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- (16) For 2a, the infrared spectrum (Nujol mull) displays bands at 1632, 1250, 1240, 1192, 1110, 1020, 956, 842, and 800 cm⁻¹; the ¹H NMR spectrum (C₆D₆) exhibits singlets at δ 1.96 (30 H), 1.77 (4 H), and 0.31 (18 H). Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₅₂ThO₂Si₂: C, 49.16; H, 7.15; mol wt, 733 g/mol. Found: C, 49.20; H, 7.19; mol wt, 781 ± 10% g/mol (cryoscopic in benzene). The infrared spectrum of 2b is identical with that of 2a. The ¹H NMR (C₆D₆) exhibits isotropically shifted singlets at δ 1.89 (30 H), -8.72 (4 H), and -2.58 (18 H). Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₅₂UO₂Si₂: C, 48.75; H, 7.09; mol wt, 739. Found: C, 48.67; H, 7.14; mol wt, 769 \pm 10% g/mol (cryoscopic in benzene).
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- singlets at δ 9.48 (30 H), -124 (2 H), and -11.52 (9 H). (18) The infrared spectrum of **3a** (Nujol mull) shows bands at 3075, $\nu_{C=C}$ 1576, 1253, 1243, ν_{CO} 1198, 1015, 1000, 842, 828, 752, and 685 cm⁻¹; the ¹H NMR (C₆D₆) exhibits signals at δ 2.01 (30 H, s), 0.24 (9 H, s), 4.54 (1 H, s), and 4.88 (1 H, s). In the compound prepared from ¹³CO, $\nu_{C=C}$ and ν_{CO} shift to 1536 and 1168 cm⁻¹, respectively; the latter three ¹H NMR signals be-come doublets with $\mu_{ex} = 20.9$ 6 and 6 Hz respectively. Appl Colord come doublets with $J_{^{13}CH} = 2.0$, 9.6, and 6.6 Hz, respectively. Anal. Calcd for $C_{25}H_{41}ThSiCIO: C, 45.97$; H, 6.33; CI, 5.43; mol wt, 653 g/mol. Found: C, 45.89; H, 6.26; Cl, 5.39; mol wt, 690 \pm 10% g/mol (cryoscopic in benzene). The infrared spectral data of **3b** are identical with those of **3a**. The 'H NMR (C₆D₆) displays isotropically shifted signals at δ 5.51 (30 H, s), -1.67 (9 H, s), 7.46 (1 H, s), and -11.08 (1 H, s). In the compound prepared from ¹³CO, the latter three signals become doublets with $J_{^{13}CH}$ = 2.0, 9.6, and 6.6 Hz, respectively. Anal. Calcd for C25H41USiCIO: C,

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Novel Photochemical Addition Reactions of Iminium Salts. Electron Transfer Initiated Additions of Olefins to 2-Phenyl-1-pyrrolinium Perchlorate

Sir

We recently described a novel photocyclization reaction involving the conversion of N-allyliminium salts to pyrrolidines.¹ In order to gain more information about the mechanistic details of this process and to probe its generality, we have initiated a more broadly targeted study of the photochemical behavior of iminium salt-olefin systems. We report here the results of our preliminary efforts using a simple iminium salt, 2-phenyl-1-pyrrolinium perchlorate (1), and a series of olefins of varying electron-donating ability.

Irradiations² of methanolic solutions of 1 (14 mM) containing isobutylene, cyclohexene, methyl β , β -dimethylacrylate, or 1,3-butadiene (1 M) gave after neutralization and chromatographic separation the pyrrolidine ethers and olefins shown in Chart I. Triplet-sensitized irradiations of 1 in the presence of isobutylene using benzophenone, acetone, or xanthone failed to promote formation of the ether 2. Triplet energy transfer from Ph₂CO to 1 is occurring under these conditions since 1 quenches both photoreduction and oxetane-forming processes. Structural assignments⁴ to the photoproducts were made using characteristic spectroscopic properties⁵ and, in selected cases, by independent synthesis. Interestingly, pyrrolizidine 11,4 prepared by reduction (LiAlH₄) of the thermodynamic epimer of 6, was derived



Chart I



(50%) as a 1:1 epimeric mixture by irradiation of a methanolic solution of the isopentenyliminium perchlorate **10**.

Mechanisms for these interesting photoaddition reactions involving [2 + 2] cycloaddition of olefin to $R_2C = N^+R_2$ chromophore do not appear adequate in rationalizing the observed reaction regiochemistries⁷ nor would they account for the anticipated stability of the intermediate azetidinium salts.⁸ Indeed, the vinylazetidine 9 is not converted to ether 7 under the reaction conditions or the more rigorous refluxing methanolic HClO₄.

On the other hand, the structural and regiochemical features of these reactions appear nicely rationalized using the electron-transfer mechanisms presented in Chart II. The initial steps of these processes are analogous to those summoned by Arnold⁹ to explain the interesting anti-Markownikoff additions of nucleophiles to olefins. Accordingly, methanol attack on the radical-cation fragment of the charged radical pair **12**, formed by electron transfer from the electron-rich olefin to singlet iminium salt, is expected⁹ to lead to the more stable radical pair **13**.¹⁰ Collapse of **13** would then generate the observed amino ether addition products **14**. Alternatively, deprotonation of **12** followed by radical coupling leads to the olefin adducts.¹¹ The Chart II



fused bicyclic lactams from reactions with the dimethyl acrylate ester are a result of secondary lactamization of initially formed ether and olefin adducts.

