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SYNTHESIS OF ALKYL N-CYANO-N-SUBSTITUTED THIOLCARBAMATES¹

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The reaction of S,S' alkyl and benzyl cyanodithioimidocarbonate (1-5) with potassium hydroxide in an acetone medium afforded the O-potassium S-alkyl and benzyl cyanothioimidocarbonates (6-10). The reaction of the potassium salts with alkyl, allyl or benzyl halides furnished the titled compounds (11-29). Possible mechanisms and supporting NMR, Ir and mass spectra data are discussed.

Kazuo Nishio and co-workers^{2a, b, c} reported the synthesis of the titled compounds by the following reactions:

$$\begin{array}{c}
C \\
K-N-C-SR + R'X \xrightarrow{\text{acetone}} & C \\
CN & CN
\end{array}$$
acetone
$$\begin{array}{c}
C \\
R'-N-C-SR + KX \\
CN
\end{array}$$
(2)

where R = alkyl, alkenyl or benzyl

R' = alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl

Upon reviewing the cited patents in the above reference, we would like to make the following comments: (1) in all examples the elemental analyses were not reported, (2) the % yield was reported for only three compounds, (3) the structure assignment for the potassium salt (Reaction 1) is incorrect and (4) with the exception of the infrared data (Reaction 1) which were misinterpreted, no other spectral data were reported. Furthermore we question the products obtained in Reaction 1. In our opinion Reaction 1 would yield a mixture containing both the methyl and benzyl

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mercaptan and two potassium salts as illustrated by the following pathway:

$$CH_{3}S-C = N-C = N \xrightarrow{HOH} CH_{3}S-C \xrightarrow{OH} N-C = N \xrightarrow{C_{6}H_{5}CH_{2}S} C=N-C = N$$

$$CH_{3}S-C = N-C = N \xrightarrow{C_{6}H_{5}CH_{2}S} C=N-C = N$$

$$CH_{3}S+C = N \xrightarrow{C_{6}H_{5}CH_{2}S} C=N-C = N$$

We have published extensively concerning the synthesis of N, N-disubstituted thiolcarbamates³ and moderate attention has been focused on the synthesis of compounds derived from potassium cyanodithioimidocarbonate.⁴⁻⁷ Moreover, since we disagree with their proposed structure of the potassium salt in the solid state and Nishio furnished limited proof for their proposed structures, it appeared desirable to report our work in this area of chemistry.

The key intermediates, S,S' alkyl and benzyl cyanodithioimidocarbonates (2-5), were prepared by the reactions of potassium cyanodithioimidocarbonate⁴ with the alkyl or benzyl halides.

$$2RX + (KS)_{2}C = N - C = N \xrightarrow{25-30^{\circ}C} (RS)_{2}C = N - C = N$$

$$1,^{5}R = -CH_{3}; \quad 2, R = -C_{2}H_{5}; \quad 3, R = -C_{3}H_{7};$$

$$4, R = -C_{4}H_{9}; \quad 5,^{8}R = -CH_{2}C_{6}H_{5}$$
(3)

The reaction of 1-5 with potassium hydroxide in an acetone medium afforded the O-potassium S-alkyl and benzyl cyanothioimidocarbonates (6-10) and not the structure as shown in Reaction 1.

$$(RS)_2C=N-C\equiv N + KOH \xrightarrow{\text{acetome}} KO \\ 6, R = -CH_3; 7, R = -C_2H_5; 8, R = -C_3H_7; \\ 9, R = -C_4H_9; 10, R = -CH_2C_6H_5$$
 (4)

Analysis, infrared (neat) and NMR spectra were in agreement for the proposed structures of 6-10. The presence of C≡N and C=N absorption bands at 2170-2180 and 1585-1590 cm⁻¹, respectively, and the absence of the C=O absorption band at 1680-1700 cm⁻¹ for 6 and 10 (Table II) furnished conclusive evidence for our structures (6-10) and thus ruled out their proposed structure (Reaction 1). Nishio and co-workers^{2b} reported the following infrared spectral data and assignment for 10: 2180 (C≡N) and 1580 cm⁻¹ (C=O) which is comparable to our data (Table II). However, their assignment of 1580 cm⁻¹ absorption band due to the presence of

C=O instead of C=N group is erroneous. Accordingly, this misinterpretation of the infrared spectrum led them to the incorrect structure (Reaction 1).

