



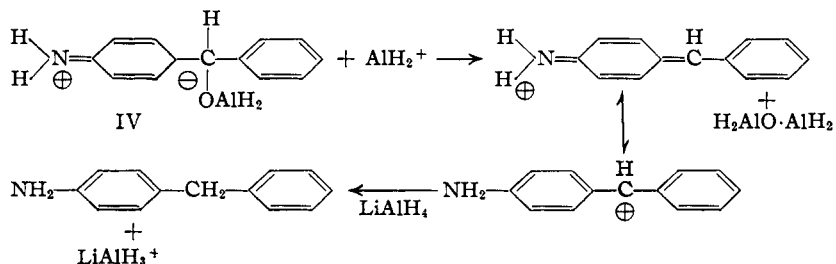
TABLE

Compound	Time and temperature	Equivalents excess LiAlH <sub>4</sub>	Carbinol, %	Hydrogenolysis product, %	Isolation procedure
Anthranilic acid	22 hr.	4	<i>o</i> -Aminobenzyl alcohol	<i>o</i> -Toluidine 3 <sup>a</sup>	A-2
	25°		83		
Methyl anthranilate	5 minutes	4	<i>o</i> -Aminobenzyl alcohol	5 <sup>b</sup>	B-2-a
	65°		50		
Methyl anthranilate	15 hours	4		39 <sup>b</sup>	B-2-a
	65°				
<i>o</i> -Aminobenzyl alcohol	6 days	8		<i>o</i> -Toluidine 53 <sup>b</sup>	B-2-a
	90°				
<i>p</i> -Aminobenzoic acid	29 hours	4		<i>p</i> -Toluidine 47 <sup>c</sup>	A-1
	65°				
<i>p</i> -Aminobenzophenone	1 hour	5	<i>p</i> -Aminobenzhydrol 15 <sup>c</sup>	<i>p</i> -Aminodiphenylmethane 57 <sup>d</sup>	B-2-a
	80°				
<i>p</i> -Aminobenzophenone	3 hours	0.5	<i>p</i> -Aminobenzhydrol 97 <sup>e</sup>	<i>p</i> -Aminodiphenylmethane 2	B-3-a
	80°				
<i>p,p'</i> -Diaminobenzophenone	3 days	7		<i>p,p'</i> -Diaminodiphenylmethane 32 <sup>f,g</sup>	B-2-a
	60°				
<i>p</i> -Dimethylaminobenzaldehyde	7 days	3		N,N-Dimethyl- <i>p</i> -toluidine 78 <sup>h</sup>	B-2-a
	80°				
<i>p,p'</i> -Dimethoxybenzophenone	11 days	Approx. 20		<i>p,p'</i> -Dimethoxydiphenylmethane 46 <sup>i</sup>	B-1-a
	90°				
<i>m</i> -Aminobenzoic acid	11 days	12	<i>m</i> -Aminobenzyl alcohol 72 <sup>k</sup>		B-2-b
	85° and lower				

<sup>a</sup> Isolated as the trinitrobenzene derivative, m. p. 125–126°, and phenylthiourea derivative, m. p. 135–136°. <sup>b</sup> Isolated by distillation; identified as the trinitrobenzene and phenylthiourea derivative. <sup>c</sup> Isolated by distillation and identified as the phenylthiourea derivative, m. p. 140–140.5°. <sup>d</sup> Isolated crystalline, m. p. 34–35°, and as the phenylthiourea, m. p. 147–148°. <sup>e</sup> Isolated crystalline, m. p. 116–117°; characterized as the phenylthiourea derivative, m. p. 138–139°. *Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OS: C, 71.82; H, 5.42. Found: C, 71.65; H, 5.47. <sup>f</sup> On the basis of starting material consumed; 62% of the starting material was recovered. <sup>g</sup> Obtained crystalline, m. p. 92–93°; the m. p. is reported variously as 85 to 94°, and the corresponding benzhydrol melts at 98°. The identity of the compound was proved by reaction with benzaldehyde to form the bis-Schiff base, m. p. 125–126°, and by acetylation to the diacetyl derivative, m. p. 228–230°. Both derivatives agree with those reported for *p,p'*-diaminodiphenylmethane. <sup>h</sup> Identified as the TNB derivative, m. p. 123–124°, and the methiodide, 218–219°. <sup>i</sup> There were indications of higher-boiling material which may have been the carbinol. <sup>j</sup> Isolated crystalline and purified by chromatography on alumina; m. p. 52–53° (reported, 52°). <sup>k</sup> Obtained crystalline, m. p. 95–96°; (no *m*-toluidine, m. p. –31°, observed); m. p. of hydrochloride, 124–125°, both in agreement with the literature.

