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A CONVENIENT PREPARATION OF ALKYL- AND ARYLSULFONYLPYRIDINES

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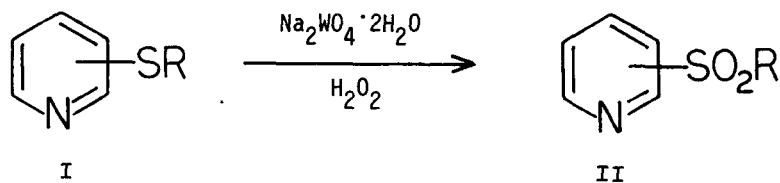
A CONVENIENT PREPARATION OF
ALKYL- AND ARYLSULFONYLPYRIDINES

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The oxidation of alkylthiopyridines to the corresponding alkylsulfonylpyridines has been reported in the literature,¹⁻⁴ but the procedure of choice involved the use of potassium permanganate^{5,6} and a rather cumbersome procedure for the isolation of products. As alkylphenyl sulfides have reportedly been converted to arylsulfones in the presence of tungstic acid,⁷ we investigated a similar procedure for the alkylthiopyridine systems. The pyridylalkyl sulfides and sulfones are commercially desirable as they have exhibited antibacterial, herbicidal and fungicidal activity.^{8,9}

We now report the successful oxidation of alkyl- and arylthiopyridines¹⁰ to the corresponding alkyl- or arylsulfonylpyridines by the action of hydrogen peroxide and sodium tungstate. The procedure is particularly convenient since the re-



action is carried out in a heterogeneous aqueous mixture and only a simple extraction is required to obtain the sulfonylpyridine. The additional advantages of this reaction are that it utilizes 1/15 of the solvent used in the potassium perman-

ganate reaction and also tolerates an excess of hydrogen peroxide without producing the N-oxide. The table illustrates the yields obtained.

Table

R	Yield II (%)	mp. (bp.)	Lit.
a) 2-methyl	76	(136-139 ^o /2.5 torr)	(325 ^o /1 atm) ¹¹
b) 3-methyl	99	54-55 ^{oa}	55-56 ^{o12}
c) 4-methyl	36	79-80 ^{oa}	83 ^{o13}
d) 3-phenyl	95	102.5-103 ^{o2}	106-107 ^{o†14}

^aRecrystallized from benzene-petroleum ether. [†]Uncorrected.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were measured in a Buchi melting point apparatus and are corrected. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian T-60 spectrometer in deuteriochloroform with chemical shifts reported in δ units downfield from internal tetramethylsilane. The following procedure is representative of the various sulfonylpyridines prepared.

3-Methylsulfonylpyridine. General Procedure.- A mixture of 14 mg of sodium tungstate, 4 ml of distilled water and one drop of acetic acid was warmed to 65^o with stirring and 4.010 g (0.032 mol) of 3-methylthiopyridine¹⁰ was added to give a heterogeneous mixture. Hydrogen peroxide, 6.5 ml (0.065 mol), was added dropwise at a rate of one drop every 15 sec (addition time of 25-30 min.). After addition the temperature was increased to and held at 75-80^o for 20 min. The solution was cooled to room temperature and 5 drops of ammonium hydroxide were added, followed by a sufficient amount of sodium bisulfite to neutralize the excess hydrogen peroxide (effervescence ceases). The aqueous solution was extracted with chloroform to yield

5.00 g (99% yield) of 3-methylsulfonylpyridine, mp. 54-55°. A sample was recrystallized from petroleum ether for elemental analysis.

Anal. Calcd for $C_6H_7NO_2S$: C, 45.84; H, 4.49; N, 8.91.

Found: C, 46.06; H, 4.49; N, 8.85.

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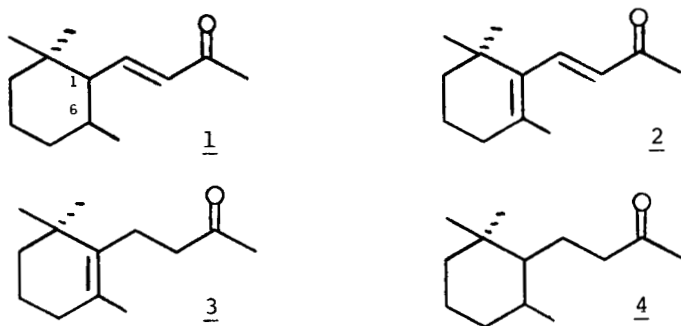
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A CONVENIENT PREPARATION OF cis-DIHYDROIONONE

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The recent, increased attention in the chemopreventive role of retinoids in the development of cancers of the epithelial tissues,¹ has prompted interest in syntheses of radio-labelled retinoic acid, its analogues and metabolites. For a



synthesis of cis-5,6-dihydroretinoic acid [$10\text{-}^3\text{H}$], large quantities of a precursor, cis-dihydroionone (1), were required. An obvious and inviting approach from the standpoint of simplicity and cost appeared to be the selective reduction of the