

α -sulfopropionate, melt at 183 and 214°, respectively.⁶

The yields of the α -sulfonated esters ranged from 28 to 76%, the lower yields usually being due to the solubility of the esters in the alcoholic solutions from which they were purified by crystallization. The isolation of the diacid and the two methods of preparation are described in the Experimental part. Method D was generally preferred, and the diacid was its own esterification catalyst. Method M was most successful in the esterification of primary alcohols of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, of boiling points 98 to 155°.

Experimental

α -Sulfopalmitic Acid.—Stabilized liquid sulfur trioxide (0.613 mole) was added dropwise to a stirred slurry of 0.418 mole of palmitic acid in 500 ml. of tetrachloroethylene in the course of an hour; the temperature rose from 20 to 35°. The mixture was stirred at 60–65° for an hour, cooled overnight at 5°, and filtered. The residue was washed with cold chloroform and dried at room temperature under reduced pressure. The somewhat impure diacid, obtained in 82% yield (neut. equiv. 173.0) could be used directly in esterification.

Further purification by five crystallizations from chloroform at 0°, and drying for five hours at 75° at less than 1-mm. pressure gave a white, hygroscopic solid, m.p. 90.1–91.1°. Small amounts of water may lower the melting point from this value by as much as 20°. Potentiometric titration in 95% ethanol gave points of inflection at pH values of 4.5 and 8.8, as shown in Fig. 1.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{16}H_{32}O_5S$: S, 9.53; neut. equiv., 168.2. Found: S, 9.33; neut. equiv., 170.8.

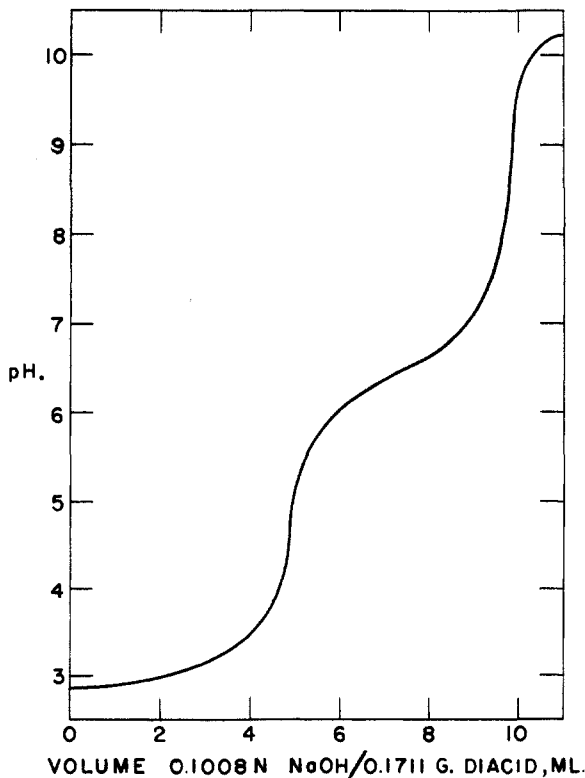


Fig. 1.—Potentiometric titration of α -sulfopalmitic acid in 95% ethanol.

Sodium Methyl α -Sulfopalmitate. Method D.—A solution of the diacid (0.142 mole) in 250 ml. of methanol was heated at the reflux temperature for 14 hours, and 12.3 g. of

(6) R. Andreasch, *Monatsh.*, **46**, 689 (1925).

sodium acetate was added, with stirring, to give a clear solution, which was cooled to -25° and filtered. The residue was washed with cold methanol and dried in a vacuum oven, to give the crude ester as a light-brown solid. The yield was 93%. Purification by decolorizing with carbon and crystallizing twice from ethanol at -20° gave a white, hygroscopic solid. The yield was 35%.

Sodium Dodecyl α -Sulfopalmitate. Method D.—A solution of 0.062 mole of the diacid and 0.108 mole of dodecanol-1 in 200 ml. of toluene was heated and stirred at the reflux temperature for four hours, with the azeotropic removal of water. The solution was then neutralized with solid sodium carbonate, decolorized with carbon, filtered, cooled to -25° and filtered. The residue was a light cream-colored solid; the yield was 58%.

