

Reaction of 32 and DMAD. A solution of 561 mg (2.61 mmol) of 32 and 372 mg (2.62 mmol) of DMAD was refluxed in dioxane for 24 hr and gave 658 mg (70%) of 33 after chromatography and vacuum distillation.

Attempted Reaction of Water and Adduct 2. Heating adduct 2 in aqueous dioxane for 24 hr produced no noticeable decomposition of 2 or formation of product 33.

Attempted Reaction in Water and Imino Ether 6b. Heating imino ether 6b in aqueous dioxane for 0.5 hr produced no noticeable reaction as ascertained by NMR. No reaction was detected on standing at room temperature for 2 days.

Hydrolysis of Imino Ether 1b. Heating 103 mg (0.80 mmol) of 1b and 14.5 mg (0.80 mmol) of water in 1 ml of dioxane for 3 hr at 100° in a sealed NMR tube produced 42% of *N*-tert-butylformamide and 15% of *tert*-butylamine, with 42% unreacted 1b, by NMR. No reaction was detected by NMR upon leaving imino ether 1b with aqueous dioxane at room temperature for 16 hr.

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Aromatic N-Oxides. IX. Reaction of N-Alkoxy-2- (and 4-) alkylpyridinium Salts with Base¹

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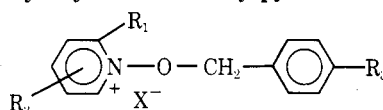
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The preparation of a number of *N*-benzyloxy- and *N*-*p*-nitrobenzyloxy-2- and 4-alkylpyridinium bromides and perchlorates are described. When these salts were treated with base, the decomposition products were primarily the corresponding alkylpyridines and benzaldehyde or *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde and in the case of the *N*-alkoxy-2-methyl- or 4-methylpyridinium salts 1-aryl-2-(2- or 4-pyridyl)ethanols 16-18 (ca. 25%) were also formed. Evidence is offered that formation of alcohols 16-18 proceeds via anhydro base 20 and 23 intermediates.

The reaction of aromatic *N*-oxides (e.g., pyridine *N*-oxide) with alkyl halides, alkyl sulfonates, or alkyl sulfates to produce *N*-alkoxy ammonium salts (e.g., *N*-methoxypyridinium methosulfate) has appeared in numerous reports

in the literature.³⁻¹⁴ These salts are known to undergo several types of reactions,¹⁰ one of which is an alkaline decomposition to yield the corresponding nitrogen heterocycle and an aldehyde.^{4-7,11-13} The initial report of this reaction

