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SYNTHESIS OF 2,3,7,8-TETRAKIS- (ALKYLTHIO)DIBENZOTHIOPHENES AND STRUCTURE OF 2,3,7,8-TETRAKIS- (METHYLTHIO)DIBENZOTHIOPHENE

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Bis[2-lithio-4,5-(dialkylthio)phenyl]sulfides, obtained from the corresponding dibromo compounds **5** and butyllithium, are oxidized by cupric chloride to the tetrakis(alkylthio)dibenzothiophenes **4**, the ¹H-NMR and MS data of which are reported. Furthermore, an X-ray analysis of **4a** has been carried out, showing a columnar structure for the solid state with stacks in which the planar molecules are arranged parallel to each other.

Keywords: 2,3,7,8-tetrakis(methylthio)- and bis(1,4-dithiano)-[2,3-*b*:2',3'-*i*]dibenzothiophene; synthesis; 2,3,7,8-tetrakis-(methylthio)dibenzothiophene; structure determination

INTRODUCTION

In the course of our investigations into the oxidation products¹ and charge-transfer complexes^{2–4} of electron-rich chalcogenanthrenes **1** we also became interested in the corresponding compounds of the structurally related dibenzo-chalcogenophenes **2**.⁵ Having already prepared the tetrakis(alkylthio)thianthrenes **3**, the synthesis of the tetrakis(alkylthio)dibenzothiophenes **4** suggested itself, the more so as both types of compounds should be accessible from the same educts. Bis[2-lithio-4,5-di(alkylthio)phenyl]sulfide, which is easily obtained from the corresponding dibromo compound **5** and butyllithium, has been transformed to **3** by reaction with bis(phenylsulfinyl)sulfide⁶ whereas its oxida-

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tion should lead to the dibenzothiophene **4**. Halides of transition metals in higher oxidation states, often used for coupling of carbanions,⁷⁻⁹ should be possible oxidants.

SYNTHESIS

Cupric chloride proved to be a suitable oxidant¹⁰⁻¹² and was also used for the preparation of the dibenzothiophenes **4**, according to the following general procedure:

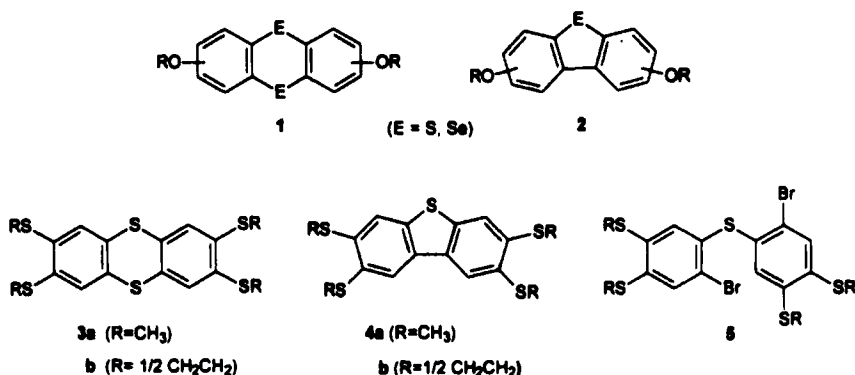
To a stirred solution of bis[2-bromo-4,5-di(alkylthio)phenyl]sulfide **5**⁶ (6.5 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (200 ml) *n*-butyllithium (8.1 ml, 1.6 M solution in hexane, 13 mmol) was added dropwise at -78°C . After 15 min powdered anhydrous cupric chloride (1.8 g, 15 mmol) was added, cooling was removed after 1 h and the mixture was stirred for further 15 h at room temperature. Then the solvent was evaporated, the residue extracted with dichloromethane (600 ml), the extract washed with dilute hydrochloric acid, dried (MgSO_4) and filtered over neutral alumina. The elution of the product was completed with additional dichloromethane (300 ml), the residue of the eluate was purified by crystallization.

2,3,7,8-Tetrakis(methylthio)dibenzothiophene (4a). Crystallization from toluene; yield 1.08 g (2.0 mmol, 45%); mp. 232°C ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (BRUKER WP250, 250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ [ppm] = 7.98, 7.59 (s, H_{arom}), 2.59, 2.56 (s, H_{alk}), integrated intensities 1:1:3:3.

$\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{S}_5$ (368.2)

calc.: C 52.1 H 4.4 S 43.5

found: C 52.3 H 4.3 S 43.3.