Studies with electron-poor olefins have provided further support for this mechanistic rationale. The criteria for electron transfer based upon respective oxidation and reduction potentials and acceptor singlet energy have been outlined by Weller.¹² Indeed, the calculated rates of electron transfer (k_{el}) from the electron-rich olefinic substrates employed above to 1^{S_1} are calculated to be near the diffusion controlled limit (~1 × 10¹⁰ M⁻¹ s⁻¹).¹³ Although methyl β , β -dimethylacrylate^{13g} is expected to transfer an electron to 1^{S_1} rapidly ($k_{et} \sim 7 \times 10^9$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹), the less substituted olefins, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, and acrylonitrile **17a-c**, should be poorer



donors ($k_{et} = 8 \times 10^2$, 7×10^{-6} , and 1×10^{-8} M⁻¹ s⁻¹, respectively).^{12,13} Importantly, irradiations⁴ of methanolic or acetonitrile solutions of 1 in the presence of olefins 17a-c (1 M) do not produce pyrrolidine ether or olefin products. Instead, the spirocyclic amines 19a-c are generated in reasonably high yields (45-50%).¹⁴ Structural assignments to these substances were made using spectroscopic data, and, for 19b-c, by X-ray analysis of the HClO₄ salt of the syn epimer of 19c (R₁ = CN; R₂ = H), interconversion of the nitriles 19c (NaOCH₃, CH₃OH), and independent conversions of the nitriles 19c to esters 19b (H₂SO₄, CH₃OH).

Formation of the spirocyclic amines appears to involve initial

olefin-arene [2 + 2] cycloaddition¹⁵ followed by ring expansion and deprotonation. Thus, the nature of the photoaddition pathways followed by 1 appears to be critically dependent on the electron-donating ability of the olefin in a way strongly suggestive of electron-transfer mechanisms for pyrrolidine ether and olefin formation. Thus, competition between addition and cycloaddition might be regulated at an olefin-iminium salt exciplex stage by the relative magnitudes of k_{et} and k_{2+2} . Also, it is quite likely that the intramolecular version of this new photochemical reaction¹ observed for N-allyliminium salt systems also follows an electron-transfer mechanism. Further studies are underway to probe further the mechanistic details and synthetic potential of these reactions.

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Stereochemistry of Free-Radical Substitution on the Peroxide Bond

Sir:

The stereochemical course of the S_H2 reaction has been the subject of intensive theoretical interest for some 40 years.¹⁻³ Calculations suggest^{1,3} that homolytic substitution in simple three-atom systems occurs via a colinear geometry and scattering experiments support the linear arrangement for deuterium-halogen exchange.⁴ Examples of experiments designed to provide stereochemical information about the S_H2 reaction in more complicated organic systems are rare and studies have been limited to halogen atom substitution on cyclopropane carbon for the first row elements.⁵⁻⁷ Homolytic substitution on phosphorus⁸ and sulfur⁹ has been studied and inversion of configuration is generally observed, although the possibility of a metastable radical-addition intermediate may complicate the interpretation of these results.

Carbon radical attack on the peroxide bond represents an important pathway in the autoxidation of olefins. For example, intramolecular carbon radical substitution (S_Hi) on the peroxide bond initiates the unzipping of styrene-oxygen copolymer.¹⁰ Because of the importance of this reaction in the oxi-



dation of polymers and natural products such as polyunsaturated lipids, we have initiated a study directed toward determining the stereochemical preference of carbon radical substitution on peroxide. We report here results of studies of the S_Hi reaction in which the orientation of the attacking radical with respect to the peroxide bond is systematically varied. This approach gives information about the stereochemical preference of the substitution reaction and the results suggest that a "back-side attack" of the carbon radical on the peroxide bond is required.

The β -bromo peroxides 1-4 were prepared by reaction of



the corresponding mercuri bromides^{11,12} with molecular bromine.¹³ Compounds 1 and 2 are formed as three and erythro diastereomers and 4 consists of a mixture of cis and trans isomers as prepared.¹² These diastereomers can all be separated by high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) on μ -Porasil with 5% ethyl acetate-hexane.

The bromo peroxides 1-4 were reacted with 1.0 equiv of tributyltin hydride in benzene at 25 °C with 2-5% tert-butyl hyponitrite initiator present.¹⁴ For example, reaction of 1 (threo or erythro) with 0.455 M tin hydride leads to a mixture of cyclic peroxide 5 and epoxy alcohol 6 in a 5:6 ratio of 82:18.



The epoxy alcohol 6 was formed as a 3:1 mixture of the trans and cis geometric isomers and this product distribution was independent of the stereochemistry (threo or erythro) of the starting β -bromo peroxide. The results of analogous reactions of 2, 3, and 4 with tributyltin hydride led to mixtures of the corresponding cyclic peroxides and epoxy alcohols.¹⁵ The epoxy alcohol 7 derived from 2 rearranges under the conditions of analysis to the furan and pyran products 8 and 9.7 was prepared independently from the corresponding olefin and was converted into 8 and 9 by traces of acid.

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