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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Organic Preparations and Procedures International

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t902189982>

SANDMEYER TYPE REACTION IN DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE

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To cite this Article Kobayashi, Michio , Yamada, Eiichi , Matsui, Mikio and Kobori, Nobumasa(1969) 'SANDMEYER TYPE REACTION IN DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE', *Organic Preparations and Procedures International*, 1: 4, 221 – 224

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/00304946909458386

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00304946909458386>

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Aromatic diazonium fluoborates are soluble in many aprotic polar solvents such as dimethyl sulfoxide. When these solutions are added to the solution of halides of copper or iron in the same solvent, reaction started immediately to form the aryl halides. Nitrogen evolution was almost quantitative. The reaction of the cuprous cyanide-sodium cyanide complex with diazonium salts gave aryl cyanides in good yields. In the usual Sandmeyer reaction,¹ it is recommended that freshly prepared cuprous cyanide be used and that the reaction mixture be stirred for a long time in order to secure good yields. In the present method, however, commercially available cuprous cyanide gave satisfactory yields, and the reaction was completed within a few minutes. Another interesting difference between this method and the ordinary Sandmeyer reaction is that cupric and ferric salts may be used for the preparation of aryl halides. Yields of aryl bromides with cupric bromide were sometimes almost quantitative. Moreover, the reaction with cuprous chlorides was accompanied by the formation of

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biaryls in a rather high yield. Halides of nickel or cobalt gave very poor yields of aryl halides. Several examples are shown in the following table.

Table

Diazonium fluoborate	Metal Salts	Main Products	bp./mmHg (mp.)	Yield ^{a)}
Benzene-	FeCl ₃	Chlorobenzene		50 ^{b)}
Benzene-	Cu ₂ Cl ₂	Chlorobenzene Biphenyl		28;33 ^{b)} 45;50 ^{b)}
Biphenyl-2-	FeCl ₃	<u>o</u> -Chlorobiphenyl	135-6/5	61
Biphenyl-3-	FeCl ₃	<u>m</u> -Chlorobiphenyl	107-8/1	61
Biphenyl-4-	FeCl ₃	<u>p</u> -Chlorobiphenyl	110/2 (76.5)	16
Biphenyl-2-	CuBr ₂	<u>o</u> -Bromobiphenyl	114/2	70
Biphenyl-3-	CuBr ₂	<u>m</u> -Bromobiphenyl	111/1	80
Biphenyl-4-	CuBr ₂	<u>p</u> -Bromobiphenyl	(91.5-92.0)	97
Biphenyl-2-	Cu ₂ (CN) ₂ NaCN	<u>o</u> -Cyanobiphenyl	167/5	60;74
Biphenyl-3-	Cu ₂ (CN) ₂ NaCN	<u>m</u> -Cyanobiphenyl	146/3	55;60
Biphenyl-4-	Cu ₂ (CN) ₂ NaCN	<u>p</u> -Cyanobiphenyl	118-120/1	62

a) Mole % based on the diazonium salts.

b) Determined by gas chromatography.

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EXPERIMENTAL

Typical procedures for aryl bromides and aryl cyanides are described.

Preparation of p-Bromobiphenyl. A solution of biphenyl-p-diazonium fluoborate² (4.5 g) in DMSO (20 g) was added slowly to a stirred solution of cupric bromide (8.0 g) in DMSO (80 g). Rapid stirring is essential in order to obtain high yields. As soon as the addition was completed, the reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with benzene. Evaporation of the solvent gave 3.8 g (97%) of p-bromobiphenyl, m.p. 92° (from EtOH).

Preparation of m-Cyanobiphenyl. Commercial cuprous cyanide³ (37 g) and finely powdered sodium cyanide (26 g) were mixed with DMSO (200 g). The viscous resin which initially precipitated gradually dissolved, and a clear homogeneous solution was obtained. To this solution was added a solution of biphenyl-m-diazonium fluoborate⁴ (26 g) in DMSO (90 g) at room temperature under vigorous stirring. The reaction was very rapid in this case too, as shown by the rise in temperature; efficient cooling with ice bath was necessary. After the addition of the diazonium solution, the mixture was diluted with water and worked by as above to yield 8.5 g (50%) of m-cyanobiphenyl, b.p. 146°/3 mm.

REFERENCES

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2. M. F. W. Dunker, E. B. Starkey, and G. L. Jenkins, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 58, 2308 (1936).
3. Present authors used first grade product from Wako Pure Chemical Industries Ltd. (Tokyo), which may be comparable to that obtainable from Mallinckrodt Chemical Works.
4. Prepared from m-aminobiphenyl in a way similar to that of p-isomer.

(Received November 7, 1968)