and nitrenes which, depending on their structure and the reaction medium, afford various secondary products.

4.1.3.2. Reduction of Sulfimides Sulfimides are readily reduced by various reagents to yield the starting sulfides (Scheme 116).

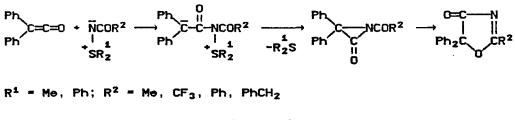
$$R^{1}R^{2}S \rightarrow R^{3} \xrightarrow{reduction} R^{1}SR^{3} + R^{3}NH_{2}$$

 $R^{1} = R^{2} = Alk, Ar; R^{3} = H, Ar, AlkSO_{2}, ArSO_{2}$
Scheme 116

Phosphorus pentasulfide,²⁷⁷ titanium tetrachloride with zinc metal,²⁸⁰ cysteine,³⁰⁰ sodium iodide,³⁰¹ lithium alumohydride³⁰² and other reducing agents can be used as reducing agents. The reaction of *N*-arenesulfonyl-*S*-aryl-*S*-vinyl sulfimides with lithium- and magnesiumorganic compounds involves the reduction of these sulfimides (Scheme 117).³⁰³

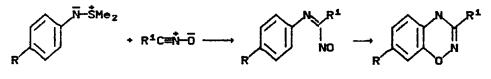


4.1.3.3. Cycloadditions The ylide character of the S=N bond in sulfimides makes it possible to use them in cycloaddition reactions with compounds containing activated double or triple bonds and systems with cumulated or conjugated double bonds.³⁰⁴ The [4+2]-cycloaddition of N-substituted sulfimides with compounds containing activated C=C bonds has been studied.³⁰⁴ The adducts formed in the reaction are cleaved to give highly reactive thionitroso compounds R—N=S (R = PhCO, EtOCO, ArSO₂). The adducts of the [2+2]-cycloaddition of sulfimides with carbon disulfide^{275,293} are cleave to yield isothiocyanates, sulfides, and sulfur. Some cycloadditions involve only the nitrogen atom and the associated groups. These reactions are used for the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds. The reaction of N-acyl sulfimides with diphenylketene³⁰⁵ is an example. The first step of this reaction is a nucleophilic attack of the sulfimide nitrogen atom on the electron-deficient carbon atom of the C=O group of diphenylketene, followed by cyclization of an intermediate dipolar compound to yield an unstable ethylenimine derivative rearranging to a more stable 1,3-oxazol-4-one derivative (Scheme 118).



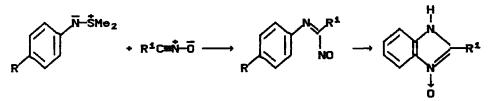
Scheme 118

1,2,4-Benzoxadiazines are reported³⁰ to be the products of the cycloaddition of N-aryl sulfimides to nitrile N-oxides (Scheme 119).



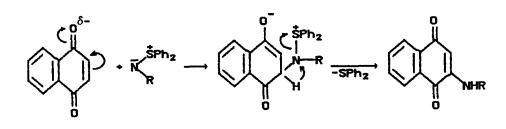
Scheme 119

However, according to Shinsaku *et al.*,³⁰⁷ this cycloaddition involves the nitrile oxide nitrogen rather than the oxygen and leads to benzimidazole *N*-oxides (Scheme 120).



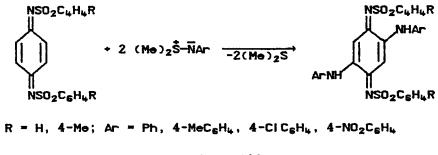
I. V. KOVAL

4.1.3.4. Addition to Quinoid Systems The high nucleophilicity of the nitrogen of N-aryl sulfimides allows their use in nucleophilic additions to the nitrogen atom of the polar system of conjugated bonds of quinolines³⁰⁸ and quinonimines.³⁰⁹ The mechanism supposed involves nucleophilic attack of the sulfimide nitrogen on the terminal carbon atom of the conjugated bond system to yield an unstable betaine which converts to a more stable quinone or quinonimine derivative as a result of displacement by a neighboring acidic proton (Schemes 121 and 122).

