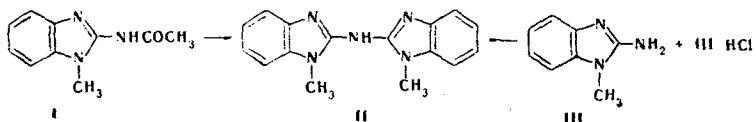


THERMOLYSIS OF 1-METHYL-2-ACETAMIDO BENZIMIDAZOLE

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In an attempt to bring about a Fries rearrangement, we heated 2-acetamido-1-methylbenzimidazole (I) in an ampul at 240-245° for 5 h, but we obtained a compound with mp 201° (from alcohol) instead of the expected benzo-substituted compound. Its structure as bis(1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)amine (II) was es-



tablished on the basis of NMR and IR spectral data and the results of elementary analysis. This same substance (II) is formed when 2-amino-1-methylbenzimidazole (III) is fused with its hydrochloride at 250° for 5 h. Under these conditions, 2-benzamido-1-methylbenzimidazole remains virtually unchanged.

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