

CATALYTIC HYDROGENATION OF BENZO[2.1.3]OXADIAZOLES

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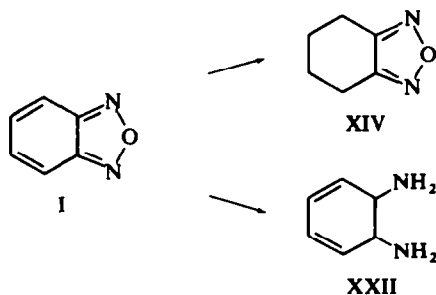
Abstract—Hydrogenation of benzo[2.1.3]oxadiazole and its chloro derivatives, yields 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[2.1.3]oxadiazole together with small amounts of 1,2-phenylenediamine. Benzo[2.1.3]oxadiazoles substituted with no reduction-sensitive groups are hydrogenated either to the corresponding 1,2-phenylenediamines or to mixtures containing the 4,5,6,7-tetrahydro derivatives.

The NMR and UV spectra of seven new tetrahydrobenzo[2.1.3]oxadiazoles are recorded together with other physical properties.

CATALYTIC hydrogenation of benzofurazans* have not been reported, apart from the reduction of angular bisfurazanobenzene to 4,5-diaminobenzofurazan.^{1,†}

In continuation of our studies,²⁻⁵ we reduced benzofurazans (I-XIII) under standard conditions. The results are given in Table 1. The reduction may take place either in the homocyclic or in the heterocyclic ring; in some cases a further hydrogenation of the 4,5,6,7-tetrahydro derivative can yield ammonia and unidentified basic compounds.

Benzofurazan (I) gives mainly the 4,5,6,7-tetrahydro derivative (XIV): 1,2-phenylenediamine (XXII), produced by the hydrogenolytic opening of the heterocyclic ring, is formed with yields of about 10%.



* For convenience we shall hereafter refer to benzo-2,1,3-oxadiazole by the alternative name of benzofurazan.

† Some examples of selective hydrogenation of reduction-sensitive groups in substituted benzofurazans have been reported.²⁻⁴

4- and 5-Chlorobenzofurazans (VI, XI) give the same products as the parent compound, with almost identical yields; the hydrogenolysis of the carbon-halogen bond occurs at about the same rate as the hydrogenation of benzofurazan, as shown by the composition of the reduction products after the absorption of one molar equivalent of hydrogen.

TABLE 1. HYDROGENATION OF BENZO[2.1.3]OXADIAZOLES ON 10% Pd-C

| Benzo-[2.1.3]-oxadiazole reduced | | | Conds ^a | Time (hr) | Reduction products ^b | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| No | Subst | Prepn Ref | | | 1,2-PhD | | THBO | |
| | | | | | Subst | % ^c | Subst | % ^c |
| I | H | 9 | A | 1 | H | 9 | H | 80 |
| II | 4-CH ₃ | 10 | A | 6 | 3-CH ₃ | 14 | 4-CH ₃ | 70 |
| III | 4-COOH | 5 | A | 12 | — ^d | — | 4-COOH | 85 |
| IV | 4-COOEt | new | A | 12 | — ^d | — | 4-COOEt | 65 |
| V | 4-OCH ₃ | 12 | A | 12 | 3-OCH ₃ | 95 | — | — |
| VI | 4-Cl | 11 | A | 1 | H | 5 | H | 85 |
| VII | 5-CH ₃ | 9 | A | 5 | 4-CH ₃ | 47 | 5-CH ₃ | 37 |
| VIII | 5-COOH | 5 | B | 12 | 4-COOH | 27 | 5-COOH | 55 |
| IX | 5-COOEt | new | B | 12 | 4-COOEt | 59 | 5-COOEt | 26 |
| X | 5-OCH ₃ | 9 | A | 12 | 4-OCH ₃ | 98 | — | — |
| XI | 5-Cl | 9 | A | 1 | H | 6 | H | 85 |
| XII | 4,7-diCH ₃ | new | C | 24 | 3,6-diCH ₃ | 9 | 4,7-diCH ₃ | 82 |
| XIII | 5,6-diCH ₃ | 8 | A | 12 | 4,5-diCH ₃ | 99 | — | — |

^a "A" indicates the standard conditions (*cf* text). "B" and "C" indicate that 0.01 mol of the benzo-2,1,3-oxadiazole were reduced with 1 g and 3 g of 10% Pd-C respectively.

