

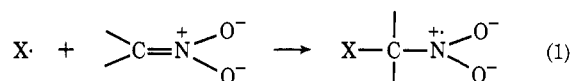
Electron Transfer Processes. XV. Addition of Nitric Oxide and Nitrogen Dioxide to Anions of Nitro Alkanes and Oximes^{1,2}

Glen A. Russell,* Robert K. Norris, and A. R. Metcalfe

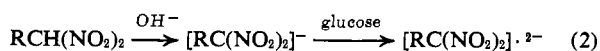
Contribution from the Department of Chemistry,
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010. Received August 23, 1971

Abstract: Nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide react in basic solution with the aci anions of primary aliphatic nitro alkanes (nitronates) to give the *gem*-dinitro dianion radicals of the form $[R-C(NO_2)_2]^{2-}$ and *gem*-nitronitroso radicals of the form $[R-C(NO_2)(NO)]^{2-}$ with $R = H, D, CH_3,$ and CH_3CH_2 . The production of the latter radicals in the reaction of NO_2 with nitronates ($R = Me, Et$) is also noted and a source proposed. Nitromethane at low base concentration gives with NO_2 the dinitronitrosomethyl dianion radical. Formaldoxime gives with both NO and NO_2 the dinitrosomethyl dianion radical. The dinitrosoethyl dianion radical anion has also been prepared by reduction of aqueous solutions of potassium acetonitrosolate ($CH_3C(NO)=NO-K^+$). Acetaldoxime gives the nitronitrosomethyl dianion radical with NO_2 . Deuterium exchange for the radicals where $R = H$ is found to be rapid, but does not occur in the dinitrosomethyl dianion radical.

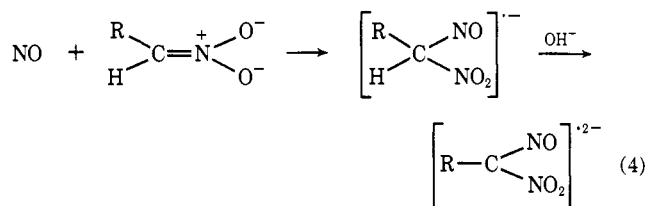
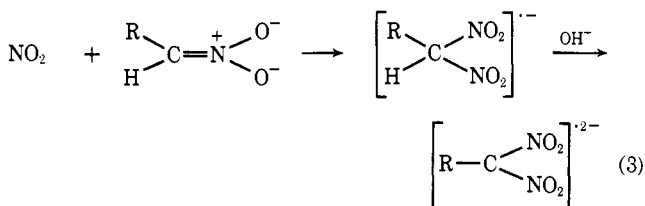
The aci anions of nitro alkanes (nitronates) have been used to trap several short-lived radicals, namely the hydroxyl radical,³⁻⁵ the amino radical,⁵ the methyl radical,⁶ radicals derived from alcohols by loss of an α -hydrogen atom,⁴ and the phenyl radical⁷ according to eq 1.



Lagercrantz and coworkers have prepared the dianion radicals of various aliphatic⁸ and aromatic⁹ dinitro compounds using glucose in aqueous alkali (eq 2). Further reduction to dianion radicals of the *gem*-nitronitroso compounds is also observed.^{8,9}



A similar series has been prepared by electrolytic reduction of dinitro compounds in DMF.¹⁰ In light



of these observations it was considered worthwhile investigating the system in which $X \cdot$ in eq 1 was either NO_2 or NO . In the presence of alkali, the originally formed radical anion could be converted to the stable radical dianions as outlined in eq 3 and 4.

