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### Interesting Errors in Sulfur Chemistry, 8

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## INTERESTING ERRORS IN SULFUR CHEMISTRY, 8

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### TRICHLOROMETHANETHIOL

Trichloromethanesulfenyl chloride **1** is an important synthetic intermediate. In pre-IUPAC days **1** was frequently called *perchloromethyl mercaptan* (i.e. methanethiol in which *all* hydrogen atoms are substituted by chlorine), a name which is still used



by industrial chemists, especially in the patent literature. Unfortunately, Chemical Abstracts abstractors frequently translate *perchloromethyl mercaptan* to trichloromethanethiol **2** (i.e. methanethiol in which *all nonfunctional* hydrogen atoms are substituted by chlorine) which makes sense as far as semisystematic nomenclature goes, but, of course, ignores the chemistry contained in the abstracted documents and creates a CA chimera.

Thus, Chemical Abstracts through Volume 103 contains altogether 42 references to **2** which, of course, actually pertain to **1**. There are no CA references to the inherently unstable **2**.