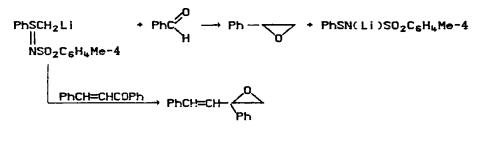


 $R = PhCH_2$

Scheme 121

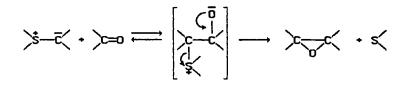


4.1.3.5. Transfer of Alkylidene Groups The strong electron acceptor effect of the arylsulfonylimino group increases the acidity of the α -hydrogen atoms of the S-alkyl groups which facilitates their replacement by an alkali metal atom. The organometallic compounds so formed are used as nucleophilic reagents transferring an alkylidene groups to the electrophilic double bond (*e.g.*, C==O) to form a ring.³¹⁰ The leaving group the loss of which brings about the formation of the ring is a stable anion of an N-arenesulfonylsulfenamide which further favors this process (Scheme 123).



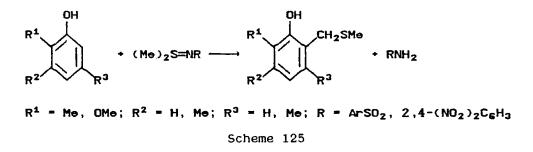
Scheme 123

The reaction is distinguished by its high stereoselectivity and if other S-alkyl sulfimides are used the 1,2-disubstituted oxiranes formed are predominantly of *trans*-structure.³¹¹ By analogy with the mechanism of transfer of alkylidene groups from sulfur ylides to electrophilic double bonds³⁰⁰ the mechanism of this reaction involves the formation of an intermediate betaine, followed by cyclization via a direct substitution at the carbon atom (Scheme 124).

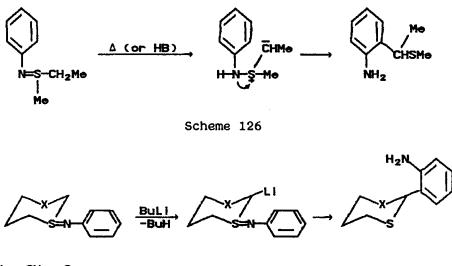


Scheme 124

Use of S,S-dimethyl sulfimides for the introduction of the methylthiomethylene groups into the aromatic ring of phenols (Scheme 125) has been reported in the literature.³¹²



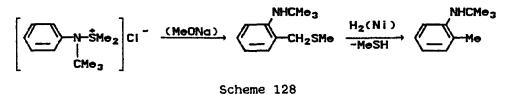
When heated³¹³ or treated with bases³¹⁴ or organolithium compounds⁴⁵ some N-aryl sulfimides undergo rearrangements of the Sommelet type (Schemes 126 and 127).³¹⁵



 $= CH_2, S$

Scheme 127

Gassman *et al.*³¹⁶ used a similar rearrangement of aminosulfonium halides for the ortho-alkylation of arylamines (Scheme 128).

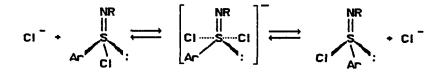


4.2. Reactions of Iminosulfinic Acid Halides

Iminosulfinic acid halides are highly reactive towards nucleophilic reagents. Depending on the nucleophile and the reaction conditions reactions of iminosulfinic acid halides with nucleophiles can proceed in two alternative directions: with replacement of halide from the tetracoordinate sulfur by a nucleophile by an Sn_2 mechanism or with reduction of the halide to a sulfenamide. In the latter case the nucleophile is halogenated by the halide.