Results and Discussion

Reaction of Nitronates with Nitrogen Dioxide. The anions from nitromethane, nitroethane, and 1-nitropropane all reacted in 5–10 *M* sodium hydroxide solutions with nitrogen dioxide to produce the corresponding dinitro dianion radicals whose hyperfine splitting constants (hfsc) are reported in Table I. These hfsc

Table I. Hyperfine Splitting Constants of Dinitro Dianion Radicals

R	$a_{N^{NO_2}}$	a_{H^R}	a_{D^R}
H	9.65 ($a_{N^{15NO_2}} = 13.01$)	4.03	
D	9.65		0.63
Me	10.00 ($a_{N^{15NO_2}} = 13.85$)	3.23 (3)	
Et	10.05 ($a_{N^{15NO_2}} = 14.03$)	1.84 (2)	

are in good agreement with those reported by Lagercrantz for the dinitromethyl and dinitroethyl dianion radicals. The esr spectrum of the 1,1-dinitropropyl dianion radical is shown in Figure 1.

The methanenitronate anion was found to be a far more efficient trap for nitrogen dioxide than the ethanenitronate and 1-propanenitronate anions. Whereas the methanenitronate in 2.5 *M* sodium hydroxide readily gave a very strong esr signal from small amounts of nitrogen dioxide gas (1–2 ml; see Experimental Section), the other nitronates gave no reaction even on prolonged passage of NO_2 through the solution. Higher base concentration gave strong signals with all the nitronates and using 10 *M* base, only small amounts of NO_2 gas (1–4 ml) were required to give strong signals. At low base concentrations and even at high base concentrations with aged solutions, solutions which were not agitated vigorously during addition of the NO_2 gas,

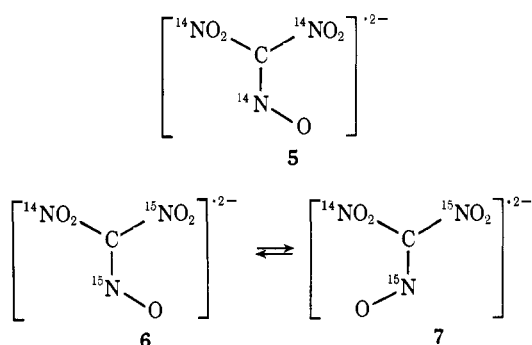
- (1) Reaction of Resonance Stabilized Anions. XXXIII.
- (2) This work was supported by grants from the Army Research Office (Durham) and the National Science Foundation.
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Table II. Nitronitroso Dianion Radicals

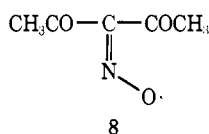
R	a_N^{NO}	$a_N^{NO_2}$	a_H^R	Others
H	6.23	11.47	2.77	
D	6.23	11.47	$a_D = 0.43$	
Me	5.93	12.25	2.73	
Et	5.95 ($a_N^{^{15}NO} = 8.25$)	12.30	1.55	
CN	6.70	10.00		$a_N^{CN} = 0.35$
NO ₂	5.80	10.75		$a_N^{NO_2} = 0.65$
¹⁵ NO ₂	$a_N^{^{15}NO} = 8.25$	$a_N^{^{15}NO_2} = 15.03^a$		$a_N^{^{15}NO_2} = 0.90^a$

^a Data obtained from two isomers.¹²

nitromethane in 2.5 M base was again observed giving rise to the equilibrium mixture of the radicals 6 and 7,¹³ both of which have ¹⁵N in the nitroso group.



The formation of 5 from acetylacetone may follow several routes but essentially the central carbon atom is converted to nitromethane by the action of base and NO₂ and the nitromethane then reacts as above. The reaction of acetylacetone in the absence of solvent (and alkali) gave rise to the radical 8, which gave a triplet splitting for one nitrogen of 28.0 G. This result is as expected in view of the results obtained with other carbonyl compounds having active methyl groups.¹⁴



Reaction of Nitronates with Nitric Oxide. Nitric oxide was found to react with nitronate anions in 5 M base to give the corresponding nitronitroso dianion radicals. The hfsc are reported in Table II. The data for the nitronitrosoethyl dianion radical are in good agreement with that reported by Lagercrantz.⁸ The spectrum of the nitronitrosomethyl dianion radical is shown in Figure 3. On long standing of the alkaline solution of nitromethane prior to addition of NO the cyanonitrosomethyl dianion radical⁸ was produced (for hfsc, see Table II). This was shown to be derived from the self-condensation product of nitromethane, methazonic acid, since the spectrum obtained from methazonic acid was identical. Presumably the first formed radical loses water as shown in eq 8.