^b 1,2-PhD, 1,2-phenylenediamine; THBO, 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[2.1.3]oxadiazole.

^c The percentage of 1,2-phenylenediamine refers to the amount present in the reduction mixture (determined spectrophotometrically and reported as the average of at least two measurements); the percentage of 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[2.1.3]oxadiazole refers to the yield after separation of the diamine.

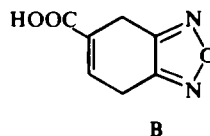
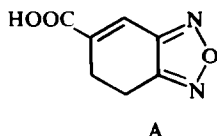
^d The basic substance isolated is not the 1,2-phenylenediamine.

Likewise the hydrogenation of methyl, carboxy and ethoxycarbonylbenzofurazans (II-IV, VII-IX) results in the formation of tetrahydro derivatives. The 1,2-phenylenediamine could not be detected among compounds isolated from the reduction mixture of 4-carboxy and 4-ethoxycarbonylbenzofurazan. These compounds yielded a basic product (structure was not determined) which results from further hydrogenation of 4-carboxy and 4-ethoxycarbonyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan respectively.

The ratio of tetrahydro derivative to 1,2-phenylenediamine in 4-methylbenzofurazan is higher than in the 5-methyl isomer. The effect of the position of the substituent is still larger in dimethyl derivatives. Thus, the heterocyclic ring is preferentially hydrogenated in 5,6-dimethylbenzofurazan (XIII), while the homocyclic ring is saturated in the 4,7-dimethyl isomer (XII).

5-Carboxybenzofurazan, when reduced under standard conditions gives, in addition to 4-carboxy-1,2-phenylenediamine and the 5-carboxy-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro derivative,

a third product corresponding to $C_7H_6N_2O_3$ and with the NMR spectrum compatible with structure A or B. The formation of this product is negligible when the reduction is carried out with a larger amount of catalyst.



The reduction of 4- and 5-methoxybenzofurazans (V, X) yields almost exclusively 3- and 4-methoxy-1,2-phenylenediamine respectively. The catalyst preparations proved to be reproducible in their behaviour. Changes in the ratio of tetrahydro derivative to 1,2-phenylene diamine may take place when using palladium-charcoal catalyst with different characteristics. The nature of the catalyst may appreciably affect the direction of the hydrogenation: thus, 5% rodium or platinum on charcoal (contrary to palladium) reduces benzofurazan almost exclusively to 1,2-phenylenediamine. The structures assigned to the reduction products were supported either by comparison with compounds obtained by independent syntheses (1,2-phenylenediamines or their derivatives; 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan) or by UV and NMR spectra (Table 2).

TABLE 2. UV AND NMR SPECTRA OF 4,5,6,7-TETRAHYDROBENZO[2.1.3]OXADIAZOLES

| THBO ^a | | NMR (CDCl ₃ , δ in ppm) ^b | | UV (EtOH/H ₂ O, 1:9 v/v) ^f |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| No | Subst. | CH ₂ of homocyclic ring | Other signals | λ_{max} in m μ (log ϵ) |
| XIV | H | 1.7-2.1 m(4H), 2.7-3.1 m(4H) | — | 216-7(3.57) ^d , 218i(3.56), 225i(3.44), 231i(3.10) |
| XV | 4-CH ₃ | 1.3-2.3 m(4H), 2.7-3.4 m(3H) | CH ₃ : 1.41d(3H): $J = 7$ c/s | 217(3.60), 220i(3.59), 225i(3.49), 231i(3.17) |
| XVI | 4-COOH | 1.7-2.5 m(4H), 2.8-3.1 m(2H), 3.9-4.3 m(1H) | COOH ^f : 11.2s | 217-20(3.54) |
| XVII | 4-COOEt | 1.7-2.4 m(4H), 2.8-3.1 m(2H), 3.7-4.5 m(1H) | COOEt: 1.30t(3H), 4.35q(2H); $J = 6.6$ c/s | 217(3.57), 220i(3.56), 225i(3.46) |
| XVIII | 5-CH ₃ | 1.0-3.4 m(7H) | CH ₃ : 1.16d(3H): $J = 5$ c/s | 217(3.59), 219i(3.58), 225i(3.47), 232i(3.09) |
| XIX | 5-COOH | 1.9-3.4 m(7H) | COOH ^f : 10.8s(br) | 217(3.61), 219i(3.60), 225i(3.49), 232i(3.11) |
| XX | 5-COOEt | 1.7-3.5 m(7H) | COOEt: 1.30t(3H), 4.23q(2H); $J = 6$ c/s | 216-7(3.62), 219i(3.61), 225i(3.49), 231i(3.15) |
| XXI | 4,7-diCH ₃ | 1.5-2.2 m(4H), 2.8-3.5 m(2H) | CH ₃ : 1.36d(6H): $J = 7$ c/s | 217(3.58), 220i(3.57), 230i(3.28) |

^a THBO, 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[2.1.3]oxadiazole. With the exception of compound n^o XIV, all other compounds are new.