4.2.1. Halide anions When iminosulfinic acid halides react with a source of halide anions the halogen atom attached to the tetracoordinate sulfur is replaced another halogen atom. Tertiary amine hydrochlorides, BCl₃, PCl₅, SiCl₄, potassium, sodium and cesium fluorides and other metal halides are used as the source of the halide anions. In the reaction of N-(α -chloralkyl)iminosulfinic acid chlorides with triethylammonium chloride in methylene chloride²⁵⁶ it is only the sulfur

atom which is attacked by chloride; the reaction occurs by an S_{N2} mechanism with inversion at the sulfur atom (Scheme 129).





If cesium fluoride is used chlorine atoms are replaced by fluorine at both the sulfur atom and the carbon atom at a practically equal rate (Scheme 130).

 $ArS[=NCCI(CF_3)_2]CI \xrightarrow{2C \oplus F} ArS[=NCF(CF_3)_2]F$ Scheme 130

The replacement of the fluorine atom with chlorine in *N*-substituted trifluoroethanoyliminosulfinic acid fluorides can be achieved by heating with boron trichloride, phosphorus pentachloride, or silicon tetrachloride.^{133,134}

4.2.2. With O-Nucleophiles In the presence of water iminosulfinic acid chlorides are readily hydrolyzed yielding various products the nature of which depends on the structure of the starting material and on the reaction conditions. The hydrolysis of N-arenesulfonylareneiminosulfinic acid chlorides in the presence of mineral acids³¹⁷ first yields N-arenesulfonylamides of arenesulfinic acids which are cleaved to arenesulfonamides and arenesulfinic acids. The latter disproportionate in acidic media to give arenethiosulfonic acid esters and arenesulfonic acids (Scheme 131).

ArS(=NSD₂Ph)Cl + H₂O $\xrightarrow{(H^+)}$ ArSONHSD₂Ph + HCl ArSONHSD₂Ph + H₂O(H⁺) \longrightarrow PhSO₂NH₂ + ArSOOH ArSOOH $\xrightarrow{(H^+)}$ 1/3 H₂O + 1/3 ArSO₂SAr + 1/3 ArSO₂OH Scheme 131

In the presence of alkali the hydrolysis of N-arenesulfonylareneiminosulfinic acid chlorides leads to arenesulfinic acid N-arenesulfonylamides.³¹⁷ As already mentioned, reactions of iminosulfinic acid chlorides with alcohols or alkoxides give iminosulfinic acid esters.

4.2.3. With N-Nucleophiles With ammonia and its derivatives N-arenesulfonyliminosulfinic acid chlorides form iminosulfinic acid amides (Scheme 132).^{117,281,318}

$$\frac{2 \text{ NH}_{3}}{\text{RS}(=\text{NSDAr})\text{NH}_{2} + \text{NH}_{4}\text{CI}}$$

$$\frac{2 \text{ R}^{4}\text{NH}_{2}}{2 \text{ R}^{4}\text{NH}_{2}} \text{RS}(=\text{NSD}_{2}\text{Ar})\text{NHR}^{4} + \text{R}^{4}\text{NH}_{2} \cdot \text{HCI}$$

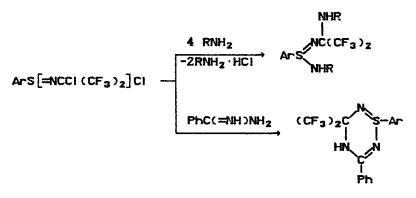
$$\frac{2 \text{ R}_{2}^{4}\text{NH}_{2}}{2 \text{ R}_{2}^{2}\text{NH}} \xrightarrow{\text{RS}} \text{RS}(=\text{NSD}_{2}\text{Ar})\text{NHR}^{4} + \text{R}_{2}^{4}\text{NH}_{2} \cdot \text{HCI}$$

$$\frac{4 \text{ R}^{5}\text{O}_{2}\text{NH}\text{Na}}{\text{R}^{5}(=\text{NSD}_{2}\text{Ar})\text{NHSD}_{2}\text{Ar}} + \text{NaCI}$$

$$\frac{4 \text{ HN}=\text{S}(\text{Ph})_{2}}{\text{R}^{5}(=\text{NSD}_{2}\text{Ar})\text{N}=\text{S}(\text{Ph})_{2}} + \text{HCI}$$

$$\text{Scheme 132}$$

In the reactions of N-(α -chloralkyl)areneiminosulfinic acid chlorides with N-nucleophiles both electrophilic centers^{129,256} are involved (Scheme 133).