Reaction of Nitric Oxide and Nitrogen Dioxide with Acetaldoxime and Formaldoxime. Formaldoxime in 5

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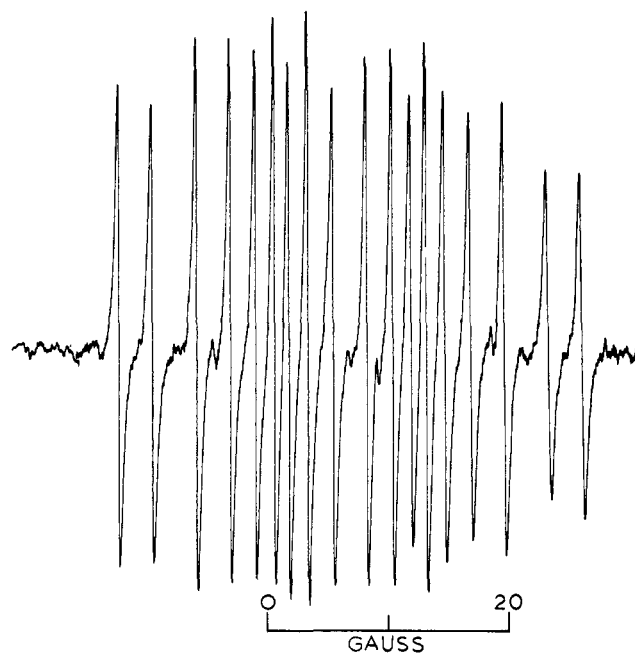
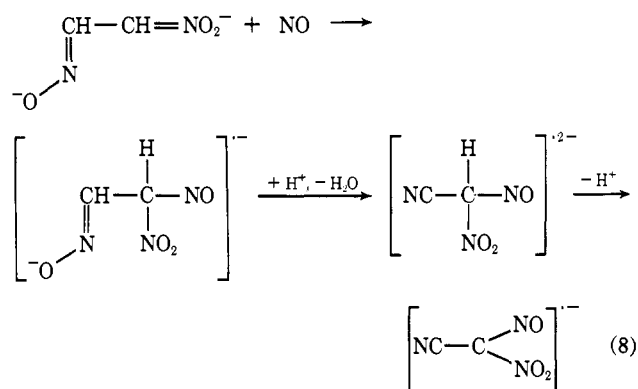


Figure 3. First derivative esr X-band spectrum of the nitronitrosomethyl dianion radical in 5 M sodium hydroxide at 25°.



M base was found to give a very weak esr signal when treated with nitric oxide, consisting of an approximate 1:2:3:2:1 quintet of doublets which can be interpreted as arising from interaction with two equivalent nitrogens ($a^N = 8.05$ G) and one hydrogen ($a^H = 3.15$ G). The radical is presumably the novel dinitrosomethyl dianion radical and its mode of formation is given in eq 9. The very weak esr signal decayed fairly rapidly