Table I
N-Benzyloxy-2- and -4-alkylpyridinium Salts

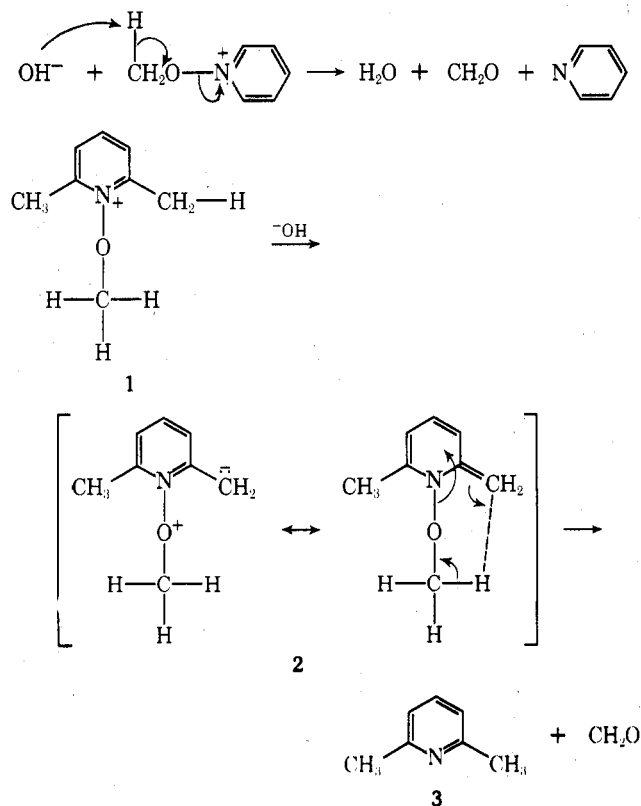


| No. | Compd ^a | | | | Solvent ^b | Reaction conditions | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|---------|
| | R ₁ | R ₂ | R ₃ | X | | Time, hr | Temp, °C | % yield |
| 4 | CH ₃ | H | H | Br | A | 5 | Reflux | 96.5 |
| 5 | CH ₃ | H | H | ClO ₄ | | | | 100 |
| 6 | CH ₃ | H | NO ₂ | Br | B | 0.5 | 100 | 53 |
| 7 | C ₂ H ₅ | H | H | Br | A | 1.5 | c | 83 |
| 8 | C ₂ H ₅ | H | H | ClO ₄ | | | | 100 |
| 9 | C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂ | H | H | Br | B | 2.5 | 60-70 | 38 |
| 10 | H | 4-CH ₃ | H | Br | C | 5 | Reflux | 76 |
| 11 | H | 4-CH ₃ | H | ClO ₄ | | | | 100 |
| 12 | H | 4-CH ₃ | NO ₂ | Br | B | 1 | 70-75 | 75 |
| 13 | H | 4-C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂ | H | Br | B | 1.5 | 60-70 | 85 |
| 14 | CH ₃ | 4-CH ₃ | H | Br | D | 0.5 | c | 83 |
| 15 | CH ₃ | 6-CH ₃ | H | Br | A | 1.5 | c | 75 |

^a Analytical data (C and H) for compounds 4, 5, 6 (Br also), 8, 11, 14, and 15 (N also) were all within 0.3%. ^b A = CH₃CN; B = CH₃NO₂; C = CHCl₃; D = (C₂H₅)₂O. ^c Room temperature.

by Henze⁴ described the conversion of 1-methoxyquinolinium iodide by potassium hydroxide to quinoline and formaldehyde. Subsequently, Ochiai⁵ and Katritzky⁶ utilized this reaction as a method for nonreductive deoxygenation of pyridine *N*-oxide derivatives; and Feely, Lehn, and Boekelheide⁷ applied this reaction as a method for the synthesis of aromatic aldehydes.

The mechanistic explanation of the alkaline decomposition of 1-methoxypyridinium methosulfate is generally viewed as a base-catalyzed E-2 type elimination.^{7,10} How-



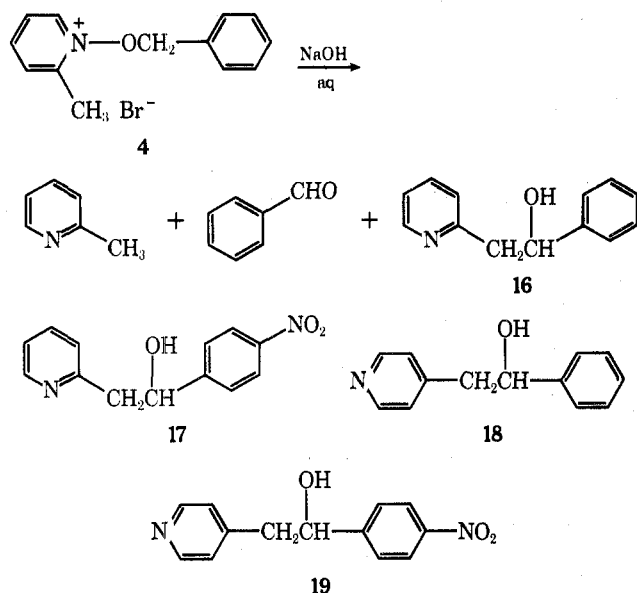
ever, Marmer and Swern¹³ have shown that the reaction of 1-methoxy-2,6-dimethylpyridinium ion (1) (and most probably *N*-alkoxy-2-alkylpyridinium ions in general) and base proceed through the intermediate *N*-alkoxy anhydro base 2

to produce 3 and formaldehyde. We wish to report our results in this area which lend further support to Marmer and Swern's work and describe a new competing reaction.