The reactions of the potassium salts (6-9) with alkyl, allyl or benzyl halides in dimethylformamide at 50-90°C furnished the alkyl-N-cyano-N-substituted thiol-carbamates (11-29).

$$\begin{array}{c}
KO \\
RS
\end{array} C = N - C \equiv N + R'X \xrightarrow{DMF} R' - N - CSR + KX \\
CN$$
(5)

R and R' are shown in Table III.

The proposed mechanisms for reactions 4 and 5 are depicted in Scheme 1. As noted, we favor addition to the conjugated system followed by elimination of the mercaptan instead of the nucleophilic displacement mechanism.

Analysis, infrared, NMR and mass spectra were in agreement for the proposed structure of 11-29. (Table III and Scheme 2.) Initially we had anticipated that

SCHEME 1

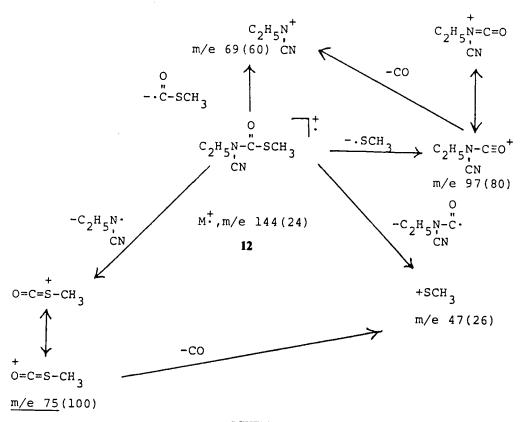
oxygen alkylation would have occurred to give the intermediate A followed by the Chapman rearrangement to give 11-29.

KO
$$CH_{3}S$$

$$CH_{3}N$$

$$C$$

Even when reaction 6 was conducted at low temperature no evidence was obtained for the formation of intermediate A. This conclusion was based on the examination of the analytical data of a crude sample, heated sample (100–116°C for 16 hours) and a distilled sample of 11. All three samples furnished comparable



SCHEME 2

index of refraction, infrared and NMR spectra. (See Experimental section.) The presence of C≡N and C=O absorption bands at 2230 and 1700 cm⁻¹, respectively, and the absence of C=N absorption band at 1585 cm⁻¹ for all three samples furnished conclusive evidence that no oxygen alkylation occurred but instead nitrogen alkylation resulted to give the thiolcarbamates (11-29).

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

NMR spectra were obtained with a Varian T-60 NMR spectrometer. The chemical shifts are reported in δ, using tetramethylsilane as reference. All melting points were taken upon a Fisher-Johns block and are uncorrected. The electron impact mass spectra were determined with a Varian-MAT CH-7A mass

TABLE I S, S' Alkyl and benzyl cyanodithioimidocarbonates

		2RX	$(K + (KS)_2C =$	=N—C≡N	H ₂ O	$\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\underset{C}{\longrightarrow}} (RS)_2C = N - C = N$	I
No.	R	x	Reaction time (days)	Mp °C or (N _D ²⁵)	% Yield	NMR, δ (ppm) CDCl ₃ —Me ₄ Si	Empirical formula
15	-CH ₃	I	7	55-6	84	2.64 (s, 6, CH ₃)	C ₄ H ₆ N ₂ S ₂
2	$-C_2H_5$	Br	7	(1.5827)	90	1.40 (t, 6, CH ₂ CH ₃) 3.20 (q, 4, CH ₂ CH ₃)	$C_6H_{10}N_2S_2$
3	$-C_3H_7$	Br	- 8	(1.5623)	94		$C_8H_{14}N_2S_2$
4	$-C_4H_9$	Br	6	(1.5484)	89	_	$C_{10}^{\circ} H_{18}^{\circ} N_2 S_2$
5 ⁸	-CH2C6H5	Br	1	83-4	94	4.40 (s, 4, CH ₂) 7.40 (s, 10, C ₆ H ₅)	$C_{16}^{10}H_{14}N_2S_2$

^aSatisfactory analytical data (±0.2) for C, H, N and S were reported.

