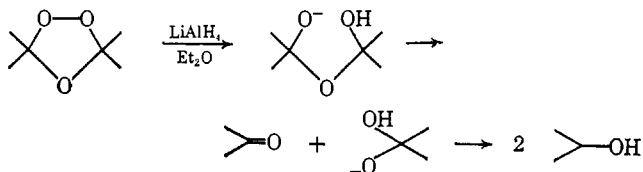


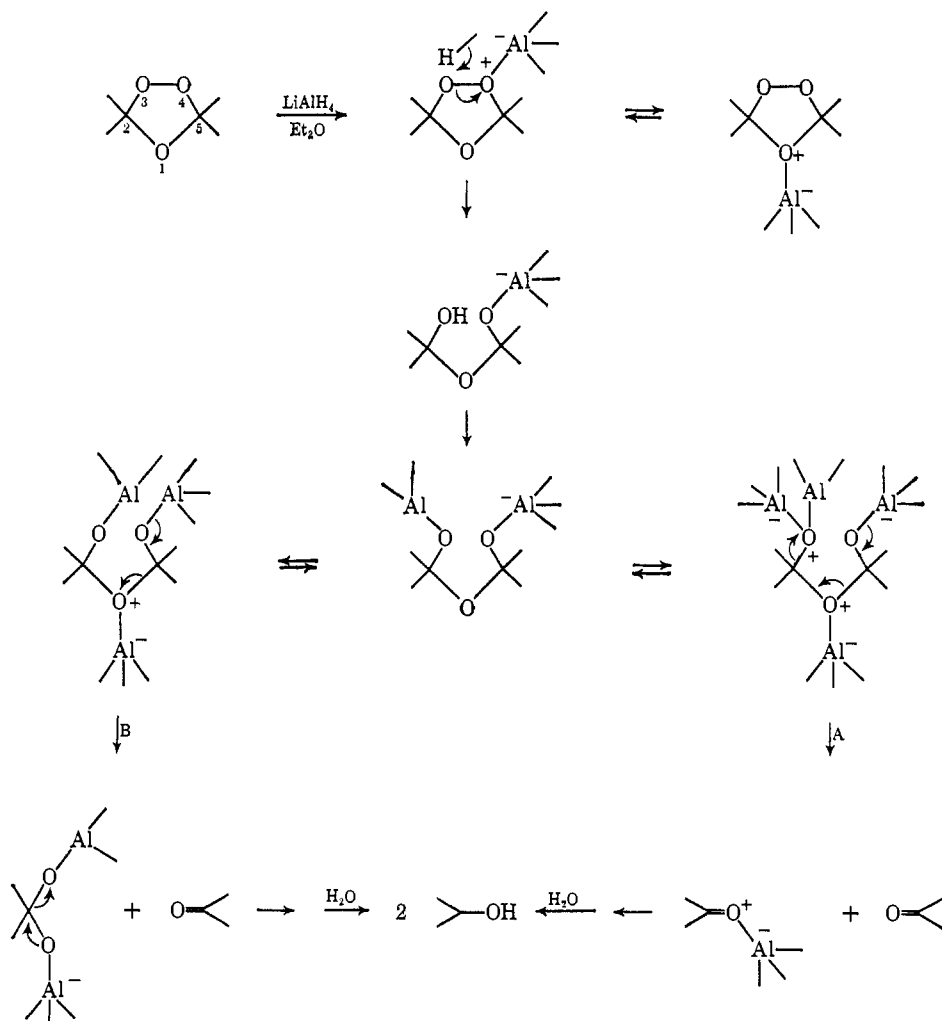


nisms of ozonolysis is contained in the following communication.<sup>3</sup>

Lithium aluminum hydride reduction of ozonides might, at first glance, appear to be rather random at best. The reaction is known to produce alcohols quantitatively for a net loss of one oxygen atom and, probably, best estimates would call for a statistical loss from all three oxygens. Gaylord has investigated this reaction<sup>4</sup> and formulates it as



Closer examination of the probable reaction sequence, however, would lead one to seriously consider the possibility of selective loss of oxygen from the peroxide bridge. Accordingly, we formulate the hydride reduction in the following semischematic fashion.



