FUROXAN RING FORMATION

IN THE REACTION OF 2,3,4,6-TETRA-

NITROANILINE WITH HYDROXYLAMINE

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We have discovered that the reaction of 2,3,4,6-tetranitroaniline (1) with hydroxylamine hydrochloride in methanol in the presence of basic agents leads to 5-amino-4,6-dinitrobenzofuroxan and 3-amino-2,4,6-trinitrophenol.

The formation of a furoxan ring in this reaction is attributed to the replacement of the labile *meta*-nitro group in **1** by a hydroxylamino group analogously to the replacement of labile chlorine in picryl chloride [1] and subsequent reactions in accord with the following scheme:

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5-Amino-4,6-dinitrobenzofuroxan was obtained by the gradual addition of **1** (5.46 g, 0.02 mol) to a stirred suspension of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.39 g, 0.02 mol) and sodium acetate (3.44 g, 0.04 mol) in methanol (45 ml) at 45-50°C. The reaction mixture was maintained at this temperature for 90-120 min and then cooled. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with water, and dried to give 2.0 g (83%) of **1**; mp 265-266°C (acetic acid). The physicochemical indices of this product correspond to a sample obtained by Hobin [2] using an azide method.

REFERENCES

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