SCHEME 1

Bis(1,4-dithiano)[2,3-b;2',3'-i]dibenzothiophene (4b). Crystallization from trichloromethane/ethanol 2:1 (after having dissolved impurities in small amounts of dichloromethane); yield 528 mg (1.4 mmol, 22%); mp. 270°C (dec.); ¹H-NMR (BRUKER WP250, 250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ [ppm] = 7.87, 7.63 (s, H_{arom}), 3.32 (s, H_{alk}), integrated intensities 1:1:4.

C₁₆H₁₂S₅ (364.6)

calc.: C 52.7 H 3.3 S 44.0

found: C 52.7 H 3.3 S 44.2.

MS DATA

The results of mass spectroscopic investigations on **4a** and **4b** are given in (TABLE I). For both compounds the peaks of highest intensity are the parent peaks M⁺, indicating that the compounds can easily be oxidized. This is also documented by the observation of the M²⁺ peaks in the spectra.

In the case of the methylthio compound **4a** different fragmentation paths are observed: (1) from each methylthio group elimination of (a) CH₃ with formation of a thioquinone or (b) CH₂S to give the hydrogen substituted derivative, (2) from two methylthio groups in *ortho*-position extrusion of (a) CH₄ to give a methylenedithio group which can be dehydrogenated to the aromatic dithiolium compound, or (b) 2CH₃+S with formation of a thiacyclopentene derivative, and (3) from the central thiophene ring loss of S to the biphenylene derivative is found.

TABLE I MS data of the dibenzothiophenes (Finnegan MAT CH7, 70 eV)

<i>4a</i>			<i>4b</i>		
mass	intensity	fragment	mass	intensity	fragment
368	100%	M ⁺	364	100%	M ⁺
352	1%	M ⁺ -CH ₄	349	7%	M ⁺ -CH ₃
320	9%	M ⁺ -CH ₄ -S	336	9%	M ⁺ -C ₂ H ₄
307	6%	M ⁺ -CH ₃ -CH ₂ S	308	12%	M ⁺ -2C ₂ H ₄
306	12%	M ⁺ -2CH ₃ -S	264	6%	M ⁺ -2C ₂ H ₄ -CS
291	7%	M ⁺ -3CH ₃ -S	182	4%	M ²⁺
290	6%	M ⁺ -CH ₄ -2CH ₃ -S			
289	21%	M ⁺ -CH ₄ -H-2CH ₃ -S			
259	8%	M ⁺ -CH ₄ -CH ₃ -CH ₂ S-S			
241	5%	M ⁺ -CH ₄ -CH ₃ -3S			
184	8%	M ²⁺			

By contrast, the ethylenedithio groups of **4b** are more labile; therefore, preferably ethene is eliminated to form the corresponding dithiete. Also CH_3 giving the dithiolium compound or $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4 + \text{CS}$ leading to a thiocyclopentadienone derivative can be extruded. But no loss of sulfur from the central thiophene ring is observed.

CRYSTAL STRUCTURE DATA OF **4a**

A Syntex P2₁ four-circle diffractometer (Mo-K α radiation with $\lambda = 70.926$ pm, $\omega/2\theta$ scan mode with $4.5 \leq 2\theta \leq 55^\circ$, Lorentz and polarization corrections) and the programs SHELX-76¹³ and SHELXS-86¹⁴ were used for the X-ray analysis. The structure was determined by direct methods. Subsequent Fourier syntheses and full-matrix least-squares calculations allowed all non-hydrogen atoms to be located with anisotropic temperature factors. The positions of the hydrogen atoms were calculated with fixed distances of 96 pm and isotropic temperature factors. Atomic coordinates, bond lengths, bond angles and thermal parameters have been deposited with the Fachinformationszentrum (FIZ) Karlsruhe, and can be ordered by quoting the authors, the journal and depositing number CSD 59320.

Molecular Structure

The molecule of **4a** is totally planar (FIG. 1). Within experimental error, the bond lengths and angles of the dibenzothiophene moiety (TABLE II) are iden-

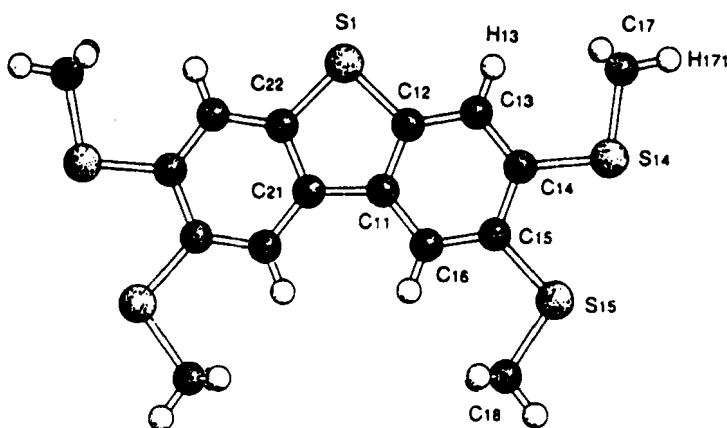


FIGURE 1 Molecular structure of **4a** and numbering scheme of atoms.