^b s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad.

^c i, inflection.

^d Previous values reported: λ_{max}^{MeOH} : 220 m μ (log ϵ , 3.56)⁶; λ_{max}^{EtOH} : 217 m μ (log ϵ , 3.30), inflections at 220, 225 and 233 m μ .¹³

^f The singlet disappears by adding D₂O.

The preparation of 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan *via* cyclohexane-1,2-dione dioxime⁶ or *via* 2-nitrocyclohexane-1-one-oxime⁷ is laborious so that when the yields are sufficiently high, the catalytic reduction is a better route for the preparation of these compounds.

The reduction, under analogous conditions, of the N-oxides (benzofuroxans) of I-V, VII-X, XII and XIII leads exclusively to the corresponding 1,2-phenylenediamines.

EXPERIMENTAL

M.ps and b.ps. are uncorrected.

UV spectra were measured for 10⁻⁴ M solns in EtOH-H₂O (1:9 v/v) with a Beckman DU-2 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were measured for solns in CDCl₃, unless otherwise stated, with a Jeol C-60 HL instrument (TMS as internal reference).

Products. Benzofurazans (I-III, V-VIII, X and XI) were prepared by methods described previously (Refs in Table 1) and had m.ps. corresponding to those in the literature. Compound XIII was obtained by reduction of the corresponding benzofuroxan¹⁴ to quinone dioxime followed by dehydration with boiling alkali¹⁰: m.p. 84-5° (lit.⁸, 83-5°).

4,7-Dimethylbenzofurazan (XII). A soln of 4,7 dimethylbenzofuroxan¹⁴ (16.4 g) and triphenylphosphine (27 g) in anhydrous xylene (500 ml) was refluxed for 5 hr.¹⁵ The mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was distilled, the fraction with b.p. 95-105°/4 mm being collected. The product was sublimed to give a material with m.p. 37.5-39.5°. Two crystallizations from n-heptane gave a product melting at 38.5-39.5°, b.p. 88-9°/3 mm: NMR: δ 2.59 (6H singlet) and 7.04 (2H singlet). (Found: C 64.63; H, 5.38; N, 18.90. C₈H₈N₂O requires: C, 64.85; H, 5.44; N, 18.91%).

5-Ethoxycarbonylbenzofurazan (IX) was prepared by esterification of 5-carboxybenzofurazan⁵ (16.4 g) with dry HCl (20 g) and abs EtOH (100 ml). The mixture was refluxed for 1 hr and, after removal of solvent, the residue, washed with 5% NaHCO₃, was purified by crystallization from n-heptane: m.p. 45-6°: NMR: δ 1.48 (3H triplet), 4.51 (2H quartet), 7.8-8.3 (2H multiplet and 8.6-8.7 (1H multiplet). (Found: C, 56.30; H, 4.15; N, 14.48. C₉H₈N₂O₃ requires: C, 56.25; H, 4.19; N, 14.58%).

4-Ethoxycarbonylbenzofurazan (IV) was prepared by the procedure described for the 5-derivative and crystallized from n-heptane, m.p. 41-2°: NMR: δ 1.50 (3H triplet), 4.56 (2H quartet), 7.3-7.8 (1H multiplet) and 8.0-8.4 (2H multiplet). (Found: C, 56.17; H, 4.22; N, 14.57. C₉H₈N₂O₃ requires: C, 56.25; H, 4.19; N, 14.58%).

