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# Solid-to-solid Reaction of 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine with Several Aromatic Aldehydes Bearing Electrondonating Groups\*

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Aromatic 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazones are conveniently prepared from 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazyne and the corresponding aldehydes bearing electrondonating groups  $[N(Me)_2$ , OMe and OH] in nonsolvent reactions. The high-dilution method in the absence of basic or acidic catalysts is also efficient. According to X-ray data, planar conformation of the hydrazone molecules is stabilized by intramolecular NH...O<sub>2</sub>N hydrogen bond. Formation of 2D networks in the crystal is mediated *via* intermolecular CH...O<sub>2</sub>N hydrogen bonds.

Keywords: Non-solvent reaction; 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazones

2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine has been used in analytical organic chemistry for characterization of aldehydes and ketones by hydrazones formation [1,2]. The chemical stability of hydrazones and their high melting points have recently made them attractive as prospective new materials for opto-electronic applications or frequency doubling [3,4].

The preparation and solid state structure of new organometallic complexes with the involve-

ment of hydrazones have also been reported [5, 6]. Although hydrazones have been synthesized for over 70 years, structural information on their solid state structure is scarce. The Cambridge Crystallographic Database contains only 14 crystal structures of aromatic hydrazones [7]. In terms of crystal engineering technique, aromatic hydrazones, due to their extended  $\pi$ -conjugated system, offer the possibility of preparation of easily polarizable, planar molecules on functionalization of both phenyl rings. In the classic preparative procedure, hydrazones are made, often with good yield, in solution from hydrazines and aldehydes in the presence of basic or acidic catalysts [8]. However, recently, efficient solid-tosolid reaction between aromatic amines and aromatic aldehydes leading readily to Shiff bases has been reported [9]. This turned our attention to the potential application of this environmentally friendly technique in the present case.

We selected reaction between benzaldehyde substituted with electron-donating groups  $[R = p-N(Me)_2, o-OMe \text{ or } o, m, p-OH]$  (1) and 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (2).

<sup>\*</sup> Dedicated to Professor Fumio Toda on the occasion of his 67th Birthday.

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The resulting molecules of hydrazones **3** contain terminal groups with opposite electron donor – acceptor properties and should be planar. That provides an opportunity for the construction of 2D networks that can be useful models for further studies of their arrangement in the third dimension.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

A solid state reaction takes place when a finely ground mixture of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (2) and respective aldehyde (1) is heated at a temperature  $20-50^{\circ}$  below one melting point of the aldehyde and occasionally ground again (reaction with liquid salicylaldehyde required better grinding). Taking IR spectra in KBr pellets monitored the reaction progress. Figure 1 shows changes in time of the selected regions of the FT-IR spectra collected for 3e. All bands on the initial IR spectrum can be assigned to the known bands of *p*-hydroxybenzaldehyde and 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine. On further grinding along with mild heating (ca. 50°C for 20') the original  $\nu$ (NH<sub>2</sub>) band at 3501 cm<sup>-1</sup> and  $\nu$ (C==O) of an aldehyde at  $1671 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$  slowly diminished. Further heating of the reaction mixture for 2 hrs results in the disappearance of the C=O band and the appearance of the C=N band at  $1617 \, \text{cm}^{-1}$ . The reaction was completed after 24 hrs. The FT-IR spectrum was the same as for the crystalline product obtained from MeOH without addition of catalyst and the amorphous product obtained by the classic procedure (in EtOH with addition of concentrated  $H_2SO_4$ ). Typically, reaction takes place in several hours



FIGURE 1 Selected areas of FTIR spectra showing formation of **3e** in time: 4OHPD-1-initial mixture of powdered 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine and *p*-hydroxybenzylaldehyde; 4OHPD-4-hitting for 20 min. in temp. 60°C; 4OHPD-5hitting for 2 hrs. in temp. 60°C; 4OHPD-6-final reaction product after 24 hrs.

to two days. The reaction yield exceeds 95% as evidenced by IR and NMR spectra taken for crude reaction products. The solid-to-solid reaction rate can be significantly enhanced when a small amount of powdered substrates is mixed with Nujol and heated for 5–30 min. Enhancement of molecular movement in Nujol was observed before during the formation of racemates from powdered enantiomers [10].