The reaction of benzyl bromide or *p*-nitrobenzyl bromide and 2- or 4-alkylpyridine *N*-oxides was carried out in acetonitrile, nitromethane, chloroform, or ether under various conditions of temperature and time and gave *N*-benzyloxy-2- and 4-alkylpyridinium bromides in 53-96% yield (see Table I). The structures of the salts were established by their ir, NMR and mass spectra, and by elemental analysis. In the case of 4, 7, and 10 the bromide salts were converted to the corresponding perchlorates 5, 8, and 11 to facilitate elemental analyses. The mass spectra of the salts showed the molecular ion for the *N*-alkoxy cation in 4, 9, and 10; however, the primary mode of fragmentation involved first reversal of the salt to the precursors benzyl bromide and the alkylpyridine *N*-oxide, then fragmentation of these latter two compounds. All of the *N*-benzyloxy salts exhibited molecular ion peaks at *m/e* 172 (C₆H₅CH₂⁸¹Br) and 170 (C₆H₅CH₂⁷⁹Br) along with the characteristic tropylium ion at *m/e* 91 (C₇H₇⁺),¹⁵ while the fragmentation of the alkylpyridine *N*-oxide was identified by its M⁺ and (M - 16)⁺ peaks.

In general those salts with methyl or ethyl substituents on the pyridine ring were formed easily and in high yield, while considerable difficulty was encountered in the preparation of 2-benzylpyridinium salts regardless of the *N*-alkoxy group (e.g., methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, or benzyloxy). In the latter case inspection of models suggests that steric hindrance by the 2 substituent was probably a major inhibiting factor. In addition the 2- or 4-benzylpyridine salts 9 and 13 (an oil) reverted to starting materials on standing in solution (H₂O or D₂O); in contrast, 4 was stable in D₂O for periods up to at least 1 week.

The reaction of *N*-benzyloxy-2-methylpyridinium bromide (4) in aqueous sodium hydroxide gave 2-methylpyridine (68%) and benzaldehyde (70%) as previously reported by Boekelheide⁷ but also produced a new product, 1-phenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethanol (16) (28% yield). 2-Methylpyridine and benzaldehyde were identified by comparison of their NMR spectra with those of an authentic sample and by preparation of known derivatives (picrate and 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone, respectively), while the known alcohol 16 was identified by its melting point and its ir and NMR



spectra. Inverse addition, namely salt solution added to sodium hydroxide solution, gave the same products in comparable yield, and variation of the reaction medium had little effect on the yield of alcohol 16 (23–30% yield) with the best alcohol yield obtained in dioxane–water (2:1).

Results for the alkaline decomposition of the other *N*-alkoxy salts are summarized in Table II. Condensation reactions were observed when a single methyl group was in the 2 or 4 position of the pyridine ring and gave alcohols 17, 18, and 19 identified by comparison of their melting points with literature values and by their ir and NMR spectra. *N*-Benzyloxy-2-ethyl-, 2,4-dimethyl-, and 2,6-dimethylpyridinium bromides produced only benzaldehyde and the corresponding alkylpyridine, while *N*-benzyloxy-2- and 4-benzylpyridinium bromides reverted to the corresponding benzyloxy-2-(2-pyridyl)ethanol *N*-oxide.

Several reaction pathways were considered for the origin of the arylpyridylethanol 16–19. First, the possibility of a base-catalyzed condensation of the products methylpyridine and benzaldehyde was excluded. The exposure of 2-methylpyridine and benzaldehyde or *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde to base under the same conditions as used in the alkaline decomposition of *N*-benzyloxy-2-methylpyridinium bromide did not produce alcohols 16 or 17 but gave near-quantitative yields of unreacted starting material. The preferred route in explaining the origin of alcohols 16–19 entails the formation of an intermediate anhydro base 20 which can condense with benzaldehyde, formed in a competing or subsequent reaction, to produce *N*-benzyloxy-2-(2-phenyl-2-hydroxyethyl)pyridinium salt (21). A base-catalyzed decomposition of 21 would form 1-phenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethanol (16) and benzaldehyde. Anhydro base 20 becomes especially attractive as an intermediate, since Marmer and Swern¹³ have established that *N*-alkoxy anhydro bases are intermediates in the main reaction pathway leading to the alkylpyridine and aldehyde. Thus 20 may also undergo an intramolecular hydrogen transfer of a benzylic proton to the side chain methylene with elimination of benzaldehyde and formation of 2-methylpyridine. Therefore 20 can serve as a common intermediate, undergoing two competing reactions, which leads to the formation of all the observed reaction products.