Essentially, the set of reactions above argues that the ether-bridge oxygen (O-1) does not at any time become equivalent in leaving ability to oxygens 3 and 4 in the

peroxide bridge. This proposition is made on the grounds that Lewis acid coordination, probably by aluminum (as aluminum oxide or alkoxide; lithium ion would also be suitable) is necessary for loss of an oxygen. Moreover the aluminum species in coordinating with the ether oxygen (O-1) will no doubt retain a full negative charge, at least on the time scale of the reaction. Consequently, even if the fragmentation to carbonyl intermediates is not concerted as shown in sequence A but, instead, proceeds by sequence B to produce the hydrate salt, it is still unlikely that the oxygens become equivalent. The better leaving group at every turn is, therefore, the coordinated peroxide-bridge oxygen. In order to test this mechanistic premise we have synthesized a specifically labeled ozonide and carried out its reduction.

Following the method of Lohaus,<sup>5</sup> we have synthesized dimethyldodecenedione (**1**) and labeled it using 40.61% oxygen-18 water (Yeda) according to the general procedure of Byrn and Calvin.<sup>6</sup> Lohaus has shown that ozonolysis of **1** gives the ozonide of 1,2-

(3) P. R. Story, C. E. Bishop, J. R. Burgess, R. W. Murray, and R. D. Youssefyeh, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **90**, 1907 (1968).

(4) N. G. Gaylord, "Reduction With Complex Metal Hydrides," Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1956, pp 687, 708; N. G. Gaylord, *Experientia*, **8**, 351 (1954).

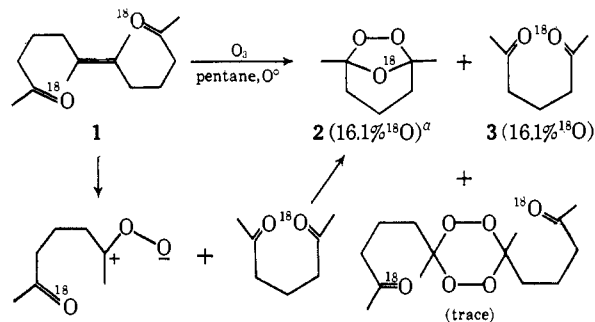
(5) G. Lohaus, *Ber.*, **87**, 1708 (1954).

(6) M. Byrn and M. Calvin, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **88**, 1916 (1966).

(7) R. Criegee, *Record Chem. Progr.*, **18**, 111 (1957); R. Criegee in "Peroxide Reaction Mechanisms," J. O. Edwards, Ed., Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1962, p 29.

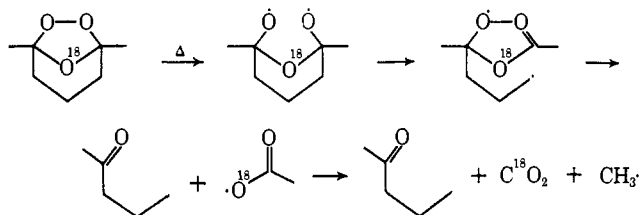
formation of zwitterion followed by condensation with a carbonyl group to give ozonide. Acyclic tetrasubstituted olefins do not yield ozonides; only cyclic olefins of the tetrasubstituted variety are known to give ozonides.<sup>7,8</sup> Acyclic tetrasubstituted olefins react predominantly to yield dimeric and polymeric peroxides. The possibility of zwitterion polymerization is reduced in this system (**1**) by the presence of the intramolecular carbonyl. Of equal importance is the observation from examination of molecular models that the internal carbonyl is sterically restrained from reacting with a molozonide intermediate, even if present, thus further ensuring that ozonide is formed *via* the Criegee mechanism shown in Scheme I.

Scheme I

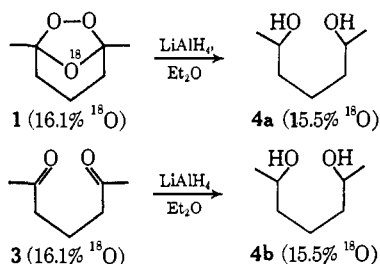


<sup>a</sup> Calculated by the difference of **1** and **3**.

