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### 1,2,3,4-TETRAHYDRO-1,4,d<sub>2</sub>-NAPHTHALENE-1,4,5,6,7,8.-d<sub>6</sub>

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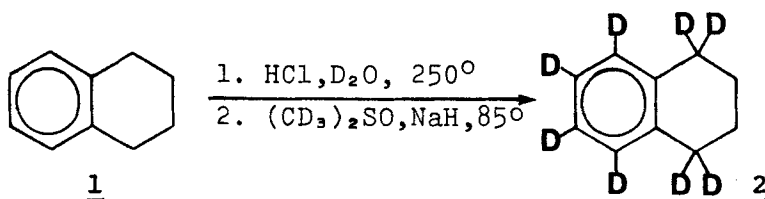
1,2,3,4-TETRAHYDRO-1,4,d<sub>2</sub>-NAPHTHALENE-1,4,5,6,7,8,-d<sub>6</sub>

Submitted by Mark H. Gaston<sup>†</sup> and Duane R. Skidmore<sup>††\*</sup>  
(04/06/84)

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Proposed research on coal liquefaction necessitated the preparation of deuterium-labelled tetralin in gram quantities. Previously the most common technique for preparing highly deuterated tetralin involved exchange of naphthalene with a labelled strong acid, e.g., D<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, followed by catalytic hydrogenation with D<sub>2</sub>.<sup>1</sup> In this work, high-pressure hydrogenation with D<sub>2</sub> was avoided by using tetrahydronaphthalene (1) as a starting material. Werstiuk has prepared several deuterated aromatic hydrocarbons under conditions of dilute acid and high temperature.<sup>2</sup> This method was used to effect exchange in the 5,6,7 and 8 positions of 1. The mild conditions employed left the aliphatic ring intact. Chen *et al.*<sup>3</sup> have synthesized several CD<sub>3</sub> substituted benzenes by exchanging the analogous methylbenzenes with (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO over NaH. This procedure was adapted to exchange 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-5,6,7,8-d<sub>4</sub> in the first and fourth positions.



From the <sup>2</sup>H-NMR spectra it was concluded that exchange occurred exclusively in the aromatic and at the first and fourth positions. The average molecular formula was estimated <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and MS to be C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>6.39</sub>D<sub>5.61</sub>. The extent of incorporation was estimated at 61.1 percent in the aromatic and

79.3 percent in the first and fourth positions. Although this was sufficient for our subsequent work,, a much higher isotopic purity can be achieved by repeating the exchange reaction.

#### EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

GC-MS spectra were obtained using a Finnigan 4021 instrument. Electron impact ionization was used for structural confirmation and chemical ionization with  $\text{CH}_4$  was used to determine relative abundances of the molecular ions. FT-NMR spectra (7 tesla) were obtained using a Bruker WM-300 spectrometer. Tetrahydronaphthalene was purchased from Alpha Products and distilled at reduced pressure before use. All reaction were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere.

Deuteration of Naphthalene.- A mixture of 4 g (30.3 mmol) of tetrahydronaphthalene (1), 4 ml of  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  and four drops of conc. hydrochloric acid was degassed by three freeze-thaw cycles and sealed in a glass tube. The tube was heated in an autoclave to  $250^\circ$  for 48 hrs. To equalize the internal pressure the autoclave was pressurized to 650 psi with nitrogen. After completion of the reaction, the product was drawn off with a pipet and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and then Na. This process was repeated to yield 6.5 g of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-5,6,7,8- $\text{d}_4$  [MS (70 eV): m/e 132-136 ( $\text{M}^+$ )]. This product was combined with 7.7 g (91.6 mmol) of  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$  and vacuum transferred onto 0.6 g of NaH, prepared by washing a dispersion of NaH in mineral oil with heptane. The mixture was stirred for 30 hrs at  $85^\circ$ , after which the exchanged liquids were vacuum transferred to a Dry Ice cooled trap. Removal of the DMSO by extraction with 80 ml of water gave 4.85 g (73%) of 2.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.28 (1.55H), 2.97 (0.83H), 2.01 (4H);  $^2\text{H-NMR}$  (45 MHz,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.25, 2.94; MS (70 eV): m/e 132-140 ( $\text{M}^+$ ).

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## ONE-POT SYNTHESIS OF NITROSTYRENE OXIDES

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There has been considerable interest in recent years in nitrostyrene oxides and in products derived from them. For instance, *o*-nitrostyrene oxide has been used as a precursor in the synthesis of *o*-nitrophenylethylene acetal or ketal, a photoremoveable protective group for aldehydes and ketones.<sup>1,2</sup> It has also been used in the synthesis of benzisoxazolone, an antibacterial and antileukemic agent.<sup>2</sup> A mechanistic study of the ring opening of nitrostyrene oxides was the subject of another series of articles.<sup>3</sup> Nitrostyrene oxides have usually been made via lengthy, laborious or costly methods. There are essentially two existing methods for their synthesis in the literature. The first involves the reaction of diazomethane with nitrobenzaldehydes<sup>4</sup> while the second includes