

yields an x-ray powder diagram identical with the one mentioned above and is therefore presumably identical with the lead salt deposited in the fiber. The precipitate chars when heated to about 150° , indicating the acid in question to be of organic nature.

Interplanar spacings (d) for some of the lines obtained in the x-ray patterns are given for comparison (intensity M = medium and W = weak).

Lead salt precipitated		Lead salt on fiber	
4.25	M	4.25	M
3.29	W	3.32	W
3.16	W	3.19	W
2.97	M	2.98	M
2.73	W	2.75	W
2.66	W	2.69	W

Various samples of refined ramie do not give any indication of forming a corresponding lead compound, which is in agreement with the water solubility of the acid in question.

The following salts of this acid are sufficiently water soluble to leach out of the fiber: Na, K, NH_4 , Ca, Sr and Ba.

No attempts were made to establish the nature of the acid in question any further.

It is of interest to note that the lead salt precipitated in the fiber is entirely unoriented relative to the fiber.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

EMIL OTT
D. A. WILSON

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THE REACTION BETWEEN KETENE AND MERCURIALS

Sir:

Incidental to studies on the preparation of 3-aminofuran from 3-furyl methyl ketoxime, we have found that ketene reacts smoothly with organomercurials to give the corresponding methyl ketones. By this reaction, we have prepared 2-furyl methyl ketone, 3-furyl methyl ketone (b. p. 84° (21 mm.); m. p. of semicarbazone, 150°), 2,5-diacetylfuran (m. p. 94° ; m. p. of dioxime, 187°) and acetophenone in 20-50% yields from the respective RHgCl and R_2Hg compounds.

If reaction proceeds here in the manner of more reactive organometallic compounds, this is apparently the first case of addition of an organomercury compound to a carbonyl linkage. The carbonyl linkage in some reactive isocyanates may undergo a like reaction.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
IOWA STATE COLLEGE
AMES, IOWA

HENRY GILMAN
BERNE L. WOOLLEY
GEORGE F. WRIGHT

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