TABLE 3. U.V. SPECTRA OF 1,2-PHENYLENEDIAMINES

| No | Subst. | Prepn Ref | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{MEOH}}$ in m μ (log ϵ) ^a |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| | | | |
| XXII | H | ^b | 239(3.82), 293*(3.53) |
| XXIII | 3-CH ₃ | 17 | 230sh(3.84), 291*(3.46) |
| XXIV | 3-COOH | 18 | 230-5(4.08), 347(3.63) |
| XXV | 3-COOEt | new | 237(4.11), 257i(3.75), 347(3.69) |
| XXVI | 3-OCH ₃ | 19 | 235i(3.88), 285*(3.17) |
| XXVII | 4-CH ₃ | 20 | 230i(3.80), 299*(3.51) |
| XXVIII | 4-COOH | 21 | 235sh(4.09), 278-81(3.92), 313*(3.90) |
| XXIX | 4-COOEt | 22 | 282(3.97), 317*(3.98) |
| XXX | 4-OCH ₃ | 23 | 305-6*(3.59), 365sh(2.63) |
| XXXI | 3,6-diCH ₃ | 24 | 235i(3.89), 289*(3.38) |
| XXXII | 4,5-diCH ₃ | 25 | 230i(3.89), 300*(3.55) |

^a Starred values are those used for quantitative measurements; i, inflection; sh, shoulder.

^b Reagent grade.

10% Palladium on charcoal was prepared as described by Mazingo,¹⁶ using Merck Lab. charcoal and Carlo Erba PdCl₂.

Hydrogenation of benzofurazans and estimation of 1,2-phenylenediamines. The substrate (0.01 mol) in MeOH* (200 ml), on Pd-C (0.6 g)† was shaken under hydrogen at room temp and pressure until absorption ceased. For compounds I, VI and XI the reduction was stopped as soon as the absorption of hydrogen underwent a marked fall: a further slow hydrogenation of 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan (previously formed) is thus avoided.

The catalyst was filtered off and washed repeatedly with MeOH under N₂. The filtrate and washings were combined and the yield in 1,2-phenylenediamine was estimated by recording the optical density of the solutions at the wavelengths reported in Table 3. (The solns from reduction of VI and XI were previously treated with 20 ml of 4% KOH in MeOH to remove HCl).

Before the spectrophotoscopic measurements, a comparison was made between the spectrum of the reduction mixture and that of the suitable 1,2-phenylenediamine in the 290–350 mμ region, where the 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazans do not absorb.

Separation and identification of the reduction products. The filtrate and the washings combined, were evaporated under reduced pressure at 30° and the residue, with 150 ml of ether, was extracted with dilute (1:2) HCl (3 × 30 ml). The acidic extract and the ethereal soln was evaporated and the residue used for identification of 1,2-phenylenediamines (A) and 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazans (B) respectively.

(A) The residue arising from reduction of IX, when treated with 5% NaHCO₃ was found identical (m.p. mixed m.p., IR spectrum) with XXIX.²² The residue from the reduction of VIII proved to be 4-carboxy-1,2-phenylenediamine, since when treated with NaOAc aq and then with a boiling aqueous solution of SeO₂ it gave 5-carboxy-benzo[2.1.3]selenadiazole.²⁶ The residue from IV§, when treated with 5% NaHCO₃ and extracted with benzene, gave a red gummy material which did not contain 3-ethoxycarbonyl-1,2-phenylenediamine. The IR spectrum of the gummy material corresponds to that of the compound obtained by independent catalytic reduction of XVII. Similar behaviour was found in the residue from reduction of III*.

The residues from the acidic extract of reduced I, II, V–VII, X, XIII, was treated with 5% NaHCO₃ and the diamine was extracted with benzene. The benzene soln was dried, and acetylated with Ac₂O (reflux for 2 hr). The diacetyl derivative was identified by comparison with authentic samples. The reduced benzofurazan, the obtained diacetyl-1,2-phenylenediamine, the relevant literature or its characteristics are reported below: I, VI, XI; PhDA||; 27.V: 3-OCH₃-PhDA; 28.VII: 4-CH₃-PhDA; 29.XIII: 4,5-diCH₃-PhDA; 30.II: 3-CH₃-PhDA; crystallized from xylene, m.p. 197–8°; (Found: C, 63.90; H, 6.78; N, 13.41. C₁₁H₁₄N₂O₂ requires: C, 64.06; H, 6.84; N, 13.58%). X: 4-OCH₃-PhDA; crystallized from xylene, m.p. 185–6°; (Found: C, 59.65; H, 6.12; N, 12.52. C₁₁H₁₄N₂O₃ requires: C, 59.45; H, 6.35; N, 12.60%). XII: 3,6-diCH₃-PhDA; crystallized from EtOH, m.p. 298–90°; (Found: C, 65.47; H, 7.37; N, 12.68. C₁₂H₁₆N₂O₂ requires: C, 65.43; H, 7.32; N, 12.72%).