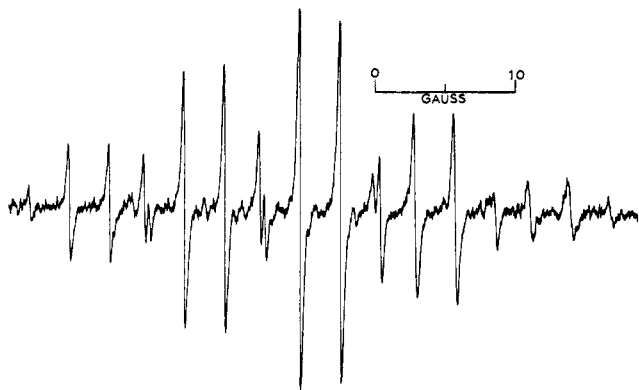
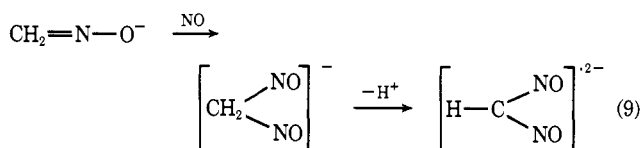
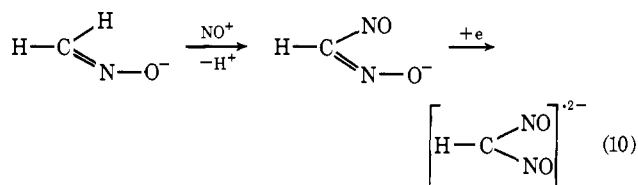


Figure 4. First derivative esr X-band spectrum of the dinitrosoethyl dianion radical in 5 M sodium hydroxide at 25°.

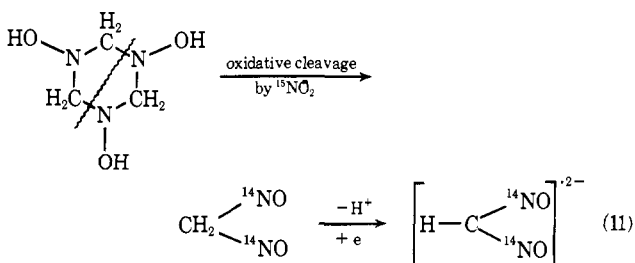


(4–8 min) and was replaced by the esr signal of the nitronitrosomethyl dianion radical.

Acetaldoxime was found to be unreactive toward nitric oxide in the base concentration range 1–10 M. Formaldoxime gave a series of products in 5 M base when treated with nitrogen dioxide. The initial product was a quite strong (and stable) signal identical with that obtained above. The mode of formation of the dinitrosomethyl dianion radical *cannot* be the simple reaction formulated in eq 10, since the reaction of formaldoxime with $^{15}\text{NO}_2$ gives rise to the *same* radical,



i.e., no ^{15}N is incorporated. A possible explanation of this observation is that an oxidative cleavage by NO_2 is taking place on the formaldoxime trimer giving rise to a C-1 fragment bearing two ^{14}N atoms. Subsequent electron transfer steps result in the observed radical, eq 11 (no mechanism is implied or suggested



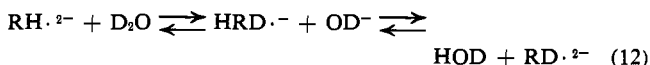
for the first step). Addition of excess nitrogen dioxide gave first the nitronitrosomethyl dianion radical and then complex mixtures which included the dinitromethyl dianion radical.

Acetaldoxime in 5 M base was far less reactive and prolonged passage of nitrogen dioxide gave the nitro-

nitrosoethyl dianion radical (I; R = CH₃) with no formation of a dinitroso species. Excess nitrogen dioxide gave oxidation to the dinitroethyl dianion radical.

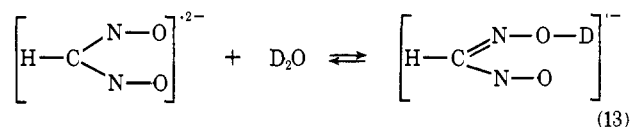
The dinitrosoethyl dianion radical is capable of existence and is in fact a relatively stable species. Reduction of 0.1 M potassium acetone nitrosolate $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{NO})=\text{NO}-\text{K}^+$ by glucose in 1 M sodium hydroxide, by propane-2-nitronate in 0.1 M sodium hydroxide, or by direct electrolytic reduction in water gave the nitrosoethyl dianion radical (Figure 4), whose hfsc [$a_{\text{NO}^{\text{N}}} = 8.22 \text{ G}$ (2), $a_{\text{CH}_3^{\text{H}}} = 2.88 \text{ G}$ (3)] compare favorably with those in the corresponding dinitrosomethyl dianion radical above. This radical dianion was also produced as a transient species in the treatment of $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{NOH})\text{NHOH} \cdot \text{HCl}$ with excess potassium hydroxide in water.

