

Benzenofurazans have previously been prepared^{4, 5} by the cyclo-dehydration of *o*-quinone dioximes or by the oxidation of *o*-nitrosoaniline derivatives (neither of which starting materials are readily available) or by the indirect method of deoxygenation of the benzofuroxans. The presently described route is analogous to the well known preparation of benzofuroxans from *o*-nitrophenyl azides⁶.

Further examples of the new synthesis are provided by the conversion of 1,3-dibromo-5-methyl-2-nitrosobenzene, m.p. 136 - 137° (Lit.² m.p. 136.5 - 138°), into 4-bromo-6-methylbenzofurazan, m.p. 81 - 81.5°, and 1,3,5-trichloro-2-nitrosobenzene, m.p. 142 - 143° (Lit.² m.p. 145 - 146°), into 4,6-dichlorobenzofurazan,⁷ m.p. 52 - 53°, in yields of 92% and 90% respectively.

The foregoing nitroso-compounds were also prepared by the peracetic acid oxidation of the corresponding anilines², but it was found that this method is general only for 2,6-disubstituted anilines and that other anilines gave azoxy-compounds; e.g. 4-methyl-2-nitroaniline yielded 4,4'-dimethyl-2,2'-dinitroazoxybenzene, m.p. 241 - 242°.

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² R.P. Bayer and R.R. Holmes, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **82**, 3454, (1960).

³ D. Dal Monte and E. Sandri, *Ann. Chim. (Italy)*, **53**, 1701, (1963).

⁴ L.C. Behr, in "The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds", (A. Weissberger, Ed.), Interscience, New York, 1962, **17**, 263.

⁵ J.H. Boyer, in "Heterocyclic Compounds", (R.C. Elderfield, Ed.), Wiley, New York, 1961, **7**, 462.

⁶ E. Noelting and A. Kohn, *Chem. Ztg.*, **18**, 1905 (1894); T. Zincke and P. Schwarz, *Annalen*, **307**, (1899).

⁷ Satisfactory analytical results were obtained for all new compounds prepared.