In an attempt to increase the yield of alcohol 16 the reaction of 4 and base was performed in the presence of added excess benzaldehyde; however, only a small increase of 16 was observed. When *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde was added to the reaction of 4 and base, *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde reacted, in preference to benzaldehyde, with intermediate 20 to form the dipolar ion 21, $R = NO_2$, which proceeded to alcohol 17 (10% yield) as the only alcohol product. Other products isolated from this reaction were benzaldehyde (80%), 2-methylpyridine (58%), unreacted *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (70%), and, a real bonus, *N*-benzyloxy-2-(2-*p*-nitrophenyl-2-hydroxyethyl)pyridinium bromide (22, $R = NO_2$)

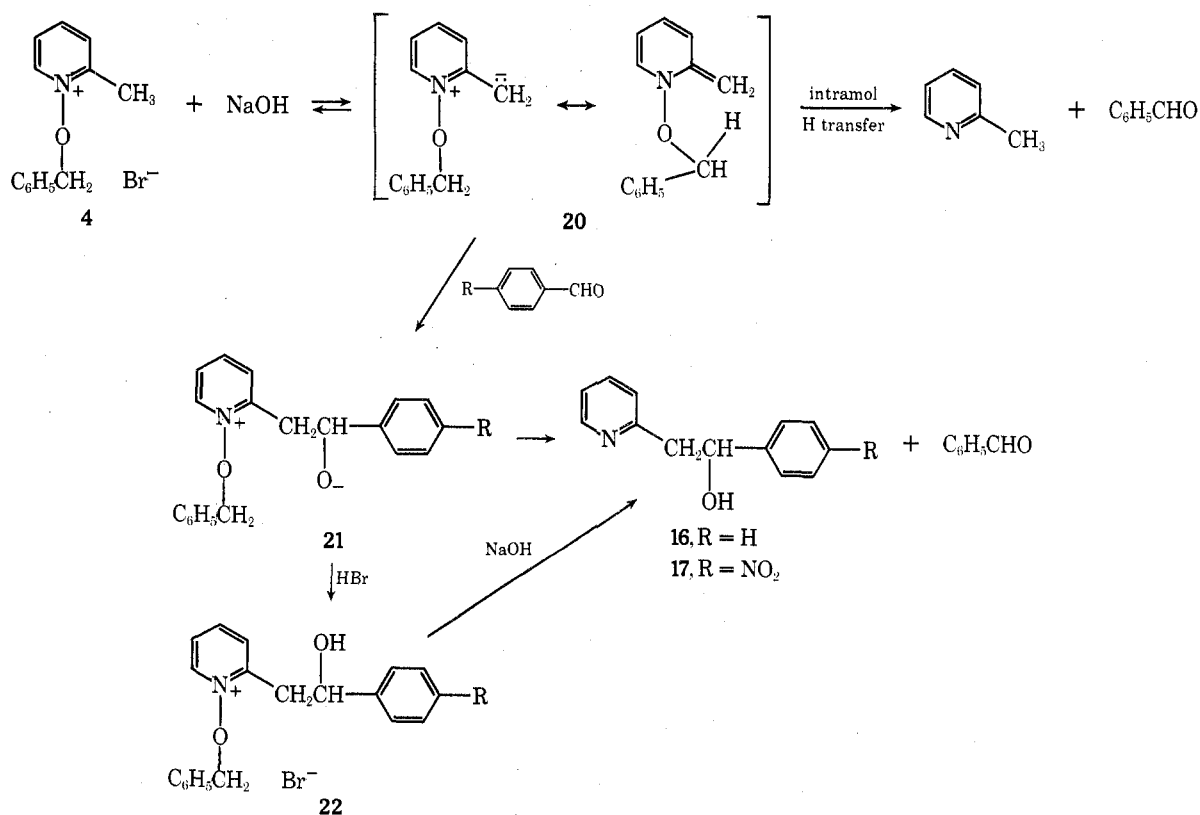
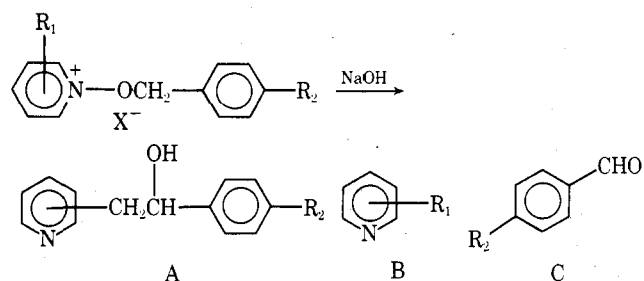