(B) The residue after evaporation of the ethereal soln was purified to obtain analytically pure samples of the 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazans. The purification technique and physical properties are given below:‡

4,5,6,7-Tetrahydrobenzofurazan (XIV): distillation: b.p. 92°/5 mm; m.p. 26° (lit.: 26°⁶; 20.5°⁷; 24°¹³). 4-Methyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan (XV): distillation: b.p. 92°/4 mm; n_D²⁵ 1.4779‡ (Found: C, 60.76; H, 7.35; N, 20.19. C₇H₁₀N₂O requires: C, 60.85; H, 7.29; N, 20.28%). 4-Carboxy-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan (XVI): crystallization from ligroin (b.p. 80–120°)-toluene (1:1 v/v); m.p. 94–5°; pK_a^{pot} (in H₂O at 20°): 3.30. (Found: C, 49.82; H, 4.64; N, 16.71. C₇H₈N₂O₃ requires: C, 50.00; H, 4.80; N, 16.66%). 4-Ethoxycarbonyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan (XVII): distillation: b.p. 158°/6 mm; n_D²⁵ 1.4777. (Found: C, 55.04; H, 6.21; N, 14.19. C₉H₁₂N₂O₃ requires: C, 55.10; H, 6.16; N, 14.28%). 5-Methyl-4,5,6,7-tetra-

* Reagent P. A. Carlo Erba.

† Except where otherwise stated (see Table 1).

§ For benzofurazans IV and III, the hydrogenation solutions contain (in addition to the tetrahydro derivative and unidentified basic products) also ammonia which was removed together with MeOH by distillation under reduced pressure.

|| PhDA, N, N'-diacetyl-1,2-phenylenediamine.

‡ The IR spectra were also measured and are available on request.

‡ Determined with an Abbé refractometer.

hydrobenzofurazan (XVIII): preparative gas chromatography: b.p. 95°/3 mm: n_D^{25} 1.4757. (Found: C, 60.92; H, 7.26; N, 20.13. $C_7H_{10}N_2O$ requires: C, 60.85; H, 7.29; N, 20.28%). 5-Carboxy-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan (XIX): crystallization from ligroin (b.p. 80–120°)-toluene (1:1 v/v): m.p. 109–110°: pK_a^{pot} (in H_2O at 20°): 4.04. (Found: C, 49.90; H, 4.61; N, 16.62. $C_7H_8N_2O_3$ requires: C, 50.00; H, 4.80; N, 16.66%).

Reduction, when made under standard conditions, yielded (after separation of 4-carboxy-1, 2-phenylenediamine) a residue (m.p. 90–160°) which crystallized from H_2O (1.4 g from 50 ml) yielded a white product [m.p. 195–6° after two crystallizations from H_2O : NMR in $(CD_3)_2CO$: δ 3.7–4.0 (4H multiplet), 7.1–7.4 (1H multiplet) and 8.2 (1 COOH broad singlet which disappears on addition of D_2O): λ_{max} 208–10 μ ($\log \epsilon$ 4.03). (Found: C, 49.86; H, 3.90; N, 16.93. $C_7H_6N_2O_3$ requires: C, 50.61; H, 3.64; N, 16.86%].

The aqueous filtrate was evaporated: the residue crystallized repeatedly from ligroin-toluene (1:1 v/v) yielded a compound, identical with 5-carboxy-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan described above. 5-Ethoxycarbonyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan (XX): distillation: b.p. 163°/5 mm: n_D^{25} 1.4792. (Found: C, 49.95; H, 6.18; N, 14.21. $C_9H_{12}N_2O_3$ requires: C, 55.10; H, 6.16; N, 14.28%). 4,7-Dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofurazan (XXI): preparative gas chromatography: b.p. 95°/4 mm: n_D^{25} 1.4727. (Found: C, 63.02; H, 8.11; N, 18.37. $C_8H_{12}N_2O$ requires: C, 63.13; H, 7.95; N, 18.41%). 3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,2-phenylenediamine was prepared by the same procedure as 4-ethoxycarbonyl isomer²¹ from 2-acetylamino-3-nitrobenzoic acid,³¹ crystallized from n-heptane, m.p. 63–4°. (Found: C, 60.21; H, 6.52; N, 15.47. $C_9H_{12}N_2O_2$ requires: C, 59.99; H, 6.71; N, 15.55%).

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