

New reactivity patterns in the Diels–Alder reactivity of nitrobenzofuroxans †

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Patricia Sepulcri,^a Régis Goumont,^{*a} Jean Claude Hallé,^{*a} Didier Riou^b and François Terrier^{*a}

^a Laboratoire SIRCOB, ESA CNRS 8086, Bâtiment Lavoisier, Université de Versailles, 45, avenue des Etats-Unis, 78035 Versailles Cedex, France. E-mail: terrier@chimie.uvsq.fr, hallé@chimie.uvsq.fr, goumont@chimie.uvsq.fr

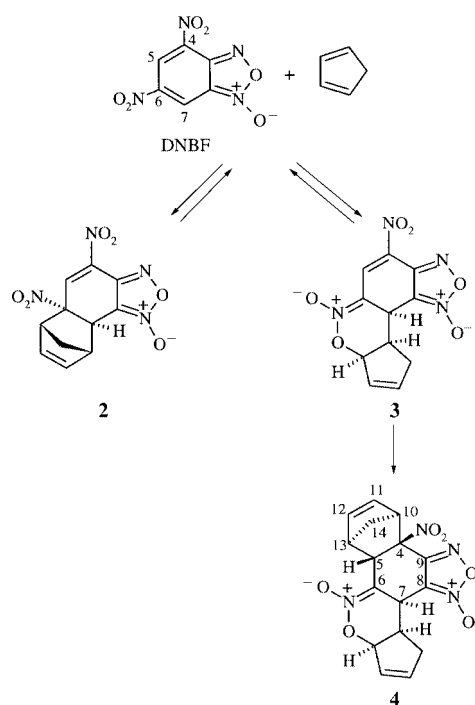
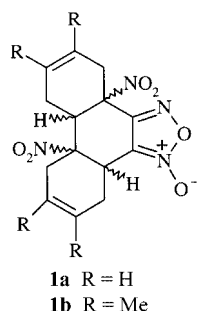
^b Institut Lavoisier, UMR CNRS 8637, Université de Versailles, 45, avenue des Etats-Unis, 78035 Versailles Cedex, France

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The reaction of cyclopentadiene with 4-nitro-6-trifluoromethylsulfonylbenzofuroxan **5** in dichloromethane or chloroform proceeds stereoselectively at 0 °C to afford a single compound **6**, which is shown to result from an inverse electron-demand Diels–Alder condensation involving the carbocyclic ring of **5** as the diene contributor. However, the adduct **6**, whose X-ray structure could be obtained, is not the thermodynamically stable product of the interaction. Keeping a solution of **6** at room temperature results after a few days in the isolation of a new adduct **7a** which arises from a regioselective and stereoselective normal electron-demand Diels–Alder condensation involving the C(4)C(5) double bond of **5** as the dienophile contributor. The carbodiene behaviour of **5** as well as the preferred dienophilic reactivity of the C(4)C(5) rather than of the C(6)C(7) double bond, represent two new reactivity patterns in the chemistry of the nitrobenzofuroxans.

We and other research groups have long been engaged in the study of the reactivity of nitrobenzofuroxans that show an extremely high susceptibility to covalent nucleophilic addition or substitution processes.^{1–4} These studies have led to numerous synthetic, biological and analytical applications, most of them being centered on the use of the readily available 4,6-dinitro derivative, commonly referred to as DNBF (see structure in Scheme 1).^{1,5–10}

It has been argued that the low aromatic character of the benzofuroxan system is one of the major factors responsible for the exceptional or super-electrophilic reactivity of DNBF and nitrobenzofuroxans in general.^{1,9} Interestingly, Kresze and Bathelt reported in 1973 the very slow formation of the diadducts **1a** and **1b** upon treatment of DNBF with butadiene and 2,3-dimethylbutadiene, respectively.¹¹ Although the formation of these compounds was reasonably accounted for in terms of normal electron demand Diels–Alder (NEDDA)-type processes, this promising discovery did not lead to further investigations and neither the stereochemistry nor the mechanistic sequence leading to **1a** and **1b** were elucidated.