TABLE II O-Potassium S-alkyl and benzyl cyanothioimidocarbonates

	(R	S) ₂ C=N−C≡N	+ KOH Reflux	Aceton	→ ~ C=N-C=	N + RSH
No.	R	Mp °C (dec.)	period hrs.	Yield	NMR, δ (ppm) D_2O-Me_4Si	Empirical formula
6ª	-CH ₃	225-7 ^b	6	95	2.3 (s, 3, SCH ₃)	C ₃ H ₃ KN ₂ OS ^d
7	$-C_2H_5$	220-5	1.5	56	1.2 (t, 3, CH ₂ CH ₃) 2.9 (q, 2, CH ₂ CH ₃)	$C_4H_5KN_2OS:1.7H_2O^e$
8	$-C_3H_7$	229-31°	22	69		C ₅ H ₇ KN ₂ OS ^t
9	$-C_4H_9$	220-2	22	62		C ₆ H ₉ KN ₂ OS ^f
10 ^g	−CH ₂ C ₆ H	₅ 257–9°	72	30	4.1 (s, 2, CH ₂) 7.4 (s, 5, C ₆ H ₅)	$C_9H_7KN_2OS_{\frac{1}{2}}H_2O^f$

a IR (CsI): 2935 (aliph C-H), 2170 (C \equiv N) and 1585 cm⁻¹ (C \equiv N).

b Recrystallization from ethanol-water. (c) Recrystallization from methanol.

^dCalcd: C, 23.36; H, 1.96; K, 25.35; N, 18.16; O, 10.37; S, 20.79. Found: C, 23.57; H, 1.88; K, 25.28; N, 17.88; O, 10.68; S, 20.51

^e Calcd: N, 14.00; S, 16.10; K, 19.60. Found: N, 14.10; S, 16.12; K, 19.60.

¹ Satisfactory analytical data (±0.4%) for C, H, N and S were reported. ⁸ IR (KBr): 2950 (aliph C—H), 2180 (C≡N) and 1590 cm⁻¹ (C=N).

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TABLE III
Alkyl-N-cyano-N-substituted thiolcarbamates

