

### Experimental

The nitroaminoguanidine was prepared by the method of Phillips and Williams,<sup>5</sup> and was recrystallized repeatedly from water to a purity of  $99.9 \pm 0.1\%$  as determined by a Jamieson hydrazine nitrogen analysis.<sup>6</sup> The melting point is an unsatisfactory criterion for ascertaining the purity of this compound.

The solubility was determined in three types of aqueous systems: (1) distilled water, (2) distilled water in which the pH had been adjusted with a 0.1 N solution of hydrochloric acid or sodium hydroxide, and (3) 0.25 molal sodium phosphate buffer solutions made by mixing suitable ratios of mono-, di- or tri-sodium orthophosphate. About 1 g. of nitroaminoguanidine was dissolved in 100 ml. of such a solution in a glass-stoppered flask, the whole cooled to the desired temperature and kept at that temperature by a thermostat constant to  $\pm 0.1^\circ$ . After two hours of agitation (longer might cause hydrolysis) samples of 5 to 25 g. were removed by pressure filtration through a fine-pored, sintered Pyrex glass filter stick into stoppered and tared iodine flasks. The cooled samples were weighed and then titrated with potassium iodate by the Jamieson<sup>6</sup> method. For a given set of conditions, the reproducibility of the solubility determination was about five parts per 1000. Suitable corrections have been applied to the determinations in the buffered solutions for the weight of dissolved phosphate, and the results expressed in grams per 100 g. of water.

The pH was measured at  $30^\circ$  on filtered samples of solution after temperature and solution equilibrium had been established.

(5) Phillips and Williams, *ibid.*, **50**, 2465 (1928).

(6) Jamieson, *Am. J. Sci.*, **33**, 352-353 (1912); "Volumetric Iodate Methods," Chemical Catalog Co., Inc., New York, N. Y., 1926, p. 36. Also see Smith and Wheat, *Ind. Eng. Chem., Anal. Ed.*, **11**, 200 (1939).

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CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA RECEIVED FEBRUARY 23, 1949

### Acetic Propionic Anhydride

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In the course of investigating acylating mechanisms by unsymmetrical acylating agents, acetic propionic anhydride was required. The only reference to this compound which we have been able to find is contained in a paper of Verkade<sup>1</sup> who has prepared it from propionyl chloride and potassium acetate and who has determined the hydrolytic constant. Verkade determined the molecular weight by saponification and concluded from this determination that his product was a pure compound. It is true that previous distillation of the product at a boiling point intermediate between those of acetic and propionic anhydrides made the presence of an exactly equimolecular mixture of acetic and propionic anhydrides very unlikely, but it was felt that a more rigorous proof of purity would be desirable.

Anhydrous sodium acetate (20 g.) was made into a paste with dry ether (20 cc.); propionyl chloride (20 g.) was added gradually while the mixture was cooled with water. On completing the addition the mixture was refluxed on a water-bath for two hours. More ether (20 cc.) was added, the mixture was filtered, the ether removed and the residue fractionated under reduced pressure. The first fraction boiling between  $55$  and  $61^\circ$  under 29

mm. pressure was discarded. The next fraction distilled between  $61$  and  $67^\circ$  at the same pressure. The residue consisted of an oil which did not boil below  $160^\circ$  (29 mm.). The second fraction was redistilled at  $70$ - $75^\circ$  (40 mm.) with very little loss. This fraction boiled at  $153.5^\circ$  at 760 mm. without decomposition and was shown to be pure acetic propionic anhydride. The yield was 15 g. or 60%.

The boiling point at 40 mm. pressure is identical with the one reported by Verkade. The average boiling points at three pressures fit well on a Clausius-Clapeyron line. Assuming absence of association, the molecular weight was found to be 116.5 by saponification. At  $17^\circ$  the specific gravity was 1.0367 and the refractive index  $n_D$  1.4020. The molecular refractivity from these data is 27.26 against 26.96 required by theory.

Acetic propionic anhydride (5.00 g.) and absolute ethanol (1.98 g.) was refluxed for forty-five minutes. The mixture was chilled and diluted with ice-water. The mixed esters were isolated by separating the supernatant layer of esters, extracting the residue with ether and then washing and drying the ethereal solution of the esters before removing the solvent. A portion of the mixed esters was saponified by normal alcoholic alkali and titrated with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. In this manner the mixture was found to contain 64.4% ethyl acetate and 35.6% ethyl propionate. Previous experiments of a similar nature with N-acetylpropionamide gave 62-66% ethyl acetate and 34-38% ethyl propionate.<sup>2</sup> When the experiment was repeated with the same quantities using an equimolecular mixture of acetic and propionic anhydrides the ester mixture was found to contain 50.7% ethyl acetate and 49.3% ethyl propionate.

(2) Polya and Spotswood, *ibid.*, **67**, 927 (1948).

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RECEIVED DECEMBER 27, 1948

### The Preparation of 3-Iodoalizarin

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In the course of some biological studies, it became desirable to have at hand an alizarin derivative which was opaque to X-rays. Accordingly, we investigated the preparation of 3-iodoalizarin, a substance which seemed to fulfill the requirements.

The compound has been prepared previously by Perkin and Story<sup>1</sup> who iodinated alizarin-1-methyl ether (1-methoxy-2-hydroxyanthraquinone) and then demethylated the product. Unfortunately the starting material is difficultly accessible and the synthesis does not appear to be adaptable to larger scale preparations.

The procedure we employed is outlined below. 3-Nitroalizarin<sup>2</sup> was methylated previously by Perkin<sup>3</sup> who employed the dipotassium salt and a large excess of sodium carbonate and methyl sulfate. We were able to duplicate their experiment only once and found subsequently that a minor variant in detail, namely, doubling the recommended amount of sodium carbonate, ensured the reproducibility of their preparation. The conversion of the nitro ether, I, to the amine, II and the iodo ether, III, was carried out according to more or less established procedures. De-

(1) Perkin and Story, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 2620 (1931).

(2) Schunk and Roemer, *Ber.*, **12**, 584 (1879).

(3) Perkin and Story, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1416 (1929).

(1) Verkade, *Rec. trav. chim.*, **35**, 299 (1916).