As shown,¹³⁵ N-substituted trifluoromethanoyliminosulfinic acid fluorides react with silver cyanate to yield the corresponding isocyanates (Scheme 134).

 $CF_3(=NR)F + AgOCN \xrightarrow{-AgF} CF_3S(=NR)NCO$ R = Et, *i*-Pr Scheme 134

When silver thiocyanate is used the isothiocyanates formed rearrange to sulfur diimides (Scheme 135).¹³⁵

$$CF_3S(=NR)F + A_9SCN \xrightarrow{-A_9F} [CF_3S(=NR)NCS] \longrightarrow CF_3C(S)N=S=NR$$

Scheme 135

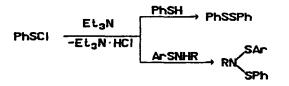
4.2.4. With S-Nucleophiles Depending on the conditions, reactions of N-substituted areneiminosulfinic acid chlorides with arenethiols can proceed in two alternative directions. In the absence of bases, sulfenyl chlorides and N-substituted sulfenamides are formed (Scheme 136).^{156,171,172}

> $ArS(=NR)CI + PhSH \longrightarrow ArSNHR + PhSCI$ R = $ArSO_2$, ArCO

> > Scheme 136

In the presence of triethylamine, diaryl disulfides, N,N-bis(arylthio)amides and N-arenesulfenyl-N,N'-diacylsulfinamidines (Scheme 137) are formed.

Ars(=NR)CI + PhSH ----- ArsNHR + PhSCI



$$\begin{array}{c} Et_3N\\ ArS(=NR)CI + ArSNHR \xrightarrow{} -Et_3N \cdot HCI \rightarrow ArS(=NHR)N(SAr)R \end{array}$$

Scheme 137

4.2.5. With C-Nucleophiles The reactions of N-substituted iminosulfinic acid chlorides with CH-acids also proceed in two alternative directions. In the absence of bases, the chlorides are reduced to N-substituted sulfenamides and the CH-acids are chlorinated (Scheme 138).^{319,320}

ArS(=NR)CI + $CH_2X_2 \longrightarrow ArSNHR + CICHX_2$ R = ArSO₂, ArCO; X = PhCO, MeCO, C(Ph)=C(Ph)-C(Ph)C=C(Ph) Scheme 138

In the presence of triethylamine, CH-acids are acylated by the chlorides to form N-substituted sulfimides (Scheme 24).

4.3. Reactions of Iminosulfinic Acid Amides

4.3.1. Acidic Properties N,N'-Disubstituted iminosulfinic acid amides are monobasic NH-acids the pK_a of which varies over a wide range with the nature of the groups at the nitrogen and the sulfur (Table 7).

The nature of the groups at the nitrogen and sulfur atoms governs the acidic properties of iminosulfinic acid amides. Thus, the replacement of an arenesul-fonyl group at one of the nitrogen atoms of N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)alkane-sulfinamidines (pk_a 2.84-3.33 by acyl) (pK_a 5.99) or aryl (pK_a 10.60-10.62) brings about a significant reduction of the acidity of these compounds.

As seen from the pK_a values of N-acyl-N'-arenesulfonylsulfinamidines, the nature of the substituents of the arenesulfonyl group has little effect on the acidic properties of these compounds which is probably due to poor transmission of inductive effects through the sulfonyl group. A stronger effect on the properties of these compounds is produced by the substituents on the aryl group and especially those directly bound to the tetravalent sulfur atom which is also confirmed by correlation analysis data. The correlation between the pK_a and the Hammett σ -constants of the arenesulfonyl substituents ($\rho = -0.1$) has been determined for a series of N,N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)propanesulfinamidines PrS(==NSO₂C₆H₄R) NHSO₂C₆H₄R (R = H, 4-Me, 4-NO₂, 4-Br, 4-Cl) and between the pK_a and the Taft σ *-constants of the alkanesulfinamidine substituents ($\rho^* = +2.58$)¹⁷⁰ for a