$\begin{array}{c} O \\ RS \\ C = N - C = N + R'X \xrightarrow{DMF} R' - N - C - SR \\ \downarrow \\ CN \end{array}$	NMR, & (ppm)	8 IR (cm ⁻¹) Empirical M ⁺ . Bp °C/mm Yield CDCl ₃ —Me ₄ Si neat formula rel. intensity	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	H ₂ Z)	83-4/0.3 44 1.00 (t, 3, N(CH ₂)) 2220 (C≡N) $C_6H_{10}N_2OS^b$ 158 (18) $N_D^{25} = 1.4902$ 1.80 (sextet, 2, NCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃) 1680 (C=O) 2.50 (s, 3, SCH ₃)	$3.70 (t, 2, NCH_2CH_3)$ 150-2/0.5 45 2.40 (s, 3, SCH ₃) 2230 (C=N) C ₁₀ H ₁₀ N ₂ OS ^b 206 (12) $N_D^{25} = 1.5645$ 4.70 (s, 2, NCH ₂) 1670 (C=O)	87-9/0.5 63 0.7–1.1 (m, 3, N(CH ₂) ₄ CH ₃) 2235 (C≡N) C ₈ H ₁₄ N ₂ OS ^b 186 (5) $N_D^{25} = 1.4859$ 1.1–2.1 (m, 6, NCH ₂ (CH ₂) ₃ CH ₃) 1690 (C=O) 2.57 (c, 3, NCH ₃)	64-5/0.2 51 0.8-1.1 (m, 3, NCH ₂) ₃ CH ₃) 2238 (C≡N) C ₃ H ₁₂ N ₂ OS ^b 172 (15) $N_D^{25} = 1.4873$ 1.1-2.0 (m, 4, NCH ₂ (CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃) 1685 (C=O) 2.45 (s, 3, CH ₃) CH ₃)	100-7/3.6 45 2.45 (s, 3, SCH ₃) 2240 (C=N) C ₆ H ₆ N ₂ OS ^b 156 (16) N _D ² = 1.5113 4.20 (d, 2, NCH ₄) 1695 (C=O)
$\stackrel{\text{DMF}}{\longrightarrow} R' - N - C - SR$ $\stackrel{ }{\longrightarrow} CN$	NMR, 8 (ppm)		2.50 (s, 3, SCH ₃)	2.26 (8, 3, PCII ₃) 1.38 (¢, 3, CH ₂ CH ₂ N) 2.50 (8, 3, CH ₃ S) 2.75 (c, 2, CH ₃ CH ₃ N)	2.50 (4, 5, CH ₃ , CH ₃ , N) 1.00 (1, 3, N(CH ₂), CH ₃) 1.80 (sextet, 2, NCH ₂ CH ₂ Cl 2.50 (s, 3, SCH ₃)	3.70 (t, 2, NCH, CH ₂ CH ₃) 2.40 (s, 3, SCH ₃) 4.70 (s, 2, NCH ₂)	7.40 (8, 3, C ₆ H ₅) 0.7–1.1 (m, 3, N(CH ₂),CH ₃ 1.1–2.1 (m, 6, NCH ₂ (CH ₃)) 2.45 (8, 3, SCH ₃)	$0.07 (1, 2, NCL_3)$ $0.8-1.1 (m, 3, N(CH_2)_3CH_3)$ $0.8-1.1 (m, 4, NCH_2(CH_2)_2$ $0.8-1.1 (m, 4, NCH_2(CH_2)_3$ $0.8-1.1 (m, 4, NCH_2(CH_2)_3$ $0.8-1.1 (m, 4, NCH_3)$ $0.8-1.1 (m, 4, NCH_3)$	3.03 (1, 2, N—CH ₂) 2.45 (s, 3, SCH ₃) 4.20 (d, 2, NCH ₂)
-N—C≡N + R'X			<u> </u>		205				
KO C=	Reaction conditions	Time (days)	1	2	7	2	7	6	7
	Reaction	Temp. °C	20-60	20-60	80–90	80-90	06-08	. 80–90	80–90
		R,	—СН3 І	—C ₂ H ₅ Br	-C ₃ H ₇ Br	—СН ₂ С ₆ Н ₅ СІ	C ₅ H ₁₁ Br	-C ₄ H ₉ Br	—CH ₂ CH—CH ₂ I
		~	—СН3	—СН ₃	-CH ₃	—СН ₃	—CH ₃	-CH ₃	—СН ₃
		Š.	11a	12ª	13	4	15	91	11

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TABLE III continued

İ							3	Tanina and the same and the sam			
<u>æ</u>	-C ₂ H ₅	-CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	ቜ	8090	-	$137 - 40/0.8$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.5537$	4 3	1.20 (t, 3, CH ₂ CH ₂) 2.87 (q, 2, CH ₂ CH ₃) 4.60 (s, 2, NCH ₂) 7.34 (s, 5, CH ₂)	2240 (C≡N) 1690 (C≔O)	$C_{11}H_{12}N_2OS^b$	220 (20)
61	—C ₂ H ₅	−CH ₂ CH=CH ₂	-	80-90	1	$85-8/1.0$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.5011$	33		2240 (C≡N) 1690 (C≔O)	$C_7H_{10}N_2OS^b$	170 (25)
8	—C ₂ H ₅	—C ₃ H ₇	H	80-90	-	$96/2.0$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.4869$	28	1.0 (t, 3, CH ₂ CH ₂) 1.0 (t, 3, SCH ₂ CH ₃) 1.3 (t, 3, SCH ₂ CH ₃) 1.73 (sextet, 2, CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃) 3.00 (q, 2, SCH ₂ CH ₃)	2240 (C≡N) 1690 (C≔O)	2240 (C=N) C ₇ H ₁₂ N ₂ OS ^b 1690 (C=O)	172 (17)
21	-C ₂ H ₅	—С ₂ Н ₅	Вŗ	80-90	1	$89-90/2.2$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.4892$	6	Ē.	2240 (C=N) 1690 (C=O)	2240 (C=N) C ₆ H ₁₀ N ₂ OS ^b 1690 (C=O)	158 (7)
22	$-C_2H_5$	—CH ₃	ı	70-80	1	$55/0.3$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.4968$	4	3.00 (4, x, 10.0.2) 1.33 (4, 3, SCH ₂ CH ₃) 3.00 (4, 2, SCH ₂ CH ₃) 3.77 (e, 3, NCH ₃)	2240 (C≡N) 1690 (C=O)	$C_5H_8N_2OS^b$	144 (10)
ន	—C ₃ H ₇	—CH ₃	H	70-80	1	$83-6/0.55$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.4928$	38	$\frac{2\mathrm{CH_{3}}}{\mathrm{H_{2}CH_{3}}}$	2240 (C≡N) 1690 (C≔O)	C ₆ H ₁₀ N ₂ OS ^b	158 (2)
72	—С,Н,	—C ₂ H ₅	Br	06-08	1	$79-81/0.5$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.4881$	4		2230 (C≡N) 1685 (C≔O)	$C_7H_{12}N_2OS^b$	(7) 2/1
જ	—С ₃ Н ₇	—С3Н,	Br	06-08	-	$N_{\rm D}^{2} = 1.4855$	34	<u>СН2</u> СН ₃	2240 (C≡N) 1690 (C≔O)	C ₈ H ₁₄ N ₂ OS ^b	186 (14)