five minutes, yielded 50% of the carbinol II and 5% of the hydrogenolysis product III; when the reduction was allowed to go fifteen hours at 65°, however, using the same procedures, 39% of III was obtained and no II could be isolated. It was also shown that *o*-aminobenzyl alcohol was converted to *o*-toluidine in 53% yield after six days at 90°.

Trevo and Brown<sup>4</sup> have presented evidence indicating that reduction by lithium aluminum hydride is a nucleophilic displacement by structures which furnish hydride ions. This process would readily lead to the formation of aryl-carbinols from aromatic acids or carbonyl compounds. A high electron density at the substituted methylene group, as in IV, seems to favor the hydrogenolysis; this would be expected to retard nucleophilic displacement of the hydroxyl group by hydride ion, or source of



(4) Trevo and Brown, *THIS JOURNAL*, **71**, 1675 (1949); *ibid.*, **71**, 3970 (1949).

hydride ion. Since the experiments on *p*-aminobenzophenone suggest a dependence of the rate of hydrogenolysis on the concentration of lithium aluminum hydride, the reaction probably does not proceed by a simple unimolecular ionization. A reasonable mechanism would involve attack on the oxygen of the carbinol derivative IV by a positive ion such as AlH<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> furnished by the reducing agent, followed by scission of the carbon–oxygen bond. This cleavage would be facilitated both by the

amino substituent on the ring, and the attacking positive ion. The resonance stabilized carbonium ion formed by this process would rapidly pick up a hydride ion from the reducing agent.

It might be expected that the electron-donating effect of the primary amino group would be greater than the tertiary amino group, because the former would be converted to a salt ( $-\text{NH}-\text{Li}^+$  or  $-\text{N}^--2\text{Li}^+$ ), by the reagent; this effect is probably more than compensated for by the insolubility of the lithium salts in the reaction medium.

### Experimental<sup>5</sup>

**General Procedure.**—The reactions were carried out in solvents dried over sodium; the lithium aluminum hydride was used in about 1.0 m. solution in diethyl ether, the concentration of which was determined by titration.<sup>6</sup>

For each mole of a compound being reduced the stoichiometric amount of lithium aluminum hydride was taken as that required for reaction with all the active hydrogens in the molecule, plus one equivalent more than that needed to reduce the oxygen function to a carbinol. (For example, one mole of *p*-aminobenzophenone required two equivalents (one-half mole) of lithium aluminum hydride for reaction with the amino hydrogens, one equivalent for reduction of the ketone to a carbinol, and an additional equivalent for hydrogenolysis to the diphenylmethane.)

The equivalents employed in excess of this amount are recorded in the table.

The solid products were purified by crystallization, occasionally with a preliminary extraction with ligroin to separate the product from gummy residues. The products were identified as suitable solid derivatives, which had the expected m. p.'s; in several cases, mixed m. p.'s were taken with known samples. Some of the details about identification of the products are omitted, as the compounds are well known.

(5) Melting points are corrected; boiling points uncorrected.

(6) Krynitsky, Johnson and Carhart, *Anal. Chem.*, **20**, 311 (1948).

**Isolation Procedures (A).**—To the reaction mixture was added sufficient water-saturated diethyl ether to decompose the excess lithium aluminum hydride and hydrolyze the addition complex. At least twenty-four hours were allowed for the hydrolysis to be completed. The inorganic precipitate was then filtered off, washed with ethanol and (1) discarded or (2) treated further to remove adsorbed organic material. The filtered solvent solution and ethanol washings were combined.