Sodium Amyl α -Sulfostearate. Method M.—A mixture containing 0.138 mole of the monosodium salt, 200 g. of pentanol-1 and 2 g. of concentrated sulfuric acid was heated and stirred for six hours at the reflux temperature, with azeotropic removal of water. The resulting clear solution was neutralized with solid sodium carbonate, decolorized with carbon, and filtered. The crude ester crystallized from the filtrate at -27° , was recrystallized from 50% ethanol and dried in a vacuum oven, giving the purified ester as a white hygroscopic solid; the yield was 76%.

Acknowledgment.—Microanalyses for carbon, hydrogen and sulfur were performed by Frances C. Strolle and Mary Jane Bythrow. This assistance is acknowledged with thanks.

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Ultraviolet Absorption Spectra of Some Pyridine Derivatives

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RECEIVED APRIL 11, 1953

In a recent paper,¹ a series of quaternary derivatives of 1,2-di-(γ -pyridyl)-ethane and -ethylene were described. The parent bases form mixed crystals and are therefore difficult to separate by

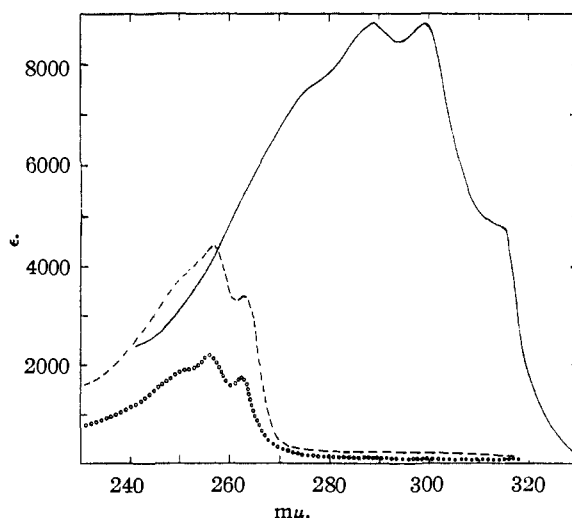


Fig. 1.—Absorption spectra of 1,2-di-(γ -pyridyl)-ethylene (solid curve); 1,2-di-(γ -pyridyl)-ethane (dashed curve) and picoline (dotted curve) in 95% ethanol.

(1) E. D. Bergmann, F. E. Crane, Jr., and R. M. Fuoss, *This Journal*, **74**, 5979 (1952).

physical methods. The ethylene was prepared free of ethane by chemical methods, but at that time, no spectroscopically pure sample of the ethane was available. We have found that the ethylene can be hydrogenated to the ethane, and report herewith the procedure, together with the spectra of the bases. Our previous recommendation of separation by chromatography must be retracted: coincidence of the absorption peaks of benzene and of dipyriddy-ethane invalidate our earlier data.

Hydrogenation.—4.02 g. of dipyriddyethane containing about 30% ethylene was dissolved in 100 ml. of ethyl acetate and added to 150 ml. of ethyl acetate containing 0.5 g. of charcoal-supported palladium catalyst (5% Pd) after saturation of the suspension with hydrogen. After 12 hours, 159 ml. of hydrogen had been taken up. The solution was filtered to remove catalyst and concentrated to 35 ml. A first crop of 1.62 g. of product was obtained; working up the mother liquor gave practically quantitative recovery. An ethanolic solution of the product was almost completely transparent at 300 $m\mu$, where the ethylene has its strong absorption.

Spectra.—Absorption spectra were measured in ethanolic solution at concentrations of the order of 5 to 10×10^{-5} molar, using a one-cm. quartz cuvette and a Beckman DU quartz spectrophotometer. The results are shown in Fig. 1, where ϵ is optical density ($D = \log_{10} I_0/I$) divided by molar concentration, for 1,2-di-(γ -pyridyl)-ethane and -ethylene. The spectrum of picoline is also included for comparison.

