## Use of the Diels-Alder Reaction as a Criterion of Aromaticity in 4-Heteracyclohexa-2,5-dienones

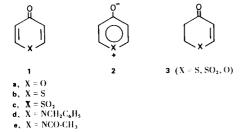
Jerry A. Hirsch,\* Raymond W. Kosley, Jr. (1), Richard P. Morin, George Schwartzkopf, and Ronald D. Brown

Department of Chemistry, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey 07079

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A recent review (2) of the aromaticity of heterocycles prompts us to report our studies of the possible use of the Diels-Alder reaction to evaluate the heteroaromatic character of 4H-pyran-4-one (1a), 4H-thiopyran-4-one (1b) and its 1,1-dioxide (1c), and two 4H-pyrid-4-ones (1d and 1e). The ability of these systems to behave as dienophiles on treatment with 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene (3) should be inversely related to the extent to which they possess heteroaromatic delocalization (2,4) (as in 2). In localized form, strong resemblance to the reactivity of p-benzoquinone (5) should be encountered. Reaction of 4H-thiopyran-4-one-1,1-dioxide (1c) with 1,3-butadiene has been reported (6) to occur slowly at room temperature and more rapidly at higher temperatures, a result consistent with the expected lack of aromatic delocalization involving the sulfone group (6-8).

Only sulfone 1c was found to behave as a dienophile toward 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene in refluxing benzene, toluene, xylene, or dioxane over periods of several weeks. This is in marked contrast to the corresponding dihydro systems 3, which undergo Diels-Alder reactions (9) and photochemical cycloadditions (10), and to photochemical cycloadditions of substituted 4-pyrones (11). Based on the results of Fehnel and Carmack (6), the ease of Diels-Alder reactivity of sulfone 1c was somewhat surprising (see Experimental Section).



Because of reported (12) 1-acetyl-4-pyridone (1e) - 4-acetoxypyridine equilibria (13) in solution and reported (14) solvent effects on 2-pyridone - 2-hydroxypyridine tau-

tomerizations, higher temperatures (in a bomb) and higher pressures (15,16) (up to 5 atmospheres) were utilized. However, substrates 1a and 1e still showed no dienophilic behavior. The ability of 2H-pyran-2-ones to function as dienophiles (17) and as dienes (17,18) and the absence of this behavior in 4H-pyran-4-one (1a) suggests greater electron delocalization in the latter compound. Similar conclusions apply to the 4H-pyrid-4-ones relative to the 2H-pyrid-2-ones (19).

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

The following compounds were prepared by the indicated literature procedures with slight modification: 4H-pyran-4-one (20) (1a), 4H-thiopyran-4-one (21) (1b), 4H-thiopyran-4-one 1,1-dioxide (6,22) (1c), 1-benzyl-4-pyridone (23) (1d), and 1-acetyl-4-pyridone (12) (1e). Compounds 1a and 1e were quite hygroscopic, so the Diels-Alder reaction was performed separately on anhydrous and hydrated forms. Commercially available 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene (Aldrich Chemical Co.) was used without further purification. All solvents were dried prior to use.

In a typical Diels-Alder reaction, 2 mmoles of substrate (1) was combined with 1 mmole of diene in 5 ml. dried solvent.

Reaction of 4H-Thiopyran-4-one 1,1-dioxide (1c) with 2,3-Dimethyl-1,3-butadiene.

A solution of 1.45 g. (17.5 mmoles) of 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene in 2 ml. of dry benzene was added to 0.5 g. (3.5 mmoles) of **1c** in 5 ml. dry benzene. The resulting light yellow solution was refluxed for 6 hours (no **1c** observed by tlc analysis). Column chromatography (1:1 v/v chloroform:carbon tetrachloride, silica gel) followed by sublimation (125°, 1 mm Hg) provided 0.47 g. (60% yield) of the cis-fused 1:1 adduct: ir (chloroform) 1690 (conj. C=0), 1310 and 1120 cm<sup>-1</sup> (SO<sub>2</sub>); nmr (deuteriochloroform):  $\delta$  1.65 (s, 6, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.37 (broad m, 4, allylic), 3.67 (broad m, 2), 6.35 (d, J = 11 Hz, 1, = CH-CO (9), 7.05 (d of d, J = 11 and 2.5 Hz, 1, = CH-SO<sub>2</sub> (9)).

Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{11}H_{14}SO_3$ : C, 58.38; H, 6.24; S, 14.17. Found: C, 58.25; H, 6.36; S, 14.13.

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