That the oxygen-18 label is, indeed, located at the ether oxygen is supported by the finding that 2-pentanone which constitutes a major product on thermolysis of **2** did not contain an isotopic label.<sup>9</sup> It will be observed that the thermal derivation of 2-pentanone from **2** most reasonably requires extraction of the carbonyl oxygen from the peroxide bridge (O-2,3).



Lithium aluminum hydride reduction of the ozonide **1** has been found to produce 2,6-heptanediol (**4a**) containing 15.5% isotopic label, *i.e.*, essentially no isotopic label was lost during reduction. The diol **4** was analyzed by mass spectrometry. Since **4** does not give a parent ion in its mass spectrum, reliability of the analysis was checked by analyzing diol **4b** obtained by

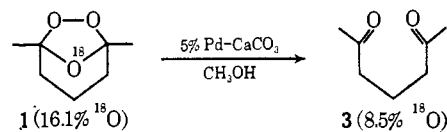


(8) P. S. Bailey, *Chem. Rev.*, **58**, 925 (1958).

(9) The absence of label in the 2-pentanone was determined from infrared and mass spectra. We have examined the thermolysis and photolysis of several ozonides in detail: P. R. Story, W. H. Morrison, III, T. K. Hall, J.-C. Farine, and C. E. Bishop, to be published.

reduction of **3** and, thus, containing a known amount of label. The two diols (**4a** and **b**) gave identical mass spectral analyses. We conclude, therefore, that hydride reduction of the ozonide **1** and, by extension, other saturated, alkyl-substituted ozonides, occurs with loss of oxygen only from the peroxide bridge.

We have also reduced the ozonide **1** by catalytic hydrogenation to the dione **3** using Pd-CaCO<sub>3</sub> in methanol.



Under these conditions we find, as expected, that approximately one-half of the label is lost.

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### Evidence for a New Mechanism of Ozonolysis

Sir:

In the preceding communication<sup>1</sup> we have established that lithium aluminum hydride reduction of an alkyl ozonide and, by extension, other saturated alkyl ozonides, to give alcohols proceeds with loss of oxygen only from the peroxide bridge; *i.e.*, all of the ether-bridge oxygen is retained in the alcohol products. Knowledge of the fate of the ozonide oxygens on hydride reduction is critical to our scheme for testing a new mechanism of ozonolysis recently proposed for certain types of olefins.<sup>2</sup> We wish to report here the results of oxygen-18 labeling experiments which support the new mechanism.

It has become clear from results reported by several investigators that more than one mechanism is operative in ozonolysis. The need for a new mechanism was emphasized by our earlier finding that *cis/trans* ratios of cross ozonides<sup>3</sup> formed from unsymmetrical olefins were dependent on olefin geometry,<sup>2b,4</sup> a result contrary to the Criegee zwitterion mechanism.<sup>5</sup>

According to the earlier proposal,<sup>2</sup> ozonides may be formed not only through the intermediacy of the Criegee zwitterion and aldehyde but also by reaction of aldehyde with the molozonide intermediate. In effect, we proposed that the reaction of aldehyde with molozonide competes with cleavage of the molozonide to Criegee zwitterion and aldehyde (and with subsequent recombination of aldehyde and zwitterion). It is clear that the new mechanism, for which supporting evidence is offered here, is not generally applicable and must be

(1) C. E. Bishop and P. R. Story, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **90**, 1905 (1968).

(2) (a) P. R. Story, R. W. Murray, and R. D. Youssefeyeh, *ibid.*, **88**, 3144 (1966); (b) R. W. Murray, R. D. Youssefeyeh, and P. R. Story, *ibid.*, **89**, 2429 (1967).

(3) L. D. Loan, R. W. Murray, and P. R. Story, *ibid.*, **87**, 737 (1965).

(4) R. W. Murray, R. D. Youssefeyeh, and P. R. Story, *ibid.*, **88**, 3143 (1966).

(5) R. Criegee, *Record Chem. Progr.*, **18**, 111 (1957); R. Criegee in "Peroxide Reaction Mechanisms," J. O. Edwards, Ed., Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1962, p 29.