

AD-A194 586 NEW SYNTHETIC APPROACHES TO TAI(U) BONN UNIV (GERMANY F 1/1
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MAY 25 1988
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Ref.: Contract No. DAJA 45-85-C-0016

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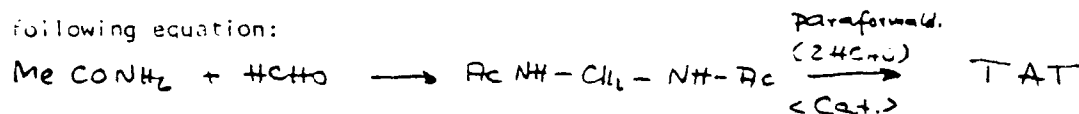
FIFTH INTERIM REPORT (Item 0005)

At present we are continuing our synthetic strategy on three different pathways:

- (a) ring synthetic methods from easily accessible small molecules without template effect
- (b) half-synthetic methods starting from partially destructed hexamethylenetetramine, such as DAPT
- (c) template-catalyzed approaches: phenyl- and tert.butyl substituted methylenamines and their tetramerizations in the presence of suitable ions

Regarding the pathways (a) and (b) we can report now on two promising approaches to TAT:

(a) (Work of Mr. Bongen): Considering the observations made by B.S. Thyagarayan and K.C. Majumdar, J.Heterocycl.Chem. 11, 937 (1974) in their synthesis of 1,3,5,7-tetracarboxy-tetrazocanes, and with the knowledge of US-pat. 3.978.046 by C.L. Coon (United States Dept. of the Army) on TAT synthesis by treating methylene-bisacetamide with paraformaldehyde in the presence of H₂SO₄, we have reacted acetamide first with 37% aq formaldehyde, 3g of acetic acid for 4h, then we added more equivalents of paraformaldehyde (8g) and 3 g of acetic acid. - Working up the reaction mixture, we were able to detect TAT by TLC, besides methylenebisacetamide. At present we are trying intensively to alterate the reaction conditions and to improve the yield of TAT. It is the aim of these investigations to furnish a simple one-step, one-pot procedure starting from easily accessible starting materials and to obtain TAT under mild conditions, according to the following equation:

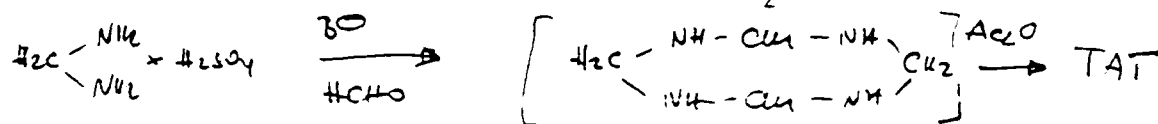


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(b) (work of Mr. Bongen): Starting from DAPT prepared easily by the direct and elaborate method of V.I. Siele, M. Warman, E.E. Gilbert, J.Heterocycl.Chem. 11, 237 (1974), we have treated 5.3g DAPT in Acetanhydride with a mixture of Ac₂O (150 ml), 1.5 ml of H₂O, 3g SOCl₂ and 2 g NH₄OAc. The temperature is maintained at 5°C. After 1 h stirring at room temp. the Ac₂O and all volatile material is evaporated. We obtained TAT in a yield of 3.66g (25.8%).

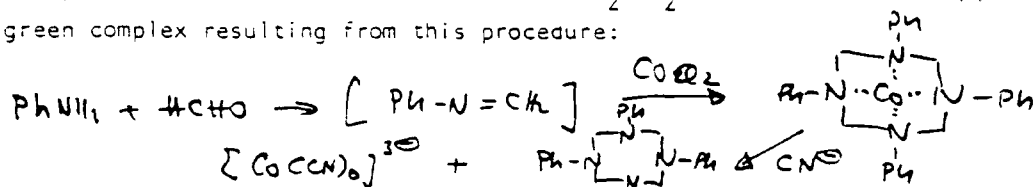
Besides this successful approach, many other experiments involving controlled decomposition of DAPT turned out to be not successful: e.g. with TsCl (autoclav), TsCl/AlCl₃, ClSO₂Cl, with TsCl in a melt, t-butCl/AlCl₃, CH₂Cl₂/AlCl₃, COCl₂ etc.

Furthermore, the work published originally by H.H. Richmond, G.S. Myers, and G.F. Wright (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 70, 3659 (1948)) is continued. The aim is to react methylenediamine-sulfate in a controlled way with HCHO, COCl₂, etc.:



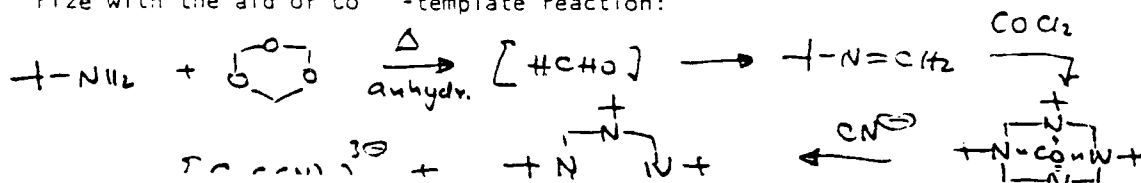
Furthermore, controlled degradation of DAPT is planned with the aid of the systems POCl₃/CHCl₃ or POCl₃/CH₂Cl₂, POCl₃/Ac₂O.

(c) (Work of Mr. Nagelschmitz): The template tetramerization reactions on the basis of the mentioned Roumanian publication are continued. It has been found that the reaction conditions published are in part irreproducible. Nevertheless, the published reaction aniline + HCHO + CoCl₂·6H₂O will be followed up, and the green complex resulting from this procedure:



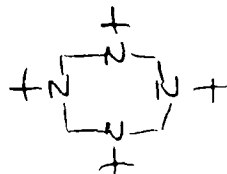
is tried to remove the central atom Co⁺⁺ by ligand displacement, e.g. with CN⁻, upon this reaction an oxidation process is expected to generate Co⁺⁺⁺, which is well known to form very stable complexes, especially with cyanide ions. This template approach is presently also investigated employing t-but-amine and HCHO to get intermediary t-but-methyleneimine, which should react then accordingly.

In an anhydrous reaction course, t-but-methyleneimine is planned to generate by treating t-butamine with paraformaldehyde, which should give alternatively during thermolysis (HCHO) and also t-but-methyleneimine, which we will try to tetramerize with the aid of Co⁺⁺-template reaction:



At present Mr. Nagelschmitz tries hard to remove the templating central atom by ligand exchange in the way described above, to treat the complex with much more potent ligands, like CN^- ; easy oxidation, just by air, is expected to lead then to the very stable $[Co(CN)_6]^{3-}$ complex.

After working on the phenyl substituted tetrazocane, these decomplexation reactions are planned to be transferred to the tetra-tert.-butyl-tetrazocanes, in order to isolate free:



which is a promising intermediate for further substituent exchanges and developments.

Mid of July, I am planning another visit and conference with Dr.E.E. Gilbert and his group at Picatinny areal in Dover, NJ, and at present I am arranging a suitable schedule for this meeting, where our recent results in the synthesis of TAT should be discussed in detail.

(Professor Dr.Heinrich Wamhoff)

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