Deuterium Exchange in the Radical Derived from Nitromethane and Formaldoxime. The dinitromethyl and nitronitrosomethyl dianion radicals were both found to undergo deuterium exchange extremely rapidly (<2 min) upon the addition of deuterium oxide presumably by the following mechanism



The ratio of $a_{\text{H}}/a_{\text{D}}$ for the radicals was 6.4 and 6.5, respectively (*cf.* Tables I and II).

The dinitrosomethyl dianion radical did not exchange deuterium even after 2 hr at 30°. The protonation-deprotonation process must be taking place almost exclusively on oxygen, rather than on carbon, as indicated in eq 13.



Experimental Section

Preparation and Purification of Materials. Nitromethane, nitroethane, and 1- and 2-nitropropane were distilled prior to use. Phenyl nitromethane was prepared by the method of Black and Babers.¹⁵ Acetaldoxime,¹⁶ formaldoxime hydrochloride,¹⁷ and benzaldoxime¹⁸ were prepared by oximation of the corresponding aldehydes. Ethanenitric acid was prepared by nitrosation of nitroethane.¹⁹ The potassium salt of dinitromethane was prepared by reduction²⁰ of dibromodinitromethane.²¹ Methazonic acid was prepared by condensation of nitromethane in strong alkali.²² The potassium salt of acetone nitrosolic acid was prepared by the method of Armand,²³ and was reduced as a 0.1 M solution in 1 M sodium hydroxide using glucose, in 0.1 M sodium hydroxide using the lithium salt of 2-nitropropane, or electrolytically over mercury.

Gas Trapping Procedure. The appropriate neutral compound (2 mmol) (or potassium salt for dinitromethane and hydrochloride for formaldoxime) was dissolved or suspended in the requisite amount of water in one arm of an H tube stoppered with septum

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caps and attached to a flat fused-silica esr cell. The appropriate volume of 10 M sodium hydroxide was then placed in the remaining arm and both solutions were deoxygenated using nitrogen for 10–20

min. The solutions were then mixed (total volume 2 ml) and the appropriate gas was bubbled or syringed into the system. Spectra were recorded on either a Varian E-3 or 4500 esr spectrometer.

Cation–Anion Combination Reactions. VIII.¹ Reactions of Tropylium Ions in Methanol Solution

C. D. Ritchie* and P. O. I. Virtanen

Contribution from the Department of Chemistry,
State University of New York at Buffalo,
Buffalo, New York 14214. Received December 18, 1971

Abstract: Rate and equilibrium constants for the reactions of tropylium ion and of several aryltropylium ions with nucleophiles in methanol solution have been determined by stop-flow spectrophotometry. The pK_R values, rate constants for reaction with methanol, and rate constants for reaction with methoxide ion, respectively, for the cations studied are tropylium ion, 2.15, 150 sec⁻¹, —; phenyltropylium ion, 2.92, 71 sec⁻¹, $1.8 \times 10^8 M^{-1} \text{sec}^{-1}$; *p*-chlorophenyltropylium ion, 2.30, 92 sec⁻¹, $1.9 \times 10^8 M^{-1} \text{sec}^{-1}$; *p*-methoxyphenyltropylium ion, 4.09, 13 sec⁻¹, $6.8 \times 10^7 M^{-1} \text{sec}^{-1}$; *p*-dimethylaminophenyltropylium ion, 6.68, 0.22 sec⁻¹, $2.3 \times 10^6 M^{-1} \text{sec}^{-1}$. The reactions of all of these cations with azide ion reached equilibrium at rates too fast to measure by our techniques. Equilibrium constants for formation of the aryltropylium azides are phenyltropylium ion, $1.8 \times 10^6 M$; *p*-chlorophenyltropylium ion, $4.8 \times 10^6 M$; *p*-methoxyphenyltropylium ion, $8.8 \times 10^5 M$; *p*-dimethylaminophenyltropylium ion, $1.9 \times 10^3 M$. The reaction rates of all of the cations with thiophenoxide ion are very nearly diffusion controlled. In the case of *p*-dimethylaminophenyltropylium ion the equilibrium and rate constants for formation of the thiophenyl ether are $9.1 \times 10^8 M$ and $6.4 \times 10^9 M^{-1} \text{sec}^{-1}$, respectively. Although the reactivities of these cations differ greatly from those of Malachite Green derivatives, the selectivities of the different cations are the same.