The high yield of the solid-to-solid thermal reaction prompted us to compare the yield of product **3** formation in high dilution conditions in the absence of acid or base catalyst. Apparently, well-formed crystals of the products

have been obtained in every case, and have been identified as E isomers. Reaction was performed in solution by stirring at 50-60°C 1 mmol of 2,4dinitrophenylhydrazine (1) in 100 ml of MeOH with 1 mmol of the respective aldehyde dissolved in 50 ml of MeOH (except compound 3b, when total reaction volume was 250 ml) for 4 hours. Then the solution was allowed to crystallize. In every case, crystalline hydrazones were formed with reasonable yield. The product has been characterized by solution NMR and X-ray crystal determination as E isomer (X-ray structures will be published elsewhere). Thin layer chromatography of reaction products confirmed that the same isomer was formed in both conditions. The crystals of 3 were separated 2-3 times. In the case of **3b** the last fraction was a mixture of two types of crystals with different color and crystal habit. X-ray structure analysis showed that abundant crystals contained the desired reaction product, whereas several tearshaped yellow crystals were reaction product with acetone (3b') from impurities contained in MeOH. As might be seen in Figures 2 and 3, an intramolecular NH...O2N hydrogen bond stabilizes planar conformation of the molecules. Molecules of **3b** form 2D polar networks glued by intermolecular  $CH...O_2N$  hydrogen bonds formed by both nitro groups. Neighboring planes, however, contain molecules aligned in opposite directions, so the resultant space group is centrosymmetric. Molecules of the reaction product with acetone **3b**' form hydrogenbonded centrosymmetric dimers further aligned in tapes.

The possibility of the formation of another crystal form was checked when crystals of the reagents containing excess aldehyde **1e** were heated between two thin-glass slides under the microscope. The reaction was stable up to 108°C when the trace of water evaporated, followed by melting of the aldehyde at 112°. At 150° the liquid part became orange due to hydrazine desolvation and thin flaky crystals appeared. Several large yellow needles sublimed at the upper glass slide at ca. 230°, and at 240° all of the product was crystalline. Finally, yellow needles melted at 278° and the remaining dark orange crystals at 284–286°. According to the literature data the yellow needles might be **3e** 



FIGURE 2 Formation 2D network by intermolecularly H-bonded molecules of N-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)-N'-(2-methoxy-benzylidene)-hydrazine, **3b**.



FIGURE 3 Formation of 2D tapes by intermolecularly H-bonded molecules of N-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)-N'-(isopropylidene)-hydrazine, **3b**'.

monohydrate [11]. This result and the slightly different melting points found for compound **3e** crystallized from various solvents might explain the wide range of literature data on melting temperatures of hydrazones. Possible formation of clathrates containing solvent molecules was further confirmed by X-ray structure of **3e** crystallizing with one molecule of MeCN.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

#### **General Procedures**

Infrared spectra were recorded on Perkin Elmer 16400 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer in KBr pellet and Nujol. Melting points were determined on a Kofler hot stage apparatus and are uncorrected. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker AM 500 (500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra also using a Bruker AM 500 (125 MHz) in DMSO( $d_6$ ). The crystals of the compounds **3b** and **3b**' were obtained directly from reaction in MeOH and used without recrystallization. Intensity data were collected on a Nonius BV MACH3 diffractometer at 294 K using graphite monochromated CuK<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> radiation and  $\omega$ -2 $\theta$  scan mode. Refined unit cell parameters were obtained by least-squares analysis of 25 reflections ( $\theta$ -range 23.2-43.2°) and 15 reflections ( $\theta$ -range 9.02-23.65°) for compound **3b** and **3b'**, respectively.