Scheme 1

employed.^{12,13} Scheme 1 gives an example of this potentially ambident behaviour with the finding that the reaction of DNBF with an excess of cyclopentadiene affords initially a mixture of the normal (NEDDA) and inverse (IEDDA) electron-demand Diels–Alder adducts, **2** and **3**, respectively.^{12c} Interestingly, in this system, the highly functionalized stereoselective diadduct **4** is eventually obtained in high yield, implying a greater dienophilic reactivity of the remaining nitroolefinic moiety of the IEDDA adduct **3** than of the NEDDA adduct **2**.^{12c}

The potential importance of the Diels–Alder behaviour of DNBF for access to new heterocyclic structures prompted us to

† IUPAC name for benzofuroxan is benzofurazan *N*-oxide.

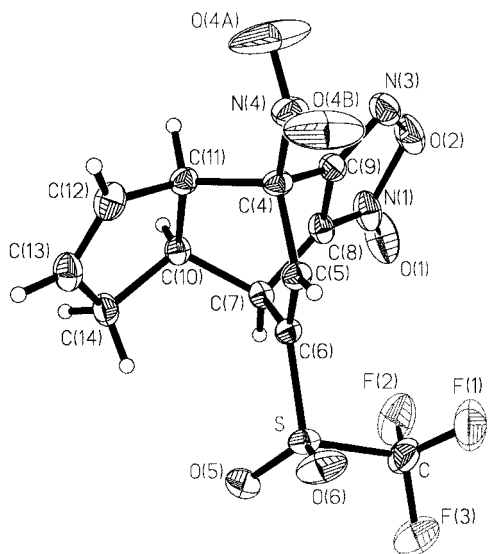
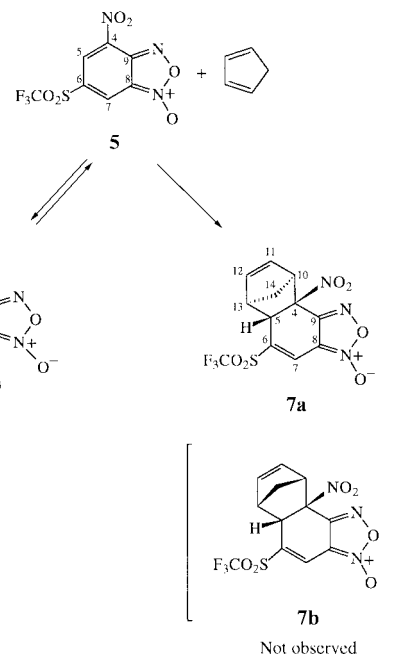


Fig. 1 ORTEP view of the adduct **6**.

examine how changes in the nature and/or position of the substituents of the carbocyclic ring may modulate the Diels–Alder reactivity of nitrobenzofuroxan derivatives.^{14,15} In particular, one could anticipate that the replacement of the 6-NO₂ group of DNBF by an activating substituent devoid of appreciable resonance effects might favor the dienophilic behaviour of the C(6)C(7) double bond, or induce a preferred reactivity, either dienophilic or heterodienic, at the C(4)C(5) double bond, thus opening the route to other reactivity patterns. In this regard, the SO₂CF₃ group appeared to be a good substituent candidate because its activating effect derives essentially from a polar effect while being of the same order as that of a NO₂ group.^{16–21} In this work, we therefore report on the reaction of 4-nitro-6-trifluoromethylsulfonylbenzofuroxan **5** with cyclopentadiene in dichloromethane or chloroform; as will be seen, this reaction affords a thermodynamically stable cycloadduct **7a** which is in fact the result of **5** acting as a dienophile through its C(4)C(5) double bond. A most noteworthy feature, however, is that the formation of **7a** is preceded by that of a structurally unique monoadduct. X-Ray evidence is presented that this species arises from an inverse electron demand cyclization process in which the carbocyclic ring of **5** acts as the diene component. This behaviour, together with some other typical features, further emphasizes the multifaceted reactivity of nitrobenzofuroxans.