Table II
Reaction of *N*-Alkoxy-2- (and 4-) alkyipyridinium
Salts with Sodium Hydroxide

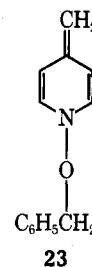


| Compd | (mmol) ^a | NaOH, mmol | Solvent ^b | Time, hr | % yield | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | A | B | C |
| 4 | (17.8) | 18 | A | 1 | 29 ^k | 68 ⁱ | 70 ^m |
| 4 | (17.8) ^c | 18 | A | 1 | 26.5 | 67 | 60 |
| 4 | (17.8) ^d | 18 | B | 1 | 10 | 58 | 80 ^{e,f} |
| 4 | (17.8) ^d | 18 | B | 0.5 | | | ^g |
| 6 | (4.6) | 4.6 | B | 10 | 15 ⁿ | 62 | 60 ^o |
| 7 | (10) | 10 | A | 0.5 | | 70 ^p | 100 |
| 9 | (17.5) | 19 | A | 1 | | | ^h |
| 10 | (17.8) | 18 | A | 1 | 18 ^q | 50 ^r | 59 |
| 12 | (15.4) | 16 | B | 1 | 23 ^s | 47 | 24 ⁱ |
| 13 | (17.5) | 19 | A | 1 | | | ^h |
| 14 | (17.0) | 18 | A | 1 | | 84 ^t | 70 |
| 15 | (6.8) | 7.0 | A | 1 | | 95 ^u | 98 |
| 22 ^v | (4.5) | 6.0 | B | 1 | 60 | | 59 ^j |

^a All reactions were carried out at room temperature. ^b A = H₂O; B = dioxane-H₂O (2:1). ^c This reaction was carried out by the addition of the salt 4 to NaOH. ^d The reaction was performed in the presence of *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (17.8 mmol). ^e In addition to 80% benzaldehyde, 70% *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde, was recovered. ^f A new product, *N*-benzyloxy-2-(2-*p*-nitrophenyl-2-hydroxyethyl) pyridinium bromide (22), was formed in 13.5% yield. ^g The yield of 22 was 27.6%. Isolation of the other products was not attempted. ^h The corresponding *N*-oxide was recovered in near-quantitative yield. ⁱ Ca. 50% of the material was an unworkable tar. ^j Starting material, compound 22, was recovered in 36% yield. ^k Registry no., 2294-74-8. ^l Registry no., 109-06-8. ^m Registry no., 100-52-7. ⁿ Registry no., 20151-01-3. ^o Registry no., 555-16-8. ^p Registry no., 100-71-0. ^q Registry no., 20151-37-5. ^r Registry no., 108-89-4. ^s Registry no., 20151-33-1. ^t Registry no., 108-47-4. ^u Registry no., 108-48-5. ^v Registry no., 55400-85-6.

(13.5%). The yield of 22, R = NO₂, was increased to 28% when the reaction time was cut in half. Identification of 22, R = NO₂, followed from elemental analysis, ir, and mass spectral data. The reaction of 22, R = NO₂, in base for 1 hr at room temperature gave 59% yield of benzaldehyde, 60% yield of 1-*p*-nitrophenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethanol, and 36% unreacted 22, R = NO₂. These results clearly support the above proposed sequence 20 → 21 or 22 → 16 or 17 as a reasonable pathway to these alcohols. Furthermore, the isolation of 22, R = NO₂, can be viewed as trapping the intermediate anhydro base 20, thus lending additional support to the Marmer-Swern mechanism of initial anhydro base formation.

The formation of 1-phenyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethanol (18) and the *p*-nitro alcohol 19 from the base-catalyzed reaction of *N*-benzyloxy- and *N*-*p*-nitrobenzyloxy-4-methylpyridinium bromides can be explained as above involving an anhydro base intermediate 23. However, the intramolecular hydrogen transfer pathway available for the fragmentation of 20 to form 2-methylpyridine and benzaldehyde is not feasible for 23 to provide 4-methylpyridine and benzaldehyde. This leaves open the possibility of a base-catalyzed E-2 elimination reaction of the *N*-benzyl-4-methylpyridinium cation or of a bimolecular fragmentation of 23 initiated by



either hydroxide ion or another molecule of anhydro base 23. Deuterium-labeled experiments, similar to those used by Marmer and Swern, may shed some light on this point.

