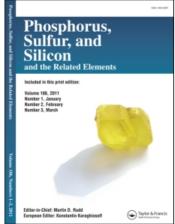
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Preparation and Reactivities of the First Isolable Dithiirane, 3-(1,1,3,3-Tetramethyl-4-oxo-4-Phenylbutyl)-3-Phenyldithiirane

Akihiko Ishii^a; Teruo Maruta^a; Töru Akazawa^a; Juzo Nakayama^a; Masamatsu Hoshino^a Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Saitama University, Urawa, Saitama, Japan

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PREPARATION AND REACTIVITIES OF THE FIRST ISOLABLE DITHIRANE, 3-(1,1,3,3-TETRAMETHYL-4-OXO-4-PHENYLBUTYL)-3-PHENYLDITHIIRANE

AKIHIKO ISHII, TERUO MARUTA, TORU AKAZAWA, JUZO NAKAYAMA, AND MASAMATSU HOSHINO

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Saitama University, Urawa, Saitama 338, Japan

Abstract The reaction of a 4,5-dithiabicyclo[3.1.1]heptane (3) with OXONE (KHSO₅•KHSO₄•K₂SO₄) under pH controlled conditions yielded the first isolable dithiirane derivative (2) as orange crystals. The structure of the dithiirane was determined by spectroscopic means and X-rey single crystal analysis. Desulfuration, oxidation, and thermal reaction of the dithiirane were examined.

INTRODUCTION

The smallest cyclic disulfides, dithiiranes, are of interest as isomers of thiocarbonyl S-sulfides (thiosulfines) and dithioesters. ^{1,2} In dithiiranes the 0° dihedral angle leads to significant repulsive lone pair-lone pair interactions in addition to large angle strains, ³ and therefore, although several dithiiranes have been recognized as elusive intermediates, no isolable examples including their oxidized derivatives were reported in spite of much effort ¹ until our report on 1 had appeared (eq.1). ⁴ We report here synthesis of the first isolable, *unoxidized* dithiirane 2 by oxidation of the bicyclic 1,3-dithietane 3⁵ with OXONE (Aldrich) (2KHSO₅•KHSO₄•K₂SO₄)⁶ and its chemical properties including thermal isomerization to the corresponding thiocarbonyl S-sulfide. ⁷

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A CH₂Cl₂ solution of 3, an aqueous solution of OXONE (pH $5\sim6$), and a catalytic amount of MeN⁺(C₈H₁₇)₃Cl⁻ were mixed up and stirred vigorously at 0 °C for 6 days. Careful workup of the mixture allowed the isolation of 2 in 20% yield (eq.2).

The dithiirane 2 is an orange crystalline compound that is stable at room temperature under air. The structure of 2 was determined by spectroscopic means and X-ray single crystal structure analysis. In the UV-Vis spectrum, the longest absoption maximum was observed at 452 nm (ε 104). The observed S-S bond distance was 2.073 Å (X-ray analysis). Dithiirane 2 is rather inert to acidic materials such as p-toluenesulfonic acid, but very sensitive to nucleophiles such as amines and phosphines. Reactions of 2 are summarized in Scheme 1. In the thermal reaction, the isomerization of 2 to the corresponding thiocarbonyl S-sulfide 5 was suggested.

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