(B) To the reaction mixture was added (1) 10% sulfuric acid (200 cc.) or (2) 10% sodium hydroxide (200 cc.) or (3), saturated Rochelle salts (200 cc.) and 10 cc. of 5% sodium hydroxide. After hydrolysis the solvent layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted with five 200-cc. portions of diethyl ether. The aqueous residue from the extractions was (a) discarded or (b) continuously extracted for twenty-four to forty-eight hours to obtain additional organic product.

The combined solutions from (A) or the combined extracts from (B) were dried over Drierite and the solvents removed, usually under reduced pressure.

### Summary

Aromatic acids, esters, aldehydes and ketones, with an amino group ortho or para to the oxygen function, have been found to undergo hydrogenolysis by excess lithium aluminum hydride, with conversion of the oxygen function to a methyl, or methylene group, in the case of ketones. The reaction apparently goes through the intermediate formation of the benzyl alcohol, which has been shown to undergo hydrogenolysis to a methyl group. The mechanism of the reaction has been discussed.

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## The Reaction of Cyclopentane with Mercury $6(^3\text{P}_1)$ Atoms<sup>1</sup>

BY G. A. ALLEN,<sup>2</sup> D. L. KANTRO AND H. E. GUNNING

Investigation by Gunning and Steacie<sup>3</sup> of the reaction of cyclopropane with mercury  $6(^3\text{P}_1)$  atoms at  $30.0^\circ$  indicates that this reaction proceeds mainly through the initial formation of the trimethylene biradical by direct scission of a C—C bond. This differs markedly from the behavior of the paraffins,<sup>4–8</sup> which appear to react with mer-

cury  $6(^3\text{P}_1)$  atoms at room temperature by the initial splitting of a C—H bond. Furthermore, cyclopropane contrasts strongly with the olefins<sup>9–14</sup> and diolefins,<sup>11,15</sup> whose reactions seem to proceed at the same temperature mainly by an excited molecule mechanism.

Accordingly, it was thought of interest to investigate the reaction of cyclopentane with mercury  $6(^3\text{P}_1)$  atoms in a static system at  $30.0^\circ$ , with a view to discovering whether its initial quenching process would resemble that of cyclopropane, the paraffins, or the olefins.

(7) A. W. Hay and C. A. Winkler, *Can. J. Research*, **B21**, 149 (1943).

(8) B. de B. Darwent and C. A. Winkler, *J. Phys. Chem.*, **49**, 150 (1945).

(9) D. J. LeRoy and E. W. R. Steacie, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **9**, 829 (1941).

(10) D. J. LeRoy and E. W. R. Steacie, *ibid.*, **10**, 676 (1942).

(11) H. E. Gunning and E. W. R. Steacie, *ibid.*, **14**, 57 (1946).

(12) H. E. Gunning and E. W. R. Steacie, *ibid.*, **16**, 926 (1948).

(13) H. E. Gunning and E. W. R. Steacie, *ibid.*, **14**, 581 (1946).

(14) G. A. Allen and H. E. Gunning, *ibid.*, **16**, 1146 (1948).

(15) H. E. Gunning and E. W. R. Steacie, *ibid.*, **12**, 484 (1944).

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(3) H. E. Gunning and E. W. R. Steacie, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **17**, 351 (1949).

(4) K. Morikawa, W. S. Benedict and H. S. Taylor, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **5**, 212 (1937).

(5) (a) E. W. R. Steacie and R. L. Cunningham, *ibid.*, **8**, 800 (1940); (b) B. de B. Darwent and E. W. R. Steacie, *ibid.*, **16**, 381 (1948); (c) E. W. R. Steacie and D. J. Dewar, *ibid.*, **8**, 571 (1940).

(6) B. de B. Darwent and E. W. R. Steacie, *ibid.*, **13**, 563 (1945).