TABLE III continued

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							1				
					KO KO C		RX D	$KO_{C} = N - C = N + R'X \xrightarrow{DMF} R' - N - C - SR$ CN			
				Reaction conditions	conditions			NMR, 8 (ppm)			
Š.	~	ìχ	×	Temp. °C	Time (days)	Bp °C/mm	% Yield	CDCI ₃ —Me ₄ Si	IR (cm ⁻¹) neat	Empirical formula	M. rel. intensity
%	—С,Н,	—CH ₂ CH=CH ₂ Br	Ā	80-90	1	$78-9/0.2$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.4969$	51	1.0 (t, 3, S(CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃) 1.74 (q, 2, SCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃) 3.02 (t, 2, SCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃) 4.2 (d, 2, N—CH ₂) 5.2-6.2 (m, 3, CH ₃ CH ₃)	2240 (C≡N) 1690 (C=O)	2240 (C≡N) C ₈ H ₁₂ N ₂ OS ^b 1690 (C=O)	184 (10)
72	—C ₃ H ₇	—СН ₂ С ₆ Н ₅	В	06-08	1	$155/0.9$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.5476$	4	0.9 (t, 3, SCH ₂), CH ₃) 0.9 (t, 3, SCH ₂), CH ₃) 1.53 (q, 2, SCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃) 2.90 (t, 2, SCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃) 4.63 (s, 2, NCH ₂)	2240 (C≡N) 1690 (C≔O)	2240 (C=N) C ₁₂ H ₁₄ N ₂ OS ^b 1690 (C=O)	234 (5)
**	—С , Н,	—С,Н,	Br	80-90	7	$88-90/0.6$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.4857$	22	0.8-2.15 (m, 10, NCH ₂ CH ₃) and SCH ₂ (CH ₃) ₂ CH ₃) 3.0 (t, 2, SCH ₂)	2230 (C≡N) 1695 (C=O)	2230 (C=N) C ₈ H ₁₄ N ₂ OS ^b 1695 (C=O)	186 (28)
8	—C4H,	CH2CH=-CH2 Br	ጅ	06-08	-	$N_{\rm D}^{110-2/1.0}$ $N_{\rm D}^{25} = 1.4970$	22	3. (4, 2, N=CM2) 0.9 (br. t, 3, S(CH ₂); CH ₃) 2240 (C=N) 1.08-1.9 (m, 4, SCH ₂ (CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃) 1690 (C=O) 3.0 (t, 2, SCH ₃) 4.08 (d, 2, NCH ₂ CH=CH ₂) 5.08-6.1 (m, 3, CH ₂ CH=CH ₂)	2240 (C=N)) 1690 (C=O)	2240 (C=N) C ₉ H ₁₄ N ₂ OS ^b 1690 (C=O)	198 (5)
1											

^a Mass spectrum M/e (rel. intensity).

11, 130(23) (M[±]), 84(4), 83(100), 77(3), 76(2), 75(75), 73(3), 58(5), 56(5), 47(39) and 45(14).

12, 144(24) (M[±]), 98(4), 97(80), 75(100), 69(60), 47(26), 46(5) and 45(9).