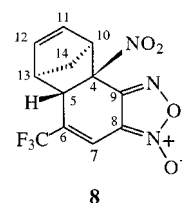
Results and discussion

Treatment of **5** with a large excess of cyclopentadiene (10 equiv.) in chloroform or in dichloromethane at 0 °C for five days furnished a pale yellow solid in good yield whose structure was determined by X-ray crystallography. The ORTEP view of Fig. 1 shows that this product is a cycloadduct which can be formulated as the diastereomer **6** in its racemic form (only one enantiomer is shown in Scheme 2). The stereochemistry of **6** in the crystal fully agrees with the structural information obtained from a detailed NMR analysis of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, recorded in CDCl₃ solution at 0 °C *via* COSY as well as NOE and J-modulation experiments (Tables 1 and 2). In particular, 2-D NOE experiments confirmed that the H(7), H(10), H(11) and H(14b) protons are in close space proximity with the three latter in a *trans* position to the C(7)C(6)C(5)C(4) bridge bearing the SO₂CF₃ substituent, in full accord with the respective distances obtained by X-ray crystallography: $d_{\text{H}(7)\text{-H}(10)} = 2.45$, $d_{\text{H}(10)\text{-H}(11)} = 2.21$, $d_{\text{H}(10)\text{-H}(14b)} = 2.22$ Å. That the strongly electron-withdrawing SO₂CF₃ is bonded at the sp² carbon C(6) is consistent with the observed fluorine resonance ($\delta_{\text{F}} = -77.03$ ppm).²²



Scheme 2

Despite its remarkable stability in the solid state, the adduct **6** is not the thermodynamically stable product of the reaction of **5** with cyclopentadiene. Thus major changes in the ¹H and ¹³C spectra occurred when the temperature of a CDCl₃ solution of **6** was slowly raised from 0 °C to room temperature. This first resulted in an almost complete disappearance of the signals due to **6** with a concomitant reappearance of the signals due to the starting materials. Thereafter, complex new NMR patterns slowly developed which, after a few days, clarified to a set of signals ascribable to **7a** or **7b** as the thermodynamically more stable product of the overall interaction. A detailed analysis of the NMR spectra recorded at the completion of the interconversion process leaves no doubt as to the identity of the product as one of the two diastereomeric NEDDA-type cycloadducts **7a** and **7b**. Among other diagnostic features for this structural assignment was the observation of a quaternary sp³ carbon bonded to a NO₂ group ($\delta_{\text{C}}(4) = 91.75$ ppm) as well as a ¹⁹F resonance typical for a SO₂CF₃ group bonded to a sp² carbon ($\delta_{\text{F}} = -76.50$ ppm).^{22,23} Despite our failure to achieve successful NOE experiments, available data support the stereoselective formation of **7a** rather than of **7b**. As can be seen in Tables 1 and 2, the ¹H and ¹³C resonances pertaining to the cyclopentenyl moiety of **7a** compare remarkably well with those for the same moiety in the previously isolated adducts **4** and **8**, suggesting an identical configuration of this moiety in these compounds.^{12c,24}



Thus, we have discovered at this stage, that the reaction of **5** with cyclopentadiene proceeds through a unique reactivity pattern in the chemistry of nitrobenzofuroxans. First, the initial formation of the adduct **6** under kinetic control can be reasonably visualized as arising from an inverse electron demand Diels–Alder condensation in which the carbocyclic ring of **5** acts as diene contributor, a situation which contrasts markedly with the preferred heterodienic behaviour observed in the DNBF system.^{12c} In the DNBF molecule, the available

Table 1 ^1H and ^{19}F NMR data of adducts **6**, **7a** and **8** in CDCl_3

Adducts	δ_{H}							δ_{F}	Coupling constants/Hz
	H(5)	H(7)	H(10)	H(11)	H(12)	H(13)	H(14)		
6	8.27	4.58	3.33	4.27	5.52	6.05	2.82(a) 2.40(b)	-77.03	$^2J_{14a/14b}$ 18.7; $^3J_{11/10}$ 8.5; $^3J_{12/11}$ 2.2; $^3J_{12/13}$ 5.8; $^3J_{13/14a}$ 1.9; $^3J_{14a/10}$ 10.0; $^4J_{5/7}$ 1.0
7a	3.58	7.76	4.15	6.37	6.74	3.71	1.84(a) 1.39(b)	-76.50	$^2J_{14a/14b}$ 10.5; $^3J_{11/10}$ 2.8; $^3J_{12/11}$ 5.7; $^3J_{12/13}$ 3.3
8^a	3.50	7.06	4.12	6.34	6.67	3.45	1.80(a) 1.41(b)	-65.13	$^2J_{14a/14b}$ 10.3; $^3J_{11/10}$ 2.6; $^3J_{12/11}$ 5.6; $^3J_{12/13}$ 3.3; $^4J_{7/F}$ 1.3
4^b	3.49	4.06	4.06	6.38	6.69	3.49	1.80(a) 1.18(b)	—	$^2J_{14a/14b}$ 10.2; $^3J_{11/10}$ 2.8; $^3J_{12/11}$ 5.7; $^3J_{12/13}$ 3.3