Experimental Section

***N*-Alkoxy-2- (and 4-) alkyipyridinium Salts.** An equimolar mixture of the 2- or 4-alkylpyridine *N*-oxide and benzyl bromide in the appropriate solvent (see Table I) was allowed to react for the specified time and temperature. The reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath and the solid was filtered, washed with dry ether, and dried. In some cases the solvent of the reaction mixture was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was triturated or washed with ether, filtered, and dried.

The perchlorate salts were obtained by reaction of the *N*-benzyloxy-2- or 4-alkylpyridinium bromide in dilute hydrochloric acid with a saturated solution of sodium perchlorate. The resulting solution was filtered and dried.

Reactions of *N*-Alkoxy-2- (and 4-) alkyipyridinium Salts with Sodium Hydroxide. An appropriate volume of 1 *N* NaOH was added to a stirred solution of *N*-alkoxy-2- (or 4-) alkyipyridinium bromide (near equimolar quantities of salt and base were used, see Table II) in water or dioxane-water. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hr and then acidified with 6 *N* HCl. After the acidified mixture was extracted with CHCl₃, the combined extracts were dried and the solvent was removed to give the aldehyde.

The acid aqueous phase was made slightly alkaline with solid NaHCO₃ and the precipitate was filtered and dried to give the 1-aryl-2-pyridylethanol.

The basic filtrate was extracted with CHCl₃, the extract was dried (MgSO₄) and filtered, and the solvent was removed to give the alkyipyridine.

Registry No.—4, 27371-06-8; 5, 55400-75-4; 6, 55400-76-5; 7, 55400-77-6; 8, 55400-78-7; 9, 55400-79-8; 10, 54531-19-0; 11, 55400-81-2; 12, 55492-94-9; 13, 55400-82-3; 14, 55400-83-4; 15, 55400-84-5; 2-ethylpyridine *N*-oxide, 4833-24-3; 2-benzylpyridine *N*-oxide, 20531-86-6; 4-benzylpyridine *N*-oxide, 7259-53-2; 2,4-dimethylpyridine *N*-oxide, 1122-45-8; 2-methylpyridine *N*-oxide, 931-19-1; benzyl bromide, 100-39-0; sodium perchlorate, 7601-89-0; *p*-nitrobenzyl bromide, 100-11-8; 4-methylpyridine *N*-oxide, 1003-67-4; 2,6-dimethylpyridine *N*-oxide, 1073-23-0; 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine benzaldehyde, 1157-84-2.

Supplementary Material Available. The full experimental procedures for the preparation of 4-15, their ir, NMR, and mass spectra data, and the reaction of these salts in base will appear following these pages in the microfilm edition of this volume of the journal. Photocopies of the supplementary material from this paper only or microfiche (105 × 148 mm, 24X reduction, negatives) containing all of the supplementary material for the papers in this issue may be obtained from the Journals Department, American Chemical Society, 1155 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Remit check or money order for \$4.50 for photocopy or \$2.50 for microfiche, referring to code number JOC-75-2365.

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Dissociation Constants of the Amino-1,X-naphthyridines (X = 5, 6)

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The syntheses of 3-, 5-, and 8-amino-1,6-naphthyridines were accomplished. The second dissociation constants representing the transition from monocation to dication for 1,5- and 1,6-naphthyridine were determined. The first and second pK_a' values of the isomeric amino-1,5- and 1,6-naphthyridines were obtained by potentiometric and spectrophotometric methods. Only the 3-amino-1,5- and 3- and 8-amino-1,6-naphthyridines could be protonated a third time for which a third pK_a' value could be determined. The ultraviolet spectra of all the neutral molecules, mono-, di-, and, in the above-mentioned cases, trications, are presented.

The second dissociation constants of the aminoquinolines³ and aminoisoquinolines⁴ were determined previously. This was necessary in order to have a model with which the dissociation constants of the amino-1,5- and amino-1,6-naphthyridines could be correlated.

In the aminopyridines, aminoquinolines, and aminoisoquinolines, the first protonation occurs at the ring nitrogen. The pK_a' values for this process are most easily determined by potentiometric titration.⁵ The second dissociation constants were obtained in highly acidic solutions. Therefore, ultraviolet spectroscopy is the method of choice⁵ using the sulfuric acid–water H_0 scale^{6,7} for solvent composition.