#### Preparation of Aromatic Hydrazones in Solid-to-solid Reaction

Powdered samples of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine and the respective aldehyde were ground in an agate mortar with a pestle for 15 min. Then the mortar was covered with a glass plate and heated at  $40-60^{\circ}$ C until the reaction was completed (12 h, 4 h, 12 h, 112 h and 24 h) for compounds **3a**, **3b**, **3c**, **3d** and **3e**, respectively. The resulting products were used without further purification or recrystallization. Thin layer chromatography, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 13C NMR and IR spectra evidenced formation of the respective hydrazones with yields exceeding 95%. All products are known compounds.

#### Preparation of Aromatic Hydrazones in Solution

Reaction was performed in solution by stirring 1 mmol of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (1) in 100 ml of MeOH with 1 mmol of the respective aldehyde dissolved in 50 ml of MeOH at ca. 60°C (except compound **3b**, when total reaction volume was 250 ml). Then the solution was left for crystallization. Crystalline product was collected 2, 3 times and characterized by comparison of melting points and IR spectra with literature data.

#### Structure Solution and Refinement

The crystal structures were solved by direct methods using the program SHELXS-86 [12] and

TABLE I Yields and melting points for products 3 obtained by solid-solid and solution (MeOH) method

Compound	Solid-solid m.p (°C)	Solution m.p. (°C)	Yield (%)
$3a, R = v \cdot N(Me)_2$	236-237	237-239	63
3b, $R = o$ -OMe	239-241	247-248	<b>94</b> <sup>1</sup>
3c, R = o-OH	257 - 260	262 - 265	83
<b>3d</b> , $R = m$ -OH	258-261	262-265	61
<b>3e</b> , $R = p$ -OH	279-283	$284 - 286^2$	82

<sup>1</sup> 3rd fraction of crystals contained small amount of reaction product with acetone, **3b**'.

 $^{2}$  -crystals from MeCN/MeOH: at 149° became opaque and melted at 282-286°.

- crystals from CHCl<sub>3</sub> melt at 279-281°.

– crystals from AcOEt melt at 263–265°.

refined by full-matrix, least-squares procedure using the program SHELXL-97 [13]. All nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were placed in geometrically

TABLE II Crystal data and structure refinement for  $\mathbf{3b}$  and  $\mathbf{3b}'$ 

	3Ь	3b′
Crystal data		
Empirical formula	$C_{14}H_{12}N_4O_5$	$C_9H_{10}N_4O_4$
Formula weight	316.28	238.21
Space group	P()1	P(-)1
a (Å)	7.2472(6)	7.1930(10)
b (Å)	7.7454(6)	8.271(2)
c (Å)	14.1058(5)	10.118(2)
α (°)	97.838(4)	66.70(3)
β (°)	96.511(5)	89.43(3)
γ (°)	110.931(6)	79.20(3)
V (Å <sup>3</sup> )	721.30(9)	541.69(19)
Ζ	2	2
$D_c ({\rm g cm^{-3}})$	1.456	1.460
$\mu(CuK_{\alpha})$	0.964	1.006
F(000)	328	248
Data collection		
Crystal size (mm)	0.67  imes 0.32  imes 0.21	$0.14 \times 0.105 \times 0.43$
θ-range (°)	3.21 to 74.02	4.77 to 74.00
Index ranges	$-9, \pm 9, \pm 17$	$\pm$ 8, 10, $\pm$ 12
Refl. collected	2242	1866
Final refinement		
No. refl. indep.	2057	1743
No. parameters	217	159
<i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0680$ ,	$R_1 = 0.0658,$
	$wR_2 = 0.1608$	$wR_2 = 0.1898$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0695,$	$R_1 = 0.0664,$
	$wR_2 = 0.1633$	$wR_2 = 0.1907$
$\Delta  ho$ max	0.329	0.331
$\Delta \rho \min$	-0.376	-0.365

generated positions and refined with positional parameters riding on the host atom, and  $B_{iso}$  fixed at 20% higher than that of the host atom. Crystal data and other experimental details regarding structure solution and refinement are given in Table II. Final fractional coordinates, temperature factors, bond lengths and angles have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystal-lographic Data Centre.

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