TABLE 7 pK_a Values of Iminosulfinic Acid Amides^{117,170,189}

| Amide | pK _a | Solvent |
|---|-----------------|---------|
| CCl ₃ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOC ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ -4 | 2.74 | a |
| i-PrS(==NSO ₂ Ph)NHSO ₂ Ph | 2.84 | b |
| CF ₂ ClS(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOPh | 2.88 | а |
| CCl ₃ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOC ₆ H ₄ Cl-4 | 2.89 | а |
| CFCl ₂ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOPh | 2.91 | a |
| C ₃ H ₁₁ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHSO ₂ Ph | 2.91 | b |
| CCl ₃ S(=NSO ₂ C ₆ H₄Cl-4)NHCOPh | 2.92 | a |
| $n-PrS(=NSO_2C_6H_4NO_2-3)NHSO_2C_6H_4NO_2-3$ | 2.93 | b |
| n-PrS(=NSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Br-4)NHSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Br-4 | 2.94 | b |
| CCl ₃ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOPh | 2.95 | а |
| CCl ₃ S(==NSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Me-4)NHCOPh | 2.96 | а |
| $n-PrS(=NSO_2C_6H_4Cl-4)NHSO_2C_6H_4Cl-4$ | 2.96 | Ь |
| n-BuS(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHSO ₂ Ph | 2.98 | b |
| CCl ₂ S(==NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOC ₆ H ₄ Me-4 | 2.99 | a |
| i-BuS(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHSO ₂ Ph | 3.02 | ь |
| n-PrS(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHSO ₂ Ph | 3.04 | Ь |
| $n-PrS(=NSO_2C_6H_4Me-4)NHSO_2C_6H_4Me-4$ | 3.05 | b |
| CCl ₃ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOC ₆ H ₄ OMe-4 | 3.08 | a |
| MeS(==NSO ₂ Ph)NHSO ₂ Ph | 3.33 | b |
| ClCH ₂ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOPh | 4.75 | а |
| MeS(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHCOPh | 5.99 | а |
| n-BuS(=NSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ NO ₂ -3)NHC ₆ H ₄ Me-4 | 10.60 | c |
| C ₃ H ₁₁ S(=NSO ₂ Ph)NHPh | 10.62 | C |
| a) 50% acetone b) 1% met aqueous; aqueou | | |

series of *N*,*N'*-bis(benzenesulfonyl)alkanesulfinamidines RS(=NSO₂Ph)NHSO₂Ph (R = Me, Pr, Bu, C₅H₁₁, *i*-Pr, *i*-Bu). A correlation between the pK_a values of *N*-aroyl-*N'*-benzenesulfonyltrichloromethanesulfinamidines CCl₃S(=NSO₂Ph) NHCOC₆H₄R (R = H, 4-Me, 4-MeO, 4-Cl, 4-NO₂) and the Hammett σ -constants of the aryl substituents ($\rho = -0.2669$)¹⁸⁹ has been established. A correlation between the pK_a and the Taft σ *-constants of the sulfinamidine substituents ($\rho^* = -1.1604$) has been found for a series of *N*-benzoyl-*N'*-benzenesulfonylsulfinamidines RS(=NSO₂Ph)NHCOPh (R = Me, ClCH₂, CCl₃, CCl₇, CCl₂F).

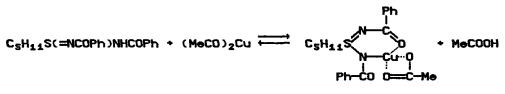
N,N'-Bis(arenesulfonyl)sulfinamidines in their reactions with NaHCO₃, Hg(NO₃)₂ and AgNO₃ form the corresponding sodium, mercury and silver salts, respectively.^{117,146}

4.3.2. Tautomerism of Iminosulfinic Acid Amides N,N'-Disubstituted iminosulfinic acid amides containing arenesulfonyl and acyl groups as substituents show a tendency to prototropic tautomerism in the N—S—N moiety, the presence of which was established^{22,117,183,192} as a result of the transformations shown below (Scheme 139).