The work leading to the present series of papers was initiated in an effort to understand the peculiar order of nucleophilic reactivities observed toward derivatives of Malachite Green cations.² An initial hypothesis that the order of reactivity is characteristic of any cation–anion combination reaction has been tested by studies of aryldiazonium ion reactions. These studies indeed provided substantial support for the hypothesis.³

In order to provide additional data bearing on the question of nucleophilic reactivity in cation–anion combination reactions, we then turned our attention to a third class of cations, the tropylium and aryltropylium ions. The immediately preceding paper of this series^{1a} detailed our studies of the reactions of these cations in aqueous solution. The present paper reports the results of the conclusion of our studies of the tropylium ions, detailing the reactions with several nucleophiles in methanol solution.

Results

The pK_R values and the rate constants for reactions of the cations with methanol and with methoxide ion are reported in Table I. In the cases of the *p*-dimethylaminophenyltropylium ion and the *p*-methoxyphenyltropylium ion, the use of dichloroacetic acid–dichloroacetate and trichloroacetic acid–trichloroacetate buffers, respectively, furnished pH ranges in which the

Table I. Reactions of Cations in Methanol at 23 ± 1°

Cation	pK_R	$k_{MeOH} \text{ sec}^{-1}$	$k_{MeO} M^{-1} \text{sec}^{-1}$
<i>p</i> -(CH ₃) ₂ NC ₆ H ₄ C ₇ H ₆ ⁺	6.68	0.22	2.3×10^8
<i>p</i> -CH ₃ OC ₆ H ₄ C ₇ H ₆ ⁺	4.09	13	6.8×10^7
C ₆ H ₅ C ₇ H ₆ ⁺	2.92	71	1.8×10^8
<i>p</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄ C ₇ H ₆ ⁺	2.30	92	1.9×10^8
C ₇ H ₇ ⁺	2.15	1.5×10^2	
<i>p</i> -Nitro(MG) ^a	6.79 ^b	5.4×10^{-4}	6.0×10^{3b}

^a *p*-Nitro(Malachite Green), bis(*p*-dimethylaminophenyl)-*p*-nitrophenylmethyl cation. ^b Data from ref 2.

equilibria could be studied by techniques analogous to those previously reported for aqueous solutions.^{1a} For all of the other cations, however, the pK_R values are so low that we were forced to use dilute solutions of perchloric acid and treat the data according to the Benesi–Hildebrand equation to obtain values for K_R and the molar absorptivities of the cations.

Rate constants were obtained at pH high enough that the reactions were complete and corrections for the reverse rates were not necessary. Measurements over a range of pH established the expected relationship: $k_{obsd} = k_{MeOH} + k_{MeO}(\text{MeO}^-)$, where k_{obsd} is the observed pseudo-first-order rate constant at a given pH.

Previously reported data for the reaction of *p*-nitro(Malachite Green) with methanol and methoxide ion² are also shown in Table I. The rate constant for reaction of *p*-nitro(Malachite Green) with methanol was determined in the present study, using techniques analogous to those for the tropylium ions.

In our studies of the reactions of the tropylium ions with azide ion in methanol, we have succeeded in mea-

(1) (a) Previous paper in this series: C. D. Ritchie and H. Fleischhauer, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **94**, 3481 (1972). (b) This work was supported by Grant GM-12832 from NIH-PHS and Grant GP-29164 from National Science Foundation.

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