^a Ref. 24. ^b Ref. 12(c).**Table 2** ^{13}C NMR data of adducts **6**, **7a** and **8** in CDCl_3

Adducts	δ_{C}											Coupling constants/Hz	
	C(4)	C(5)	C(6)	C(7)	C(8)	C(9)	C(10)	C(11)	C(12)	C(13)	C(14)		CF ₃
6	87.87	149.35	137.30	36.77	110.17	155.16	42.35	59.15	124.07	139.63	36.77	119.34	$^1J_{\text{CF}_3}$ 326.1
7a	91.75	50.07	137.29	126.74	108.96	150.15	54.96	134.46	141.60	51.63	45.55	119.62	$^1J_{\text{CF}_3}$ 327.5
8^a	91.59	48.23	133.98	113.45	109.11	150.56	55.03	134.51	140.98	49.88	45.66	122.30	$^1J_{\text{CF}_3}$ 274.3
4^b	91.27	47.54	121.82	32.17	111.35	152.69	54.56	134.27	141.90	46.11	46.24	—	

^a In $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}-d_6$, ref. 24. ^b In $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}-d_6$, ref. 12(c).

theoretical and experimental evidence is that the conjugation between the 6- NO_2 and the C(6)C(7) double bond gives rise to a heterodiényl fragment whose reactivity overcomes not only that of the C(4)C(5)C(6)C(7) carbodienic one but also that of the heterodienic counterpart involving the C(4)C(5) double bond.^{12,13} Interestingly, the fact that the powerful electron-withdrawing effect of the SO_2CF_3 group derives essentially from a polar effect rules out heterodienic behaviour of the fragment consisting of this group and the C(6)C(7) double bond in **5**.²⁰ In this instance the initial formation of **6** indicates that the carbodienic reactivity of this compound is now preferred, at least kinetically, relative to that of the heterodienic O(4)N(4)C(4)C(5) fragment.

A second noteworthy feature of the present work is that the thermodynamically more stable adduct **7a** of the interaction results from a preferred dienophilic reactivity at the C(4)C(5) double bond rather than at the C(6)C(7) double bond of **5**. In the DNBF systems, all known monocondensations leading to NEDDA-type adducts have involved the C(6)C(7) double bond as the dienophilic partner.^{11,12}

Experimental

Materials

4-Nitro-6-trifluoromethylsulfonylbenzofuroxan **5** (mp 176 °C, lit.²⁵ 181 °C) was prepared from the thermal decomposition of the corresponding substituted phenyl azide in toluene.^{25,26} Cyclopentadiene obtained from the heating of bicyclopentadiene was used without further purification.

Preparation of **6**. General procedure

Excess cyclopentadiene (5 mL, >10 equiv.) was added to a solution of 1 g of **5** in CH_2Cl_2 or CHCl_3 (5 mL) at 0 °C. The solution turned rapidly to orange and the reaction mixture was then stirred for 5 days. Addition of pentane resulted in the formation of a product which was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum. The cycloadduct was obtained as a pale yellow solid. A single crystal was obtained by recrystallization from a CHCl_3 -pentane mixture.

Selected data for **6.** Yield: 74%; mp 120 °C; MS(EI) m/z : 333

($\text{M} - \text{NO}_2$)⁺, 313 ($\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_6$)⁺, 246 ($\text{M} - \text{SO}_2\text{CF}_3$)⁺, 200 ($\text{M} - \text{SO}_2\text{CF}_3 - \text{NO}_2$)⁺; IR (CHCl_3): ν/cm^{-1} 2930, 2445, 1668, 1560, 1459, 1373, 1310, 1105 (Found C, 37.75; H, 2.19; N, 10.79. $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_6\text{S}$ requires C, 37.99; H, 2.12; N, 10.91%); NMR data are collected in Tables 1 and 2.