Amino-1,5-naphthyridines. Using the pK_a' values of aminopyridines and aminoquinolines as a basis, the possible position of the first protonation of the amino-1,5-naphthyridines can be advanced. The value for the first pK_a' of 1,5-naphthyridine in Table I is compared to the two values presently in the literature.^{8,9} Our value (3.05 ± 0.02) was obtained by the same method that Albert and Phillips used. The pK_a' values for the amino isomers were calculated in the same manner and are also given in Table I. As in the cases of 4-aminopyridine¹⁰ ($\Delta 4.02$) and 4-aminoquinoline¹¹ ($\Delta 4.23$), the basicity of the 4-amino-1,5-naphthyridine is enhanced ($\Delta 4.65$) when all are compared to their parent ring systems. The 2-amino isomer ($\Delta 2.68$) shows the same effect but to a lesser degree. The same trend is also seen with 2-aminopyridine¹¹ ($\Delta 1.63$) and 2-aminoquinoline¹¹ ($\Delta 2.40$). This similarity in basicity enhancement suggests that the first protonation occurs at the ring nitrogen of the substituted ring. In 3-amino-1,5-naphthyridine, the basicity is enhanced 1.85 pK units. This does not correlate with 3-aminopyridine¹¹ ($\Delta 0.75$) and 3-aminoquinoline¹¹ ($\Delta 0.01$), but does with 7-aminoquinoline¹¹ ($\Delta 1.71$) and 3-aminoacridine¹¹ ($\Delta 2.44$). This suggests that the site of the first protonation occurs at N-5—the nitrogen atom of the unsubstituted ring.

The second dissociation constants of 1,5-naphthyridine and its amino isomers appear in Table I. The antilogarithms of the individually calculated pK_a' values are averaged and converted back to a logarithm to obtain the particular pK_a' value. The maximum difference between this pK_a' value and the individually calculated values gives the "range". Albert⁵ states that for a pK_a' value above 0, the

range should not exceed ± 0.06 units and below 0, ± 0.1 units. Only in the 4-amino isomer could this satisfactory precision be obtained. Albert, Amarego, and Spinner¹² have observed similar results for the second dissociation constants of quinazoline (-5.5 ± 0.2), 4-methylquinazoline (-4.4 ± 0.2), and pyrimidine (6.3 ± 0.2). This discrepancy is probably due to the fact that the H_0 scale is based on primary aromatic amines as indicators and the function being protonated in our cases is most likely the second ring nitrogen. Arnett and Mach¹³ have shown that aromatic tertiary amines do not follow the same H_0 scale as primary aromatic amines, but generate one of their own. A complete discussion of acidity functions and their abnormalities has been made by O'Conner¹⁴ and references therein and Rochester.¹⁵

Only 3-amino-1,5-naphthyridine could be protonated a third time. The ultraviolet spectrum of the isolated trication at $H_0 = -10$ strongly resembles that of the dication of 1,5-naphthyridine. It has been shown with all of the aminoquinolines that the ultraviolet spectra of the isolated dications strongly resemble the quinolinium ion.³ This would suggest that the primary amino group in 3-amino-1,5-naphthyridine is the final site of protonation. If the first protonation occurs at the 5 nitrogen as earlier suggested and the primary amino group is protonated last, then the 1 nitrogen in the substituted ring will be protonated in-between them. However, there is no evidence outside of the analogy of basicity enhancement for placing the first two protonations in this order for 3-amino-1,5-naphthyridine. In the 2- and 4-amino isomers this order should be reversed for the first two protonations.

Amino-1,6-naphthyridines. The values obtained for the first, second, and third dissociation constants for 1,6-naphthyridine and its amino isomers are given in Table II. The most basic site for protonation of 1,6-naphthyridine was shown by NMR spectroscopy to be N-6.¹⁶ Its first pK_a' value, determined by potentiometric titration, was 3.78 ± 0.03 .¹⁷ The second dissociation constant, which was determined polarographically in aqueous perchloric acid, was found to be -0.30 .¹⁸ However, no range of values or temperature of solution was given. The second pK_a' value (-0.13 ± 0.06) was determined here with all proper specifications.