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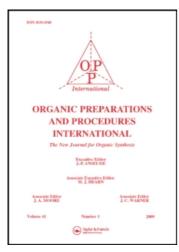
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Organic Preparations and Procedures International

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t902189982

3-NITROPYRIDINE

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To cite this Article Barlin, G. B.(1972) '3-NITROPYRIDINE', Organic Preparations and Procedures International, 4: 2, 63 —

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/00304947209458263 URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00304947209458263

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3-NITROPYRIDINE

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3-Nitropyridine has been prepared previously by nitration of pyridine 1-4 at ca 300°; and from 3-aminopyridine either by oxidation with hydrogen peroxide in fuming sulphuric acid, 5,6 or through the diazonium salt with cuprous cupric sulphite in concentrated nitrite solution or with copper powder and nitrate solution. However the product was obtained in all these cases in poor yield, and often of low purity. 3-Nitropyridine has apparently been obtained also by oxidation of 2-hydrazino-5-nitropyridihe with copper sulphate, but no experimental details are given. 8

In this communication convenient preparations of 3-nitropyridine are described from hydrazino-3-nitropyridines by the action of silver oxide in aqueous solution. 2-Hydrazino-3-nitropyridine gave a 54.4% yield of pure 3-nitropyridine and 4-hydrazino-3-nitropyridine

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gave 47.3%, but 2-hydrazino-5-nitropyridine gave 12.7% only of the required product. In each case the 3-nitropyridine was readily purified.

The hydrazino compounds required were readily prepared from the corresponding chloronitropyridines.

EXPERIMENTAL

Hydrazino-3-nitropyridines

2-<u>Hydrazino</u>-3-<u>nitropyridine</u>.— 2-Chloro-3-nitropyridine⁹ (10.0 g) and hydrazine hydrate (10 ml; 98%) in ethanol (200 ml) were refluxed for 30 min. After chilling, the precipitate was collected and recrystallised from ethanol to give a nearly quantitative yield of 2-hydrazino-3-nitropyridine, m.p. 168-172⁰ (lit. 10 164⁰).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_5H_6N_4O_2$: C, 39.0; H, 3.95; N, 36.35. Found: C, 38.9; H, 4.25; N, 36.5.

4-<u>Hydrazino</u>-3-<u>nitropyridine</u>.— 4-Chloro-3-nitropyridine^{11,12} and hydrazine hydrate in ethanol on warming similarly gave 96% yield of 4-hydrazino-3-nitropyridine.¹³

2-<u>Hydrazino</u>-5-<u>nitropyridine</u>.— This compound was prepared in 85% yield from 2-chloro-5-nitropyridine and hydrazine hydrate as described. 14

3-Nitropyridine.— A solution of 2-hydrazino-3-nitropyridine (5.0 g) in water (1000 ml) at \underline{ca} 80° was stirred as silver oxide (20.0 g) was added in portions and stirring continued for 1 hr. Nitrogen was evolved and the

solution became colorless. The mixture was filtered, the filtrate was extracted with chloroform, and the product (3.1~g) was chromatographed in benzene over alumina and recrystallised from light petroleum (b.p. $60-80^{\circ}$) to give 3-nitropyridine (2.19 g.; 54.4%), m.p. $38-40^{\circ}$ (lit. 1 41°).

4-Hydrazino-3-nitropyridine when similarly treated gave 47.3% of 3-nitropyridine, and 2-hydrazino-5-nitropyridine gave 12.7% 3-nitropyridine when the mixture was refluxed for 2 hr.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Professor A. Albert and Dr D.J. Brown for helpful discussion and Miss V.J. Richardson for technical assistance.

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(Received February 22, 1972; in revised form April 6, 1972)