 $R^{1}SNHR^{2} + R^{3}NXCI \longrightarrow R^{1}S(=NR^{3})NHR^{2}$ $R^{1}S(=NR^{2})CI + R^{3}NHNa \longrightarrow R^{1}S(=NR^{2})NHR^{3}$ $R^{1}S(=NR^{3})CI + R^{2}NHNa \longrightarrow R^{1}S(=NR^{2})NHR^{3}$ $R^{1} = AIk, Ar, Het, CCI_{3}; R^{2} = R^{3} = ArCO, ArSO_{2}; X = H, Na$ Scheme 139

It has been demonstrated by IR and NMR spectroscopy that the tautomeric equilibrium is always shifted towards a more thermodynamically advantageous form of lower acidity. The value of the prototropic tautomeric equilibrium constant is dependent on the nature of the groups at the nitrogen atoms and, more correctly, on the difference between the electronegativities of these groups, an increase in which increases the prototropic tautomeric equilibrium constant.

4.3.3. Formation of Complex Compounds The complex forming ability of iminosulfinic acid amides has not been investigated properly though, as shown by the literature data,^{17,321} these compounds can be of interest as potential complexing agents. It has been established³²¹ that, in its reaction with copper acetate, N,N'-dibenzoylpentanesulfinamidine forms a bright-green complex with an absorption maximum at 690 nm (Scheme 140).



Scheme 140

Upon dissolution of N,N'-bis(benzenesulfonyl)benzenesulfinamidine in aqueous Ce(ClO₄)₄ the formation of an unstable cerium complex was observed (Scheme 141).¹⁷

```
4 PhS(=NSO<sub>2</sub>Ph)NHSO<sub>2</sub>Ph • Ce(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>4</sub> \xrightarrow{} [PhS(=NSO<sub>2</sub>Ph)NSO<sub>2</sub>Ph]<sub>4</sub>Ce
Scheme 141
```

Ultraviolet irradiation of the complex in the wavelength range 1800–2600 Å leads to its decomposition with a high endothermal effect (Scheme 142).

```
[PhS(=NSO_2Ph)NSO_2Ph]_{4}Ce + 4 HCIO_{4} \xrightarrow{h\nu} PhS(=NSO_2Ph)NHSO_2Ph + Ce(CIO_{4})_{4} - 467.2 KJ/mol
Scheme 142
```

4.3.4. Thermolysis The thermal stability of iminosulfinic acid amides depends on the nature of the groups at the nitrogen atom as shown³²² in the thermolysis of N,N'-disubstituted amides of t-butyliminosulfinic acid t-BuS(==NR)NHR (R = t-Bu, SiMe₃, SnMe₃). The thermolysis of amides containing t-butyl and trimethylsilyl groups proceeds relatively readily at 40-60 °C to form diaminosulfanes and isobutene (Scheme 143) while the thermolysis of amides containing trimethylstannyl groups at the nitrogen atoms proceeds at above 110 °C to yield a mixture of products.

> t-BuS(=NR)NHR $\xrightarrow{\Delta}$ RNHSNHR + CH₃-C=CH₂ lCH₃ R = t-Bu, SiMe₃ Scheme 143

Iminosulfinic acid amides containing arenesulfonyl and acyl groups at the nitrogen atoms possess a higher thermal stability. It has been established^{146,171,172} that heating of N-arenesulfenyl-N,N'-diacylarenesulfinamidines in inert organic solvents brings about the formation of stable N-arenesulfenylacyliminyl radicals (Scheme 144).

