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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713618290>

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**To cite this Article** Nagasawa, Hidehiro , Sugihara, Yoshiaki , Ishii, Akihiko and Nakayama, Juzo(1999) 'Synthesis and Properties of the Parent Thiophene 1,1-Dioxide', *Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements*, 153: 1, 395 — 396

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/10426509908546488

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426509908546488>

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# Synthesis and Properties of the Parent Thiophene 1,1-Dioxide

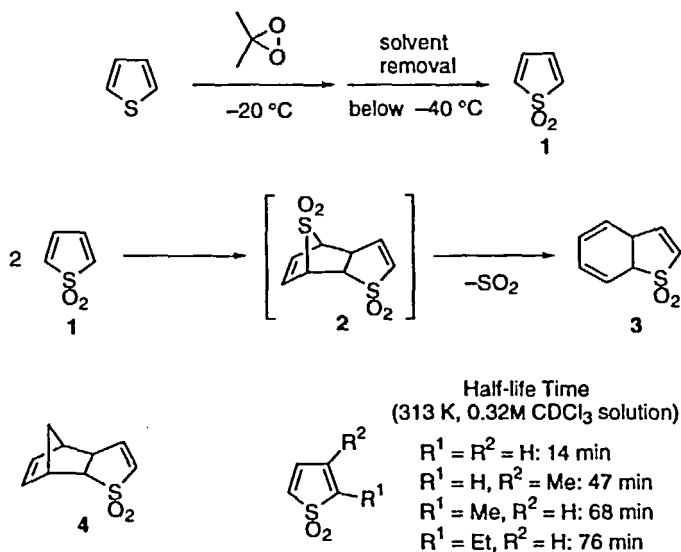
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Thiophene 1,1-dioxides are synthetically and theoretically important compounds which act as  $2\pi$ - or  $4\pi$ -components in a range of cycloadditions. Our recent exhaustive literature survey has revealed that more than 300 papers had appeared on the chemistry of thiophene 1,1-dioxides. Among them, at least 33 papers have described the chemistry of the parent thiophene 1,1-dioxide (**1**) theoretically or experimentally. However, despite such enormous efforts, **1** has eluded isolation most likely as a result of a rapid cyclodimerization process. Thus, most of the evidence for its existence comes from chemical trapping experiments. We report here the synthesis, isolation, and full characterization of **1**<sup>1</sup> and its monosubstituted derivatives.

Previously **1** was mainly generated by elimination methods. The method of our choice is the oxidation of thiophene with dimethyldioxirane (DMD). Thus, a dilute solution of thiophene in  $\text{Me}_2\text{CO}$  was treated with DMD (3 equiv) at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  for 36 h. The solvent and the unreacted thiophene were removed thoroughly below  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  under reduced pressure, which left **1** in pure form as colorless crystals. The presumed intermediary thiophene 1-oxide is oxidized with DMD faster than thiophene and the yield of **1** is quantitative based on the thiophene consumed. Removal of the solvent below  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  is crucial to isolate **1** in pure form to prevent decomposition when concentrated. The dioxide melted at about  $6^\circ\text{C}$  with decomposition and then solidified slowly on standing because of the formation of dimeric and trimeric products.

The structure of **1** was fully characterized by spectroscopies ( $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR, IR, Raman, UV, and MS). Standing a dilute solution resulted in the dimerization of **1** in a Diels-Alder mode to give **2** ( $E_a = 64.4 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  and  $\Delta S = -59.8 \text{ JK}^{-1}\text{mol}^{-1}$ ), which rapidly extruded  $\text{SO}_2$  to give **3** as the final product. Many attempted reactions of **1** with dienes and dienophiles failed because of the efficient dimerization of **1**, except that cyclopentadiene gave the adduct **4** in good yield. Monosubstituted derivatives, such as 2-methyl-, 3-methyl-, 2-ethyl-, 2-bromo-, and 3-bromothiophene 1,1-dioxides, are also prepared in similar ways. The half-life times of these compounds are given below.



## References

- [1] Preliminary results: J. Nakayama, H. Nagasawa, Y. Sugihara, and A. Ishii, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **119**, 9077 (1997).