Preparation of **7a**

Warming the reaction mixture obtained at 0 °C to room temperature and stirring for a few days resulted in an essentially quantitative formation of the adduct **7a** as pale yellow crystals which were recrystallized from a CHCl_3 -pentane mixture.

Selected data for **7a.** Mp 129–130 °C; MS(CI) m/z : 320 ($\text{M} + \text{H} - \text{N}_2\text{O}_2$)⁺, 313 ($\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_6$)⁺, 273 ($\text{M} - \text{NO}_2 - \text{N}_2\text{O}_2$)⁺, 200 ($\text{M} - \text{SO}_2\text{CF}_3 - \text{NO}_2$)⁺; IR (CHCl_3): ν/cm^{-1} 2927, 2440, 1660, 1568, 1462, 1370, 1307, 1110 (Found C, 37.35; H, 2.08; N, 10.99. $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_6\text{S}$ requires C, 37.99; H, 2.12; N, 10.91%); NMR data are collected in Tables 1 and 2.

Measurements

^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC300 instrument with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard for ^1H NMR, and ^{13}C NMR and CFCl_3 for ^{19}F NMR operating, at 300, 75.5 and 282.4 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants J in Hertz (Hz). Chemical ionization mass spectra (CI) and electronic impact mass spectra (EI, 70 eV) were obtained using a HEWLETT PACKARD 5989B and a NERMAG R10-10C, respectively. IR spectra were recorded on a NICOLET 400D spectrometer.

Structure determination

The X-ray structure determination of the adduct **6** has been carried out with a Siemens SMART three circle diffractometer equipped with a bidimensional CCD detector. All these data obtained, together with the various parameters of the experiments, are reported in Tables 3–5. These data were corrected for absorption effect by the SADABS program specific to the CCD detector.²⁷ The structure was solved by direct methods using SHELX-TL²⁸ and the hydrogen atoms were located using geo-

Table 3 Summary of crystallographic data for the monoadduct **6**

6	
Chemical formula	C ₁₂ H ₈ N ₃ SF ₃ O ₆
Formula weight	379.27
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i> (no. 14)
<i>Z</i>	4
<i>a</i> /Å	11.3081(6)
<i>b</i> /Å	9.2398(5)
<i>c</i> /Å	14.7668(8)
β /°	111.5900(10)
<i>V</i> /Å ³	1434.65(13)
<i>T</i> /K	293(2)
Reflections collected	10758
Independent reflections with <i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)	4261
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.0260
μ /mm ⁻¹	0.302
<i>R</i> ₁ (<i>F</i> _o), <i>wR</i> ₂ (<i>F</i> _o)	0.052, 0.1717

Table 4 Selected bond distances *d*/Å for the adduct **6**

Bond	<i>d</i> /Å	Bond	<i>d</i> /Å
C(4)–C(5)	1.511(3)	C(4)–C(9)	1.501(3)
C(7)–C(10)	1.561(3)	C(13)–C(14)	1.494(3)
C(11)–C(12)	1.308(4)	C(6)–C(7)	1.529(3)
C(4)–N(2)	1.508(2)	C(5)–C(6)	1.327(3)
C(6)–S	1.749(2)	N(4)–O(4b)	1.181(3)

Table 5 Selected bond angles θ /° for the adduct **6**

Bond	θ /°	Bond	θ /°
C(9)–C(4)–C(5)	106.9(2)	C(11)–C(12)–C(13)	112.9(2)
C(4)–C(5)–C(6)	113.5(2)	C(10)–C(11)–C(12)	104.0(2)
C(5)–C(6)–C(7)	117.0(2)	C(7)–C(10)–C(11)	110.5(2)
C(6)–C(7)–C(8)	103.4(2)	C(7)–C(8)–C(9)	116.2(2)

metrical constraints. Refinement was performed by full-matrix least-squares analysis of SHELX-TL.

CCDC reference number 188/199.

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