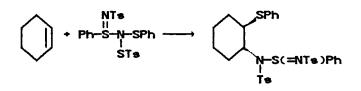
$$ArS(=NAc)N(SAr)Ac \xrightarrow{70-80^{\circ}C} 2 ArSNAc$$

Ac = ArSO₂, ArCO
Scheme 144

4.3.5. Reactions with Nucleophilic Reagents The high stability of the S—N bond in N-arenesulfenyl-N, N'-bis(arenesulfonyl)arenesulfinamidines allows the use of these compounds as sulfenylating agents in reactions involving nucleophilic reagents (Scheme 145)^{146,171,172} as well as in the aminosulfenylation of cycloalkenes (Scheme 146).³²³

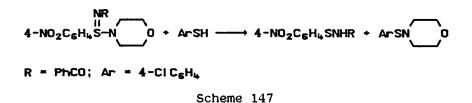
 $ArS(=NR)N(SAr)R + NaX \longrightarrow ArA(=NR)N(Na)R + ArSX$ X = OH, MeO, PhS, PhSO₂NH; R = PhSO₂, Te, PhCO

Scheme 145



Scheme 146

The cleavage of some iminosulfinic acid amides in the presence of arenethiols is accompanied by reduction at the sulfur atom (Scheme 147).³²⁴

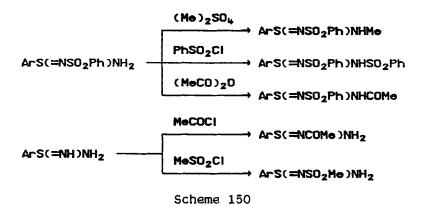


4.3.6. Reactions with Electrophilic Reagents The reaction of N-aryl-N'-arenesulfonylalkanesulfinamidines with hydrogen chloride in benzene gives N-arenesulfonylalkaneiminosulfinic acid chlorides (Scheme 148).¹¹⁷

 $RS(=NSO_2Ar)NHAr + 2 HCI \longrightarrow RS(=NSO_2Ar)CI + ArNH_2 HCI$ Scheme 148 N,N'-Diacylarenesulfinamidines react with hydrogen chloride to yield bis(acylamino)sulfonium chlorides cleaving, when heated, to N-acyliminosulfinic acid chlorides and carboxamides (Scheme 149).¹¹¹

```
ArS(=NCOR)NHCOR + HCI \longrightarrow ArŠ(NHCOR)<sub>2</sub>CI \xrightarrow{-RCONH_2} ArS(=NCOR)CI
Scheme 149
```

Alkylation and acylation of iminosulfinic acid amides proceed regiospecifically at the more nucleophilic nitrogen atom (Scheme 150).^{181,322}



4.4. Reactions of Iminosulfinic Acid Esters

Iminosulfinic acid esters are the least studied of all tetravalent sulfur imino compounds, evidently due to their low reactivity. They are resistent to the action of oxidants, do not change when heated with water, and are only slowly hydrolyzed by dilute hydrochloric acid to give a mixture of various products (Scheme 151).²¹

3 ArS(=NSO₂Ph)OR + 5 H₂O $\xrightarrow{(H^{+})}$ 3 PhSO₂NH₂ + ArSO₂SAr + ArSO₃H Scheme 151

Hydrolysis of N-arenesulfonyliminosulfinic acid esters in alkaline media proceeds with formation of alcohols and N-arenesulfonylarenesulfinamides (Scheme 152).

> ArS(=NSO₂Ph)OR + H₂O (\overline{OH}) ROH + ArSO₂NHSO₂Ph Scheme 152

In the presence of hydriodic acid¹⁹⁸ as well as arenethiols³²⁴ the cleavage of some iminosulfinic acid esters is accompanied by reduction of the tetravalent sulfur to the divalent state (Scheme 153).

$$2 \text{ ArS}(=NSO_2Ph)OR \xrightarrow{6HI} 2 \text{ ROH} + PhSO_2NH_2 + ArSSAr + 3 I_2$$

$$2 \text{ ArS}(=NSO_2Ph)OR \xrightarrow{6R^1SH} 2 \text{ ArSSR}^1 + 2 \text{ ROH} + 2 \text{ PhSO}_2NH_2 + 6R^1SSR^1 + 2 \text{ ROH} + 2 \text{ PhSO}_2NH_2 + 4 R^1SSR^1$$

Scheme 153

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