^b Satisfactory analytical data (±0.4%) for C, H, N and S were reported.

^c Calcd: C, 36.91; H, 4.65; N, 21.52; O, 12.29; S, 24.64.

Found: C, 36.82; H, 4.69; N, 21.46; O, 12.10; S, 24.54.

spectrometer operating at an ionizing potential of 70 eV using the direct insertion probe technique with a source temperature of 250°C. The infrared spectra were obtained with a Beckman IR-12 spectrophotometer.

S,S' Alkyl and Benzyl Cyanodithioimidocarbonates. (Intermediates) 1-5. Compound 1 was prepared by the procedure described in our previous communication. 2-5. To a stirred solution containing 389 g (2.0 mol) of potassium cyanodithioimidocarbonate in 1.5 L of water, 4 mol of the appropriate alkyl or benzyl halide was added in one portion. The stirred reaction mixture was held at 0-15°C for 1 hour and at 25-30°C for the time period specified in Table I. For 2, 3 and 4, 500 mL of ethyl ether was added and stirring continued at 25-30°C for 15 minutes. The separated ether layer was washed with water until neutral to litmus and dried over sodium sulfate. The ether was removed in vacuo at a maximum temperature of 80°C at 1-2 mm. For 5, the solid was collected by filtration, washed with water until the washings were neutral to litmus and air-dried at 25-30°C. 5, m.p. 82°C, was first prepared by E. Fromm and D. von Gonez. Attempts to distill 2, 3 and 4 in vacuo resulted in decomposition. The data are summarized in Table I.

O-Potassium S-Alkyl and Benzyl Cyanodithioimidocarbonates 6-10. Upon stirring a mixture containing one mol of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, 66 g (1.0 mol) of 85% potassium hydroxide and 500 mL of acetone, a temperature drop from 25° to 15°C was noted. The stirred mixture was heated at reflux for the time period specified in Table II and for all compounds except 7 at 25-30°C for 24 hours. A precipitate formed after 10 to 20 minutes at reflux (Hood-RSH). After the addition of 1500 mL of heptane, stirring was continued at 0-10°C for 30 minutes. The precipitate was collected by filtration and air-dried at 50°C. The data are summarized in Table II.

Alkyl-N-Cyano-N-Substituted Thiolcarbamates 11-29. To a stirred solution containing 0.4 mol of 6, 7, 8 or 9 in 200 mL of dimethylformamide, 0.5 mol of the alkyl, allyl or benzyl halide was added in one portion resulting in a temperature rise of 25° to about 60°C over a 5 minute period. The stirred reaction mixture was heated at 50-60°C, 70-80°C or 80-90°C for time period specified in Table III. After cooling to 25°C, 500 mL of water and 500 mL of ethyl ether were added and stirring was continued for 15 minutes. The separated ether layer was washed with water until neutral to litmus and dried over sodium sulfate. The ether was removed in vacuo at a maximum temperature of 60°C at 10-12 mm. The crude product was distilled in vacuo. The data are summarized in Table III.

Stability of 11 to Heat. 10 g of crude 11 was heated at 100-116°C (760 mm) for 16 hours. This sample of 11 was distilled to give 8 g, bp 66°C/3 mm.

		Anal	ytical data	
Sample	N _D ²⁵	IR (cm ⁻¹) neat	NMR, δ (ppm) CDCl ₃ —Me ₄ Si	M ⁺ .
Crude (before heating)	1.5102	2230 (C≡N) 1690 (C=O)	2.53 (s, 3, SCH ₃) 3.39 (s, 3, NCH ₃)	130
Crude (after heating)	1.5109	2225 (C≡N) 1695 (C=O)	2.52 (s, 3, SCH ₃) 3.37 (s, 3, NCH ₃)	130
Distilled product	1.5050	2230 (C≡N) 1700 (C=O)	2.50 (s, 3, SCH ₃) 3.32 (s, 3, NCH ₃)	130

The crude sample 11 gave the following analysis:

Calcd for $C_4H_6N_2OS$: C, 36.91; H, 4.65; N, 21.52; O, 12.29; S, 24.64. Found: C, 37.06; H, 4.58; O, 12.10; S, 24.49.

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