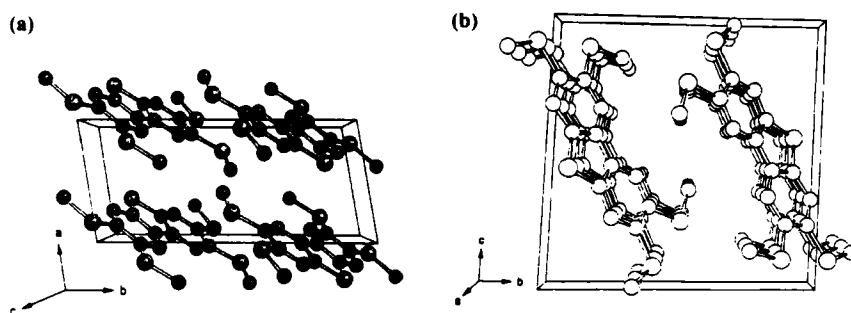
TABLE II Mean values of relevant bond lengths [pm] and bond angles [°] for **4a** (e.s.d.'s in parentheses)

thiophene moiety		methylthio groups	
C-S	174.7(3)	C _{ar} -S	176.4(3)
C(S)-C(S)	139.5(3)	C _{alk} -S	178.5(3)
C(C)-C(C)	145.7(3)		
CSC	91.1(1)	CSC	103.9(1)
CCS(endo)	112.6(1)	CCS(endo)	116.5(1)
CCS(exo)	126.3(2)	CCS(exo)	123.7(2)
CCC	111.9(1)		

tical to those of dibenzothiophene itself¹⁵ and its 2,3,7,8-tetramethoxy derivative¹⁶. The methylthio substituents are coplanar to the phenyl rings they belong to, all in *exo*-positions. An analogous situation is also found for the comparable 2,3,7,8-tetramethoxy-¹⁷ and 2,3,7,8-tetrakis(methylthio)thianthrenes.⁶ Due to steric interactions between the methyl group and the hydrogen atom in *ortho*-position of the phenyl ring the angles CCS(*exo*) are larger and the corresponding angles CCS(*endo*) smaller than the ideal values of 120°. As expected, the distances C_{arom}S are somewhat shorter than those of C_{alk}S.

Crystal Structure

In the crystal of **4a** all molecules are arranged in parallel planes (FIG. 2). Stacks of eclipsed molecules are formed in the *a*-direction, the molecular planes are inclined to the stacking axis at 44.9°, the interplanar distances of 390 pm being longer than the van der Waals distances (half thickness of an aromatic nucleus 185 pm¹⁸). Although all sulfur atoms in successive molecules of a stack are

FIGURE 2 (a) Unit cell of **4a**, (b) stacks of eclipsed molecules in the crystal of **4a** (Projection on the *b,c*-plane).

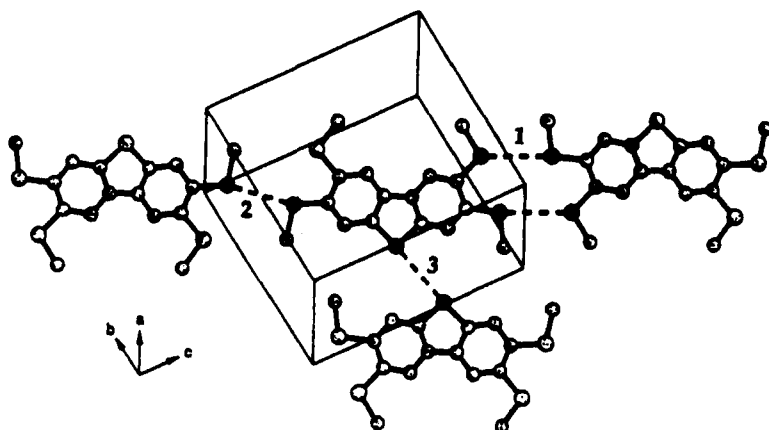


FIGURE 3 Intermolecular S \cdots S contacts in the crystal of **4a**: (1) 341 pm, (2) 361 pm, (3) 373 pm.

brought to a line, their distances (552 pm) are far from the van der Waals distance (370 pm¹⁸); however, between sulfur atoms of molecules in adjacent stacks S \cdots S-contacts slightly shorter than 370 pm are found (FIG. 3).

Acknowledgements

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