It will be noted that the conjugation in the ethylene molecule doubles the intensity of the absorption, and shifts the main peak by about 50 $m\mu$ toward longer wave length. This shift is similar to that observed in the case of dibenzyl and stilbene. There is apparently little interaction between the two rings in the ethane; its peak coincides with that of picoline and is almost exactly twice as high. In other words, if the absorption coefficient were defined in units of nitrogen concentration, the picoline and ethane curves would coincide. For analytical purposes, the following data are given: 1,2-di-(γ -pyridyl)-ethylene, ϵ 8810 at 299.0 and 289.0 $m\mu$; 1,2-di-(γ -pyridyl)-ethane, ϵ 4410 at 257.0; picoline, ϵ 2200 at 256.0.

Acknowledgment is made to the Office of Naval Research for partial support of this work.

CONTRIBUTION NO. 1160 FROM
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Self-radiolysis of C^{14} -Compounds

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RECEIVED MAY 23, 1953

Tolbert, *et al.*,¹ have reported observations at the University of California and at other laboratories of the decomposition of C^{14} -labeled organic compounds caused by self radiation. In this Laboratory we have observed that a sample of methyl- C^{14} iodide, 0.12 mc./mmole, sealed *in vacuo* in November, 1949, and maintained at room temperature in the absence of light, has become wine red in color due to liberated iodine, whereas samples of methyl- C^{13} iodide treated similarly were colorless. At the present time it is estimated by spectrophotometric comparison with solutions of iodine in methyl iodide of known concentration that 0.135% of the methyl- C^{14} iodide has decomposed to give elemental iodine.

If it is assumed for purposes of approximate calculation that all of the destruction is accomplished solely by ionization induced by electron impact, that ionization is always accompanied by permanent molecular destruction, that all of the energy is

absorbed by the labeled compound, and that an ion pair is formed with the average expenditure of 32.5 ev. of energy, it is calculated that the average C^{14} β -particle (51 kev.) destroys 1570 molecules in addition to the molecule originally containing the disintegrating C^{14} atom. On this basis, a preparation containing one millicurie per millimole would destroy itself at the rate of 0.304% per year. Of course recombination of dissociated ions will decrease the extent of radiolysis. On the other hand, radical or ionic chain reactions will enhance the effect by a factor that can be as large as the chain length. The observed methyl- C^{14} iodide degraded to iodine, cited above, 0.135%, happens to be close to the calculated total degradation due to ionization, 0.128%.² It would appear that the more serious destruction of choline- C^{14} chloride, calcium glycolate- C^{14} and cholesterol- C^{14} reported¹ must involve chain reactions of some type, even though the compounds were present in the solid state.

We suggest that those concerned with the problem of long-term storage of isotopic compounds of high specific activity consider as a means of meeting this problem the storage of such compounds in appropriate dilute solutions, from which they may be recovered for use. This should have the effect of (1) greatly decreasing the chain length, where chain reactions are a problem, and (2) substituting, to a large degree, radiolysis of the solvent for radiolysis of the labeled compound. There may still be minor problems of (1) attack on the labeled organic material by long-lived or reactive solvent ions, and (2) purification of the labeled compounds from polymeric materials produced in solvent decomposition (*e.g.*, glycols from alcohols or polymeric material from benzene). Choice of a suitable solvent must thus pose a slight problem, but there is already a fairly extensive literature on the radiolysis of organic solvents, from which pertinent information may be obtained.³ Another possible means of minimizing the extent of self-destruction of labeled compounds is the deposition of the compound as a thin layer, *i.e.*, a layer one or more orders of magnitude thinner than an "infinitely thick" layer, so that most of the electron energy is dissipated in the surroundings rather than in the compound itself.

(2) In the particular case of methyl iodide, the assumptions involved in the calculations appear to be valid. Schuler and Hamill, *THIS JOURNAL*, **74**, 6171 (1952), found that electrons of energies 0.60 to 1.76 Mev. liberated one iodine atom as elemental iodine for each 37 e.v. of energy absorbed.

(3) See, for example, M. Burton, *J. Phys. Colloid Chem.*, **52**, 564 (1948).

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Some New Esters of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid and their Herbicidal Activity¹

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HAROLD M. SELL

RECEIVED JUNE 15, 1953

A number of new esters of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid have been prepared by treating 2,4-

(1) Journal article no. 1475 from the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, East Lansing.

(1) B. M. Tolbert, *et al.*, *THIS JOURNAL*, **75**, 1867 (1953).