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THERMAL AND PHOTOCHEMICAL REARRANGEMENTS OF 1-METHYL-1-BENZOTHIEPINIUM SALTS

Hans Hofmann^a; Attila Molnar^a

^a Institut für Organische Chemie der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen

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THERMAL AND PHOTOCHEMICAL REARRANGEMENTS OF 1-METHYL-1-BENZOTHIEPINIUM SALTS

Hans Hofmann and Attila Molnar

Institut für Organische Chemie der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Henkestraße 42 , D-8520 Erlangen

The THERMAL REARRANGEMENT of the benzo-anellated seven-membered heterocycles A begins with the valence bond isomerization $A \rightarrow B$. The very unstable B itself cannot be detected because of its fast rearrangement to the stable naphthalene derivatives C respectively D. The reaction rates $A \rightarrow B$ are strongly affected by the nature of the substituents R and the function X and determine moreover, owing to the high energies of activation, the rates of the whole reaction sequences $A \rightarrow C$ or $A \rightarrow D$. If the thermal lability of the 1-benzoxepins (X = 0),

$$X = 0, S, S0$$

$$= {}^{\oplus}S-CH_3$$

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1-benzothiepins (X = S) and 1-benzothiepin-1-oxides (X = SO) is compared a remarcable increase in the series X = 0 < S < SO can be observed. Since the ability of X to serve as leaving group rises in the same order, we find at the same time a turn of the reaction products from type C to type D. There are good reasons to anticipate, that the 1-METHYL-1-BENZOTHIEPINIUM SALTS ($X = {}^{\bullet}S$ -CH $_3$) should be thermally more

stable than the 1-benzothiepins, but less stable than the 1-benzoxepins and that they should rearrange to products of the type C. In this communication these reasons are briefly discussed and the expectations confirmed by several examples. The reaction products and kinetics are described as well as the influence of the substituents R upon the reaction rates and the results are compared with the properties of the corresponding A with X=0, S, SO. Furthermore some details of the probable reaction mechanism are alleged.

The PHOTOCHEMICAL REARRANGEMENT of the various A leads to the appropriate hetero-bicycloheptadienes E . In the case of X = S or SO an additional isomerization of E occurs yielding F . We show that 1-METHYL-1-BENZOTHIEPINIUM SALTS ($X = {}^{\bigoplus}S-CH_3$) undergo the photochemical ring closure $A \rightarrow E$ but not the isomerization to the corresponding F .

The compounds E with $X = {}^{\bigoplus}S-CH_3$ are received as mixtures of both diastereomers, which could be separated. The arguments to establish their structures are discussed.