

The Fragmentation of an *N*-Pyrrolyl Nitrene from the Oxidation of 6-Amino-1,4,5,7-tetramethylpyrrolo[3,4-*d*]pyridazine

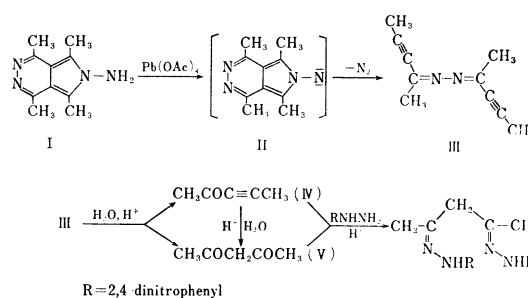
K. SAKAI and J.-P. ANSELME*

Department of Chemistry, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Mass. 02116, U.S.A.

(Received September 28, 1971)

While pyrrolyl *N*-nitrenes do not undergo fragmentation,^{1,2)} those *N*-nitrenes derived from 1,2,4- and 1,2,3-triazoles,^{2,3)} tetrazoles,³⁾ imidazoles,⁴⁾ and 1- and 2-benzotriazoles⁵⁾ lose elemental nitrogen with formation of the corresponding triply bonded species. We now report evidence which suggests that fragmentation can be a reaction path for some pyrrolyl *N*-nitrenes.

When a solution of 6-amino-1,4,5,7-tetramethylpyrrolo[3,4-*d*]pyridazine (I)⁶⁾ was heated with lead tetraacetate under reflux for 3 hr, nitrogen was generated in about 36% yield. From the very dark brown reaction mixture, a crude semi-solid was obtained which exhibited a medium intensity band at 2035 cm⁻¹ (shoulder at 2075 cm⁻¹) and a strong absorption at 1735 cm⁻¹. Treatment of this crude product with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine under acidic conditions gave the bis-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone of acetylacetone, mp 209–212°C, identical in all respects with an authentic sample. When the oxidation was carried out overnight at room temperature, the yield of nitrogen was about 22%. Addition of solid sodium carbonate to the dark reaction mixture, followed by removal of the solids and mild acidic hydrolysis of the filtrate, gave a 16% yield of acetylacetone. Its infrared spectrum was superimposable upon that of an authentic sample; its bis-(2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone) was also



identical in all respects to an authentic sample.

The isolation of acetylacetone coupled with the evolution of nitrogen suggests that, in contrast to the *N*-nitrenes derived from pyrroles and carbazoles,^{1,2)} the *N*-nitrene (II) generated from I underwent fragmentation to the extent of ~36%. The primary fragment (III) might be expected to be somewhat unstable to the conditions of the reaction and to be hydrolyzed at least partially to 3-pentyn-2-one (IV) which would then presumably be hydrated to acetylacetone; alternatively, IV could give the bis-hydrazone by direct reaction with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine.

The formation of large amounts of dark products suggests that the *N*-nitrene (II) undergoes further reactions *without* expulsion of nitrogen. The occurrence of the fragmentation path in this case may be the result of synergistic effect of two factors, namely the incorporation of the pyrrole ring in a quinoid structure⁵⁾ and secondly, the electron withdrawing effect of the two nitrogen atoms of the pyridazine ring which possibly weakens the "backbone" bond⁸⁾ sufficiently so that fragmentation can occur.

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* Fellow of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. To whom inquiries should be addressed.

The support of this work by the National Institutes of Health (GM 13689-05) is hereby acknowledged with deep appreciation.

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